GEOconservationNEWSletter

Summer 2022 issue

Looking to the Autumn and Beyond...

Welcome to the second of the 2022 GCUK newsletters - this really is the summer issue for anyone confused by the header (and now corrected on the GCUK website copy) of the spring issue; one of those hopefully rare 'senior editing moments'. Anyway, as always my grateful thanks to this issue's various contributors; of course with the usual caveat for many more items by the next copy deadline. Just a very limited selection of the varied activities and programmes offered by some, but a long way from all, member groups are noted within this issue.

However, it's good and interesting to open with an article on a new museum gallery - how things do go round in circles; it doesn't seem (but really is) that long ago when I worked in museums when integrated displays were the 'in' thing. I can recall an excellent small geology exhibition in a Bedfordshire museum that was a victim of a fairly recent major multi-million pound 'innovative community-focused' revamp. Other articles record the publication, in hard-copy and environmentally-friendly pdf versions, of several geology leaflets.

The essential geoconservation work behind such leaflets shouldn't be forgotten; so its pleasing to have a couple of accounts of such practical work. Meanwhile, several groups are running, and because of the season, mainly outdoor events. Recalling a very topical indoor geoconservation event of over 20 years ago, it still seems - judging by several local planning approvals - that the message about the changing dynamics of water courses and drainage haven't been taken on board! *Tom Hose*

A Walk Around the new *'Discover Bucks Geology'* Museum Gallery

In With the New Approach

The Discover Bucks Museum (formerly Buckinghamshire County Museum) in Aylesbury embarked on a £1.3M complete redesign of its permanent galleries. The previous displays were over 25 years old and took an integrated approach to collection display with a strong social history leaning. It was widely agreed that the new galleries should return to a subject-based layout reflecting the museum's collections and its quartet of specialist curators. After seemingly endless discussions, designs and redesigns, carried out before and throughout the Covid pandemic, a. workable plan was mapped out. Opening with the *'Discover Bucks Geology'* gallery, visitors would then move through *'Archaeology'*, *'People'*, *'Art'*, and 'Wildlife'. A common approach to design was taken throughout with the exception that each gallery has its own carefully chosen signature colour – a simple approach that works surprisingly well. In April 2022, four out of five of the galleries opened to the public, *'Wildlife'* still needing more time to be completed.

The New Gallery

The *Discover Bucks Geology* gallery rightly sits at the start of the county-based story and has three areas of focus – 'Bucks Rocks and Minerals', 'Jurassic and Cretaceous Bucks', and 'Ice Age Bucks'. An introductory

panel provides a summary of the county's geological past while individual case panels include time-lines to show visitors where they are in the prehistoric story.

Rocks and Minerals

The 'Bucks Rocks and Minerals' area currently comprises one case. Contained within it is a 1.9m-tall annotated stratigraphic column *(below left)*, constructed from

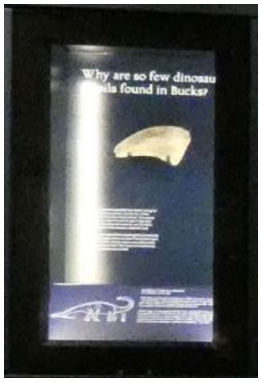
specially collected rock samples; this aims to introduce visitors to the type of rocks that underlie the county. The rest of the case comprises items that show how the local rocks have been used, from a Palaeolithic hand axe, Penn tile and Brill pottery bowl, to coprolites for fertiliser, and sand for water filters. A selection of Buckinghamshire minerals are also displayed here. In the coming months this case will be joined by a large interactive projection system; this will enable visitors to explore how these rocks were formed, how they influence the modern landscape and also show how they are reflected in its built environment.

Fossils

The rest of the gallery is more fossil based. Two large cases introduce visitors to the animals that inhabited the varying series of prehistoric seas that covered the county for large parts of the Jurassic and Cretaceous. The fossils have been arranged within broad taxonomic groupings so that people who are new to the subject can get a feel for the basics. However, with over 100 specimens on display, there is plenty of potential for the more interested visitor to explore the diversity within these groupings.

