

# WEGA

## NEWSLETTER



Geology in the Bristol Area

No 52

### **FEEDBACK NEEDED**

The committee is considering a proposal to change the timing of the lecture programme, so that lecture meetings are held in the months of October, November, March April, May and June, rather than the present monthly schedule between October and March. This would avoid meetings held in the winter months of December, January and February. Such a change would require a change to item 7.2 of the WEGA constitution namely:

7.2 The Secretary shall arrange a programme of monthly evening Lecture Meetings at a regular time and place between October and March.

Feedback from members on this matter is sought – please respond to [Info@wega.org.uk](mailto:Info@wega.org.uk), or in person at the latest during next meeting to be held on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>.

## FIELD TRIPS

For the 2012-13 session field trips are being organised jointly by the Bath Geological Society, Bristol NATs - Geology section and WEGA (West of England Geologists' Association)

### **Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> – Elizabeth Devon**

*Brown's Folly Nature Reserve*

Email [field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk) for details

### **Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> – Judy Hible**

*Radstock Museum and Writhlington Batch*

The Radstock, Midsomer Norton and District Museum Society was founded in 1985 to preserve the social and industrial heritage of the communities of the Somerset Coalfield. The first issue of 'Five Arches', the Journal of the Society, appeared in 1986. The Society's Collection was first put on permanent display at Barton Meade, Haydon, in 1989. The Writhlington spoil heap has been opened up to the public for fossil collecting. It has yielded hundreds of plants and insects and is well documented. It is publically accessible, and there is plenty to be found.

*Group rate £4 per head, minimum 15 people*

*Radstock Museum, Waterloo Road, Radstock BA3 3EP*

*Either meet at 11 a.m. outside the Museum for the 20 minute walk to Writhlington batch to hunt for Carboniferous plant fossils, or at 2 p.m. **just** for the Museum visit. Parking is opposite the Museum.*

email [judyhible@talktalk.net](mailto:judyhible@talktalk.net) for details

### **Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> - Isobel Geddes, Wiltshire Geology Group**

*Beggars Knoll Chalk Pit and the landscape around Westbury White Horse*

*Meet at 10.30 a.m. at the west end of the car park above Westbury White Horse ST 898512. Packed lunch required. The day will end at 4.30 p.m.*

Email [field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk) for details

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Trevor Thompson**

*Industrial Archaeology and Geology of the Coal and Iron Mining Industries*

We shall be studying the area around Frampton Coterell and Iron Acton. A short presentation about the area will be followed by a walk looking at the relicts of coal mining in the area. We shall then proceed to Huckford Quarry (disused) where Pennant Sandstone is exposed before returning to the Garden Shop. (ST 669 802).

*Meet at "The Garden Shop" where the A432 Bristol to Chipping Sodbury Road goes under the Railway at Coalpit Heath (south side). We will meet in a marquee in the site where Trevor Thompson will give a short presentation on the industrial archaeology and geology of the area. Coffee will be provided but there will be a fee of £3 per head for this and the use of the facilities. Hard hats required.*

Contact Bristol NATs - Geology section: [ashleyrw@fsmail.net](mailto:ashleyrw@fsmail.net)

**Sunday June 9th – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> - Dr Doug Robinson. University of Bristol***Geology of the North Pennines (Horstmann trip)*

The North Pennines is an AONB, and has a varied and interesting geology dominated by rocks of Carboniferous age; this is recognised in the area being designated as a UNESCO European and Global Geopark. The field trip will examine the Carboniferous succession, its famous Pb-Zn and fluorite mineral deposits, the intrusion of the Whin Sill and its contact metamorphism, and the general tectonics of the region. The trip will involve walks of varying round trip distances of up to 8 - 10km and involve some scrambles such as at Cauldron Snout and ascents/descents of ~ 200m. All participants should be able and suitably equipped to tackle such walks.

**Provisional itinerary:**

*Day 1:* Geology of the Upper Teesdale Valley, visiting Cow Green reservoir, Cauldron Snout, Falcon Clints, and the waterfall caused by the Whin Sill outcrop at High Force.

*Day 2:* Geology of Weardale area, visiting Killhope lead mining museum, Allenheads, Stanhope, Frosterly, and the sill at Holwick Scars and Low Force.

*Day 3:* Geology of Cross Fell Inlier area and Eden Valley, visiting Dufton, Knock, High Cup Nick and the Penrith sandstone at Brough.

*Day 4:* Geology of the Lune valley, examining the Silurian on the northern slopes of the Howgill fells, the unconformably overlying Carboniferous Visean succession starting with basement beds, followed by the various limestone units with thin storm beds, and overlying Ash Fell sandstone.

The maximum number of participants is 17, with 14 as the minimum for the trip viability. The accommodation is popular and so it is essential to make a confirmed reservation. Once individual reservations are made and deposit paid, cancellations can only be refunded if the minimum number of participants is reached, and so all participants should arrange travel insurance.

**Accommodation:** Fawcett Mill Fields, is a converted mill dating back to the 16th Century. The mill is sited in a secluded setting in Raisbeck valley, but is only 3 km from the M6 Junction 38 (Tebay). The accommodation is self-catering (apart from the first night). Accommodation is available in double rooms, twin rooms and one single room. The accommodation cost is estimated to be between £135 - £165 per person for the five days, depending on the number of participants. The evening meal will be provided with the accommodation on the first night. The accommodation has good self-catering facilities and for the remainder of the period people are able to cater individually or on a group basis, or use local venues for meals - participants should make their preference known on booking sheet.

