

A Few Editorial Musings . . .

Welcome to the first GCUK newsletter of 2024. Well, the early year's weather was, to say the least, somewhat damp. The consequent limited good opportunities for fieldwork, helps to explain the unusual paucity of offerings on outdoor events sent in to the Editor this spring. The sensible increasing usage of social media to communicate and promote member Groups' is also a probable and welcome contributory factor.

At least most Groups have managed – like the Black Country, Cambridgeshire and Hull Geological Societies – a varied indoor programme. As always, I'm most grateful to those stalwarts who sent in specific articles and those who kindly mailed me their Group's newsletters, from which some gleanings are gratefully reproduced. A combination of the latter and specifically emailed in articles exemplify the huge voluntary effort and achievements of GCUK's member Groups; all of which would welcome better, (or is that some?!) official support and funding.

Thinking of those achievements, it's encouraging to learn about the ongoing work, as in Bedfordshire, to update RIGS/LGS designations and site monitoring surveys. Inevitably, this leads to sad losses and some welcome gains. Likewise, the ongoing promotion and education work, as in Dorset and Somerset, which can always be highlighted in **GeoWeek 24** and on **International Geodiversity Day**. Meanwhile, it's good to see that some groups, such as in Buckinghamshire, are co-operating with kindred organisations in running outdoor events. Likewise, that some groups as in Bedfordshire and Suffolk, are making the connections between geology and the built heritage.

Do distribute this **GEONEWS** to your colleagues, friends and families - they might actually enjoy the read and even suggest you join (along with them?!) in the summer's varied geology events. *Tom Hase*

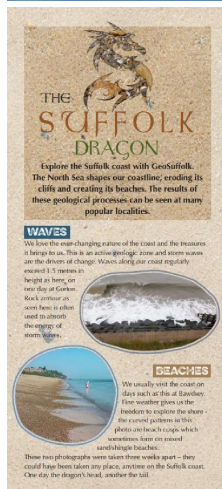


A Different Heritage at Risk

It might seem odd to write about architectural conservation for a geoconservation newsletter but two local examples illustrate the relevance. The 'Heritage at Risk Register 2023' included two examples of artificial stonework in Suffolk.

The Umbrella at Great Saxham Hall is an early 19th C. Coade stone folly; it is on private property and pleasingly is to be repaired and relocated. The other structure is the Pulhamite feature at Bawdsey Manor, at the mouth of the River Debden; it is publicly accessible, but do be aware of the tide times if you plan to visit; the photo of it was

Spring 2024 issue



taken (above) in 2021 for GeoSuffolk's 'Suffolk Dragon' leaflet (left); this innovatively explores the geological processes and rocks to be seen along Suffolk's North Sea coast.

Caroline Markham



The Geosites Project in Scotland

The Scottish Geology Trust's 'Geosites' project launched in June 2023. This ambitious project intends to put all of Scotland's best geology sites on an interactive, on-line map, making it easy for anyone to find sites, learn about them, and report any damage or deteriorating conditions. During the pilot phase, 30 volunteers have been involved, visiting over 100 sites in the Geological Conservation Review (GCR). We are also starting to add Local Geodiversity Sites. Although several sites were reported as overgrown and difficult to access, it is heartening that thus far we have discovered no significant geoconservation concerns.

This project will further develop over the coming years, creating an easy-to-use portal for all geological sites in Scotland, allowing people to get a quick overview of any site and access to the detail published in the GCR, excursion guides, papers and other sources. You will be able to find information about access and the best spots to visit, view recent photographs and contribute your own reports.

There are two parts to the on-line information that is being developed as part of the project, creating two linked website with different purposes. The Geosites map, at <https://geosites.scottishgeologytrust.org/>, will show the location and information about all protected sites – GCR sites and Local Geodiversity Sites. We are also adding published material to the 'Geoguide' website at <https://scottishgeologytrust.org/>.

This started with the open access GCR volumes, which are now available for the first time as text and linked images on a single page for each site (which avoids the need to download a large pdf file and search through it for the required information). However the Geoguide

format allows us to add any published text, and that includes excursion guides, leaflets and anything else. What is innovative, and incredibly useful, about the Geoguide site is the inclusion of a map that automatically displays the locations of all grid references in the text; so you can easily flip back and forth between a map view showing locations and the text descriptions (and images) associated with the location.

Together, the Geosites and Geoguide websites will give access to a large volume of useful information that is easy to navigate; many early users have already commented of finding information about sites they didn't know existed. And we expect that in time, by making information available and making it easy to report problems, people will learn more about their local geology and help conserve it.

