



# THE HIGHLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC004427

**MARCH 2015**

Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the AGM – we have now sent all the necessary details to OSCR so our records are up to date. Also many thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership. If you have still to pay, current subscription rates are £15 for Single Members and £22.50 for Family Membership; you can pay by cheque at our next meeting but if you prefer to send the subscription by post then cheques should be made out to the ‘Highland Geological Society’ and sent to Dr Rhona Fraser at: 12, Islands House, Island Bank Road, Inverness, IV2 4SB.

## **Winter Programme 2015**

### **18 March**

*Paul Monk (HGS)*

#### **50 years in amateur geology: collections, fieldtrips and passion.**

Paul will take a stroll through his collecting history, sharing some geological stories along the way, and giving us a tour through a small part of his collections of minerals, fossils and 18th and 19th Century geology books.

We will also have some copies of Roy Starkey’s new book *Crystal Mountain – Minerals of the Cairngorms* available to buy at £25 each (= P+P free!). More information about the book is available at: [www.britishmineralogy.com](http://www.britishmineralogy.com). Roy will also be giving a talk to the society in March next year (see **Winter Programme 2015-16** below).

### **22 April**

*Dr Alan Crane (University of Aberdeen)*

#### **Aotearoa: A Plate Margin Journey**

Aotearoa (re-named New Zealand by Europeans) is situated astride an obliquely convergent section on the tectonic boundary between the Indo-Australian and Pacific Plates. For the last 24 million years this has been, and continues to be, an active orogenic zone creating one of the fastest rising mountain belts on Planet Earth. Aotearoa is also an area where oceanic segments of both the Pacific and Indo-Australian Plates are being subducted, resulting in associated active strato-volcanoes, rifting and back-arc spreading.

The talk will comprise a travelogue-style DVD illustrating the classic ‘Trans-Alpine’ rail journey: a flight traverse of the Mount Cook (Aoraki) Range; a boat trip on proglacial Lake Tasman; geysers and lakes of boiling mud of the Taupo Volcanic Zone; a helicopter flight to White Island in the Bay of Plenty (currently New Zealand’s most active volcano); plus the consequences of devastating earthquakes for two of New Zealand’s major cities. A short power-point presentation outlining the Plate Tectonic Geology of Aotearoa will provide an introduction to the DVD.

Evening meetings are charged at £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

For information:

**21-22 March: 'Moray Geology: Past, Present, Future' Conference *Elgin Museum.***

The HGS will be supporting this event which will include a programme of talks at Moray College (University of the Highlands and Islands) and activities within the museum. Please contact [moraygeology2015@hotmail.com](mailto:moraygeology2015@hotmail.com) if you would like up-to-date information about this event.

**SUMMER FIELDTRIPS 2015**

**25 April – 2 May – self-led excursion to Mull**

There are still places available at Killunaig Church House (cost £79), plus electricity and communal purchases (~ £10 per person). The week will include a mix of geological itineraries dependent upon the interests of the participants.

**16 – 17 May – Oban and the Garvellachs – Roger Anderton**

Participants for this trip have been sent the information separately - there is a waiting list for this excursion so please do not just turn-up on the day as the boat is fully booked!

**20 June – Ben Wyvis – Martin Hind**

**Meet near Garve at 9.30 am. Meeting place to be given out at time of booking**

Day trip to explore the evidence for glaciation on Ben Wyvis with Highland Countryside Ranger, Martin Hind. This event will also be open to members of the public **so pre-booking is essential**. Please email Martin direct: [martin.hind@highland.gov.uk](mailto:martin.hind@highland.gov.uk) to secure your place. If you have already indicated that you wish to attend, Alison will book for you - please check if you're not sure!

The walk is 14 km (8.75 miles) over fairly rough terrain and involves an ascent of over 900 m; there is an easy climb on paths through the forest initially, followed by much steeper ground on the path ascending to An Cabar.

**12-13 September – Loch Monar and Loch Hourn – Eddie Lynch**

**Meet at the car park just before the Gatehouse at Inchmore west of Struy Bridge (NH 395 406) at 9.15 am.**

We will leave some vehicles here and then drive to Loch Monar to view the classic exposures at the Loichel Dam, working our way back along the Glen throughout the day. Excursion 8 of the Moine Guide (2010) has the details of the localities we will try and visit, which includes spectacular fold interference structures as a result of polyphase deformation as well as the Sgurr Beag Thrust traverse and possible basal conglomerate locality. We will also see Morar and Glenfinnan Group meta-sediments and Lewisianoid basement inliers and hopefully visit the graphite mine, subject to time and weather conditions.

On Sunday, we will meet in the car park at Invermoriston (NH 421 167) at 9.30 am.

We will look at a road cutting just west of the car park before driving westwards and having a couple of road cutting halts on the way to Bun Loyne junction where we will turn south and then west along the Kinloch Hourn road. Excursions 4 & 5 of the Moine Guide (2010) have locality details and we will see what we can get to in the time available (unfortunately we will probably not have time to visit higher altitude localities!!!). Priority will be along Loch Quoich shore and dam area and we will go to see Sgurr Beag Thrust zone at Kinloch Hourn if we have time. Again lots of spectacular folds and re-folded folds to be seen as well as curvilinear sheath fold varieties. We will also see appinite, microdiorite, abundant pegmatite and West Highland Granitic Gneiss.

Please let Alison know if you will be attending on the Sunday only in case our plans change!

