

GeoConservationUK Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 3

15th September 2014



GEOCONSERVATIONUK

This is the Day that . . . Geologists were involved in . . .

On the day that this *Newsletter* is published, in the France of 1916 the Battle of the Somme began; the British Army launched a major offensive, using 40 primitive tanks for the first time in history. However, the Great War (as it was known by its veterans) dragged on for another two murderous years.

Of some significance to geologists, especially in making field excursions to distant locations possible, the Liverpool to Manchester railway line (on the standard gauge) opened in 1830 as the world's first passenger railway - opening up the future joys of commuting by rail! At the same event William Huskisson, then Britain's Secretary of State for War and the Colonies (an interesting combination!), became the first recorded railway passenger to be killed by a locomotive when he stepped in front of *Rocket*. In 1859, Isambard Kingdom Brunel who designed the Great Western Railway to the broad gauge died. On a somewhat happier note mystery author Agatha Christie was born in Torquay; she wrote nearly a hundred books, many of which involved the unnatural death of at least one character.



So, you might ask yourself, just what do these mixed events have to do with geology? Perhaps, next (or for the first) time you peruse the titles and explore the content of some of the Geological Society's Special Publications, developed from its conferences, you will begin to realise just how geologists have been involved in warfare, railways and even murder!

EDITORIAL

This third *Newsletter* of 2014 carries articles on the membership's activities in England and Scotland, together with advance notices of conferences and events that should hold some appeal for the geoconservation community - especially, of course, our AGM! Our Chair rightly points out the difficult issue of funding affecting Scotland, let alone the rest of the UK, but there are some bright spots - notably the Callander Geodiversity Trail and the panels in the Campsie Fells. The challenge for all of us in the geoconservation community is to forge links with partners appreciative of our expertise and, importantly, prepared to help cover some of the costs of acquiring and implementing that expertise - easier said than done, but essential if we are also to bring in new and younger participants in our work. It just so happens that the Executive Committee is losing some old hands and those of newer and younger members would lessen the workload! [Tom Hose](#)

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ENGLAND — *Berkshire Geoconservation Group*

A geology walk from the past – Boxford and Winterbourne

In May 1906 a group from the Geologists' Association did a walk around Boxford and Winterbourne to the north west of Newbury. Berkshire Geoconservation Group (BGG) decided to retrace the route in June 2014 to see what remained of the outcrops.

The 1906 party arrived at Boxford by train, an option no longer available along the Lambourn Valley, motor car and bicycle. In 2014 the group started at Boxford Church which has recently undergone a programme of restoration to the exterior. During the replacement of some of the window frames with Bath stone an earlier layer of chalk frame was discovered and this was recorded by the group. A small Anglo-Saxon window with a wooden pane was also found, thought to be one of the earliest in England.

Walking east to Winterbourne there was no sight of the small pit in the Uintacrinus Chalk on the slope of Hour or Hoar Hill, this area is now housing. In 1906 the GA group had found a few chips of oyster shell, an Asteroid ossicle and a brachial ossicle of Uintacrinus. Close to the summit of Basford Hill a large overgrown excavation was still visible and although it was impossible to access and investigate this had the appearance of a gravel pit as described. It appears to extend into the underlying Lambeth Group, which in this area is used for brick and tile making.

Winterbourne Church was not visited in 1906 but the exterior is of interest and some time was spent by the group examining the flint, chalk and limestone of the exterior. The tower is an unusual square construction of local red and blue/grey bricks built in 1759. Winterbourne Chalk Pit nearby is now an SSSI for geological criteria and during the Spring of 2014 BGG spent time clearing one of the faces here. This work was on behalf of the landowner and made possible by a grant under the Conservation Enhancement Scheme from Natural England. The chalk as described in 1906 is flintless, phosphatic chalk containing hard bands marking the junction of the Marsupites and Act. Quadratus bands. These hard bands are visible today.

Currently in not such a good state is the old roadside quarry north of Boxford School. This quarry is also an SSSI as it shows evidence of inclined strata and tectonic activity, unusual in this part of West Berkshire. Unfortunately vegetation now covers all of the faces but it is hoped that clearance here will take place in the near future. The 1906 group were at this point little disposed towards fossil collecting and 'the tea-hour being close at hand' headed towards the Bell Inn where following a vote of thanks to their leaders some collected marsh marigolds by the Lambourn and purchased postcards before the departure of their train.