All this work has been carried out entirely by volunteers. As well as the team of volunteers visiting sites and providing information and photographs, Daniel Burgess and Bob McIntosh have been labouring behind the scenes to create the maps and underlying databases and get the thousands of pages of text and images in the correct format. This is a flagship project for the Scottish Geology Trust and we intend to promote, support and maintain the resource into the future. We'd love to get more people involved, and there is a lot of desk work to be done even if you aren't able to visit sites. There is more information about the pilot project here: <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/geology/geosites/volunteers/>; you can also – and please do – get in touch, by email at angus@scottishgeologytrust.org, with Angus Miller to volunteer.

Angus Miller



Town Trails & Other Geo-Walks

We are working in partnership with Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) and Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) to encourage the appreciation, conservation and promotion of the geology of Somerset – see our web-site at <http://wp.somerc.co.uk/specialist-groups/somerset-geology-group/>

Over the last year, Garry Dawson, our SGG co-ordinator, has led two walks (both fully booked) for SANHS around the Taunton geological trail, while the 'Mendip Rocks Festival' programme in 2023 included walks led by Doug Robinson around Wells, and Simon Carpenter around Frome. Geoff Rowland has drawn our attention to some 'missing material' from Hugh Prudden's 'Somerset Good Rock Guide', which provides a potential trail that could be developed for Bridgwater and Sheila Alderman has been working (as part of the Dorset Building Stones Group) on a trail for Sherborne, just across the Somerset border.

Dee Edwards also last year, drew our attention to some 'good practice' leaflets, produced in Cornwall in the past, written by John Macadam. Meanwhile, Garry has also been continuing his separate project, as a volunteer for SWHT, to document the building stones used in Somerset's towns and villages - with help over the last year from both Sheila and Doug (see the web-site at <https://swheritage.org.uk/historic-environmentservice/built-heritage/traditional-building-stoneresearch/>). There is also a link from there to Mike Barr's 'Building Stone Inventory for Devon' (which extends into parts of Somerset); further, the data collected by Mike is now available, on request, from the Devon Heritage Centre (see their website at <https://swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives/>).

In the autumn, therefore, Garry met with Nic Wall from SWHT and we are delighted that it has agreed to host our next SGG meeting. We hope it will be a chance to share thinking and plans on: existing trails that need an update; locations for potential new trails; and on formats and writing styles. Plus, there may be the potential for material of this type to be added to SWHT's website in the future.

Garry is currently liaising with potential contributors and we hope to complete the day with a short walk around Norton Fitzwarren village to examine its building stones. We have also recently learnt from Andy King of Geckoella that there is a local initiative starting to update the Watchet building stone trail, produced by Eric Robinson several years ago, with several new stone types located since.

Wendy Lutley (Co-coordinator)



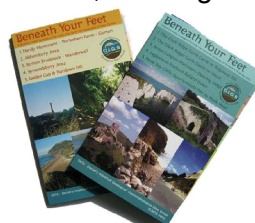
Dorset RIGS is always . . .

Keeping on top of the many activities and Facebook postings of DIGS is challenging. Its website, at <https://dorsetrigs.org/>, is always worth a view; it will inform you some of its members' work, with the Dorset GA Group and the OUGS, to lead geology walks and give talks to the general public.

Meanwhile, there are over 60 Dorset RIGS, or Local Geological Sites (LGS); all were chosen for their educational value, their historical value in the study of earth sciences, and their aesthetic value in the landscape, especially in promoting public awareness of geology; hence, some sites have interpretation boards describing the local geology and landscape. The Group has also published two packs (*below left*) of five self-guided trail leaflets, costing £3-95; working with the Dorset GA

Group they've also produced three free goetrail leaflets.

The Group is always looking for new members (*right*); so if you're local and . . .





The Monthly Lecture Programme

The Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group has continued its illustrated talks, promoted by emailed posters (*below*) into the spring months until May, after which a programme of outdoor events is offered; the talks start again in September. The promotional materials for these talks provide short biographical glimpses into the speakers' work and interests - a nice human touch. As for the opportunity to purchase signed author's copies . . . a brilliant idea. The talks can be heard in person at the St Francis' Church Hall, Kenilworth; otherwise, they can be usually be heard on-line by registering on the provided Zoom link; all talks start at 7.30 pm, with an opportunity for a chat and refreshments beforehand.

JH

WGCG evening talk Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7.30pm
at St Francis' Church Hall, Kenilworth and on Zoom

**Volcanoes in the spotlight:
Exciting examples from La Palma, Stromboli and the ancient rock record.**
Presented by Dougal Jerram



Recent advances in the capture of 3D geological data has re-invigorated the way in which we study volcanoes and their deposits. The recent eruption on La Palma and ongoing active volcanoes such as Stromboli act as modern-day laboratories to observe and record, while the ancient rock record is the legacy of such eruptions. Here we will explore some exciting footage and details of the 2021 La Palma eruption which Dougal visited in person. We will learn about techniques developed for mapping volcanoes in 3D on Stromboli and will look forward to the role of digital geology in the ancient rock record.

Dougal has authored a number of Earth Science and volcanology books and has also made a number of appearances in the media. He will look forward to highlighting some of these informally after the talk.

