

# WEGA

## NEWSLETTER



Geology in the Bristol Area

No 50

In the 2010 – 2011 session a full set of lectures was held and two field trips were organised. Unfortunately the first trip on Sunday 24 April was cancelled because of lack of interest. The second trip on Sunday June 12 was to the Glamorgan Coast and the Barry Island area led by Dave Green. After the good weather in spring and early summer, the participants were expecting a good day's geology in pleasant conditions looking at a traverse from the Carboniferous Limestone through the Triassic into the Jurassic. However the day dawned with poor prospects and by the time the party reached Swanbridge there was a strong wind and driving rain, and temperatures more like February than June. A small intrepid group of ~ 8 people braved the conditions and the very slippery foreshore to cross to Sully Island. It was difficult to hear Dave, and all the handouts were quickly reduced to a pile of pulp. After an hour and a half braving the weather everyone retreated to the refuge of the Captain's Wife pub where people gratefully took advantage of the Sunday roast on offer. The incessant rain and wind continued through lunch and it was decided to abandon the outdoor pursuits, and retreat indoors with a visit to Cardiff National Museum for the rest of the afternoon.

Hopefully, in the absence of other WEGA field classes due to the field secretary position being vacant, WEGA Members took advantage of reciprocal arrangements for field trips organised by Bath Geological Society – (<http://www.bathgeolsoc.org.uk>), or other trips publicised on the Geology in the West Country blog.

The WEGA committee is:

Doug Robinson	Chair (vacancy as from April 2012)
Roy McIntyre	Vice-chair
Vacancy	Secretary
Vacancy	Field secretary
Judith Hibble	Treasurer
Gloria Castle	Membership secretary
Phil McHenry	Webmaster member
Vacancy	Newsletter editor
Ian Donaldson	Member
Elizabeth McIntyre	Member
Fflyff McLaren	Member



The No 48, Spring 2010 and No 49, Spring 2011 Newsletters gave notification of a crisis affecting the group with a lack of members willing to fill officer positions on the committee. As from the AGM 2012 meeting there will be vacancies for the four office positions of Chair, Secretary, Field Secretary and Newsletter editor.

If these positions remain unfilled at the AGM, then the group will not be viable and unfortunately will have to be dissolved. This would be a most sad development in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the group's existence, having had its first formal meetings in the 1975-76 year.

Anyone wishing to stand for the three positions of Secretary, Field Secretary or Newsletter editor should indicate their interest immediately, and would then be co-opted by the committee to fill the positions for the present session.

Anyone wishing to fill any committee position for the 2012 – 21013 session should have notification of their nomination sent to the Chair by the end of February 2012, in order to meet the constitution requirements and to be included in the AGM agenda.

If anyone has an interest in filling any of the vacancies, then please contact the Chair ([gldr@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:gldr@bristol.ac.uk)) for information etc.

## 2011 – 2012 Lectures

### 18th October

**Prof Jane Evans** (British Geological Survey)

*Tracing migration in the past - a toothy matter*

One of Jane's interests is in Geo-Archaeology, and she has undertaken work on many well-known archaeological investigations including Stonehenge and the Weymouth Ridgeway skeletons. Further details of her work is at <<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/staff/profiles/0394.html>>

### 8th November

**Prof Brian Williams** (Aberdeen University)

*Tracking Gondwanan Icesheets using sedimentology and zircon dating - Oman and Australia*

Brian needs no introduction to the group as to his interests and enthusiasm for the subject.

### 6th December

**Prof Iain Stewart** (Plymouth University)

*Horstmann Lecture*

This lecture will take place in the Chew Valley School Hall, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB. This venue is being used because Iain Stewart has asked that the WEGA group join forces with the school for this event, as two of his former PhD student colleagues teach at the school.

*(arrangements for lifts will be made for this talk; please indicate if you can provide a lift and start point, or if you need a lift and from where: [Info@wega.org.uk](mailto:Info@wega.org.uk) or speak with a committee member)*

Iain is very well known for his TV work which includes series on, Journey from the Centre of the Earth; The Power of the Planet; Hot Rocks; 10 Things You Didn't Know About....; The Climate Wars; and How Earth Made Us.

### 17th January 2012

**Three Research Students** (Bristol University)

*Various topics*

### 7th February

**Prof Paul Wright** (British Gas)

*Compton Martin Carboniferous fauna helps us re-think the marine fossil record*

Paul's talk on the Compton Martin local fauna examines a set of lagerstätten ("storage place" which is a sedimentary deposit that exhibits extraordinary fossil richness or completeness) that has allowed a radical re-appraisal of marine faunas, taphonomy and even carbonate sedimentology.

### 13th March

**Dr Cherry Lewis** (Bristol University)

*Medical origins of the Geological Society*

Cherry's interests lie in the history of geology and she has published a popular science book on the history of dating the age of the Earth: 'The Dating Game: One Man's Search for the Age of the Earth'. Cherry's talk will cover the origins of the Geological Society of London, which was founded on 13 November 1807 – the oldest such society in the world. Founding members include James Parkinson who gave his name to Parkinson's Disease.

**24 April (to be confirmed) Annual General Meeting**

## Field Excursions

These are held jointly with Bath Geological Society. For further details see <[www.bathgeolsoc.org](http://www.bathgeolsoc.org)>. Field trip secretary Bob Mustow ([field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk); 01249 813628).

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October

[Wick Quarry and Golden Valley](#) (Gully Oolite, Clifton Down mudstone and limestone, Hotwells Limestone, folds, faults, mineralisation, igneous intrusion, fossils - corals, brachiopods).  
Mark Mitchelmore

### Saturday 29 October

[Landscape features of the Gault and Upper Greensand in the vicinity of the Warminster Fault](#) (correlation between geology, landscape and land use, with in some places the fault resulting in clearly marked landforms; in the afternoon Cley Hill area, then Corsley).  
Isabel Buckingham (Bath Geological Society)

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, University College, London

#### [Annual Reunion of the Geologists' Association](#)

For details see <[www.geologistsassociation.org.uk](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk)> Festival of Geology

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

#### [Walks and field trips](#)

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February (date to be confirmed)

#### [Brown's Folly Nature Reserve](#)

Elizabeth Devon (Bath Geological Society)

Further trips to be arranged in

[March, May, July September, October](#)

WEGA members are covered on a group basis by Public Liability Insurance and for member-member injury, Personal Accident Cover should be individually arranged if required. Participants on our field trips are required to read, sign and follow the excursion safety information which is available on the website and on excursions. Car sharing is encouraged – contact the committee.

## WEGA's history and Bristol University

WEGA was founded as an off-shoot of the extra-mural classes of the Earth Sciences Department of the University of Bristol, and continues to have close relations with the Department. Now that the University has stopped extra-mural activities, WEGA is very well placed to satisfy the demands of the amateur geologist who wants to have access to the resources of the University.

### The Group's aims are:

- \* To promote a wider interest in the science of geology through organised lectures, field excursions and social activities.
- \* To provide a link between the amateur, the student, the teacher and the professional geologist.
- \* To foster interest in geological sites within the area with a view to their study and wise conservation.
- \* To establish and maintain good relations with organisations that have a common interest