

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Geologists' Association Conference

The annual Geologists' Association conference will take place in Manchester from 18th to 20th October 2019. The theme is Geological Resources in the North West – Past, Present & Future.

There is a visit to Manchester Museum's Minerals and Palaeontology collection on the Friday, a range of talks which focus on North West England geology on Saturday and a choice of several field trips on Sunday. For more details and a registration form visit the GA website www.geologistsassociation.org.uk

Proceedings

A digital version of the Society's Proceedings for 2018 is now available. Copies of the Society's Proceedings from 1973 to 2018 on a disc can be ordered from the Secretary. The cost is £5 to members and £10 to non-members.

John Ruskin's Minerals

Brantwood is celebrating John Ruskin's bi-centenary with a series of events this year. Although best known for other things, Ruskin was keenly interested in geology, especially minerals of which he built up an extensive collection which Brantwood has now acquired.. There will be a talk about this collection on Wed 14th August at 7pm by the director of Brantwood, Howard Hull. Advance booking is essential – see Brantwood's website at www.brantwood.org.uk . The collection will be put on display in the not-too-distant future.

Brown Howe Quarry

Dr Nicholas Pierpoint, President of the Geologists' Association (GA) and Dr Haydon Bailey (Past President) presented an Award of Excellence to Cumbria GeoConservation, for their geology project at Brown Howe Quarry, Blawith, near Coniston. An interpretation board clearly explains the geological background to the quarry which once worked a pink rock which appears to be an offshoot from the Shap granite. The board would not have been possible without a generous donation from the GA Curry Fund. Dr Bailey, Chair of that fund, said that the Cumbria GeoConservation Brown Howe geology project was top of the list of projects that they had funded in 2018. He presented the Certificate to Dr John Lackie, Chair of Cumbria GeoConservation. The certificate will be placed at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust HQ at Plumgarths. This event was attended by several WGS members.

Kendal Museum

Below is an article by Richard Wrigley about the visit to Kendal Museum during GeoWeek:-

GeoWeek Event - Kendal Museum Richard Wrigley

On 7th May 2019 Westmorland Geological Society (WGS), in collaboration with Kendal Museum, hosted a GeoWeek event to celebrate the opening of the Museum's new geology displays. The new, improved location of the geology collection includes three illuminated display cabinets purchased through a

recent GA Curry Fund award and housing additional specimens from the Hamer mineral collection.

An introductory talk by the museum curator described the history of Kendal Museum, the geology collection and the links to Adam Sedgwick and John Ruthven. Visitors spent an enjoyable morning viewing the new Lakeland Geology and Mineral Collection displays and examining a diverse selection of rock samples retrieved from the museum collection and historical museum geological records.



There was a debate on the origin of a trace fossil named *Stellascolites* from the



Skiddaw Slates. *Stellascolites radiatus* was part of a diverse ichnofauna developed in the deep marine strata of the Skiddaw Group. It was described by Etheridge in the 1876 Memoir as a unique form, probably belonging to the Annelida. It was reassigned by Orr, 1996, as *Glockerichnus radiatus*. *Glockerichnus radiatus*, formerly *Stellascolites radiatus*.

Ward, J. C., 1876, The Geology of the Northern Part of the English Lake District, Memoirs of the Geological Survey.
<http://pubs.bgs.ac.uk/publications.html?pubID=B01472>

Orr, P. J., 1996, The ichnofauna of the Skiddaw Group (early Ordovician) of the Lake District, England, Geol. Mag. 133 (2), 193-216.