DougalEARTH



Dougal will bring some book titles available to buy as signed copies on the night:

- Introducing Volcanology, a guide to hot rocks - rrp £10
- The Travellers Guide to the Centre of the Earth - rrp £10
- Victor the Volcano (childrens picture story book) - rrp £6.99
- Volcanoes of Europe - rrp £32
- Field description of Igneous Rocks - £30
- Field description of Metamorphic Rocks - £30

WGCG evening talk Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30pm
at St Francis' Church Hall, Kenilworth and on Zoom

The early evolution of animal life and the generation of form.

Frankie Dunn

Oxford University Museum of Natural History



Abstract: The rise of the animals was a profound transition in the History of Life; for the first-time organisms were able to engineer the environment around them, altering geochemical cycles, building complex ecosystems and diversifying into myriad forms. However, the rise of the animals is also one of the most controversial episodes in Earth History. Most major animal groups appear in the fossil record during a major evolutionary radiation event between ~520 and 550 million years ago known as the Cambrian Explosion when the blueprints for the animal phyla (arthropods, vertebrates, cnidarians) were laid down and, remarkably, have remained more-or-less unchanged in the half a billion years since. My research is focused on the Period of time just before the Cambrian Explosion – the Ediacaran Period, and the Ediacaran-Cambrian transition. While fossil representatives of the living animal phyla diversity in the Cambrian Period, the timing and nature of their earliest antecedents remains controversial. Fossil assemblages from the late Ediacaran Period preserve the remains of fossil organisms with long-extinct bodyplans, historically excluded from analyses of the early evolution of animals because of extreme uncertainty regarding their phylogenetic placement. My novel approach to the study of these organisms has been to investigate their growth and development across whole populations of taxa with non-analogue frond-like bodyplans. My work has revealed new developmental characters that can be used to rigorously constrain the phylogenetic position of these fossils. In this talk, I will introduce my work on the fossils of the Ediacaran Period and set out the case for an animal affinity, but also discuss new fossil finds which suggest that the oldest yet known crown-group members of animal phyla lived and died hidden amongst the fronds.



Bio: Frankie Dunn is a paleobiologist based at the University of Oxford. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Warwick in 2015 and her PhD in 2019 from the University of Bristol, which focused on the Ediacaran Macrobiota - a strange group of organisms sometimes invoked as ancient animals but displaying non-analogue bodyplans. She subsequently moved to Oxford to take up two fellowships: a Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College and an Early Career Fellowship from the Royal Commission for the exhibition of 1851 hosted at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Frankie is currently a NERC independent research fellow and a Senior Researcher at the OUMNH and her research focuses on the origin and early evolution of animals and particularly on the fossil record of the late Ediacaran Period (approximately 570 – 540 million years ago). The aim of this research is to understand how animal bodyplans evolved in deep time.

WGCG evening talk Thursday 15th February 2024 at 7.30pm
at St Francis' Church Hall, Kenilworth and on Zoom

The caves of North Greenland - physical records of cryptic geological intervals
Paul Smith
Oxford University Museum of Natural History



Carbonate rocks of Neoproterozoic to Silurian age are abundantly distributed around the coasts of North and North-East Greenland. Large cave entrances are distributed across the whole of North Greenland, an ice-free area larger than England, from 80–82.5°N and they constitute the northernmost documented karst caves globally. Data relating to the caves in this remote region have been collected on field expeditions over a 40-year period, and they provide information about palaeoclimates in otherwise poorly documented geological intervals. These geologically young caves are mainly phreatic (sub-water table) conduits, and they are consistently located a few 100 m beneath the distinctive plateau that characterises the topography of the northern coast. Their identical context suggests that they developed in a single phase of cave formation, and the timing of cave development is constrained by the mid- to late-Miocene (15–5 Ma) uplift of the plateau surface and the onset of fjord-forming glaciation in the latest Pliocene – earliest Pleistocene (c. 2.7–2.5 Ma). The caves of North and North-East Greenland offer a glimpse of large-scale phreatic drainage systems that developed below an uplifted coastal peneplain during Neogene time. They preserve an important part of the geological history of North and North-East Greenland that is otherwise absent from the physical geological record.



Paul Smith is Director of Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Professor of Natural History, and has spent most of his career working in university museums in Cambridge, Copenhagen, Birmingham and Oxford. His geological research is focused on the interactions of Earth systems and organisms from the late Neoproterozoic to the Ordovician, using a combination of palaeobiology, sedimentology and geochemistry. Paul also has interests in the application of digital technologies to science museums, particularly in the areas of 3D visualisation, virtual reality and the evaluation of user experience. Much of his geological research has been carried out in Greenland and Svalbard, where he has over thirty years' experience of field expeditions and he was awarded the Polar Medal in 2017.

