



**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
GOGLEDD CYMRU - NORTH WALES
BRANCH NEWSLETTER**



Volume 7

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May 2005

Branch Organisers Bit (May 2005)

We are now well into the new year and have had two successful and informative field trips. Others are being prepared as I write. I would like to thank everyone who has attended for your support. You can read all about the trips in the articles attached. My thanks go to those who provided the words and photographs.

There is an additional item included in this newsletter which is aimed at giving the OUGS membership more information about the decisions being made on your behalf at Committee level. The item will appear shortly after each Committee Meeting. There are three committees per year at OUGS level (The Executive Committees are usually in April and November, with a Branch Organisers Meeting in late May/ early June). If you are interested and wish to know more, or have a concern which you think should be aired at one of these meetings please feel free to contact me, as your representative on the committee and I will endeavour to follow it up on your behalf.

In order to keep you up to date with the latest arrangements for field trips we send out e:mails to those who have requested it. These are effective as they act as a reminder, and inform you of any changes or cancellations/ rearrangements which sometimes occur at short notice.

I would like to ask that if you have an e:mail address and wish to be kept informed, please will you reply by emailing me at gogledd.cymru@OUGS.com. I will respond to your email. This will ensure the information gets to the current email address and not one which may now be out of date.

Our next proposed field trip, to Parys mountain, is on Sunday 19th of June. Please get in touch with either Sue Hughes or myself for details.

Later in the year there are a number of other field trips including the Revision day for S260 and S269. S260 and S269 OU tutors from the region will be on hand to advise and guide. To register your interest in the Revision Day please ring Hilary Tatton on 01244 677787.

Rachel Atherton,
Gogledd Cymru Branch Organiser

NEFYN FIELD TRIP 8th MAY 2005.

Definitely a hard hats day!!! Low flying golf balls!!! The first item of interest was a blowhole, one advantage of the windy day was that the hole did have water in it. The first time I have seen this! The water comes in through a cave in the underlying rocks and sucks out the overlaying glacial sand and gravel leaving a round hole. The headland at Porth Dinllaen is mainly pillow lavas that come up against spillites. We went to investigate a small cove where we guessed the junction was. It appears to be a fault. Walking round the headland we saw classic examples of pillow lavas. Some with the central holes and inter pillow spaces filled with silicates especially jasper. Indications are that these rocks are about to be re-dated as early Cambrian not pre-Cambrian as previously thought. Even so, this means that there is something like a 570 million-year gap between the pillow lava and the overlaying glacial deposits.





On the beach between Ty Coch and the Cliffs Inn (we chose this trip for the very good watering holes!!!!) are good examples of beach rocks. These are recently (thousands of years) cemented sedimentary deposits of sand and gravel. The cliffs (not the pub) are unconsolidated sands with some fine gravel lenses. Flow direction is approximately west but there were few good exposures and the cliffs are too unstable to work on at



close quarters. The more stable sand beds are home to colonies of sand martins.

The next stop was The Cliffs for lunch and good beer.

At Nefyn we looked at the land stabilisation work after the landslides in early 2001. We compared the scene today with photographs taken at the time. It is surprising how well the vegetation has overgrown the mesh and other covering materials. Some of the stainless steel rock bolts are still visible. There was some debate as to what the rock bolts are fixed into.

We then worked our way eastwards along the cliff looking to see what remained of Norman Harrison's 2000 profile. Most of the basic outline was identifiable but patchy.

Fig 2.

The rotational slump has now collapsed in a large bowl shape, which runs back into the cliff face (Fig 2 note people btm left for scale). This photograph was taken a couple of years ago and there



has been further collapse since then. This area has more gravel beds than the area to west which we had looked at in the morning. The interpretation is that this part of the sand dune is more proximal to the glacier than the finer deposits to the west. More colonies of Sand martins, they were busy flying in and out of the nest holes. There had been very little activity at the sites we looked at in the morning. Lyn Relph.

All Photos supplied by Lyn Relph and Tony James.

