



**Circular 357
February 2005**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Ian Thomas

www.emgs.org.uk

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME - SPRING 2005

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 - 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society on 'Geology and Climate: Recent BGS Research'

Saturday, 23rd April 2005 - 6.30 pm

A Very Big Fish Records the Jurassic Climate

Speaker: Dr Dave Martill (University of Portsmouth)

LECTURE VENUE

Other than the joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society, meetings will take place in lecture theatre B3 of the Biology building at the University of Nottingham. If you require to use the lift to B3, please speak to the security attendant who will assist you. B3 is equipped with induction loop hearing assistance. If you are attending meetings or joining a coach at the University of Nottingham, enter from the South Entrance on University Boulevard. Cars should be parked in the car park on the bend in the road just beyond the security point after Science Road. The entrance to the Biology building is at the right hand side of the rear of this car park.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5th March 2005

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 13/3/2004;
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes;
4. Secretary's Report;
5. Treasurer's Report;
6. Appointment of Auditor;
7. Editorial Report;
8. Election of Officers for 2005;
If there are no other nominations, it will be proposed from the chair that the following will serve:
President - Ian Thomas;
Vice-President - Tony Morris;
Secretary - Mrs Janet Slatter;
Treasurer - Mrs Christine Moore;
Editor - Dr Tony Waltham.
9. Election of Council for 2005;
10. Vote of thanks to retiring Council members;
11. Any Other Business.

The Minutes of the last AGM and the Treasurer's Report will be distributed at the meeting.

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME - Spring 2005

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 19th March 2005

Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at the

British Geological Survey, Keyworth

'Geology and Climate: Recent BGS Research'

The meeting will be held in the newly refurbished Meeting Room 1 at BGS Keyworth. Final details are not yet available but the programme will include three lectures and a guided tour of the BGS rock and fossil collections.

The BGS Shop will be open prior to the start of the meeting.

Full details giving speakers, lecture titles, abstracts and timetable will be posted on the EMGS website as soon as they become available.

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.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st February 2005. The rates remain the same as last year. Members who do not pay by Standing Order will find a payment slip enclosed and a suggestion to pay by this method if you are a tax payer. Please also consider paying your subscription by way of a Gift Aid declaration. It costs you nothing but benefits the Society considerably and helps to keep our subscription rates down. Again, a Gift Aid form is enclosed.

Subscription rates are: £12.00 ordinary
 £15.00 joint membership
 £ 5.00 student membership

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

Mrs Janet Watson, Nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire
Mr Ross Baxter, Chellaston, Derby
Mrs Vicki Marchbanks, Burton on Trent, Staffs

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 April 2005.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th February 2005.

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