WGCG evening talk Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7.30pm
at St Francis' Church Hall, Kenilworth

Gondwana Landscapes: Geology on a Plate

Presented by Brian Ellis



Elder Range, South Australia

Using examples from Australia (mainly South Australia) the talk will examine existing landscapes which are directly inherited from Gondwana. It will consider the role of their location on the Australian Plate in the conservation of those landscapes and the significance of the dating of the breakup of Gondwana to the evolution of the geology of Australia. The talk will reflect on the difference between interpreting landscapes in Britain and on interpreting those in Australia.



Brian Ellis is an Honorary Member of WGCG and a former Chairman. He was a Senior Lecturer in Geographical Education and Chairman of the Department of Science Education at the University of Warwick.



GeoWeek 2024
Active Geoscience 25 May - 2 June





Site Monitoring: We're Almost There!

The monitoring of the Local Geological Sites (LGS) across Bedfordshire continues and progress is slow but steady. There are only three more LGS to complete before starting the rounds all over again later this year. The three sites left are Munday's Hill Quarry in Heath and Reach near Leighton Buzzard, Deepdale Quarry near Potton, and the Dunstable and Whipsnade Downs. The two quarry sites are difficult to gain access to and these will take some planning to monitor. However, we are planning to walk Dunstable and Whipsnade Downs during the summer. Group members should watch out for an event in due course and then go along to discover this wonderful LGS.

If you're local to Bedfordshire you can get involved in the smallest capacity; your help would be very much appreciated as it would lighten the load on our existing volunteers. Anyway, do take a look at the location and descriptions of the LGS on our website, at

<https://www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk/local-sites.html>

and if there is one near to you or one that you visit regularly, then please consider becoming a LGS Ranger. Contact me, at bev.fowlston@gmail.com, in the first instance to discuss what is required. *Bev Fowlston*



Late Spring and Early Summer Programme

As always the Black Country Geological Society's programme offers a variety of events:

Monday, 15th April – Geology of the Chiltern Hills; new data & new interpretations, lecture by Dr. Haydon Bailey (Geological Adviser, The Chiltern Society). The Chiltern Hills are underlain by Chalk, which dips gently into the London Basin, and the overlying basal Tertiary succession provides minor outliers around this northern rim of the basin. The other major geological event we have to recognise in this area is the re-routing of the Proto-Thames River during and following the Anglian glaciation, some 450,000 years ago. Geological mapping of the region by the BGS over the last 10 years and ground investigations for the HS2 High Speed rail link have greatly added to our knowledge of the regional geology. Add to this the recognition that subsurface movement of water through the chalk is far more prevalent than previously identified, then this means that we're still learning a whole load more about the geological development of the hills which form the northern margin of the London Basin.

Saturday, 11th May – "Central Malverns Complexes" Field Meeting, led by John Moseley (Gloucestershire Conservation Trust). This will look at the Upper Silurian and Llandovery/Malvernian unconformity. Bring a packed lunch. Start point and parking TBC. Meet at 10.00am to finish by 4.00pm

Saturday, 8th June – BGS open Day at Keyworth. We are planning to attend this event as a BCGS outing. Details TBC. Please let the Field Secretary know ASAP whether you would like to attend, as we need to organise tickets.

Wednesday, 3rd July – "Glacial Boulder Trail 2: Around Bournville and Cotteridge Park", led by Julie Schroder. An Evening Field Meeting and a Joint meeting with the Geological Society's WMRG. Meet at 6.30pm on Bournville Lane, Birmingham, outside Bournville Station [NGR SP050 811]. Parking is available on Bournville Lane west of the railway. Learn how Louis Barrow, Cadbury's chief engineer in the early 20th century, saved numerous glacial erratic boulders found during excavation of the factory site, and created Birmingham's finest and most comprehensive collection of erratics from the Arenig Mountains in Wales. Finish around 8.30pm. Possible pub social afterwards (but not in 'dry' Bournville!).

Lectures and indoor meetings are normally held in the Abbey Room at the Dudley Archives, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start unless stated otherwise. Visitors are welcome to attend but there will be a modest charge of £1.00.



Spring & Early Summer Events

The Cambridgeshire Geological Society organises a good mix of autumn & winter talks and spring & summer outdoor events. All are advertised by attractive posters; The spring indoor events [held at the St Andrew's Centre, Histon at 7.30-9.00 pm] were:

Monday 8th January – "The Northwest Highlands Controversy: How one man's ego held back science", talk by Dr Reg Nicholls.

Monday 12th February – "Edicaran Fossils in Namibia", talk by Dr Liu.

Monday 11th March – "Interpretation of the periglacial landsystem through LIDAR assessment" Controversy: How one man's ego held back science, talk by Dr David Giles.

Monday 8th April – Members Evening. A series of short talks [Dr Terry Allsop – "Old Svalbard"; Chris Wagner – "Gault Clays in Cambridgeshire - An Engineer's Perspective"; Lee Wells – "Charnwood Forest"] and updates.

