

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER No. 36 - November 2017

New President

The Society has a new President. Dr Graham Leslie from the BGS Edinburgh has accepted an invitation to undertake this role. He is known to at least some of us as he delivered a lecture on Anglesey in March 2016 and led a field trip to Spireslack open-cast mine in July this year.

January & February Lectures

As our new President, Dr. Graham Leslie, is already committed elsewhere on 21st February (the date of our AGM), Prof. Harry Pinkerton has kindly agreed to change the date of his lecture on 'Dealing with unexpected eruptions on volcanic islands' to the 21st February. This will allow Dr. Graham Leslie to give his lecture on 17th January. The topic will be Singapore, and the work he has been doing on the geology of the area, which is crucial for safe infrastructure development.

Field Trip – Mull

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that we are organising a longer field trip to the Isle of Mull next year. It cannot be called a weekend trip as it is to run from Monday 21st May until Friday 25th and accommodation has been arranged at Bunessan, which is on the Ross of Mull in the west of the island. The trip will be led by Dr Ian Williamson, formerly of the BGS and English Nature/Natural England. The number of places on the trip is limited to 20 so if you are interested please contact Mike Coates (email mail@mikecoates.f9.co.uk) as soon as possible as places are filling up quickly.

Committee Vacancies

The Society will be needing some new committee members at the next AGM in February. Brian Kettle (Secretary) is retiring after almost ten years in the role, Mike Coates's term as Field Secretary comes to an end as does Kath Alty's term as a Committee member. In addition, John Fairhurst has said that he plans to retire in February 2019. It is vital for the running of the society that these roles are filled so if you are interested in any of them please get in touch with the Chairman, Chris Anderson (email marychrisanderson@hotmail.co.uk), who will be delighted to hear from you.

November Meeting

Next month's lecture is on the contentious subject of fracking and why we need to explore. This is subject about which people appear to have strong views, in many cases based on only a superficial knowledge. This is an opportunity to find out what is really involved. And if you would like to join the speaker for a

meal at The Moon before the lecture, please contact Chris Anderson to reserve a place (email as above or phone 07505527154).

December Meeting – Jacob’s Join

December’s meeting has traditionally been called our member’s evening, which is misleading as it suggests that visitors are not welcome, which of course they are. In recent years the same people have tended to give short presentations and though it will be good to hear from them again, it would also be nice to hear a few new voices. People do not have to give a presentation: we are also happy to see rocks and other exhibits, so please feel free to bring these along.

Tutorials

As our lectures are often at the cutting edge of geology, it was felt that tutorials dealing with some more basic geological topics might appeal to members.

Audrey has volunteered to lead the first one on the subject of igneous rocks. At the moment, we would just like to hear expressions of interest from people, and if there is enough interest we will set a date and a venue. If you think you would like to attend such an event, please email Chris Anderson.

Website

If you have not visited the website for a while, it is worth a look at the photos and some new features e.g. committee minutes, field trip & lecture summaries.

Publications by Edinburgh Geological Society

Members may wish to access publications by the Edinburgh Geological Society; www.edinburghgeolsoc.org. Many are available as free downloads and include The Edinburgh Geologist, their in-house journal aimed at a general readership. Recent articles include ‘Geology and building stones in the Highlands and Islands’ by Andrew McMillan, formerly BGS, and ‘Can fracking, for gas and oil, power the Scottish economy?’ by Roy Thompson, Edinburgh University. The former article includes good links to BGS and BRE databases on building stones. Roy Thompson’s is useful background reading for November’s lecture.

Outcrops for Oldies

David Horsley, who is a member of the Society although he lives in Kent, has produced a booklet giving details of 83 locations which can be accessed by the not-so-young or not-so-fit. Entitled “Outcrops for Oldies”, it should appeal to many of the Society’s members and can be obtained by sending £1.20 (cheque or stamps) to

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