A Mystery Dinosaur

A third case *(below)* is conspicuous by its small size and its single object, a dinosaur claw from Aylesbury. This might seem a poor show compared with some larger museums and their gallery-dominating, enormous articulated dinosaurs; but do check the labels. Many of these are artificial casts of dinosaurs found in other parts of the world. Dinosaur fossils in Britain are very rare. There have only been only six fossil finds that show evidence of dinosaurs in Buckinghamshire, four of which are in other museums. The finder of this claw was keen for it to stay in Buckinghamshire and we were more than happy to oblige!



The claw was identified as coming from a sauropod, but beyond that we don't know any more. A Natural History Museum dinosaur expert, Paul Barrett, knows of no other sauropod fossils corresponding to the Upper Kimmeridge Clay of 150 million years ago. And so, for the time being, it sits in its display case as a tiny clue about Aylesbury's 'mystery dinosaur'.

Ice Age Mammals

A large mammoth tusk *(see next column, top)* draws the eye forwards in time towards the '*Ice Age Giants'* case. A cast of this tusk did form part of the previous permanent galleries but this is the first time the real thing has been displayed since it was carefully-lifted out of the ground over 40 years ago. All items in this case came from excavations in the early 1980s at, what was Pitstone Quarry No 3, now better known as College Lake Nature Reserve. Here is displayed the fossil evidence that allows us to say that at least three members of the elephant family plodded across the area during the Ice Age - the well-known Woolly Mammoth, the once enormous Steppe Mammoth and the more elusive Straight-tusked elephant.

Adjoining this case, *Bucks Ice Age Mammals*, reviews

the evidence for other county's Ice Age mammals. In addition to expected Woolly Rhinos and Aurochs, animals more usually associated with Africa such as (Steppe) Lion, Spotted Hyaena and Hippo are also present. The very rare lion jaw is suitably picked out by the accompanying life-size drawing behind it while illustrations of other animals feature on an in-case screen. This screen also provides graphic visualisations for the fluctuating climate of the Ice Age and its impact on the British coastline and Buckinghamshire landscape.

An Ice Age Photo Opportunity

One final display element features life-size drawings of an Aurochs (ancestral 'cow') and a Neanderthal holding a real hand axe in one hand and resting the other on a cast of a large mammoth limb bone (real bone on display in the case) just short of a metre long – A Pleistocene photo opportunity and a chance to measure up. It was, of course, during the Ice Age, that early humans first made their appearance in Britain. Neanderthals are now thought to have been the third species of human to have made it to Britain, and were certainly in the county as some of the earlier 400,000 year old hand axes confirm. Current evidence suggests a height range of between 5ft and 5ft 6 inches with average heights tending to get smaller during their 360,000-year intermittent tenure in the British Isles.

A Good Feeling

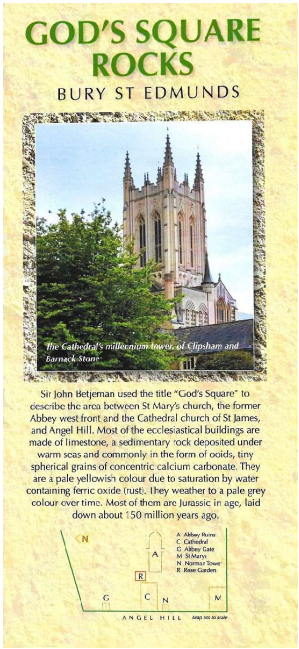
It feels good to have vastly increased the profile of local geology in the permanent displays. Looking forward, it is planned to introduce a series of A4-format information sheets and trails to the gallery in order to expand on certain objects and themes. We also hope to use the gallery as a venue for a series of hands-on geology events for selected dates over weekends and holiday periods.

Please note that the Discover Bucks Museum charges for admission. Please visit the museum website (https//discoverbucksmuseum.org) for further details.