Monday 13th May – "Potential for carbon dioxide sequestration in volcanic rocks of the North Atlantic Igneous Province", talk by Dr Simon Passey.

A forthcoming outdoor event is outlined in the newly released poster:



Friday 7th June 2024
10.30am - 12.30pm
Building stones of Cambridge walk
Led by Penny Coghill (CGS Chair)
Celebrating Cambridge Nature Festival

Cambridge is a beautiful city! Why? Because it has a great number of very fine buildings - university, ecclesiastical, public and commercial - built with some affluence, which meant the owners could use stone, and the more fashionable and pleasing to the eye that stone was the better. Join us for this guided walk around the city to see how these different stones were used, where they came from, how building and architectural fashions changed over time with improvements in transport and see what stones are used today to enhance the built environment. Our locally sourced stones tell us about the past environments of the area - as seen in the fossils that many of them contain - from Chalk 'clunch' to highly prized Jurassic limestones. Others, such as granites and 'exotic' pebbles tell the story of earth's history elsewhere in the world. You will never walk through the city with the same eyes again.

Easy walking, about 1 mile total. Free but needs booking. Contact us via www.cambsgeology.org





LGS Panel & Two New Local Geology Sites

In February 2024, the Somerset Geology Group held a LGS Panel meeting under the auspices of the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), the lead Somerset organization for Local Sites partnership working. It was chaired for the first time by Keith Moore, who has been a member of the LGS Panel throughout the LGS review and who has experience from the earlier process of selecting LGS (then termed RIGS) in Devon.

It had already been agreed that new LGS would be a low priority in the future. However, the Panel was able to consider and recommend two new LGS, both identified as priorities during the review of existing LGS, for designation; these sites, which will be actioned by SERC, are noted below.

Taunton Gateway Park & Ride LGS: In 2021, Garry had spotted a new exposure of the North Curry Sandstone Member of the Triassic at works associated with the Taunton Gateway Park & Ride and alerted those with a research interest. This exposes a sequence covering the Carnian Pluvial Episode (see Dawson, G, *et al*, 2022: 'A new exposure of the North Curry Sandstone Member'; *Proc Geol Assoc*, Vol 133, pp. 457-618). In June 2023, therefore, with the permission of the owner, Somerset Council, Garry organised a training session in completing the LGS review form, as part of the induction for Geoff Rowland and Andy Gordon from SGG, as new members of the SERC LGS volunteer team – and this provided the information for the Panel to consider and recommend LGS designation.

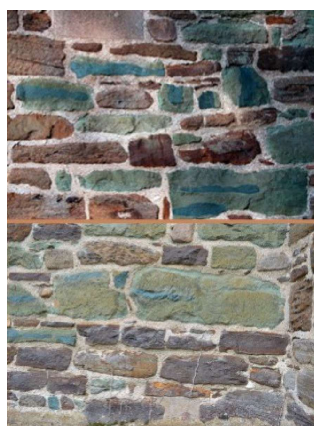
Deer Leap LGS: A proposed new LGS at Deer Leap had been on hold since 2019, when it was suggested by Doug Robinson, our Mendip area LGS mentor, as its accessibility demonstrates the unique geological interest on this southern side of the Mendip Hills. The land is leased by Somerset Council to SWHT and managed by the Mendip National Landscape (formerly AONB) as an open space. Then, in autumn 2023, it became part of a new extended Mendip National Nature Reserve (NNR). This new LGS, therefore, has the potential to contribute to Natural England's aim of using its NNRs to help tell England's geological story.

Wendy Lutley & Garry Dawson (Co-coordinators)



A Bedfordshire Church Geological Mystery Solved

On Sunday 21st January, Dr Peter Skelton treated members of the Group to a fascinating talk on the probable origins of the green coloured Greensand blocks that can be seen in the walls of Husborne Crawley Church (next column, top left). The quite unusual nature of building



stones has long been recognised but, until now, no natural origin for them had been identified.

As Peter explained, the Greensand as we see it at outcrop today is orange in colour. This is due to a pervasive oxidation process whereby original ferrous ions (Fe^{2+}) are flushed away by ground waters and then are oxidised along spring lines to ferric ions (Fe^{3+}). During this process, they change colour from green to orange. Why has this not happened in the building stones (left) of Husborne Crawley Church?

Fortunately, a thin section had become available for microscopic analysis. This confirmed that the clastic composition of the sandstone is the same as the regular Greensand; however, the key difference

can be seen within the cements that hold the stone together. Analysis of the Husborne Crawley green rock revealed the presence of a grain-coating and pore-occluding cement of green chlorite; this (Fe^{2+} bearing) chlorite became locked into the fabric of the rock by a rim-cement of micro-crystalline quartz which protected the green ferrous ions from oxidation by groundwater. The development of such a micro-crystalline quartz rim will only occur in very specific diagenetic conditions; it is not widely observed within the Greensand.

