

## WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### E-MAIL NEWSLETTER No. 40 - June 2019

#### **FREE Open University Geology Course**

In case you haven't heard, the Open University is offering a free geology course. They reckon it is about 12 hours of study & looks interesting. The link is <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/introduction-geology/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab>

#### **Invitation to Brown Howe Quarry GA Presentation**

The information board at Brown Howe Quarry has been awarded a prize by the GA & there will be a presentation on the morning of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at the quarry. Brian Kettle will be representing the Society, but other members are welcome to attend (see attachment for details & please let Sylvia know if you would like to go).

#### **AGM – Committee Vacancies**

We are pleased to announce that Mike Coates (who organised our fieldtrips for 6 years), has joined the Committee as an ordinary member. We now have a full committee – which is great - but we do have two important officer posts that are coming available. These are Secretary (Brian Kettle) and Treasurer (John Fairhurst). They are both rewarding jobs & vital for the smooth-running of the Society. If you are interested in either of these posts, please contact the Chairperson (Chris Anderson) or the present post-holder, who will be happy to discuss what is involved. Ideally, we would like to co-opt volunteers onto the committee to shadow the current post-holder so they have chance to find out what is required before taking over.

#### **Recruitment drive – ideas & help needed**

We have a membership of over 100 people, including a dozen or so new members, but we will always welcome more new members. To this end, the Committee would like to tell more people about the Society either through posters (please let me know if you have a space in your local area that would be just right for a WGS poster), or through attending public events with a WGS 'stand'. However, we do need help from ordinary members if we are to set up our stall at local libraries, country fairs & so on. Be assured that you do not need to know a lot about geology to help on a stall, but you do need to be friendly, approachable & enjoy chatting to people! Geology experts generally find our website on their own so the audience we want to appeal to are those who have an interest in rocks & minerals but do not know about the WGS. We need a group of members who are happy to help so we can share the jobs around. We would aim to have at least two people at each event, with one of them being an 'expert'. And if you know of an event that you think it would be good for the WGS to attend, please tell me. Thank you [chris.anderson.wgs@gmail.com](mailto:chris.anderson.wgs@gmail.com)

#### **Workshops**

Audrey Brown now has five topics for the workshops that will run on the Tuesday after the lecture (2.00-4.00) in October, November, January, February & March (dates are given on the Programme Card). However, if you have any ideas for a workshop, or would like to lead one, Audrey would be delighted to hear from you. Any help with the organisation on the day would also be much appreciated.

## **Summer Field Trip Programme**

We are now well into the field trip programme, with three field trips completed. Peter Standing started the season, followed by Audrey Brown, & then Clive Boulter, all of whom showed us some magnificent geology. A few days before the date, we send an email with more details about the coming fieldtrip, so please look out for those. The next one is the Jacob's Join on 5<sup>th</sup> June (watch out for an email the day before if bad weather means it must be postponed to the following week), then Heysham on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Bob Entwistle, our Field Trip Secretary, would be delighted to hear from anyone who has an idea for somewhere they would like to visit in 2020, or wants to offer to lead a trip. He would also like to know if you are interested in a residential field trip in 2020, & if so whether you have any preferences of where to go (north, south, east, west in UK? Abroad?)

## **Date for your diary - Cumberland Geological Society September Lecture**

In September, the Cumberland Geological Society invites WGS members to join them for their first lecture of the season. We usually publish this in our Programme but this year we were a little ahead of the CGS. We now know that their first lecture will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Methodist Church Hall in Penrith, at 7.30pm. The speaker is Dr. Tom Challands, from Edinburgh, a former pupil at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith, of John Rodgers who is CGS President. The title is "Scotland's Jurassic Park: The Isle of Skye and New Fossil Discoveries". Members of the WGS are also welcome to attend CGS fieldtrips (there is a link to the CGS website from the WGS website).

## **Geoweeek 4-12 May 2019**

Anne Thompson, a WGS member, did a super job publicising Geoweeek events in Cumbria. Nineteen people attended the 'Minerals & Fossils' event at Kendal Museum on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, which was led by three WGS members, who did a super job: Stuart Wood, a new member who has done a lot of work with the collections; Richard Wrigley, new to the WGS & to the Committee; & Clive Boulter, who many of you will know. I think we were all very impressed with the collections & with the move to the ground floor into new rooms & new display cabinets. (See attached report by Richard, with photos). I am sure many of you will have spotted the photograph of Geoff Brambles in the Westmorland Gazette (May 16<sup>th</sup>) at the start of his guided tour of the building stones of Kendal on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. I think the photograph shows that Geoff was in fine form – as well as passing on some of his knowledge to his group of fifteen people, he was clearly also highly entertaining!

## **And we still need an Auditor for the Society....**

As John Wood has joined the Committee, he can no longer act as our Auditor. Perhaps you know someone who might be willing to take his place (e.g. a retired accountant, or someone who works in a bank or accounts department)? Our accounts are audited once a year before being circulated at the AGM in February. John Fairhurst, our Treasurer, can best explain what is involved, so please do contact him if you would like more details.