



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

GOGLEDD CYMRU (NORTH WALES) BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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Branch Organisers Bit

Welcome to 2003 and a belated happy new year to all Gogledd Cymru Branch members. Following a successful AGM in January we now have a new Branch Committee for 2003. As publicised last year both Wendy Owens and Sue Hughes stood down from their respective posts as Branch leader and Treasurer for the branch. My thanks go to both of them, on behalf of the Branch Committee and Members, for their hard work over the last few years. Both Wendy and Sue have agreed to remain on the committee as members, having valuable experience to pass on to those of us with less experience.

I would like to welcome Elaine Tilson to the Committee. Elaine has recently started OU studies having moved to North Wales from Australia.

I was nominated as Branch Organiser, and Elaine Tilson as Branch Treasurer. All other officers have agreed to continue their roles for 2003. As I was previously Branch Secretary, that post remains vacant. Until such time as the post is filled, the tasks will be shared between other committee members as appropriate.

The committee for 2003 consists of:
Branch Organiser - Rachel Atherton
Treasurer - Elaine Tilson
Newsletter Editor - Ann Bunning
Liaison Officer - Fred Owen
Webmaster - Wendy Owens

Display Boards - Tony James
Revision Day
Co-ordinator - Sue Hughes

We are arranging interesting mix of places to visit this year. So far we have confirmed visits to the Great and Little Ormes in Llandudno, two different Quarries and for those interested in the development of Peat Bogs, a visit to Delamere in Cheshire amongst others. We will be including a quick summary of what type of geology you could see and the course which covers the topic (eg Pant Quarry would be ideal for S268 students). The field trips are arranged to practically help your understanding of the courses you are studying, and are for any level of understanding, so why not come along, enjoy a day in the Welsh Countryside and learn from enthusiastic geologists.

I hope to see you at the next field trip

Rachel Atherton
Branch Organiser

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Met at Capel Curig. Met the Welsh at Capel Curig- well they were from the South Wales group, so they were no more locals than we were. Phew! What a climb, we set off on a bright beautiful day, at a brisk warming pace. Lost the leader, had a picnic while we found the right path, caught the leader and slowed him down.

This was a hard walk from the start, up to the quarry (pant pant) not much time or breath for talking geology. Luckily the visiting group had been thoroughly geologised the day before by Rob, so they weren't complaining. We stopped at Lyn-y-foel quarry lake and had some coffee and lunch.

On the way up we were shown slate roofs from local cottages, showing slate quarried from different quarries-therefore different epochs-almost a stratified slate roof.

At this point we parted company with less robust members of the group and I found out why. The bringing out of ice picks, pitons and ropes had me a bit worried (joke), but it was a tough climb by my standards. I kept up however didn't want anyone to guess my wimpiness. The reason people take to mountaineering became clear, even on a little hike like this, the feeling of achievement on reaching the "summit" was quite compelling-plus the staggering views.

Fortunately the walk down the far side of the mountain was much easier - more like a regular field trip in fact. Speaking of field trips back to the geology. Now we had our second stroke of luck- in the car park we had met a student from Durham doing some fieldwork on tuff at the far side of Moel Siabod. We chanced across him. He gave us a wonderful description of the geology of the area and the work he was doing. I was singularly impressed by his composure and eloquence in the face of a bunch of complete strangers.

The features he pointed out to the northwest of Moel Siabod were the remains of a tuff dome, itself the remnant of three plinian volcanoes. These volcanoes were part of the tectonic features produced from the island arc created in the area during the closure of the Iapetus Ocean. His most striking evidence was the presence in the rock of fiammes (or infact the

holes where previous fiammes had existed) - unfortunately the samples of tuff I kept looked exactly like limestone to my amateur's eye.

Tony James

Thank you Tony for a very amusing informative article and I can underline that the trip was most enjoyable if somewhat strenuous. Ann

Lecture Afternoon at Chester
Sunday 23rd MARCH
Bishop Lloyd's Palace, Watergate Row
(entrance between *Rainforest* and *Mooklada*)

12.00 to 1.30pm meet for lunch, FAT CAT Restaurant
Lower Watergate

PRESENT DESERT DUNES-
A KEY TO PAST RED SANDSTONES

2.00 "Travels, geology and wildlife of Namibia"
by David Maddocks

3.00 Presentation of the S260 prize

3.15 Tea/coffee/biscuits/chat/displays/library

3.45 "How the Cheshire Basin sandstones were
formed"
by Duncan Woodcock

4.45 approx. finish

The OUGS Chairman, David Maddocks has kindly agreed to come and show us some fantastic views of his travels amongst the desert dunes of Namibia, which nicely link to the desert conditions apparent in the Permo-Triassic sandstones that Duncan Woodcock has been studying near his Frodsham home. This is a basic geology afternoon to welcome new OUGS members and others who may not have plucked up courage to attend an OUGS event as yet. The event is organised by the NW branch but all are welcome including 'old hands'. David will be presenting the S260 prize for 2002 to Gunilla Sudell from Longridge, near Preston. Just starting S260?- the prize could be yours next year.