Further detective work by Peter had revealed an old geological paper which described an exposure of such green Greensand at The Rookery in Aspley Guise. This old sand pit was active in the 19thC. and had long since become overgrown. LIDAR images, however, reveal the outline of the old pit, located less than 2 kms from Husborne Crawley Church. Not only that, the LIDAR images also indicate the position of an old trackway joining Aspley Guise and Husborne Crawley, along with additional excavations close to Wensden Hill which may also be an original source of the green Greensand.

In summary, this great piece of geological detective work has revealed a diagenetic process which explains the localised preservation of chlorite, imparting the green colour to the building stone incorporated within Husborne Crawley church, and has identified long-disused sand pits which may have provided a local source

of this unusual rock.

The fact that the church only has sporadic examples of this type of Greensand suggests that this specific rock was probably not brought into the area as a bulk consignment. Rather, these unusual building stones were locally and opportunistically incorporated within the construction of the church.

Paul Hawkes



Late Spring and Summer Programme

The Hull Geological Society organises both public open and members-only events; the latter are for the more committed geologists and are particularly listed on the Society's website at <http://www.hullgeolsoc.co.uk/index.htm>. The Society's planned public and members' events are:

All of May – "East Yorkshire Rocks" photographic exhibition on our Facebook Page; part of Yorkshire Geology Month.

Sunday, 5th May – "Rocks in the City" morning walk in Hull city centre, led by Mike Horne, part of Yorkshire Geology Month. Booking is required. Bring a magnifying glass.

Saturday, 11th May – Hull Geological Society display at Hull Minster for a meeting of the Yorkshire Society. Admission is free to the exhibitions and it is open to the public from 10am until 5pm.

Sunday, 12th May – "The geological heritage of the buildings of Hull Old Town and City Centre" morning walk by Mike Horne for the Yorkshire Society. Please book via the Yorkshire Society website; there is fee to pay.

Wednesday, 22nd May – "Rocks under the City" evening talk on Zoom by Mike Horne, part of Yorkshire Geology Month, a talk about the geology under Hull. Booking required.

Friday, 24th May – "Rocks in the Cemetery" afternoon walk as part of Yorkshire Geology Month in Western Cemetery on Spring Bank. Walk lasts about an hour and there may be some uneven ground. Booking is required. Bring a magnifying glass.

Saturday, 25th May – "Speeton field meeting", led by David Hill.

Wednesday, 5th June – "Moughton & the Elusive Unconformity", Zoom talk by John Connor.

Sunday, 9th June – "Skipsea Withow Field Meeting", led by Mike Horne.

Sunday, 23rd June – "Barrow Upon Humber Geology Museum Visit", an afternoon event.

Thursday, 27th June 2024 – "Wealden RIGS & the History of Geoconservation", talk by Dr Tom Hose (Bristol University and editor of GEONEWS); at Hull University and starting at 6.30pm.

Sunday, 30th June – "Rock & Fossil Roadshow" at Flamborough Village Hall, organised by Stuart Jones. Open to the public from 11am to 3pm. There will be refreshments at reasonable prices. There will be displays of rocks and fossils by members of HGS; we will try to identify any finds brought along and give advice on collecting and curating.– sorry, no valuations! Admission to the Roadshow is free. There is disabled access and families are most welcome.

Thursday, 18th July – "Something geological beginning with Y", Virtual Club Night on Facebook.

Sunday 4th August – "Scunthorpe Ironstone Quarry Visit", led by Paul Hildreth

Thursday 22nd August – "Club Night", at Hull University starting at 6-30pm; the topic is 'Metamorphic'.

Saturday, 24th August – "Rock and Fossil Roadshow" at Hornsea Museum, organised by Stuart Jones. Open to the public from 11 am until 3 pm. There will be displays of rocks and fossils by members of the Hull Geological Society. We will try to identify any finds brought along and give advice on collecting and curating. Sorry: no valuations. Disabled access is very good and families are most welcome. Admission to the Roadshow is free, but there may be a charge for visiting the Museum.

Wednesday, 28th August – "Cave Oolite, Bog Iron & Pantiles - Geologic 'Products' from the Southwest Wolds", Zoom talk by John Connor.

For more information about these events visit the Society's website at <http://www.hullgeolsoc.co.uk/index.htm>. To book for an event please either e-mail Secretary@hullgeolsoc.org.uk or telephone 01482 346 784. We look forward to seeing you.

Mike Horne (Honorary General Secretary)



GeoWeek 2024

Active Geoscience 25 May – 2 June

GeoWeek is now a well established initiative [see details at <https://earth-science.org.uk/geoweeek/>] which seeks to introduce geoscience to as many members of the public as possible. It is intended to help the public learn more about the history of our planet, and how understanding how the Earth works helps us all to live on the planet sustainably. It will launch, initially as an on-line event, on Thursday, 23rd May across the whole of the UK – with outdoor, indoor and virtual events (think 'Zoom!') on offer.

