



Shropshire Geological Society

NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Chairman's Ramblings

Welcome to the August Newsletter, which as you may note appears to be in a different format to previous issues. As Andrew Jenkinson reported in the May Newsletter his A3 printer had finally given up the ghost. So at the last Management Committee we had a long discussion as to how we should proceed. After much discussion it was agreed to change the format of the Newsletter. It will firstly be the means of letting you all know the upcoming programme of events, field trips and lectures and I will continue with providing the 'ramble' which will keep you up to date with Society business.

It was agreed that the 'talk' after the AGM would take the format of a round-up of what the Society had been up to over the year, with illustrated reports from the many and varied field meetings. This led on to the idea of producing an Annual Report that would then be sent out with the February Newsletter. It would be different from the annual *Proceedings* which is more academic in nature. This Annual Report would include reports of all the lectures, field trips and rockhops which have happened in the preceding 12 months. This report would also allow us to put the annual accounts out to the whole membership: normally David Smith (Treasurer) produces accounts which are handed out at the AGM, so only the attending members get to see the accounts. I hope that you will welcome the changes. If you are happy to receive the Newsletter via e-mail as a pdf file, can you let Andrew know on projects@shropshiregeology.org.uk. If members decide to receive it this way it will help keep costs down and hopefully could put off the year when we will have to increase the subscriptions.

The Society responded to Shropshire Council's Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDEV) documents, especially making comments on the policy directions that underpin the whole management of development over the whole county. This issue of building in the flood plain is something which the Society highlighted in our response. We pointed out that floodplains provide natural flood storage and if property is built in the floodplain forms of flood alleviation have to be put in place which clearly disrupt the natural flow, often causing problems further down the catchment.

The Management Committee has met once since the last newsletter and as noted above we decided on the new format for the Newsletter and the idea of the 'Annual Report'. If you have any further ideas about this please let me or Keith Hotchkiss (Newsletter editor) know. We also covered the usual check on projects and the programme for the coming year. We would welcome any ideas of field trips and rockhops for 2013, so let David Pannett, or any of the committee, know if you have any ideas as the Programme sub-committee are currently trying to work up next summer's programme.

If I don't catch up with any you during the summer I look forward to seeing you at the winter lecture programme which is outlined overleaf.

Following on from the Projects Committee meeting which was held after I initially wrote the main part of the ramble, we were looking at Local Geological Sites and in particular whether we have got a good representative series. So this led on to the fact that it would be good if members saw what might be a good rock exposure anywhere in the county that they report to members of the Projects Committee (Andrew Jenkinson, David H T Smith, David C Smith, Karen Whitaker, Mike Rosenbaum and myself). Over the next few meetings of the Projects committee we are going to be looking at some possible new additions which we came up with during the course of our discussions, but we would welcome any other input.

If you want to know where the sites are, Mike Rosenbaum has kindly given the following information on how to find out:-

Where are LGS in Shropshire?

There are now over 300 sites designated in Shropshire as Local Geodiversity Sites, LGS (formerly known as RIGS). These vary from small stream exposures containing obscure but very important fossils to large quarries with obvious fossils or structures to 'in your face geology' that can be seen for miles around. Our web site includes a simple map to see where these sites are, and clicking on a site reveals its number ("RIGS_ID") that can be used to find out more information, for instance in the searchable list of sites which is also on our web.

The LGS information for Shropshire is hosted by the County Council's corporate GIS on behalf of the Shropshire Geological Society. This may be accessed by the general public using LocalView (again, there is a link from our web site or you can go through the Council's web site to <http://shropshire.gov.uk/maps/natenvironment.htm>). To view a specific locality using LocalView:

Wait for the County map to be displayed and then click on the blue pin (the middle pictorial symbol on the left, between the house and a pair of arrows).

1 Unclick the top box ("AONB boundary") and then click the label 'Local Geological Sites' on the left hand side of the screen.

2 The LGS are marked in brown. Click on the brown area to reveal a brief summary of site details, including the RIGS_ID which can be used to find out more detailed information using the searchable list already mentioned on our own web site.