The 2014 group found it relatively easy to find the sections discussed over a century earlier and although many are now overgrown their characteristics are still present. We will be planning more 'Walks from the Past' in the future to complement the 'Churches in the Landscape' series.

Those who would like to chase up the original sources for this walk in the past should look at:

Osborne White, H.J. and Treacher, L.I., 1906, Excursion to Boxford and Winterbourne (Berks): Saturday, May 12th, 1906. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, vol. 19, issue 9, pp.349-353

Meanwhile, a modern coverage of the site can be found in: Dunlop, L. & Greenaway, R. (2011), *Around the 3 Valleys*. Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys, Berkshire, UK.

Lesley Dunlop



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

ENGLAND — Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group

Recent DIGS Activity

Some consultation work has taken place including a successful visit to Wimborne St. Giles to study a grotto on the estate of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The grotto (*see top right*), constructed in the mid-eighteenth century, has fallen into a state of disrepair and is now undergoing some conservation work under the guidance of Philip Hughes Associates. DIGS helped Philip Hughes with the work carried out on the Wolfeton Riding House at Charminster and we were called on again to identify rocks, minerals and fossils used in the construction and decoration of the grotto. Flint, quartz, calcite, barytes, fluorspar, colonial corals, tall spired gastropods (similar to *Turritella*) and bivalves had all been used. There is also a chamber lined with modern shells, probably derived from the West Indies.

Our site at Poxwell has benefitted from some recent conservation sessions, clearing vegetation in the base of the former quarry and the encroaching vegetation on the rock face. We had a very successful session in mid-July gaining the help of two expert climbers (*see middle right*) who abseiled down the rock face to remove overhanging vegetation especially ivy.

Also in July the World Heritage Coast team provided some work experience opportunity for an 'A level' geology student from Devon; Josh involved himself in DIGS



sites at Red Lane Abbotsbury and Portesham Farm as well as reviewing a potential new site at Langton Herring. In around three-quarters of an hour at the Red Lane site (*see bottom, left*), the Group members and Josh showed just what a difference a little time and much effort spent on site clearance work can make (*see bottom right*).

We are in consultation with the Hardown Society in connection with the production and siting of a display board to provide visitors with information on the geology and landscape of Hardown Hill (Morecombelake, Dorset). This is also in consultation with the National Trust and the board will also contain information on aspects of the local wildlife.

Alan Holiday

NEWS ITEM — *Jurassic Coast fossils online*

Almost 1,000 fossils from Dorset and East Devon's museums are now accessible to everyone thanks to a new online database. The Jurassic Coast Fossil Finder at <http://jurassiccoast.org/fossilfinder>

showcases the fossils held by museums along the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site. From exquisite starfish and elegant ammonites, to terrifying teeth and pre-historic poo... the Jurassic Coast museums have a magnificent collection of fossils. Each fossil in the Fossil Finder has been professionally photographed, some of them as 360 degree rotations. They are presented with a description and fact file of scientific details. It is possible to search in a variety of ways and to display the results in geological order which gives a very visual representation of the nature of the fossil record in this part of the World.

Richard Edmonds, Jurassic Coast Earth Science Manager, and consultant on the project, has made the point that: *"This is a fantastic resource, not just locally but globally. The Jurassic Coast has a wealth of fossils, and our aim was to make these specimens accessible to everyone. We were careful to write the text so that there is something for everyone – from fun and accessible facts for children and beginners, to more in-depth information for specialists and geology students."*

The collection includes the commoner finds such as ammonites and belemnites, but also rarities such as the giant pliosaur skull and recently-discovered ancient reptile footprints and even insects. Although the first phase of the project is completed, the database will be amended and updated as new information or new specimens come to light. As Richard has noted: *Many specimens came to the museums with little or no information, while, as the science has moved on, so has some of that information, so we welcome any input that helps us enhance or improve the content."*

The project was run by the Jurassic Coast Museums Partnership, and supported by Arts Council England, Natural England and Dorset County Council. It is one of several exciting initiatives to enhance the appeal of the museums. It is hoped that the Fossil Finder will capture people's imaginations and inspire them to go and see the fossils for real in the museums.