Mike Palmer

‘God’s Square Rocks’ leaflet

GeoSuffolk has written a new leaflet *(below left)* about the building stones of the Cathedral gardens in Bury St Edmunds - John Betjeman’s 'God's Square'. The text is by Tony Redman (who was Surveyor of the Fabric to St. Edmundsbury Cathedral), with photos and captions by Caroline and Bob Markham respectively. We published it in July 2022 as part of the celebrations for the 1000th Anniversary of the Abbey of St Edmund. GeoSuffolk had a stand *(below right)* at the 'Picnic in the Park – Abbey 1000' event in the Cathedral gardens on 16th July. We featured a variety of building stones, both local e.g., flint from Blythburgh church, and exotic e.g., Makrana Marble as used for the Taj Mahal, Agra. The event was a big success, drawing in people from the surrounding countryside as well as Bury St Edmunds and our leaflet went down well – it was good to see recipients setting off on their own self-conducted tour. We left copies on the Tourist Information Centre in the cathedral's shop; it can also be downloaded from our website (https://geosuffolk.co.uk) - happy reading!



Caroline Markham

Geoconservation in Greater Manchester

Throughout the recent pandemic lockdowns, members of the Greater Manchester RIGS Group (GMRIGS) have continued to re-survey more of the 700 recorded sites across the Greater Manchester (GM) area to check their current condition and ease of access. Those sites which are no longer there or don’t meet the criteria have been recorded as such to avoid duplication of effort in the future. Then, group visits were arranged to collectively evaluate sites thought suitable for designation as a RIGS according to the GCUK criteria.

Some 26 sites have now been approved by the GM planners and added to the GM GIS and local authority future planning maps, thus providing some protection for the sites in the planning system.

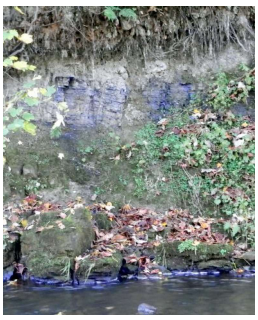
Also, details have been sent to Natural England for uploading to their RIGS/LGS database. We continue to liaise with the local Wildlife Trusts and other organisations to promote geology as part of our joint natural heritage.

The Fallowfield Railway Cutting RIGS is part of an existing local cycle and footpath network and has a diverse wildlife. GMRIGS together with the Friends of Fallowfield Loop (FoFL) and Sustrans (the national cycle path conservation organisation) are currently involved in a joint, sympathetic clearance of some rock faces to reveal the geological features without damaging local wildlife. Unfortunately, cleared rock faces attract graffiti, but at least some of it has an appropriate message!

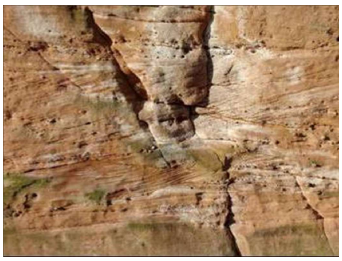
The GMRIGS website, kindly hosted by the Manchester GA, now includes an interactive sites map together with more information about the local geology and geo-conservation in general.

The following examples of approved sites illustrate the wide range of rock types, fossils, structural features and industrial heritage found in the GM area.

Bradshaw Brook, Bolton:- ***S****eatearth, mudstone and coal in a cyclothem of the Carboniferous, Westphalian B can be seen in the Park Coal seam, on the Kingfisher Nature Trail.*

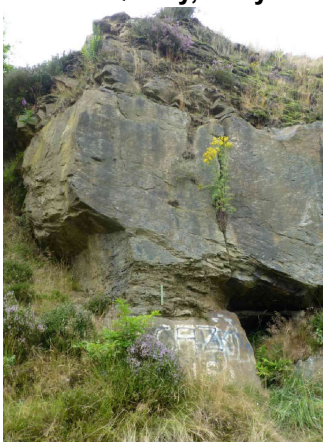


Coal Wharf car park, Manchester:- ***A****eolian dune sandstones on the Triassic Chester Pebble Beds; cross-bedding, slumping, and faults can be seen on the rock faces.*



Erratic in quadrangle, Manchester University:- ***L****arge glacial boulder of Ordovician Borrowdale Volcanic Series; it's mounted on a base of Permian quartzite pebbles with pressure solution spots.*

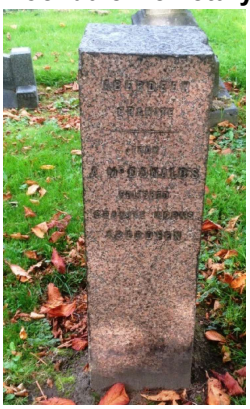
Gorses Quarry, Bury:- ***U****nconformity between Westphalian A and Namurian Rough Rock of the Carboniferous; the Sandrock Mine coal and marine band with* Gastrioceras, *plant fossils, and slickensides can be seen at the site - also there are some industrial remains to be found there.*



