

# Bulletin

## Number 77

### April 2006



### Field Trips:

Each person attending field meetings does so on the understanding that they attend at their own risk.

The NSGGA has Public Liability Insurance Cover for field and indoor meetings, but Personal accident Cover remains the responsibility of participants.

If you need or can offer a lift, please contact Gerald Ford who will endeavour to put you in contact.

Please note: a field fee of £2.00 is charged per head.

#### Thursday 20 April: Winsford Rock Salt Mine

**This trip is now fully booked.**

Grid Ref: (Amended) SJ 653 680, from centre of Winsford, head due north on Bradford Road (just west of the Weaver Navigation). Start at 11.30am for underground tour.

**Anyone booked in but unable to attend; please contact the field secretary as reserves are available.**

#### Friday 12 - Sunday 14 May: Vale of Glamorgan

Leader: Dr. Geraint Owen

A weekend with Essex Group staying at the Manor House Hotel, Sully Road, Penarth. Program to include sites west of Cardiff in the Vale of Glamorgan, possibly into the coalfield with almost certainly one day along the coast!

**Please note; there is only one room left, to book please contact Gerald Ford by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006.**

#### Sunday 18 June: "Rock around Wirral"

Leader: Hilary Davies

Start: 10.30am at the Wirral Country Park Visitor Centre, Thurstaston, Grid ref: SJ 238 835. A flexible trip. Combining cars to Thurstaston Hill then walk down to The Dungeon and beach (picnic depending on the weather), distance about 3 miles of fairly easy walking. After lunch, either more countryside geology or drive over to Port Sunlight village for some urban geology - building stones etc.

#### Sunday 16 July:

##### Glacial features of the Severn Valley near Shrewsbury.

Leader: David Pannett

Start: 10.00am Meet at the Fisherman's Car park (between Atcham and Cross Houses) Grid ref: SJ538085. A selection of geological sites linked by short car journeys, walks, short but some rough underfoot. In the late Devensian glaciation of the Shropshire Plain the decay of Irish Sea Ice 'in situ' allowed the Severn Valley glacier to 'surge' towards Shrewsbury. This strong valley glacier has left a 'textbook' pattern of glacial features including, moraines, outwash plains, kettle holes, glacial lakes etc.

## Sunday 20 August: Waterfalls Trail, Ingleton

**Leader:** Alan Diggles

Start: 10.30am at the Waterfalls Car Park, Ingleton. Grid ref: SD693733 (O.S. Sheet 98 - Wensleydale). Entrance fee £3.50 per head. The walk is quite scenic, about 5 miles in length using a well-defined footpath over rising ground (a packed lunch is necessary). It follows the course of two rivers, which have cut down to basement rock exposing the Ingleton Inlier. We shall see the effects of the Caledonian orogeny and the Variscan orogeny resulting in the Craven Faults and the Askrigg Block. One of the best examples of an unconformity will be seen where the Ordovician meets the Carboniferous showing the early stages of Carboniferous limestone deposition and finally the part played by glaciation over the area. **We are hoping to arrange a minibus, please complete the enclosed [reply slip](#) if you are interested.**

## Sunday 1 October: National Stone Centre, Wirksworth

**Leader:** Dr Fred Broadhurst

Start: 10.30am at the National Stone Centre, Grid ref: SK287552. Walk distance about 9 miles in total, mostly on the High Peak Trail. Geology, features of the Lower Carboniferous Limestone, including reefs, fossils, sedimentology, dolomitization and the cover of the Upper Carboniferous Ashover Grit. Returning to the Stone Centre at lunchtime (refreshments available) but suggest bring your own sandwiches! After lunch moving some or all of our cars to Middleton Top car park (charge made) for afternoon walk.

For further information contact NSGGA Field Secretary, Gerald Ford

Tel: 01630 673409, e-mail: [g.ford@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:g.ford@ukonline.co.uk)

Mobile phone (on trip days only) 07789 826807

## Snailbeach Mine, Shropshire - Heritage Open Day

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

The Snailbeach Lead Mine near Minsterley was the biggest in Shropshire and may have been worked from Roman times right up to the 1950s. Snailbeach Mine probably has the best set of surface buildings of a lead mine in the UK and this makes it a unique site for visitors. The site is a Scheduled Monument.

Although not offering the full range of facilities as in previous years, the mine buildings will be open and there are underground tours. The mine is sited in the village of Snailbeach near Minsterley, Shropshire - park in the Village Hall car park. For more details go to:

<http://shropshiremines.org.uk>

## AGM Summary

Keith Harrison had decided to stand down from the post of Conservation Secretary at the AGM in March 2006, a post that he has held for some 12 years. The opportunity was taken to evaluate the role and the proposal to redefine it as **RIGS Liaison Officer** was approved wholeheartedly by the meeting. Thanks and best wishes were extended to Keith and Dr. Richard Waller was elected to the new post.

In the other committee positions, **Elizabeth Hallam** was elected as the vice-chairman.