For more information contact Chris Arkwright

BRANCH FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME 2003

DATE	LOCATION	LEADER	ORGANISER/CONTACT
29 MARCH	Wrexham Science Festival GC OUGS/NWGA display	Rob Crossley	Rob Crossley/Tony James
27 APRIL	Great & Little Orme Llandudno	Gladys Dinnacombe	Ann Bunning
10 MAY	Pant Quarry, Halkyn Morning visit to a working limestone quarry	Wendy Owens	Wendy Owens
18 MAY	Delamere, Cheshire Trip to examine peat core	Derek Francis	Wendy Owens
TBA JUNE	Rhoscolyn structures	S Campbell/M Woods	Rachel Atherton
29 JUNE	Holt/Farndon, Cheshire Geoconservation	Cynthia Burek	Elaine Tilson
28 SEPT	Revision Day, Chester	Sue Hughes	Sue Hughes
5 OCT	Minera quarry, Wrexham Visit to an interesting redundant quarry	Wendy Owens	Rachel Atherton

NB:

We have been asked to make members aware of OUGS cover regarding activities quote:
 "Each person attending field meetings does so on the understanding that they attend at their own risk. The OUGS has Public Liability Insurance Cover for field and indoor meetings but Personal Accident cover and Personal Liability cover remain the responsibility of participants. Members with house insurance will probably find this included. Members should also note that they will be required to take out appropriate travel insurance for any overseas events: an annual travel insurance may be the best form of cover for any member who regularly attends field events"

OTHER EVENTS AROUND AND ABOUT

NWGA	
5 MARCH	NEWI Wrexham Professor Richard Patrick, Manchester Uni. "Synchrotron radiation; a new insight into problems that perplex geologists". The UK Synchrotron is at Daresbury Labs. Cheshire. This talk will give a simple guide to a Synchrotron and some of the science achieved there, which will be used to illustrate its workings-everything from the tracking of the formation of minerals to reactions on mineral surfaces. Contact Fred Owen As a follow up to this talk a joint NWGA/GC OUGS visit to see the Synchrotron working is being planned for Wed 21st MAY at 7.00pm Please advise me as soon as possible if you would like to go e-mail fredowen
24-30 MARCH	WREXHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL. NWGA/GC OUGS will be hosting a "Scientrific Display" of geology specimens, posters and leaflets on Sat 29th MARCH . For more information or details of events contact Rob Crossley e-mail
TBA APRIL	CONWY. Glacial Lake Catastrophies - speaker and topic to be confirmed
LGS	
25 FEB	Prehistoric Big Cats, by Prof. Alan Turner
11 MARCH	Global warming and sea level rise or Ice Age and sea level fall? This is a contribution to the National Science Week debate.
18 MARCH	Glacial Hazards, by John Reynolds
28-30 MARCH	ABERYSTWYTH field weekend. Sat 29th MARCH . Bala fault and Cwm Cau classic glacial cirque on Cader Idris. Sun 30th MARCH wavecut platform and Aberystwyth grits at Mynachdy'r-graig and then to Monk's cave for superb sedimentary structures and trace fossils. Hotel accommodation in Aber. Days can be attended separately. Details from Fred Owen.
27 APRIL	Skipton moor. Leader Neil Aitkenhead.
MGA	
15 MARCH	Afternoon seminar of four talks on Mountain Building, including the Caledonian Orogeny and the Alps
16 APRIL	Mount Etna by Prof. Harry Pinkerton. Contact for MGA events Jim Spencer

COMMITTEE 2003	
RACHEL ATHERTON	BRANCH ORGANISER
ELAINE TILSON	TREASURER
ANN BUNNING	NEWSLETTER EDITOR
FRED OWEN	LIAISON OFFICER
WENDY OWEN	WEBMASTER
SUE HUGHES	REVISION DAY ORGANISER
TONY JAMES	DISPLAY BOARDS

For last minute reminders of events please ensure that Fred Owen has your e-mail address.

Members are invited to supply photographs of local geology for posting on the web site contact Wendy Owens.