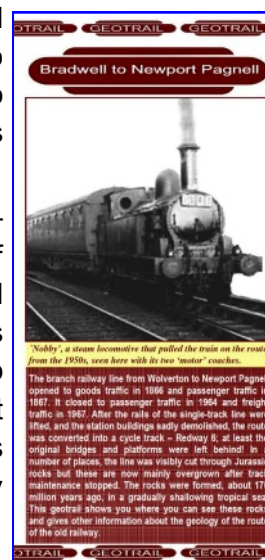
Tom Hase

ENGLAND — *Bedfordshire Geology Group*

Milton Keynes (Bradwell to Newport Pagnell) railway geotrail walk - Sunday, 27th July 2014

A small party made its way, in glorious weather along, the route of the old railway (now a cycle path) just north of Milton Keynes town centre to look at a mixture of local geology and railway history. Taking as its basis the trail leaflet (see right) the members also explored aspects of railway design, management and maintenance. They also quickly, from personal observation, dispelled the myth that there are no solid rocks to be seen in Milton Keynes.

The Blisworth Limestone was seen in its various facies; some interesting trace fossils and oysters were noted on several large blocks just off the route. The use of locally quarried limestone, in some case from the railway's cuttings, and imported sandstones from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in the platforms and bridges along the route was also noted. Unfortunately, the previously seen (some two years ago) exposure of Blisworth Clay in a nearby quarry was obscured by a great number of tall nettles, brambles and assorted shrubs. However, the refreshments available from the pub just up the canal, crossed by the railway, from the quarry were very welcome! *Tom Hase*





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SCOTLAND — *Stirling and Clackmannan RIGS Group*

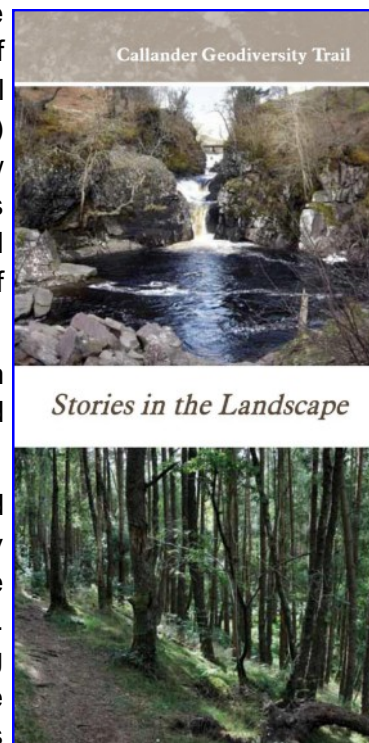
Callander Geodiversity Trail Booklet 'Stories in the Landscape'

After a lot of work by a few individuals Callander's Countryside have achieved their joint aim with Stirling and Clackmannan RIGS Group of producing the Callander Geodiversity Trail Booklet (*see right*). The trail complements the existing Callander Paths Leaflet (new edition awaited) and the Callander Heritage Trail Booklet 'Stories in the Stones'. The new trail booklet is now available, free of charge to the public, from outlets in Callander and it is hoped from other outlets in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park in the near future. It is also available as a pdf from the Edinburgh Geological Society's web site.

Design and printing of the booklet cost £3,000 - paid for by donations from the RIGS Group, Stirling Council Community Pride Fund, Cemex, and Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs. 7,000 copies were printed.

The original inspiration for the booklet was image-rich handouts prepared for field excursions for geological societies including the Open University and Glasgow in 2011. In November of that year members of local heritage groups gave initial support to the RIGS Group's idea for a publication. Since then they have helped mould the publication by photographing points of interest, discussing and editing the text, and road testing the draft material in the field. The booklet describes five trails, with exposures of sub-vertical Lower Devonian sedimentary rocks in the picturesque Keltie Water (Bracklinn Falls Trail) just to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault as the main strand. However the other walks incorporate Quaternary features (e.g. The Glacier Trail and The Three Bridges) and built heritage and former building stone quarries. The booklet may seem a bit technical in places for some readers but the local community found the final version to their liking.

Mike Browne



SCOTLAND — *Friends of Kelvin Valley*

Two New Geodiversity Leaflets

Recently signed up to GCUK membership, the Friends have just published two folded A3 geodiversity leaflets. The first is 'Kelvin Valley Rocks' and the second 'Cumbernauld Rocks'. Both contain a View-point written by the Chair of GCUK. Currently these leaflets are only available in printed format. The leaflets were circulated to a thousand friends of the Kelvin valley in the two 2014 Kelvin Valley News issues as an insert. These should be available on the Friends web site in 2015.

