

Geology Group Newsletter – September 2018

Our August field trip was a tour of the spouts and stones of Malvern town. This trip has been carried out on several occasions over the years and is always very popular and informative. This time it was led by Rosemary and Colin Fretwell – thank you to both of them for their leadership. There are 2 field trips planned for September and they will complete the summer programme. Calling notices for these were issued with the August newsletter.

As you will know the Groups Fair takes place next Monday 3rd September. We will be there as usual manning the geology table. There is no need for you to sign on for another year in the group at the fair although we will always be pleased to see any of you who might like to visit! We will assume that you wish to continue as members of the group unless you tell us otherwise.

At the recent Steering Committee meeting, we reviewed the success or otherwise of the Members Meeting in May. This meeting was introduced four or five years ago principally as an attempt to get feedback from the membership regarding the programme and the running of the group. We decided that, apart from one year when we had a formal survey, the meetings never really achieved their aim. As a result, we propose to discontinue them with effect from next year – unless of course there is an overwhelming clamour from you to continue them!

We are currently in discussion with the Hereford & Worcester Earth Heritage Trust to see whether we can establish closer and more formal links between us. This is ongoing, but in the meantime they will be forwarding to us their regular newssheets. We will pass them on to you for your information - the August edition is attached.

Assuming we attract enough new members, we do intend to run once more a series of New Members' sessions beginning in September. If there is space available on these sessions we will offer up these places to existing members. Further details will be issued in due course, but if you think you might be interested, here are the dates:

- Introduction to Geology, Plate Tectonics: 10.00 – 12.00 am on 24th September (Manor Park)
- Absolute Dating, Rocks & Minerals: 10.00 – 12.00 am on 25th September (Manor Park)
- Geology of the Malvern Hills: 2.00 – 4.00 pm on 26th September (Manor Park)
- Visit to Gullet Quarry: 24th October
- Visit to Tank Quarry and Whitman's Hill Quarry: 7th November
- Worcester Building Stones Trail: 28th November

In recent years, several of our members have attended the Open University Geological Society annual colloquium and found it well worthwhile. This year's event takes place on Saturday 13th October in Oxford. Further details are available from its website - <https://www.ogg.rocks/the-oxford-colloquium-2018>. It is unlikely there will be enough interest to warrant hiring a bus, but if anyone wants to go I am happy to collect names in order to facilitate car sharing.

Finally, it is with deep regret to have to tell you that James Berry passed away this month. He was one of the Group's very first members and served on the Steering Committee for many years. He was expert and an enthusiast in a number of scientific areas as well as having great experience in leading expeditions. He was a real gentleman of the old school and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

Calendar

September	5	Field Trip; Little Doward
September	19	Field Trip; Hampton Bishop
October	1 - 5	Field Trip; the Jurassic Coast
October	10	What's Underneath a Volcano?
November	14	Borehole Technology & Concealed Coal Measures

December	12	Permafrost
January	9	Plate Tectonic Mechanics and Processes
February	13	Rocks from Space
March	13	Volcanic History of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote
March	20-27	Field Trip; Fuerteventura

Outdoor Programme Details

Little Doward - Jim Handley - Wed 5 Sept (Contact: jim.s.handley@gmail.com or 01600 715427)

Jim Handley, our previous group leader, has moved to Monmouth and taking over responsibility for the EHT's Champion site at Little Doward, 2 miles up the road from Monmouth. Little Doward is one of a few places in the area where the complete geological succession from the late Early Devonian to the Early Carboniferous, a time span of roughly 55 million years, is accessible. With an impressive hill fort, carriage drives and walks created by the local landowning MP in the 1840s and amazing trees, it has a lot to offer. It all fits into a 3 hour slot, moderate walking, we will get there by shared car.

Hampton Bishop - Moira Jenkins - Wed 19 Sept (Contact: jenkins.moira@googlemail.com or 01684 569815)

This is a walk in pleasant countryside around the large flat area formed where the River Lugg joins the Wye, before the time when the River Teme was diverted by ice and when there was far more water in the Lugg. Farmers have built huge flood defence barriers which we will follow as we walk round a meander of the Wye. We see erosional features along the rivers and interglacial river terraces above flood plain level. We see huge red mudstone and sandstone cliffs and a landslip area. The scenery reflects the underlying rock structure which has upfolded the Woolhope Dome on one side and the major fault, the Neath Valley Disturbance, on the other. This is a 5 mile walk with a stop for lunch at the Bunch of Carrots at the half way point on the walk. (Anyone who does not wish to walk further could wait there to be picked up after the walk). The walk has no steep slopes and only one stile. We will get there by shared car.

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