River Irwell, Clifton Country Park, Salford:- ***C****hester Pebble Beds of the Triassic separated from Carboniferous Westphalian D (on the opposite bank) by the Irwell Valley Fault; Aeolian dune sandstones, a delta-top and coal measures can be seen on this part of the Kingfisher Nature Trail. There are also the industrial remains of Brindley's Wet Earth Colliery.*

Rocher Vale, Tameside:- ***I****ncised (in Carboniferous, Westphalian A, Blenfire Rock Sandstone with siderite nodules) fluvial gorge widening into a river flood plain. River meanders, terraces, point bars and cliffs can be seen. It's adjacent to Park Bridge Quarry RIGS and the historical iron/coal workings of the Park Bridge Heritage Site.*

Rochdale Cemetary Geology Trail:- ***V****ictorian geology trail of various UK rocks types with labels. Incidentally, it's almost certainly the world's first urban geology trail.*



Clearly, there is much of geological interest in our area.

Chris Arkwright (GMRIGS Secretary)

The Black Country Geological Society's Programme

The planned outdoor meetings programme for the summer and autumn is:

Saturday 2nd July: Launch of Glacial Boulder Trail 2:- ***'The Louis Barrow Trail' - Around Bournville and Cotteridge Park*** at the CoCoMAD Festival in Cotteridge Park, from 12.00. There will be an *'Erratics Project'* stall and two guided walks, at 1.00 and 2.00. This is one of the richest trails historically, geologically, and in its quantity of erratics. Assistants are needed at the stall, or you can just come and enjoy the Festival, visit the stall, and even join a walk.

Wednesday 6th July (evening field meeting):- ***The Geology and Landscapes of Barr Beacon Local Nature Reserve Geosite.*** Led by Graham Worton. Meet at 7.00 at the Beacon car park (grid ref: SP060967). An evening walk to examine the geology and its effects on the landscapes of the Barr Beacon area of Walsall. Graham will also explain the recent works and new interpretation installed as part of the 2022 *'Purple Horizons Nature recovery project'* with Natural England. It's a joint meeting with the Geological Society's West Midlands Regional Group.

Thursday 4th August (evening field meeting):- ***The Geology, mining heritage and landscapes of Himley Hall and Baggeridge Country.*** Led by Graham Worton. Meet at 6.30 at Himley Hall, DY3 4LA car park (grid ref: SO889915). An evening walk to examine the geology and its effects on the landscape of the historic hall that was also the home to the last deep coal mine (Baggeridge Colliery) of the Black Country. It's a joint meeting with the Geological Society, West Midlands Regional Group.

Wednesday 7th September (evening field meeting):- ***The Geology of the Rowley Hills Geosite, Sandwell.*** Led by Graham Worton. Meet at 6.30 in the lay-by roadside parking on Darby's Hill Road, B69 1SG (grid ref: SO967892). This evening walk will take in the views, look at exposures of the famous 'Rowley Ragstone' at the Blue Rock Quarry Geosite, and see some millennium Geoart installations. It's a joint meeting with the Geological Society, West Midlands Regional Group.

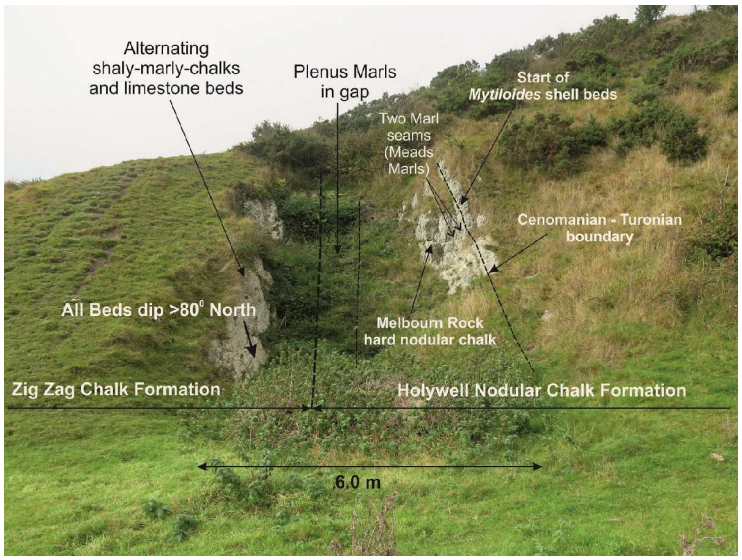
Monday 26th – Friday 30th September (extended field meeting):- ***BCGS visit to the Dingle Peninsula.*** Field trips led by Ken Higgs. Contact Alan Clewlow - Email: treasurer@bcgs.info