These leaflets have two main purposes: firstly to show the local communities pictorially that potential local geodiversity sites exist in these adjoining areas mainly in North Lanarkshire Council; secondly to make the council aware of the need to introduce a Local Geodiversity Site System as a response to the published 'Scotland's Geodiversity Charter'. One or two local members of the Strathclyde GeoConservation Group have been visiting and provisionally recording mainly in listed biodiversity sites with the aim of influencing the local biodiversity partnership into introducing geodiversity actions in their next plan. The reception from the local minerals industry has been rather mixed from discussion of plans for quarry completion with conservation sections to refusal even of site access.

Mike Browne

SCOTLAND — Strathclyde Geoconservation

Launch of the Campsie Fells Information Boards

"The Campsie Fells are my personal favourite home-grown volcanic landscape"; this quote, by Dr Iain Stewart, encouraged Strathclyde Geoconservation to make an application to the East Dunbartonshire Civic Pride Fund for three interpretation panels explaining the evolution of the stunning southern edge of the Campsie Fells. Strathclyde Geoconservation and East Dunbartonshire Council have worked together over many years to achieve the comprehensive Geodiversity Audit of the area. The Audit is available for viewing at:

<http://nora.nerc.ac.uk/15098/>

Thirty-four sites have been designated in the Local Plan as Local Geodiversity Sites. Two of these, Twechar (*see middle right*) and Crow Road are the first to be explained on separate beautifully illustrated panels. Strathclyde Geoconservation Group members devised the site interpretation. East Dunbartonshire Council provided the graphic design, with funding for installation made available via its Civic Pride Fund.

The panels explain the geology and landscape evolution of the Campsie Fells - Kelvin valley area, between Lennoxton and Barhill. The two panels located in the car park on the Crow Road, the B822 between Lennoxton and Fintry, explain the landscape seen from this popular viewpoint in terms of the rocks beneath and the effects of the Ice Age - entitled 'Bare bones of the landscape' and 'Icy touches on the landscape' respectively.

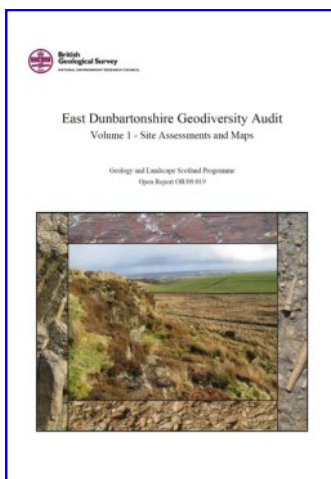
A third board is located beside the Healthy Living & Enterprise Centre, off the Main Street, in Twechar. This panel, entitled 'Twechar's buried secrets', relates the underlying geology to the area's mining history and the landscape; this information is provided together with that in the igneous rocks forming the higher ground and the sandstones and shales under the River Kelvin's floodplain.

A link to illustrations each of the three panels can be found at the Geological Society of Glasgow website:

www.geologyglasgow.org.uk/

The website also has information about the Group.

Margaret Greene



East Dunbartonshire Geodiversity Audit, front cover.



Close up of the Twechar information board.



Members of Strathclyde Geoconservation at the launch in Twechar on 24th April, 2014.



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

M E E T I N G S and C O N F E R E N C E S

GeoConservationUK Annual General Meeting - 1st November, 2014

A Message from the Chair

I have been slimming down the number of printed (bumph) documents in my GCUK files going back to pre-UKRIGS days. I recently reached late 2005 and was surprised to find a copy of my nomination form to become your chairman. I never imagined that I would serve you for nine years in this position. However the time has come for me to retire as having a monolith in charge is not good for any organisation intending to have a real future. Fortunately this last 12 months has seen the possibility of succession planning seemingly coming to fruition. You might even have heard me screaming in delight as my 18-month-old grand daughter still does.

Although I may remain in some minor role on the Executive, others are standing down. I record both the contributions made over the years by, and our thanks to Rick Ramsdale and Kevin Crawford. As importantly, I also want to appeal to our members across the home nations to consider standing for our Executive. I am well aware of both the time and financial costs once needed to serve. You should realise that most Exec members at some time have attended meetings by Skype so these two factors are no longer so important.