## Diary dates

and provisional programme for our winter lectures

12th October	7:30p.m. Speaker Tim Harris - geomorphology
9th November	7:30 pm Speaker Dr Dave McGarvie – volcanoes and research in Iceland.
7th December	Christmas Social & buffet
2007	
12th January	7.30pm Speaker Dr Ralf Gertisser on volcanoes
9th February	7.30pm Speaker Dr Bob Roach - Geology of the Bronze Age - the eruption of Santorini
9th March	7:30pm AGM and Chairman's Lecture "The life and works of Blaise Pascal"

For further information contact NSGGA Secretary **Eileen Fraser** Tel. 01260 271505

## Chris King - Congratulations

NSGGA member and Keele University Education staff member Chris King has just been made a Professor of Education at the University. It is unsure as to whether he will pick Earth Science Education or Geoscience Education as his title.

The Professorship is thoroughly well deserved and helps to cement the standing of Keele University & NSGGA in the world of Earth Science Education.

## Exhibition - You are Here

**Until 7 May** at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

The ever changing nature of Stoke-on-Trent's urban landscape is examined using historical maps, paintings and photographs.

Specific areas are highlighted to reveal the constant renewal associated with progressive developments.

The maps include most of the William Sherratt Cope map of 1852 which details the outcrop of coal-seams in the North Staffordshire Coalfield at a scale of 1:11504 (1 inch to 12 chains), and the Geological Survey of England and Wales 1891 index map sheet 8 - Midlands and north Wales geology, scale 1:253440 (4 miles to 1 inch).

## NSGGA Annual Report for 2005

**Officers 2005** were **Chairman:** Mike Fereday, **Vice Chairman:** Dr Peter Floyd, **Secretary:** Eileen Fraser, **Treasurer:** Carol Fereday, **Membership Sec:** Mike Brown, **Conservation Sec:** Keith Harrison, **Field Sec:** Gerald Ford, **Bulletin Sec:** Don Steward, **Executive Committee:** Dr Colin Exley, Terry Jones, David Thompson, Ted Watkin, Prof John Winchester, Janet Fairclough, Roger Clowes, David Osborn, Janet Osborn, Elizabeth Hallam, Lloyd Boardman, Vanessa Pilley (Keele GeoSoc) and John Reynolds.

We have had a very full programme of lectures, fieldtrips and events this year. We were privileged to host the first Regional meeting held by the GA with Professor Richard Fortey presenting a lecture entitled 'The Earth – An Intimate History'. This was attended by some 150 people from all over the country and was a real success. Other winter Lectures included 'The Archaeology and Lead and Copper Mining in the Peak District' by Dr John Barnatt, 'The K/T Boundary Event' by Dr Peter Floyd, 'Geology and Wine of Southern France' by Dr Roger Suthren with a spot of wine tasting included and 'The Geology of the Chaine des Puys, France' by Mike Fereday. We had a good attendance of between 40 to 50% of our members at each meeting.

The series of fieldtrips included a visit to Wood Lane Sand and Gravel site near Ellesmere, Castleton with Dr Chris Arkwright, Hawkstone Park with Chris Raynor and David Pannett from Shropshire GA, a trip to Lathkill Dale Cheshire with Dr Fred Broadhurst, a joint weekend with the Essex group in Anglesey led by Dr Ros Todhunter, and a day at Wenlock Edge with Dr David Ray. These were all very well attended.

The John Myers award administered by a NSGGA sub-committee was awarded to Frances Russell from Keele University and Andrew Jones from Staffordshire University and 4 runners up for excellence in their final year project work this year. One member of the NSGGA attained an Honours degree with the Open University. Peter Floyd has produced a 'Building Stones of Newcastle' pamphlet. We have received funding from Wardell Armstrong, Dudley Museum, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the GA 'Curry Fund' so this can now be published. It will be available free at Tourist Information centres and other suitable sites. A sum of £200 was donated to the Asia Earthquake Appeal.

Mike Fereday attended the GA Annual Meeting for local groups..

We would like to thank all members, speakers and field leaders and look forward to another year of involvement in the promotion of geology to the general public as well as ourselves.

***The 57th AGM was held on 9 March 2006 in the Earth Sciences Dept., University of Keele.***

## NSGGA - Next Committee Meeting

- **Thursday 25 May 2006 at 7.00pm**  
in the School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University

## Staffordshire RIGS Group

For details about the Group and meetings, contact:

**SRIGS Secretary: Sue Lawley,**

c/o Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0WT  
Tel. 01889 880100 email: slawley@staffswt.cix.co.uk

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**Executive Committee** (honorary):

**Dr. Colin Exley; Terry Jones; David Thompson; Ted Watkin.**

**Executive Committee** (elected):

**Lloyd Boardman; Peter Floyd; David Osborn;**

**Janet Osborn; John Reynolds; John Winchester**

**Executive Committee** (co-opted):

**Vanessa Pilley (Keele Geol. Soc)**

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