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting 23rd April 2005 (BGS, Nottingham)

There were a number of agenda items, including:

- Y Branch Business
- Y Election of Society Chairman
- Y Executive Committee Officers Reports
- Y Consideration of items relating to the smooth running of the Society

Branch Business:-

- Y There was a discussion about the variety of trips we could offer eg some which would cost to attend (entrance fees for instance), mid-week evening or daytime events possibly. The level of interest is often difficult to gage so if you have any thoughts please let me know.
- Y The society has a register of decisions made since its formation. The type of access required to this information was discussed.

Election of Chairman:-

- Y There were three candidates for the new Chairman (taking up post at the AGM in November 2005), (Joe Jennings, Jenny Bennett, and Wendy Hamilton). All three have had a long association with the OUGS. There was a ballot of those members present at the meeting who were eligible to vote, taking 2nd and 3rd choices into consideration. The largest number of votes went to Joe Jennings, who was delighted to accept.

Officers Reports:-

- Y It was suggested that the annual renewal form should go on the OUGS Website

Items relating to running of Society:-

- Y Authorised purchase of IT equipment (laptop and printer) for accounts, enabling easy transition when treasurer changes. The Laptop was authorised, but the printer rejected.
- Y It was agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken for an Oceanography Experimental School (for S330) to be taken on by OUGS. One school has already taken place at Southampton. It would have to be self financing.
- Y There is a suggestion that the OUGS website has a password controlled section, to enable members to access documents relating to the running of the society which would not be in the public domain. This will be considered further.
- Y There are some financial awards available through OUGS for funding projects. These are not being taken up currently so guidelines for changes (to improve the system) were discussed.
- Y Committee members packs are currently in paper form. Issuing the pack on CD's was discussed, so that they are easily updated and easy to store.

Rachel Atherton, Gogledd Cymru Branch Organiser

Announcements

The website address is www.OUGS.org.uk. The placing of newsletter copies reachable by hyperlink is coming closer – watch out for the full colour high res images.

The new membership secretary has asked me to remind members that any change of address should be sent to her (Penny Widdison e-mail: p.e.widdison@durham.ac.uk), this will ensure that a single database can be kept as up to date as possible. Please use the Giftaid on the renewal notice for membership – this will enable the OUGS to reclaim some of your tax, and put it to a better use.

I've been asked (as usual) to remind everyone that the cost of field trips is £2.00. This covers expenses for the leader (travelling and/or photocopying etc.). Remember to check your insurance details for trips, the exact requirements are published in the national newsletter.

Your committee for 2005 is

Branch organiser	Rachel Atherton
Committee Member	Sue Hughes
Newsletter Editor	Tony James
Webmaster/Treasurer	Wendy Owens
Committee member	Lyn Relph

Events Diary

Gogledd Cymru Field Trip programme for 2005. If you are interested in further details of any of the following field trips please ring the appropriate contact.

Parys Mountain Anglesey Sunday 19 June 2005, contact Sue Hughes.

Borras Sand and Gravel Quarry and Minera Limestone Sunday 10 July 2005, with Jacqui Malpas, contact Rachel Atherton

Hilbre Island, Wirral (joint with North West Branch) Sunday 14th August 2005, Contact Wendy Owens

Llangollen area (East Anglia Branch) W/e 24/25th September, Leader Will Jones Contact Carey Shaw (Via Rachel Atherton)

Chester Revision Day for S260 and S269 Sunday 25th September, Booking required contact Rachel Atherton for details

Camel Thrust Fault Anglesey, Sunday 2nd October 2005 leader Rob Crossley, contact Rachel Atherton

Manchester GA: contact Fred Owen and/or visit www.mangeolassoc.org.uk for more detail and synopses. There are trips planned to Burnley on the 26th June and Oldham on the 18th June – Please contact Jane Michael (0161 366 0595) for these trips. Fred Owen is also doing his Knutsford walk on 19th June.

North Wales GA: contact Fred Owen.

On the 12th June to Brynceiliog led by Willy Jones, and a trip to Mam Tor on July 16th.

Liverpool GS: Contact Joe Crossley