



THE HIGHLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC004427

Dear Members,

APRIL 2014

As you will have seen if you are on our email list, there were some changes made to the committee at the AGM in February:

Peter Christie has stepped down as Chairperson after 16 years, and Alan Thompson has been elected in his place. The society owes Peter a big thank you for all that he has done over so many years. Ann Reynolds has stepped down as Treasurer, but has agreed to stay on the Committee. We have yet to confirm a new Treasurer, and Alan will work with Ann to ensure that we can fill this role, and manage the necessary transition.

In summary the 2014 Committee is:

John Adamson; Anne Cockroft; Rhona Fraser; Andy Leggatt (Web site manager); Eddie Lynch; Ann Reynolds (Acting Treasurer); Alan Thompson (Chair); Alison Wright (Secretary)

Given the unique role that Sinclair Ross played in the life of the society, there are no plans to nominate a new President.

Hopefully all will be 'business as usual' – suggestions (or volunteers!) for speakers and/or fieldtrips are always welcome so please do contact the Secretary (or any other committee member) if you have any ideas to aid the smooth running of the society.

Summer Programme 2014

Field trips are charged at £3 for day excursions and £5 for weekend trips.

26 – 27 April – Skye (28th optional 3rd day)

Leader: Eddie Lynch

Saturday 26th:

Meet at the Tingle Creek Hotel car park (NG 7612 2955) at 9.15 am or at the car park by the swimming pool in Kyle of Lochalsh (NG 7619 2743) at 9.30 am if coming from Inverness or at the car park for Leitir Fura (NG 7042 1606) at 9.50 am if coming from Skye.

From the car park we will walk a couple of miles along the forest track to the Rubha Guail shore section to look at the hinge zone of the Lochalsh Syncline as well as lamprophyre dykes and Palaeogene dykes and sills.

Sunday 27th:

Meet at the Tingle Creek Hotel car park at 9.30 am and drive to the Aird of Sleat on Skye to view the southernmost exposure of the Moine Thrust at NG 5916 0048. We will then walk towards the Point of Sleat, if the weather is suitable, and, if time allows, examine the Moine Thrust in the Allt Duisdale at NG 6832 1274.

Monday 28th

Meet at the Tingle Creek Hotel car park at 9.15am – localities visited will depend on the interests of this smaller group.

Dinner at the Tingle Creek Hotel on Saturday 26th April must be pre-booked – please let Alison know if you would like a menu. Two or three courses cost £19.95 and £24.95 respectively.

Suggested reading:

An Excursion Guide to the Geology of the Isle of Skye. B.R. Bell, J.W. Harris. Geological Society of Glasgow. 1986. ISBN 0-902892-08-8

British Regional Geology: the Palaeogene Volcanic Districts of Scotland, 4th ed. C.H. Emeleus, B. R. Bell. 2005. ISBN: 0-85272-519-1

14 – 21 June – Mull

Self-led

Progress is continuing on the programme for this excursion, which is fully booked. However, if you are interested in joining the group, please let Alison know as she will run a waiting list.

5 – 6 July – Strath Fionan *Extra day added!*

Leader: Fiona McGibbon

Meet in the main square at Kinloch Rannoch at 10 am on 5 July.

This field trip will investigate Dalradian stratigraphy, structure and metamorphism in an area of outstanding scenery next to Schiehallion. We will see outcrops of quartzite, schist, amphibolite and marble, overprinted by strain fabrics of increasing intensity. We should see kyanite and garnet and so will also investigate metamorphic grade. All of this will be considered in terms of what it reveals to us about the Grampian orogeny that shaped this part of the Highlands. Although the rocks here are quite complex, there will be much to see and learn at many levels.

The group will stay at Kindrogan Field Centre (near Pitlochry) on 5 July. Please contact Alison as soon as possible if you would like to join us for dinner, bed and breakfast (£38.40 per person)

4 October – Little Glen Shee, Dunkeld and the Hermitage

Leader: David Stephenson

Meet at Little Glenshee car park to the south of the fording point of the Shochie Burn, close to the wooden footbridge (NN 9880 3404)] at 10 am.

This excursion will allow us to: examine key exposures within and close to the closure of the Tay Nappe that enable its 3-D geometry to be determined; to see minor folds and cleavages resulting from the three phases of deformation that produced the large-scale structure; and to examine metasedimentary rocks of the Birnam Slate and Grit Formation and Dunkeld Grit Formation of the Southern Highland Group (Dalradian Supergroup).

Maps:

OS 1:50 000 Sheet 52 (Pitlochry to Crieff) or Sheet 53 (Blairgowrie) - they overlap. The area lies at the junction of BGS 1:50 000 sheets 47E (Crieff) and 55E (Pitlochry) but most of the outcrops covered by the excursion lie with the unpublished Sheet 47E, with only Craig a'Barns in the bottom RH corner of Sheet 55E.

Suggested reading:

see A.L.Harris descriptions in the Dalradian GCR volume (Tanner, P.W.G. et al. 2013. The Dalradian rocks of the Highland Border region of Scotland. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association Vol. 124, pp. 215 - 262.)

Winter Programme 2014-15

Our first meeting of the winter season will be 5th November, subject to confirmation by the rector at Millburn Academy. Further dates/information will follow.

5 November

Dr Dave McGarvie (the Open University in Scotland)

Fieldwork in Chile: land of volcanoes and earthquakes

In January 2014 I returned to Chile to work on a little-known volcano to investigate lava-ice interactions and to collect samples for follow-up geochemistry and age dating. The volcano is called Quetrupillán, and its name means 'the headless spirit'. It was time to be a cowboy, because we went to and from the volcano on horseback, camped by an idyllic lake, cooked by a camp-fire, drank bourbon, and drawled a lot. Working at 5,000-8,000 feet up in the mountains meant the views across the Andes were sometimes stunning. And the rocks were spectacular as well, with plenty of excellent and subtle examples of lava-ice interactions. If time permits, I'll also show a few images of part of Chile that was hit badly by the largest recorded earthquake in history, where I kayaked in the drowned forest that sank beneath sea level when the land suddenly dropped 2 metres during the earthquake, and then it was hit by a tsunami.

HGS Library Collection:

The society has been bequeathed a number of books and journals that are in the process of being added to the HGS Collection at Inverness Library and it is hoped to organise a meeting later in the year to allow members to explore our holdings. Inevitably we have ended up with some duplications of journals (e.g. some editions of the *Scottish Journal of Geology*). These copies have been offered to our members on previous occasions but this is your last chance to claim all or part of the collection before they are recycled.

If you would like more information, please contact Peter Christie who will be happy to let you have details of the journals that are available (terch@dsl.pipex.com or 01808 521257).

Contact information:

Chairman: Alan Thompson 01463 238992

alanrossthompson@hotmail.com

Secretary: Dr. Alison Wright 01309 671949

a.j.wright00@aberdeen.ac.uk