3 Other GIS information layers can be added or removed by ticking their boxes.

4 You can 'Zoom In' to see localities at whatever level of detail you wish.

5 Once 'in focus', the details of each LGS can be viewed by clicking on the desired location on the map.

6 You can print any view of interest by using your usual computer facilities.

I do hope that some of you can come up with some additional sites that we can consider to put forward as Local Geodiversity Sites.

Mary Steer
Chairman

Help us spread the (rocky) word

With completion of our new set of three "easy access trails", intended as eye-openers for a general (non-geological) public, we are keen to spread the word about the influence of rock and its effects on the present-day landscape. I have tried hard to reduce as far as possible the use of geological jargon, and to present the walks not as feats of physical endurance but simply the opportunity to "**Wonder as you Wander**" - an over-arching title suggested by our budding marketeer, Laurie Whitaker. See the results on our website at www.shropshiregeology.org.uk/wonder/default.htm.

Now, to reach the widest possible audience, we need your help in spreading the message, not only on the three specific sites - Much Wenlock, Carding Mill Valley and the Bog Visitor Centre - but to promote a new interest in our wonderful, geologically-determined, natural landscape in all parts of the county. We now have a range of material to appeal to all levels of interest - in addition to the three latest trails we still have our seven Geotrail titles for those who are positively seeking out geological information, back-up exhibition material in the form of banners and display boards and, of course, the support already of an increasing membership.

Please can you help us, on an informal basis - with no committee meetings or fixed timetables - to spread the word on 'your patch'? Keep an eye on Geotrail stocks in your local information centre or shop; arrange a small display of our material in your local library; or offer assistance (as several of you have done in the past) at local shows. Shropshire is a big county. Your committee members cannot cover it all on an informal basis, so we are seeking your help on the ground.

If you are willing to help please contact me via e-mail: projects@shropshiregeology.org.uk or phone 01938 820777 to discuss how this might be taken forward on your patch so that more people are encouraged to "Wonder as they Wander" through gloriously rocky Shropshire!

Andrew Jenkinson, Projects Officer

Did you feel the earth shake?

BGS reported a minor earthquake of magnitude 2.5 and depth of 14km at about 13:16 BST on 1st June. Detectable tremors were reported from Ludlow, Clee St Margaret and Church Stretton. If you felt anything tell a committee member.

Stars in your Skies : Geology of the Planets

Last in a series of meetings at Cardingmill Valley

November 17th Life on Other Worlds:

Bookings: 01694 725000: Price: £10 per session

Surviving the Century: What will life be like in 2050 and beyond?

Sunday 16 September 2012, 5.00pm St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, Guest speaker: Lord Rees of Ludlow. Organised by the St Laurence's Conservation Trust (01584 877 771 or email rosemary.wood3@virgin.net). Tickets £10 p. person.

The *NEWSLETTER* of the Shropshire Geological Society is published four times a year. Please send any **items for November 2012 by October 15th** to Keith Hotchkiss, Windyridge, Farm Lane, All Stretton, Church Stretton SY6 6HN. The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Society or its Committee.

www.shropshiregeology.org.uk

Diary Dates

Programme Autumn-Winter 2012-13 Field Trip

September 15th: 10am – *Breidden and Middletown Hills and Buttington Quarry*. Andrew Jenkinson and David C Smith will lead an excursion to various sites on these distinctive hills which straddle the national boundary. Booking essential through coordinator: Eva Peringer for details of meeting point etc.

Winter Lecture Programme

Meetings are held in the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, starting at 7.30pm. The room is open from 7.00pm so you can turn up a little early, have a chat or choose a book from the Society's library box.

Shirehall parking: Please note that barriers will be put up on the main car park at 7.30p. PLEASE PARK ON THE LOWER VISITORS CAR PARK or by the Unison Club.

Wednesday 10 October 2012: Dr Stuart Black: Forensic Geology and links with archaeology.

Wednesday 14 November 2012: Dr David Ray: Some aspects of bentonite significance and correlation.

Wednesday 12 December 2012: AGM followed by reports on the Society's field trips, rock hops and field work projects

Wednesday 9 January 2013: Dr Chris Rochelle: The threat of methane hydrate deposits and CO₂ sequestration.

Wednesday 13 February 2013: Dr Imran Rahman: 'Seeing inside the stones': view fossils in rock courtesy of the latest scanning technology and red-green 3D glasses (supplied).

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