I guess the single most disappointing element of my declining years in office is expressed partly in the paper Martin Whiteley (of The Geology Trusts) and I wrote for the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* in 2012 on our past achievements and future challenges. As the finances available for our activities have almost vanished, have our member organisations managed to retain momentum and active membership? Looking around Scotland, we have not quite lost any groups but things could be much better.

Best wishes to all in local geoconservation

Mike Browne

AGM and Executive Committee Elections

The Annual General Meeting for GCUK will be held at 1.00pm on Saturday, 1st November, 2014. It will be held in University College London; this will be during the Geologists' Association 'Festival of Geology' (see page 12).

We are looking for people who wish to serve on the GCUK Executive Committee for the next three years. This is not an onerous commitment; we meet just 4-5 times per year. but attendance in person is not necessary - there is availability for either telephone conferencing or using Skype or similar.

Official nomination forms (a copy can be seen on the next page, so you have an idea of what is needed) for the GCUK Executive Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, Lesley Dunlop:

Lesley.dunlop@northumbria.ac.uk

and should be returned by 4th October, 2014. These can be submitted electronically. Please do contact me if you would like any further information.

Lesley Dunlop

Lesley Dunlop (GCUK Secretary)

M E E T I N G S and C O N F E R E N C E S

GeoConservationUK Annual General Meeting - 1st November, 2014



**Nomination form for
CHAIRMAN../..SECRETARY../ TREASURER../.. EXECUTIVE MEMBER*
[*delete/copy as appropriate]
of GeoConservationUK 2014**

Name of nominee

Address of nominee
..... Post code

Tel Email

'I wish to stand for election to the post of of GeoConservationUK
An e-mail statement is acceptable.

Signed Date

This form MUST be accompanied by a 200-400 word statement by the nominee. This should be written in support of their nomination and will be circulated to the voting membership to aid their election decisions. Nominees are advised to include all information relevant to the type of post they are standing for.

Proposer (nominee's own GeoConservation/RIGS Group)
The Group propose the candidate listed above to the post indicated. **An e-mail statement is acceptable.**

Name of Senior Officer Tel

Office held

Signed on behalf of the proposer's Group by the Senior Officer

Signature Date

Seconder (other GeoConservation/RIGS Group)
The Group second the candidate listed above to the post indicated. **An e-mail statement is acceptable.**

Name of Senior Officer Tel

Office held

Signed on behalf of the seconder's Group by the Senior Officer

Signature Date

Please return by post or electronically to Lesley Dunlop, GCUK Secretary lesley.dunlop@northumbria.ac.uk
and copied to info@GeoConservationUK.org.uk by 4 October 2014



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

NEWS ITEM — *Geology on the BBC's 'Countryfile'*

It seems like midlands' geology is having something of renaissance on the television this summer and autumn on the BBC's 'Countryfile' programme. On Sunday, 31st August the programme had a piece on The Roaches, now managed by Staffs Wildlife Trust, but the recorded geologist's interview was edited out! On Sunday, 7th September Graham Worton was to be found in the canal Tunnels under Dudley where he was explaining something of the fossils and economic geology; the same programme also had a bit about the Rock Houses in the Triassic sandstones of Kinver, now owned by the National Trust.

John Reynolds

ENGLAND — *Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group*

Even More Recent DIGS Activity

On 7th September a group of geologists from DIGS, DGAG, Wessex OUGS and the Irish Geologists' Association got together to carry out some conservation work (*see top right*) on the DIGS site at Crack Lane, Langton Matravers (near Swanage). In case it might seem odd that Irish geologists were helping, they were visiting Dorset, and as The DIGS Chair was showing them round it clashed with the conservation event! The Crack Lane site's Purbeck Broken Shell Limestone site benefitted considerably from the efforts of around 25 people during the morning; the rock face had become quite overgrown with mosses following the mild and wet winter of 2013-14.



Following a much welcomed lunch at the Square and Compass, Worth Matravers, the group then went on to another DIGS site where dinosaur footprints can be seen (*see bottom right*). Some members of the group also visited Steve Etches' outstanding Kimmeridge Clay collection; this is soon to be installed in a visitor centre at Kimmeridge, probably in 2016.



Currently, DIGS members are working again at our Red Lane site.