Meanwhile, its Events Map will stay live throughout the year, hosting the growing numbers of self-guided geotrails and other resources for anyone who wants to discover our geological landscape at any time of year.

Member Groups of GCUK are urged to get involved with GeoWeek activities; you can always include an already planned event that fortuitously coincides with GeoWeek's dates! For any questions about GeoWeek, the GeoWeek website or the Event Map, go to geoweeekuk@gmail.com

"East of the road that runs from Harrogate to Ripon, agricultural Yorkshire rolls and ripples its way past York and Malton to the sea. In some parts of the country, the horizon is sharp and clear, a precise line drawn by factory roofs and limestone escarpments." Roy Hattersley (2009, p. 49)



Some Walks and an AGM

The Berkshire Geoconservation Group has published, on its website at <https://berksgeoconservation.org.uk/>, its forthcoming events:

Sunday, 7th April – "Coombe Gibbet Down & Bungum Lane, Inkpen walk", led by Roger York. 10:30am Meeting point - Coombe Gibbet car park [NGR SU 3701 6204]. This walk is about 4 miles taking about 4 hours. We will start on Chalk at Gibbet Down and progress down through the Chalk strata, ending up in the Greensand. There will be stratigraphy, lithology and geomorphology to be examined and possibly fossils to find.

Saturday 8th June – "Emmer Green & Clayfield Copse walk", led by Ross Garden. 10:30am meeting point: Clayfield Copse Car Park, Caversham Park Road [NGR: SU 7258 7678]. The objective of the walk is to discuss the style and controls on faulting in this part of Berkshire and the impact on the economic geology. Clayfield Copse in Emmer Green is the only outcrop of London Clay north of the Thames in Berkshire. It is surrounded by clays and sands of the Reading Beds (Lambeth Group) which unconformably overlie the Upper Chalk (Seaford Chalk Formation). The outlier occurs in a N-S oriented down faulted graben adjacent to a horst of uplifted chalk which separates Emmer Green from the hamlet of Dunsden Green to the east. Exposure is poor, but by looking at drainage and spring lines we can approximate the formation boundaries. The walk will take us across the Clayfield Copse graben and the Littlestead Green horst and down to the Henley Road where fractured Seaford Chalk is well exposed in a roadside quarry. The return will take us through Dunsden Green where we will see All Saints parish church where Wilfred Owen was a lay assistant to the parish priest before the First World War. The church is made from Reading Beds bricks and we will walk up and through the former Emmer Green (Rose Hill) brickworks and past the 89th Reading Scout Troop hut which is the site to one of the entrances of a chalk mine used for brick making.

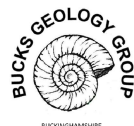
Wednesday, 12th June – "Annual General Meeting". 7:00pm meeting point: Woolhampton Village Hall, Bath Rd, Woolhampton RG7 5RE [NGR SU 5708 6681]; details TBC.

Saturday, 20th July – "Hermitage area walk", led by Clive Edmonds. 10:30am meeting point: Hermitage Village Hall car park, RG18 9WL [NGR SU 51121 73992]. Using footpaths we will visit the site of an historical chalk mine that caused construction problems for the M4, recent residential development problems in the village, then venture to Oare with a chance to view building stones and grave yard at St Bartholomew's Church, before crossing up onto Oare Common (formed of a gravel-capped Palaeogene sequence above Chalk) and going downhill again towards Doctor's Lane to view a series of sinkholes and return via a quiet lane to Oare viewing an old brickworks site on the way with its former shaft entry chalk mine as well. Finally returning to the start – a walk of about 3 miles or so.

The Group is an all-inclusive volunteer group which works with local authorities, landowners and the general public to safeguard our special landscape for future generations and to promote understanding of its geology and geodiversity.

Anyone interested in any aspect of geoconservation should consider joining the Group. Even if you do nothing

else with the group, by simply becoming a member you will be making a big difference. Membership is free (!) and all members receive news and information about the Group's activities activities. JH



An Odyssey, an Exploration, & Some Visits

The Buckinghamshire Geology Group has published, on its website at <http://www.bucksgeology.org.uk/>; its forthcoming events:

Saturday, 11th May 2024 – "A Sarsen Odyssey to Avebury & West Woods, Wiltshire", led by Dr Katy Whitaker. Booking is essential - for further details and to book a place please contact Mike Palmer (mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org).

Saturday 22nd June – "Exploring the geology of South Bucks". This is a joint meeting with the Amateur Geological Society led by Mike Howgate. This full-day trip will explore West Wycombe Hill and the Hell-Fire Caves, the Lyde gardens in Bledlow and Bradenham with its eponymous puddingstones. Hellfire Caves charge for admission - see <https://www.hellfirecaves.co.uk> for details. Booking is essential - for further details and to book a place please contact Mike Palmer (mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org).

