

Geologists' Association - South Wales Group

Cymdeithas y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru

September 2018



Sixtieth session

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Other members of the committee: John Davies, Nigel McGaw, Cindy Howells, Geraint Owen, John Nudds, Roger Liggins			

Field Meetings - Summer 2018

The final field meeting of the year is to May Hill, Gloucestershire, on Saturday 13th October, led by Dave Green. This is a change of venue and leader from that stated in the original programme. The meeting details are as follows:



Saturday 13th October: The May Hill Silurian Inlier. Leader: Dave Green.

Meet at 10.00am at the car park of The Farmer's Boy Inn, Boxbush (SO 680 207) on the A40 between Gloucester and Ross-on-Wye.

From here we will transfer to as few cars as possible for transport towards the top of May Hill where we will park at the lane-side. We will then walk up onto May Hill to view the close relationship between geology and scenery, as well as the lithology of the Llandovery shallow water platform sediments that form the top of the hill. The rest of the morning will consist of a downhill, but stratigraphically-upward traverse, through the remaining Silurian

sequence into the Old Red Sandstone, followed by lunch (and toilets) at the Farmers Boy (drivers to be ferried back up the hill to collect vehicles). A menu will be circulated in due course so that lunch can be ordered in advance.

In the afternoon we will visit two further sites: the spectacular biotherms in the Lower Much Wenlock Limestone at Hobbs Quarry SSSI (SO 695 194), and the enigmatic late Ashgill / early Llandovery volcanoclastic? sediments exposed in the footwall of the Blaisdon Fault (the local representative of the Malvern lineament) at Huntley Quarry (SO 714 196).

Winter Programme 2018 - 2019

The winter programme is as follows:

2018

Saturday 20th October (Swansea): *Coastal Processes*: Dr Claire Earlie (Cardiff).

Saturday 24th November (Cardiff): *The secret life of your mobile phone*: Andrew Bloodworth (BGS)

Saturday 15th December (Swansea): *The adventures of Curiosity rover in Gale crater: exploring the geology of Mars by robot*. Prof. Sangeev Gupta (Imperial College)

2019

Saturday 12th January (National Museum, Cardiff): *Holiday Geology*

Saturday 26th January (Cardiff): *Life in the Freezer: how microbes live in the coldest places on Earth*: Dr Liz Bagshaw (Cardiff)

Saturday 16th February (Swansea): *Wholesale reconfiguration of the biosphere in the Anthropocene: a sustainable or unsustainable pattern?* Prof. Mark Williams (Leicester)

Saturday 23rd March (Cardiff): *AGM and Archaeopteryx: the story of an iconic fossil*: Cindy Howells (NMW)

All meetings commence at 11.00am except for the AGM which begins at 10.30am. Refreshments are served from about 45 minutes before each meeting.

Holiday Geology

Our annual *Holiday Geology* meeting will take place on Saturday 12th January 2019 in the Icon's Suite of the National Museum in Cardiff from 11.00am - 4.00pm and will follow the usual format. Refreshments will be provided on arrival but you will have to make your own arrangements for lunch. You can either bring a packed lunch to eat in the room or the museum restaurant is next door plus, of course, a wide range of eating establishments nearby in the city centre. We need at least 10 'volunteers' to speak for about 15 minutes to fill the programme so if any of you are prepared to offer a talk can you let Stephen know please. There will also be the usual small displays, book stall and raffle (any offers of prizes will be gratefully received!). In order to provide enough refreshments please let Stephen know if you intend attending the meeting by **1st January 2019**.

Stephen

Notes from the Membership Secretary

Subscriptions A reminder that it's subscription time. Your annual membership is due on 1st September. If you do not already but would prefer to pay by standing order, you can download the form from the website - it forms part of the membership form.

If it would help please let me know and I can post a copy to you. Please send the completed form on to me as we need to add our bank details and a reference in order to distinguish all those popular Welsh surnames.

GDPR If you have returned the Confirmation of Details form you should be receiving this Newsletter in the method you requested. Otherwise if you had 'ticked the box' on your membership form to receive the Newsletter by e-mail you should be continuing to receive it that way. If we have no information you will have received this by post.

You can change your mind at any time by contacting me – my details are in the header.

Caroline



Other Events

GA Annual Conference: This year's GA Annual Conference takes place over the weekend of 20th/21st October at the Lapworth Museum, Birmingham and is entitled *The Geology of 'Mordor'*. Full details and booking instructions can be found on the GA web site at <https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/>. We had planned to ensure that one of our own meetings did not clash with this event but, due to unavoidable circumstances, this proved impossible. Apologies.

Unknown Wales 2018: This year's *Unknown Wales* conference, organised by the Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales takes place at the National Museum, Cardiff on Saturday 27th October. It is free to attend but you must book in advance via www.welshwildlife.org/unknown-wales/unknown-wales-2018/. The full programme is yet to be announced but there is usually something of geological interest.

GA Festival of Geology: The Group will be attending the annual GA's *Festival of Geology* at University College London on Saturday 3rd November. We will be taking a display and some sale items with us. We would be grateful for volunteers to come along and assist on the day. The Group will pay all travel expenses (train fare or petrol) so if anybody is interested in helping out on the day please let the Secretary know. It is an interesting day with many other organisations running stalls plus there are 4 eminent Speakers at different times of the day.



Cardiff University Lecture Series

Stephen has circulated the full programme by email but please note that the lecture by Claire Earlie in the Cardiff University *When Sea Levels Change...* series, that is programmed as being on 19th April 2019, will in fact take place on **Tuesday 9th April**.

Congratulations

We extend our sincere congratulations to two of our members whose geological work has been acknowledged by two prestigious geological societies in the UK.

Prof John Cope was awarded the 2018 Halstead Medal of the Geologists' Association to mark his immense contribution to the GA over many years. This includes the writing the GA Guides to the Dorset coast and Devon, leading many field excursions, editing special issues of the PGA and his willingness to share his extensive knowledge to help others. The end of the citation states " Over his long career, John has demonstrated through his actions, the ethos and values of the Geologists' Association"

Dr Robert (Bob) Owens was awarded the 2018 Palaeontographical Society medal in recognition of the outstanding contribution he has made, and continues to make, to our understanding of trilobite faunas both in the British Isles and internationally.

New Minerals Publication

Members may remember that in February 2016 Roy Starkey came and gave us an excellent talk about the minerals of the Cairngorms and the lavishly illustrated book that he had just published on the subject, copies of which were bought by a number of you. Roy is coming to speak to us in autumn 2019 on the minerals of the English Midlands, the subject of his latest book. More information about the book and how to obtain a copy can be found at https://britishmineralogy.com/wordpress/?page_id=878.

Au Revoir to Tom

Sadly, we have to report that after 40 years of living in Cardiff Tom Sharpe is moving back to Scotland. Tom has given outstanding service to the Group as a Past President, Group Treasurer, a long-standing committee member, speaker, field trip leader and author. We wish him well and hope to see him from time to time when he ventures south and hope that he gets acclimatised to the cold quickly!



Other Geological Organisations

- Russell Society, Wales and West Branch: Tom Cotterell. Tel: 01594 845935 before 9 pm
- Welsh Stone Forum (Fforwm Cerrig Cymru): Tim Palmer tjp@aber.ac.uk or www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/welshstoneforum
- U3A South Wales Geology Group: Nigel McGaw. Tel: 01656 654439
- Open University Geological Society: Norman Nimmo Smith ougs.org/severnside
- West Wales Geology Society: www.westwalesgeolsoc.org.uk
- South East Wales RIGS : <http://sewrigs.wordpress.com/>