This is partly because we have had an enquiry from some Canadian geologists wanting to visit the site in October; so we are sprucing it up a little for them. It was on the list anyway for action so we have just brought the work forward.

Further information on DIGS activities can be seen on the Group's website:

[athttp://www.dorsetrigs.org.uk/](http://www.dorsetrigs.org.uk/)

Alan Holiday

M E E T I N G S and C O N F E R E N C E S

North Wales Geology Association

Geological Society of London North West Branch

University of Chester Department of Biological Sciences

Joint Lecture at the University of Chester, 7.30 PM Nov 12th 2014

The Fossil Forest at Brymbo: Studies on preservation and ecology of Carboniferous Plant Fossils, by Barry Thomas.



The lecture will take place on the main Chester University campus off Parkgate Road. The venue is in the Binks Building room CBK011 at 7.30 – 8.45 PM. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 in room CBK 013/1&2.

The speaker

Professor Thomas is an honorary professor within the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University. His main area of research is in Carboniferous palaeobotany especially the taxonomy, geographic and stratigraphic distribution and

ecology of the lycophytes and calamites. His other research interests are geoconservation and living spore-bearing plants.

Abstract

The Fossil Forest at Brymbo is of national and international importance because of its unique assemblage of plant fossils. About 14 m of Coal Measures of middle Duckmantian age are exposed at Brymbo including two coal seams; the Crank and 2-Yard Coals. There are laminated mudstones crowded by fragments of pteridosperms, ferns, *Calamites* and lycophytes. A thin layer of ironstone nodules has yielded a similar range of plant remains. Preservation of the two are different but both contain stems that have yielded cuticles and reproductive organs that yielded spores. Careful recording of the plant fossils has shown different assemblages to be recognised from the various strata enabling tentative ecological interpretations to be made.

About 20 erect arborescent lycophyte stems have been found at several horizons. Some are rooted in a coal parting where there are no recognizable *Stigmaria* bases. The stem casts are formed either in sandstone or less durable mudstone. One *Stigmaria* is complete spreading over nearly 5 metres and has a 1.7 m tall trunk. Such well-preserved *Stigmaria* are uncommon.

There are also large numbers of erect *Calamites* stems still in their original growth positions. The precipitation of an iron-bearing oxide mineral within the pith cavity of the partially buried stems formed a rigid layer allowing sediments to fill it. Kernel density map and nearest neighbour analysis of clusters of cross sections of *Calamites* suggests that each small patch of these pith casts represents an individual plant spread by rhizomatous growth.



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

ENGLAND — GeoConservation Staffordshire

The Enemy of Your Enemy Is Your Friend

Geoconservation and bioconservation can, at times, appear mutually exclusive. As a very crude generality, bioconservationists want to plant stuff and geoconservationists want to dig it up. This can lead to a certain degree of misunderstanding and, if not careful, mistrust between the two groups. This spring, GeoConservation Staffordshire (GCStaffs) organised a joint site clearance event in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) so that members of the Trust could gain an appreciation and understanding of what geoconservation entails.

Brown End Quarry Nature Reserve, Waterhouses, Staffordshire is a former quarry owned and managed by SWT since 1987. It is a geology SSSI due to the unusual steep dip of the Carboniferous Hopedale and Milldale Limestone Formations and the exposure of the Tournaisian-Visean boundary; it is also a limestone grassland wildflower habitat. The excellent access and unusual rock exposures make Brown End Quarry one of the most important Staffordshire geosites - a key locality on the 'Hamps & Manifold Geotrail'. The key quarry rock faces can be safely viewed from behind a wooden fence.

However, encroachment of trees meant that sweeping views of the geological sequence in the near-vertical limestones were interrupted by summer foliage - reducing the site's educational value. Negotiations with SWT over removing a substantial number of trees were surprisingly cordial. A 'tree cutting crew' led by Lucy O'Toole felled a 5-metre stretch of young trees alongside the footpath, re-establishing a key vista of the quarry wall containing the Tournaisian-Visean boundary. The cut stumps were treated with herbicide to prevent regeneration and the resultant brash was used to create several wildlife habitat piles. The site clearance event was coordinated by Dr. Sarah L. Taylor and Dr. Ian G. Stimpson (GCStaffs & Keele University), Dr. Patrick Cossey (geology consultant) and Lucy O'Toole (SWT); it brought together 24 volunteers - members of SWT and GCStaffs, and three Keele University students. Viewing of this site maintenance work was open to the general public for whom guided tours, with explanations of both the geology and the geoconservation work being undertaken, were provided.

