



**Circular 356
December 2004**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Ian Thomas

www.emgs.org.uk

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME - 2004/2005

Saturday 8th January 2005 - 6.30 pm

Ice Age Art at Creswell Crags - Its Relevance and Context

Speaker: Ian Wall (Creswell Heritage Trust)

Saturday 5th February 2005 - 6.30 pm

Presidential Address - Talking Rocks

To be followed by the Annual Dinner - ***BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED***

Saturday 5th March 2005 - 6.00 pm - AGM followed by

The Dating Game - One Man's Search for the Age of the Earth

Speaker: Dr Cherry Lewis (University of Bristol)

Saturday 19th March 2005 - At BGS, Keyworth

Joint afternoon meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society on 'Recent BGS Research'

Full details will appear in a future Circular.

Saturday, 23rd April 2005 - 6.30 pm

A Very Big Fish Records the Jurassic Climate

Speaker: Dr Dave Martill (University of Portsmouth)

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME - 2004/ 2005

Saturday 8th January 2005

Ice Age Art at Creswell Crags - Its Relevance and Context

The recent discoveries of Ice Age rock art at Creswell Crags, the only British example of parietal art from this period, took the archaeological world by storm in 2003. Since these initial finds, the research team have continued to add to the range and number of depicted figures leading to the claim that Creswell Crags now contains one of the most significant sculptured cave ceilings in the world. This lecture explores the background and results of this fascinating research programme and the archaeological context of these earlier discoveries.

Saturday 5th February 2005

Presidential Address - Talking Rocks

“Geology is dreadfully dull!” “Rocks are dead!” “Earth science? - boring!”

These were the sort of responses to a survey carried out some years ago in planning a major new gallery in southern England. The Presidential Address will look at ways in which we can excite and motivate people about ‘our subject’. After all, geology can influence virtually every aspect of our lives. Plate tectonics, for example, should be seen alongside the unravelling of DNA, or atomic theory, or quantum mechanics, as one of the half dozen key scientific advances of the last 100 years – its terminology already pervades media speak.

The presentation will draw upon a wide range of sources and in particular take you behind the scenes at the National Stone Centre looking at work all over the country, to illustrate how we can all bring rocks to life for everyone. In particular, it will examine how everyday activities can demonstrate geological links, at initiatives in schools, work with industry and government agencies as well as some of the challenges. It will also provide a taster to the epicentre-UK project.

Saturday 5th March 2005

AGM followed by

The Dating Game - One Man’s Search for the Age of the Earth

The lecture recounts the story of Arthur Holmes’ life, from the terraced house in Gateshead where he grew up, through Gateshead High School, to his time studying physics at the Royal College of Science in London. From the work of Kelvin and the discovery of radioactivity that gave the lie to Kelvin’s age for the Earth, the lecture will follow Holmes’ pioneering research on the development of dating methods, documenting the setbacks as well as the successes. Through the application of contemporary cutting-edge analytical work, Holmes demonstrated the great antiquity of the Earth, providing a basis for the now familiar timescale. The lecture will also give an insight into his personal life and troubles, such as the problems that beset him when prospecting for minerals in Mozambique, the tragedy that befell him in Burma, and his long-term relationship with Doris Reynolds, who eventually became his wife.

Saturday 23rd April 2005

A Very Big Fish Records the Jurassic Climate

The giant pachycormid fish *Leedsichthys problematicus* Woodward is known from the late Mid Jurassic of the UK, France and Germany. Specimens referred to the genus *Leedsichthys* have also been reported from the early Late Jurassic of the Andean region of northern Chile. Such a wide distribution for the genus may merely indicate that this magnificent animal had a very wide range and may have been

common around the globe. However, recent discoveries at Whittlesey, near Peterborough, and a re-examination of material collected during the latter part of the nineteenth century demonstrate a marked episodic growth pattern revealed by conspicuous growth bands on the internal surfaces of many of the skull and axial bones. Such growth lines are difficult to interpret. Explanations might include seasonal migration, perhaps between hemispheres, a period of torpor during the summer, perhaps related to gillraker dental renewal, or simply marked seasonality in north-west Europe in the Mid and Late Jurassic. Whatever the case, *Leedsichthys* was probably the world's largest bony fish, but its palaeoecology may remain a mystery for some time.

EAST MIDLANDS FIELD GUIDE

Members of EMGS may purchase these at a discount price of **£6.00.** To non-members the price is **£8.00.**

Copies are available for sale from the Secretary or other Council members, or at the Society's Indoor or Field Meetings.

Lectures & Field Meetings of Other Organisations

The Secretary or the Circular Editor have contact details for the representatives of other local Geological Societies who organise field trips and indoor meetings. Please ask one of them for details.

New Members

Robert Gill, Spilsby, Lincs
Ruth Allington, Oxford.
Vicki and Chris Marchbanks, Burton-on-Trent
Ross Baxter, Chellaston

It is with great sadness we have to report the death of Dr Chris Salisbury who was to have given a lecture to the Society in September.

e-mail addresses

We would very much like to send you your Circular by e-mail. If you have not already done so, please send your e-mail address to the Circular Editor, sue.miles@freethcartwright.co.uk.

Please can you also confirm your name and address when sending your e-mail so we can correlate these details with our membership listing.

The next Circular will be published in January 2005.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th January 2005.

Secretary: Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG
e-mail: j.slatter@zoom.co.uk. tel. no. 01509 843297

Treasurer: Mrs Christine Moore, The Steading, Main Road, Elvaston, Derby DE72 3EQ tel. no. 01332 573065