**Places available contact Doug Robinson (drgldr@gmail.com)**

**Saturday 13th July - Dr Neville Hollingworth, Science & Technology funding Council**

Gravel Pits, Cotswold Water Park

There will be a fossil collecting opportunity both from the Oxford Clay and from the Quaternary  
*Meet at 10.30 - details to follow*

Contact Bristol NATs - Geology section: ashleyrw@fsmail.net

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August – John Byles**

*Trym Gorges in Henbury and Westbury on Trym*

*Details to be finalised in the spring*

Contact Bristol NATs - Geology section: [ashleyrw@fsmail.net](mailto:ashleyrw@fsmail.net)

**Wednesday 4th September - Dr Doug Robinson, Univ Bristol**

Mendip geology in a 4 hour walk

On this walk all the main rocks found in the Mendips will be seen, and used to interpret the geological history of the region. The Devonian, Portishead formation and Carboniferous limestone are exposed across the Pen Hill pericline. The Triassic Dolomitic conglomerates forms large fans of coarse debris that spread southward, and are interbedded with thick sequences of the finer grained sand and mud facies of the Mercia Mudstone. The late Triassic marks the change from continental to marine sequences, with deposition of mudstones and fine grained limestones of the Blue Lias formation. The youngest rocks are of mid Jurassic age with limestones and thin muds deposited around the islands of the Mendip archipelago.

The walk will follow public footpaths giving good to rough going, with an overall ascent of ~200m. Starting from Wookey hole, past Arthur's Point, and on along the southern slopes of Pen Hill, descending by way of Prior's hill, crossing the A39, and along the edge of Stoberry Park and in the Wells square on a market day.

Maximum participants 15. Booking and further details [drgldr@gmail.com](mailto:drgldr@gmail.com)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October - Dr Geraint Owen, University of Swansea**

*Geology of the Gower Peninsula*

This field trip follows Dr. Owen's talk to the Bath GS on July 4th

*Travel will be by coach:* Email [field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk](mailto:field@bathgeolsoc.org.uk) for details

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October - Prof. Maurice Tucker, Durham University and Dr Lisa Thomas, Bath Spa University**

*Moon's Hill and Tufa*

We will have an introductory talk at the Somerset Earth Science Centre, explore Moon's Hill Quarries i.e the Silurian volcanics and the Devonian Old Red Sandstone. Next we will visit Fairy Cave Quarry (Carboniferous Limestone) and St. Dunstan's Well - a karst spring rising below the quarry. Then, finally, we will look at the tufa deposits in Harridge Wood or, possibly, at Whitehole Farm.

*Meet at the Somerset Earth Science Centre, Stoke St. Michael, near Radstock at 10.30 a.m.*

**Remaining dates for the WEGA 2012 – 2013 Session****12th February****Dr Jo Gottsman** (Bristol University)

A tale of failure and success: the very recent volcanic history of the Canary Islands

**5th March****Dr Derek Siveter** (Oxford University) (Horstmann lecture)

Virtual Fossils: soft bodied sensations from the Silurian of the Welsh Borderlands (Horstmann lecture)

**23 April**

Annual General Meeting

**Royal Geographical Society, West of England & South Wales Group lecture**

The Bristol dinosaur – discovery and science in 1830s Bristol by Professor Mike Benton, University of Bristol

The world's fourth dinosaur discovery was in Clifton in 1834, eight years before Owen coined the word 'dinosaur'. Discover some key personalities involved in the story; their science and their squabbles.

Further information: Simon Garrett, email [sgarrett@bristolzoo.org.uk](mailto:sgarrett@bristolzoo.org.uk) or telephone 011 7974 7370.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 19:00 – 20:30

Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol

## WEGA AGM

The AGM for the 2012/13 session will be held on Tuesday April 23 at 19:30 in the Reynolds Lecture Theatre, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol.

The present committee members shown below, will retire as normal at the AGM, with those willing to be re-elected shown

Doug Robinson	Chair	available for re-election
Roy McIntyre	Vice-chair	“
Bobby Oliver	Secretary	“
Judith Hible	Treasurer	“
Vacancy	Field secretary	
Phil McHenry	Webmaster member	“
Vacancy	Newsletter editor	
Gloria Castle	Member	“
Ian Donaldson	Member	“
Elizabeth McIntyre	Member	“
Fflyff McLaren	Member	“

Anyone wishing to make nominations for officers, motions or other matters to be placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting should provide details to the Secretary by the **end of February**, in order to meet the constitution requirements. All nominations welcome, especially for the position of Field Secretary.

Minutes of the 2011/12 AGM will be available on the evening.

Notice is given that changes to the constitution will be proposed at the AGM involving items:

5.3 Notification of nominations for officers, motions or other matters to be placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting to be with the Secretary by the end of February.

and depending on feedback from members:

7.2 The Secretary shall arrange a programme of monthly evening Lecture Meetings at a regular time and place between October and March.

The AGM will be followed by a light-hearted geology quiz and a book sale. Anyone wishing to sell their books should clearly label them with the owner's name and the price; those wishing to buy any book are responsible to find and pay the seller. Free wine and cheese will close the meeting.

As well as the above positions on the WEGA committee, nominations are also sought for the WEGA representative as a trustee of *Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution* (BRLSI), which is an educational charity based in Queen Square, Bath. This position has been filled by Prof Judith Bryce for the past three years, but has now resigned the position.