July (date to be confirmed) – "Totternhoe Quarry Visit", with Dr Haydon Bailey. Details tbc. Booking is essential - for further details and to book a place please contact Mike Palmer (mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org).

Sunday 18th August – "Great Linford and Stonepit Field, Milton Keynes Visit" (10:30am - 1:30pm). Dr Jill Eysers will lead the walk looking at the local geology through building stones, a little disused quarry, 'stone circle' and Stonepit Field. Jurassic geology with an Ice Age flurry and a few fossils! Booking is essential - for further details and to book a place please contact Mike Palmer (mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org).

Some trips, especially quarry visits, may require protective clothing such as helmets and high-visibility jackets. Please enquire with the event leader or see the event flier nearer the time for details. Booking is usually required for all field meetings and indoor events. This avoids meetings becoming oversubscribed and allows the organiser to contact attendees with any last-minute changes.

Unless otherwise stated, all events are free to members. Non-members may be asked to pay a charge of £3.00 for attending field meetings and indoor events (please contact the BGG secretary mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org for further information). JH

"From these great fells there are several springs out of the rock that trickle down their sides, and as they meet with stones and rocks in the way when something obstructs their passage and so they come with more violence that gives a pleasing sound and murmuring noise . . . " *Celia Fiennes (1888)*

GEONEWS



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HOGG Events

in Late Spring and the Summer

Admission to all on-line meetings is free for HOGG members, with reduced fees for other events and activities by entering an exclusive member promotion code at registration (emailed to members for each event). Associates and guests are welcome to attend meetings for a small admission charge. An outline of each event and registration can be found at

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/historyofgeologygroup>

Tuesday, 21st May – "Historic meteorite falls in Britain: their impact on geological and extra-terrestrial thinking".

On-line (13.00-14.00) themed meeting with 3 short talks (by Roger Osborne, Peter Tandy and Mike Howgate).

Thursday, 20th June – "The founding of the Cretaceous System". On-line (13.00-14.00) meeting with Professor Malcom Hart (Emeritus Professor, Plymouth University).

Tuesday, 2nd July to Wednesday, 3rd July – "Ecological uniformitarianism - help or hindrance to palaeoecology, palaeoclimatology and conservation biology?". On-line meeting hosted by The Palaeontological Association. The convenors look forward to participation from a wide range of earth and life scientists. Please bring this meeting to the attention of colleagues and students who may be interested. Note the low (or zero) cost! Further information and registration at <https://shorturl.at/HP145>

Tuesday, 15th July to Wednesday, 16th July – "The history of geological discovery in polar regions". Joint HOGG/GCG conference and meeting. Venue: Cambridge; British

Antarctic Survey (conference on 16th) and Scott Polar Research Institute & Sedgwick Museum (archive visits on 17th). Details TBC.

Wednesday, 14th August – "HOGG Wikipedia Workshop".

On-line (13.30-16.30); learn to create and edit Wikipedia pages to fill history of geology gaps or update accuracy of existing history of geology entries. For novices or experienced users alike, it will include a tutorial on sourcing accurate information.

Wednesday, 11th September – "The politics of data in the history of the Earth sciences: The case of fluvial geomorphology".

On-line (13.00-14.00) with Dr Etienne Bensen (Director of Department II, Knowledge Systems and Collective Life at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin).

Mineralogy & Museums 10 Conference **12th-13th August, 2024**

This is being held at Museum Wales, Cardiff. It will focus on 'Collections, Research, Care and how to make them accessible to the widest range of users and relevant to society' and welcomes talks on any of these areas and more. In addition to two conference days, there is a choice of three field trips, to Blaenavon, Forest of Dean and Parys Mountain.

It is organised by Jana Horák, Tom Cotterell and Andrew Haycock (Cardiff), Mike Rumsey and Stuart Mills (IMA Commission on Museums) and the staff of the Mineralogical Society. For further information, and to register, go to website at: <https://mm-10.org/>

Lyme Regis Fossil Festival

Saturday, 8th - Sunday, 9th June 2024

The free event has various displays, stalls, workshops, education sessions, creative activities, and talks by experts on palaeontology and geology. It includes various Mary Anning related events with talks by Tom Sharpe and others, plus a screening of a new film shot on location in Lyme Regis, 'Mary Anning and the Dinosaur Hunters'. There also street entertainers and artists, as well as guided walks.

Further information on the website: <https://fossilfestival.com/>

Nothing about your group's interesting activities in this GEONEWS? Were you disappointed? Then, why don't you get writing and submit, by 22nd July, an article for the next issue?

Copy for the next, summer, issue of GEONEWS, must be with the Editor by Monday, 22nd July, 2024 at the very latest.



This newsletter is published by **GeoConservationUK** and is sponsored by **Rockhounds Welcome!**

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



[Any views and opinions herein expressed are independent of those of GCUK & Rockhounds Welcome!]