Saturday 8th October (geoconservation day):- ***The Wren's Nest.*** Directed by the reserve's Wardens. Meet at 10.30 at the Wardens' Office at the end of Fossil View, off Wren's Hill Road (Grid Ref: SO93792). Park along Fossil View. The day will involve scrub clearance work; so bring gloves, stout footwear and a packed lunch. The Wardens will provide tools, and hard hats if necessary, plus a hot drink. Work will finish around 2.30.

The details of all events can be checked on the BCGS website (https://bcgs.info/pub/).

DIGS Geoconservation News

The DIGS group has continued its programme of conservation through the summer. In May we worked *(below left)* on our site at Westhill chalk pit, Corfe Castle where the Zig Zag Chalk formation and Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation are exposed in steeply dipping strata on the northern limb of the Purbeck Anticline. This locality, on land owned by the National Trust gets a lot of passing interest and we are hoping to erect an information board to raise awareness of the geological interest *(above)* of the site.



In June we continued our work at Red Lane Abbobury partly in preparation for a field trip by DGAG members to the Abbotsbury area. The site exposes the Abbotsbury Ironstone. Our clearance work *(left)* was appreciated by the field trip members and also by the landowner who thanked us for our efforts.

In July we worked on the site at Trill Quarry, Thornford (see the website https://dorsetrigs.org/northwestrigs/trill-troll-quarry-sssl/) just south of Yeovil (an SSSI). Here we were working with Wessex Water as the site is used for water treatment. It is not an official DIGS site, but it is one we have agreed to look after as it exposes the Fullers Earth Rock, a muddy limestone from the Middle Jurassic which was used locally as a building stone *(see the website* https://www.dorsetbuildingstone.org/fullers-earth-rock-html *)*. After successfully carrying out some conservation work last year, we were asked to repeat the exercise in 2022. The extremely dry weather recently meant that the vegetation was easy to clear *(right)*. Wessex Water also promised some financial support for our work; this might at least pay our travel expenses in this time of exorbitant fuel prices!

Also, in July we attended the site liaison meeting at Swanworth Quarry *(below right)*, Worth Matravers, Purbeck owned by Suttle Stone Quarries (formerly owned by Tarmac). Suttle Stone Quarries are in the process of applying for planning permission to extend the quarry northwards to secure stone supplies for future decades as currently all the stone in the existing quarry has been extracted.

To achieve the extension will be difficult because it is in part of an AONB; but, there are environmental benefits from the extension since the Portland Stone will provide aggregate for Poole and Bournemouth and surrounding area - avoiding transport of aggregate from Portland and the Mendips. The Purbeck sequence at Swanworth is not useful stone, unlike further east towards Swanage. Currently most of the work at Swanworth involves landscaping former quarry areas to return it to limestone grassland *(above right)* with great ecological value.

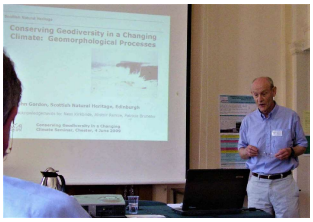
Alan Holiday

"Since Oxford lies almost exactly in the centre of Southern England, the geology of Oxford is no mere provincial matter but an epitome of the geology of the South of England." (Arkell, 1947)

Another Key Event Recalled.

With all of the recent talk about climate change driving our hot summer, it's very topical to recall a seminar about the former and geoconservation. Convened, on 4th June 2009, by the Geoconservation Commission of the Geological Society and the UK's conservation agencies (notably *Natural England* (*NE*) and *Scottish Natural Heritage* (*SNH*)), it was hosted by the University of Chester at its Burton Manor campus. It seems that the rest of the country is yet to catch up with us geoconservationists!

