

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 1st October 2019 at the Abbot Hall Social Centre, Kendal

Present: Christine Anderson (Chairman); John Fairhurst (Treasurer); Ray Wilson (Lectures Secretary); Audrey Brown (Minutes Secretary for this meeting); John Wood, Vic Parsons, Richard Wrigley.

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Brian Kettle, Mike Coates, Bob Entwistle.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Item 4a. The secretary has given details of contacts for the local U3A group to the Chairman.

Item 5b. BK, BE and BernardSB represented the Society at the Brown Howe Quarry ceremony.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

a. Publicity: The Chair reported that Ray W is emailing posters for individual winter lectures to his contact list, the Chair is putting up a single poster with details of all the lectures in the main Kendal venues, and AB is posting the information on the WGS Facebook page. It was suggested that CA's general poster should be circulated more widely, and that details of individual lectures should be sent to the GA magazine & to Down to Earth. Any suggestions for other contacts who might put up posters or advertise lectures should be passed to CA. **ACTION CA & Richard W**

CA circulated an A5 double-sided WGS information leaflet (amended from the old A4 folded flyer), for use at publicity events alongside membership forms. This led to a discussion about the WGS logo, which does not reproduce well in black and white. Mike Dewey designed the logo and it was agreed he should be approached in the first instance re a new logo. **ACTION CA**

It was also suggested that all WGS posters should follow the same template, one aimed at making them stand out on a busy notice board. Ideally, the template should work in A4 & A5 size in both colour and black and white, with space for text. **RayW** will speak to Melville Thomson about this.

b. CA plans to do a WGS 'publicity display' in Kendal Library, before the first WGS lecture. It was agreed that anyone joining the Society in the Autumn would have free membership until subscriptions starts in January. **ACTION CA**

c. CA also suggested that the editor of the Westmorland Gazette might be willing to include a monthly geology column ('A Mineral a Month'), which would be good publicity for the WGS & for the Kendal Museum photographic archive. Richard W volunteered to do this. **ACTION Richard W**

4. EXTERNALLY CO-ORDINATED EVENTS

a. Earth Science week, organised by the Geological Society, runs from 12 - 20th October. It was agreed that this is too short notice to do anything. Some societies have included self-guided walks on this website, & there was concern about liability if the WGS did this. **JF to investigate**

b. The next GeoWeek will be held from 9th to 17th May 2020. It is hoped that Anne Thompson will again co-ordinate the events planned by geological societies in the county (WGS, CGS, Cumbria GeoConservation). Suggestions were made for activities as follows, but more discussion is needed:

- Saturday event at Kendal Museum, possibly concentrating on the geology of Kendal
- Graveyard walk, looking at stone types and weathering, possibly at Castle Street cemetery
- Local walks e.g. 'Building stones of Kendal' and/or 'Limestone of Scout Scar'
- More distant walks e.g. 'Pebbles on Walney Island' and/or 'Corals at Far Arnside'
- 3D paper models of geological structures, possibly at Kendal Museum & for children
- Geological timescale - possibly along a road.

5. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

There will be vacancies for the next committee year for the roles of Treasurer, Ordinary Committee Member and Independent Financial Examiner. Committee members were encouraged to ask around at each meeting between now and then, to try to fill these roles. **ACTION all Committee**

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

An annual fire drill must be done during a meeting (done at end of this meeting). **ACTION - Done**

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

A paper was tabled showing a possible slight deficit over the year, but, as in previous years, this may well be converted to a positive balance. The society's capital reserves stand at around £5300, so the society remains in a sound financial position and there are no plans to increase subscriptions. As Lecture Secretary, Ray W has used his own high-quality device to record lectures, and given a copy to the person doing the write-up. He agreed to continue to do this after he has retired from the committee, so there is no need at present to allocate funds to buy new recording equipment.

8. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME/ TUESDAY TUTORIALS 2019/20

AB tabled a list of the workshops for the winter period as follows:

22nd October - Stratigraphic column – Vic P

26th November - Rock cycle – Audrey B

21st January - Geological maps 2 – Clive B

25th February - Earthquakes – Brian K

24th March - Minerals 2 – Bernard SdB

Richard W has offered to run an indoor session on logging a sedimentary sequence, followed by an outdoor practical session (probably at Heysham), then a second indoor meeting. AB hopes to include this in the next programme, together with a session on fossils by Geoff Brambles.

9. REPORT FROM FIELD SECRETARY

A provisional Fieldtrip programme for 2020 was circulated by BE prior to the meeting, as follows:

Sunday 19th April - Skiddaw Group Structures & Sill in Wythop Woods - John Rodgers CGS

Meet at Woodend Brow CP off A66 NY218275 at 10.00am (Moderate)

Wednesday 6th May - Shap Beck Quarry - Jenna Roberts, Hanson's Deputy Quarry Manager

Meet at parking area in front of Training Building NY556183 at 10.00am (Gentle)

Saturday 6th June - Closehouse Mine - Lesley Collins C&PGS

Meet at Wemmergill Estate track gate on B6276 NY873212 at 10.15am (Moderate)

Wednesday 17th June - Jacob's Join at Bob Entwistle's home at 5.00pm

Followed by geological walk (details to be circulated)

ACTION BE & Richard W

Saturday 11th July - Geology & Mining History around Nenthead Heritage Site

Rosemary Vidler, Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

Meet at Heritage site NY785433 at 10.30am (Moderate)

Sunday 16th August - Andesitic Volcanism at Honister: Flow, Blow or No Show - Clive Boulter

Meet at National Trust CP NY225135 at 10.00am (Moderate/Hard)

Sunday 13th September - Shap Fell (Hardendale) Limestone Quarry: Past, Present & Future

Sylvia Woodhead CGS - Meet at the road corner 'Castlehouse Scar' NY590146 at 10.00am (Moderate)

CA will put the provisional programme on the WGS website in the new year. With several of the proposed trips on days other than Sunday, it was suggested that their popularity should be monitored. There is no weekend field trip planned for 2020, but it is hoped to arrange one in 2021. Suggestions included the Fife coast, Whitby (led by Richard W) and Pembrokeshire. This will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

CA reported that numbers attending the field trip have averaged about 13 members, varying from 9 to 22. These were considered to be good attendances and no concerns were raised. The details are:

Holmepark - Peter Standing: 22 + 7 guests
Brown Howe - Audrey Brown: 15 + 1 visitor
Duddon Basin - Clive Boulter: 13
Jacob's Join - Clive Boulter: 17
Heysham - Barbara Gordon, Paul Kabrna: 13 + 1 visitor
Shap Quarry - Chris Arkwright: 13 + 3 visitors
Threlkeld - Bernard Skillerne de Bristow: 12 + 4 guests
St Bees - Sylvia Woodhead: 9

10 REPORT FROM LECTURES SECRETARY

Ray W reported that the winter lecture programme is all in hand. CA reported that the Presidential lecture is provisionally entitled 'A Caledonian Cruise across Iapetus on Anglesey'. Richard W has agreed to take over from RayW at the AGM & has started preparing the 2020/21 programme. He would like to add a further lecture to the programme, possibly in April (currently 4 lectures plus members' evening plus Presidential lecture). The Committee suggested that the WGS might alternate with the CGS for a September lecture. Both suggestions need further discussion.

The issue of a 'standby lecture' was raised for times where a speaker was unavoidably delayed. **AB** has a lecture on Easter Island with significant geology content, which she could load onto the WGS computer and use in case of a last-minute emergency.

11. PROCEEDINGS

VP reported that the production of the next Proceedings is well underway. There will be an article on GeoWeek and possibly a contribution from a member. All agreed for these to be included if space allowed. A colourful picture is needed for the frontispiece. The following will write up the lectures:

16.10.19 Cambrian fossils	Audrey B
20.11.19 Haematite minerals	Bob E
18.12.19 Jacob's Join	Brian K
15.01.20 Grand Canyon	Mike D

12. NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at AHSC following the workshop on **Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 4.15 pm.**