The collaboration between SWT and GCStaffs has proven to be a success and, as there is still much to do and continued maintenance will be required to keep the rock exposures visible, the two groups are already planning to work together again in the future. Having ecologists and geologists understanding the diverging and converging needs of bioconservation and geoconservation has proved greatly beneficial. Working together has allowed the groups to achieve far more than had they been working alone. When it comes to conservation, the enemy of one's enemy is indeed one's friend!

Ian G. Stimpson & Sarah L. Taylor



Removal of a 5m stretch of trees has restored the vista of the quarry wall.

[Image: Sarah L. Taylor]



Ian Stimpson shows visitors some of the geological features of boulders.

[Image: Sarah L. Taylor]

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

FESTIVAL OF GEOLOGY

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2014

ENTRANCE FREE !

10.30 am — 4.30 pm

University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT



image source: processindustryforum.com



image source: GA London Guide



image source: Graham Bull



image source: Laurance Donnelly

Exhibitors from the World of Geology

Fossil and mineral displays, stonecraft, books, maps and geological equipment, jewellery, beads, Geology Poetry Readings, Art and Geology on Flamborough Head, Yorkshire and much more...

Discovery Room

Rockwatch with activities for children of all ages with fossils, racing trilobites, Jurassic dioramas and more....

Geological Talks

Laurance Donnelly

Forensic Geology: The Applications of Geology to Policing Enforcement

Richard Edmonds

Fossils and fossil collecting along the Jurassic Coast

Iain Stewart

Planet Oil

Peter Styles

Shale Gas: What the frack is that all about!?

Walks and Field Trips

Diana Smith - Building Stone Walk in the City

Diana Clements - The lost waters of Islington

Rod Legear - Chislehurst Caves

Ruth Siddall - Geological walk around UCL campus

Amateur Photographic Competition

Any geological topic: 1st Prize £100, 2nd Prize £50, 3rd Prize £25



ROCKWATCH



Further Festival details:

www.geologistsassociation.org.uk | www.rockwatch.org.uk

Tel: 020 7434 9298

Email: festival@geologistsassociation.org.uk



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

Geology and History in Southeast England

The West Sussex Geological Society (Local Group of the GA) plays host to the
Southeast Regional Conference of The Geologists' Association

supported by the Brighton and Hove Geological Society and the History of Geology Group

Saturday 29 November 2014 in the Exhibition Hall of **Worthing College**

at their new college campus, on the northern outskirts of the town

Programme

9.00-9.40	<u>Registration</u>
9.40-10.20	Matt Pope <i>'Prehistoric Peoples and Wealden Landscapes'</i>
10.20-11.00	Rory Mortimore <i>'The Geological Mysteries of Flint, the Implement of the Neolithic Age'</i>
11.00-11.30	<u>Coffee/Biscuits</u>
11.30-12.10	David Bridgland <i>'Gravel in the Southeast: Superficial deposits and under-rated resource'</i>
12.10-12.50	Roger Cordiner <i>'Building in Stone in Medieval Sussex'</i>
12.50-2.00	<u>Buffet Lunch</u>
2.00-2.40	Matthew Pitts <i>'The Making of the High Weald'</i>
2.40-3.20	David Brown <i>'Mineral Extraction from Ancient Woodlands of the Weald'</i>
3.20-4.00	John Lonergan <i>'Transport Innovations and Wealden Geology: Canals and Railways'</i>
4.00-4.25	<u>Tea/Biscuits</u>
4.25-5.05	David Martill <i>'Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Pterosaurs and Piltown'</i>
5.05-5.45	Geoffrey Mead <i>'Brighton and Hove Basement: Geological Foundation of a Conurbation'</i>

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact: Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Conference Fee is £25 for the day, including coffee/tea, buffet lunch and Conference publication.