It was a packed day *(see next column, top)* of presentations and workshops *(see next column, centre)*. Colin Prosser (*NE*) introduced *(top right)* the seminar's purpose. Of the varied presentations in the morning, two were delivered by Alison Darlow (*NE*) *(centre right)* and John Gordon (SNH) *(bottom right)*; the former examined 'social & ecnonomic changes' and the latter looked at 'changing physical processes'.



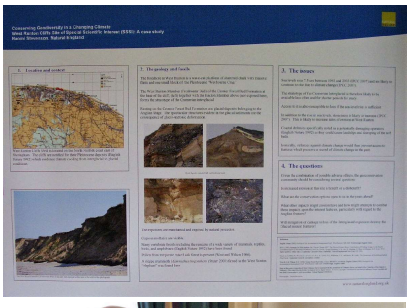
Alison's presentation was particularly interesting for me because she touched upon some of positives for the domestic tourism industry - such as lengthening of the holiday season, an increase in outdoor and water-based recreation, and a probable increase in staycationing. John Gordon's presentation necessarily looked at the negative impacts, from submergence due to rising sea-level, and loss due to flood prevention works of coastal and riverine sites as well as geomorphosite losses and difficult access from changing land use and more dynamic processes.

Programme

09.30 – 10.15	*Registration, coffee and tea, posters*
10.15 – 10.25	Welcome and Introduction University of Chester Vice Chancellor Professor Tim Wheeler Cynthia Burek – Professor of Geoconservation Andrew McMillan – Chair, Geoconservation Commission
10.25 – 10.30	Seminar Objectives and Programme Colin Prosser, Natural England
10.30 – 11.00	UKCIP Climate Change Predictions and Scenarios Paul Bowyer, UKCIP
11.00 – 11.15	*Coffee and Posters*
11.15 – 11.35	Potential Impacts of Climate Change i) Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate' John Hopkins – Natural England
11.35 – 11.55	ii) Social and Economic Changes. Alison Darlow, Natural England
11.55 – 12.15	iii) Changing physical processes e.g. coasts, rivers, soils. John Gordon SNH
12.15 – 1.00	*Lunch and posters*
1.00 – 1.15	Introduction to workshop groups (Colin Prosser) i) Exposure sites (including quarries etc.) ii) Active processes in the wider landscape (coasts, rivers etc.) iii) Integrity sites (caves, karst, fossil landforms etc.) iv) Soils
1.15 – 2.00	Workshop Groups 1
2.00 – 2.45	Workshop Groups 2
2.45 – 3.10	Coffee and Posters
3.10 – 3.45	Plenary session (Chair: Neil Ellis) – workshop feedback with summary of • key issues/messages • research and evidence needs • monitoring needs • communication
3.45 – 4.00	Closing remarks and next steps – Conserving Geodiversity in a Changing Climate (Chair: Colin Prosser)

Group	Facilitators
Exposure sites	*David Evans and Colin MacFadyen*
Active processes in the wider landscape (coasts, rivers, hydrogeology etc.)	*John Gordon and Anna Wetherell*
Integrity and finite (mine dump) sites (caves, karst, fossil landforms etc.)	*Cynthia Burek and Clive Walmsley*
Soils	*Patricia Bruneau and Julie Holloway*

Lunchtime allowed the opportunity to examine several interesting posters *(such as right)*; most of us would have welcomed more time to view and discuss these!



The afternoon's workshops were intense and saw much discussion to achieve a consensus, although outlying views were also recorded. What would we have done without flip-charts and marker pens? In the plenary sessions the various workshop facilitators, such as John Gordon *(right)*, summarised their groups' findings.

The seminar was well attended by a good mix of conservation agency staff, voluntary sector geoconservation colleagues, and academics.

Tom Hose

Berkshire Geoconservation Group's 2022 Programme

Building Stones of Newbury (field trip):- 10th September, 10:30am - meet outside West Berkshire Museum,The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS for a walk around the Newbury town centre looking at the various building stones led by Lesley Dunlop. Afterwards members will have an opportunity to visit the "Age of Dinosaurs" exhibition at the adjacent West Berkshire Museum which includes a BGG display.