Please make your cheque payable to - *West Sussex Geological Society*
and forward, with this completed Registration Form, (photocopied) to:
Anthony Brook, 15, Cambourne Court, Shelley Road, Worthing, BN11 4BQ
Conference Fee for Full-time Students is only £20



GEOCONSERVATIONUK

GeoConservationUK Newsletter

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES



GeoConservationUK acknowledges the support of **Rockhounds Welcome!** in the production of this Newsletter



GEOLOGY AND MEDICINE: EXPLORING THE HISTORICAL LINKS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FORENSIC MEDICINE (Celebrating the Tercentenary of Sir John Hill)

3rd–4th November 2014

Burlington House

Organisers: Dick Moody, Chris Duffin and Christopher Gardner Thorpe
CALL FOR PAPERS

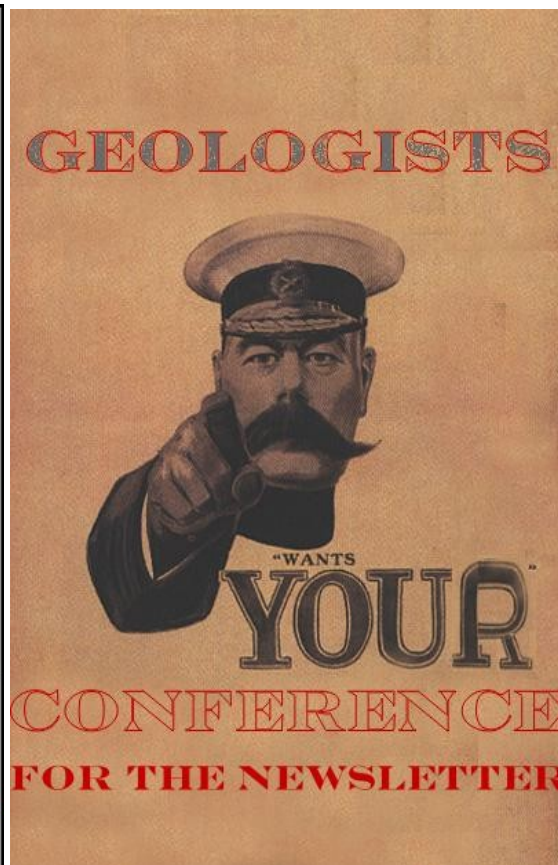
Building on the success of the *History of Geology and Medicine* conference held in 2011 and the subsequent Geological Society publication SP375 of the same name, the History of Geology Group calls for written and poster contributions on the following topic(s):

- **Founding Fathers of Geomedicine**, recording the historical links established by individual scientists such as Darwin, Astley Cooper, Charles Daubeny, Gideon Mantell etc.
- **Geological Therapies**, dealing with the evolution of treatments from primitive lithotherapies to the therapeutic use of geological materials in medicines and the advent of hydrotherapy.
- **The Origins of Public Health** including Soil Chemistry, Water Quality, Health and Safety and the provision of the necessary infrastructure during the Victorian Era.
- **The Evolution of Forensic Medicine.**

Oral, written and poster contributions are invited from historians, medical professionals, geoscientists, including geochemists and civil engineers, whose work crosses subject boundaries. International contributions are most welcome.

Contributors of both oral presentations and posters will be registered at a reduced rate. No financial assistance can be given to speakers but HOGG will provide a letter of invitation on request. It is hoped that the conference proceedings will be published as a book.

**Those wishing to contribute should contact Professor R. T. J. Moody rtj.moody@virgin.net.
Extended abstracts of 500 words and a maximum of three figures should be submitted by
31st AUGUST 2014.**



Sidmouth Science Festival: 13th-19th October, 2014 'Science in our Lives'

The Festival aims to inform, educate and inspire everyone. We hope to show how science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines impact on our everyday lives by integrating art, music, dance and drama with serious technical talks. We, amongst other things, will have:

- Internationally renowned speakers
- Displays, exhibitions, competitions
- Stalls and hands-on science experiments
- Astronomic events and family day at the Norman Lockyer Observatory
- Geological Society and Jurassic Coast Teams, Sidmouth Museum

This Festival coincides with Earth Science Week organised by the Geological Society - we intend to have a special focus on geology on some Festival days.

GeoConservationUK Executive Committee

Chair: Mike Browne - Lothian and Borders
GeoConservation Group
Secretary: Lesley Dunlop - Berkshire Geoconservation
Group
Treasurer: Alan Cutler - Black Country Geological Society

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Keith Nicholls - NEWRIGS
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Sam Scriven - Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group
Dr. Ian Stimpson - GeoConservation Staffordshire

Webmaster: Craig Slawson

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**Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor
by 17th November 2014 at the very latest.**