A Walk Around the Frilsham Area (field trip):- 15th October, 10:30 am led by Clive Edmonds - details to be confirmed.

Details of events can be checked on the Group's website: https://berksgeoconservation.org.uk.

Hull Geological Society's Summer & Autumn Programme

"More Chert Than You Can Shake A Stick At":- 20th July at 7.30pm - Zoom talk by John Connor.

East Riding Boulder Committee, Holderness Coast:- 30th July 2022 - field meeting led by Mike Horne.

"Rocks in the Cemetery, Arnos Vale":- 1st August at 7.30pm - Zoom talk by Mike Horne.

"Something geological beginning with O":- 25th August - Virtual Club Night on Facebook.

Roadshow at Hornsea Museum:- 27th August open to the public 11.00am to 3.00pm. Admission to the Roadshow is free, but there is a fee for the museum.

"Geology of Red Rock Canyon, Nevada":- 14th September at 7.30pm - Zoom by John Connor.

"Something geological beginning with P":- 29th September - Virtual Club Night on Facebook.

"The Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark, northern Portugal:- .27th October (provisional) - evening lecture by Graham Kings.

Details of events can be checked on the Society's website: http://www.hullgeolsoc.org.uk

Cumberland Geological Society's Autumn Programme

Armathwaite Dyke and the Permian of Eden Valley:- 11th September at 10.00am - meet (on-road parking with care) at Armathwaite Bridge, east end, near the Fox and Pheasant (NY508450). A three-part excursion, led by Phil Davies) entailing visiting outcrops via woodland paths. Part 1: visit the Palaeogene-age Armathwaite Dyke where it crosses the River Eden about 750m upstream of Armathwaite Bridge. Part 2: relocate by car to visit Permian sandstones and Brockram, Low House Wood, parking beyond Drybeck Farm (NY 515 484). Then return by car to Armathwaite Bridge. Option for refreshments at Fox and Pheasant. Ad hoc lunch stop. Optional extension to Part 3: relocate by car to Penrith. Visit Permian dune sandstone exposures at (disused) Cowraike Quarry SSSI, with parking (NY540303).

High Rigg:- 28th September at 6.00pm - meet St. John's church (NY306225). An excursion, led by Helen James, looking at the geomorphology of the area, the volcanic rocks of High Rigg, Threlkeld Microgranite on Low Rigg and the contacts between the Skiddaw Group, Borrowdale Volcanics and microgranite.

Details of events can be checked on the Society's website: www.cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

To fully reflect the extent and diversity of the membership's activities this newsletter - which is read by a wide audience - needs your events, news, stories and articles; so, do send them in.

"In every district it is possible to investigate some rocks, and to assist in perfecting, as far as possible, the History of the Earth. True some localities offer more opportunities for investigating the rocks composing them than others, and around Cheltenham we are fortunate in having an exceptional development of the Inferior Oolite." **(Richardson, 1904, p.5)**

*"**I**nternational Geodiversity Day is about engaging everyone with geodiveristy: what it is and how it affects our lives. One of the best ways, is to use October 6th and the days around it to organise events - everything from field trips for local schools, to public talks, or perhaps a voluntary event to clean up a nearby geosite? There are so many ways to celebrate International Geodiversity Day; what will it look like in your community?*

***F**ollowing an international competition, the design by Silas Samuel dos Santos Costa was selected as the official logo of International Geodiversity Day. It can be used by anyone organising an IGD event."*

The logo successfully visually shows, and that's something not easy to achieve, the complexities of geodiversity and its link with biodiversity. The English version of the somewhat complex logo *(left)*, that admittedly doesn't easily scale well for the typical tri-folded A4 printed walks leaflets, can be downloaded from:

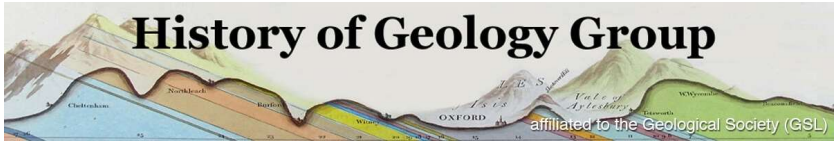
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10ESGRTgNmmamKNY4Hc_GqxCdyJSixYAA

Further information about International Geodiversity Day can be found on its dedicated website (https://www.geodiversityday.org).

It's worth noting that the Geologists' Association (GA) is not running the 'Festival of Geology' in November this year as a physical gathering - but plans to do so in 2023. Instead, the GA is encouraging its Local and Affiliated Groups to host events, from 1st - 9th October, throughout the week of International Geodiversity Day and the weekend following; any such event will be advertised on the GA's Festival of Geology website (www.festivalofgeology.org.uk).

Now, GCUK member groups might also wish to consider branding one of their already planned, or possibly organising new, events around 6th October (which is a Thursday!) as a supporting activity for the International Geodiversity Day. Just remember that if you do run an event for the Day to send in an illustrated report to GEONEWS - please!

TAH



MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

Currently all HOGG meetings are held virtually. For HOGG members, admission to all online meetings is free. Associates and guests are welcome to attend them for a small admission charge. Registration is via 'Eventbrite' on which an outline of each event can be found; an exclusive to HOGG members' link for online meetings is emailed out. Planned meetings are:

21st June (lunchtime lecture) - *'Sedgwick's 'Great Dislocation' revisited: the Dent Fault, NW England'* with Dr. Nigel Woodcock, Clare College, Cambridge University.

15th September (lunchtime lecture) - *'The Great Bindon Landslip of 1839'* with Richard Edmonds;

22nd October (lunchtime lecture) - *'Unlocking Lapworth's Archive'* with Rachel Brown, Project Archivist, Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 16th to 20th 2022 The 47th Symposium of The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) will be held in Les Eyzies in SW France. The main scientific themes will be:

- History of Quaternary geology, prehistory and geology of caves;
- History of Miocene geology, since the region includes the Burdigalian and Aquitanian stratotypes;
- Other sessions of the conference will cover all subjects related to the history of geosciences.

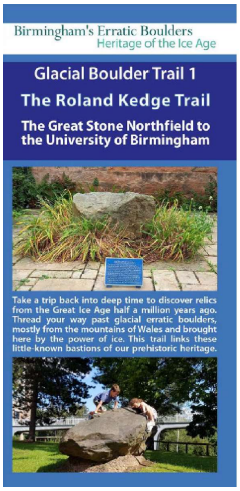
Pre- and post-conference field excursions are also planned.

The deadline for expressions of interest has now passed but details should appear on the INHIGEO website in due course: http://www.inhigeo.com/

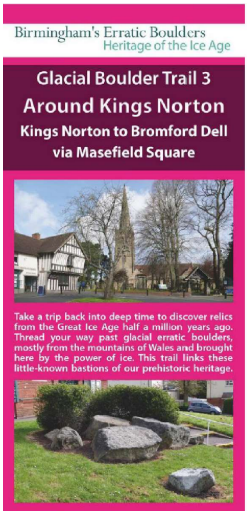
Two trail launches down, just five to go!

The Black Country Geological Society's *Erratics Project* team and volunteers have been busy over over the past few months. There have been two trail launch events in fairly quick succession and a third's looming.

The first launch, of the ***Glacial Boulder Trail 1 - The Roland Kedge Trail***, was on 23rd April. It was based in a room at the Great Stone Inn, Northfield. The day started with the unveiling of a millstone, recently retrieved from the banks of the River Rea. There were two guided walks along the trail and visitors to the Inn were able to collect printed trail leaflets *(left)* and learn more about the project and the heritage of the Ice Age.



Very quickly after that launch work started in earnest on the next one (Trail 3 preceding Trail 2 for logistical reasons). Researching and writing the leaflet had to be done at pace; thanks to a team of researchers, trail testers and proof readers it was completed well in time. The base for this launch, of the ***Glacial Boulder Trail 3 - Around Kings Norton***, on 14th Maywas a stall at the Kings Norton Farmers' Market; it had around 120 visitors, taking an interest in the display and considerably depleting the leaflet *(left)* stock. There were two scheduled walks led by members of the project team, and by popular demand an impromptu short walk around the Kings Norton boulders was led by a volunteer.



Copy for the next GEONEWS issue, for Autumn & Winter 2022, must be with the Editor by 24th October, 2022 at the very latest!

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Editor: Dr. Thomas A. Hose
to whom correspondence should be addressed at:
t.hose123@btinternet.com