



**Circular 360
October 2005**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Ian Thomas

www.emgs.org.uk

PROGRAMME - WINTER 2005

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday 19th November 2005 - 6.30 pm

Gas hydrates - a geological killer in our midst?

Speaker: Dr John Rees (British Geological Survey)

Saturday 10th December 2005 - 6.00 pm

Anhydrite to Zinc - a pictorial survey of working mines in the British Isles

Speaker: Paul Deakin

To be followed by the Christmas cheese & wine - please remember to bring a wine glass.

Saturday 14th January 2006 - 6.30 am

Caves: dark, dank holes in the ground or geological treasure troves?

Speaker: Dr Andy Farrant (British Geological Society)

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 2.00-5.00 pm at BGS Keyworth

Tour of the BGS Collections

Further details to follow in the next Circular.

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 6.00 pm

President's Evening

Derbyshire's Mineral Wealth

Speaker: Ian Thomas (National Stone Centre)

To be followed by the Annual Dinner. Details and booking form in the next Circular.

Saturday 11th March 2006 - 6.30 pm (preceded by AGM at 6.00 pm)

Details in next Circular.

Saturday 18th March 2006 - 2.00 pm at BGS Keyworth

Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society

Details in the next Circular.

Saturday 8th April 2006 - 6.30 pm

Student tours to the USA: the geology of the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains, Texas and New Mexico

Speaker: Dr Tony Dickson (University of Cambridge)

LECTURE VENUE

Indoor 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.

Saturday 19th November 2005 - 6.30 pm

Gas hydrates - a geological killer in our midst?

Gas hydrates are ice-like compounds in which gas molecules are trapped within a cage of water molecules. They are only found in very cold environments at low pressures or warmer settings at very high pressures, and are believed to be abundant in permafrost regions and around the deeper continental margins. The most common form, methane hydrate, is estimated to contain about ten thousand billion tonnes of organic carbon, which could be twice as much as in all the known other fossil fuels put together. Whilst a major interest in methane hydrates in some parts of the world is as a source of energy, most interest is as a potential driver for climate change. This is because the release into the atmosphere of large amounts of methane as a consequence of destabilization could be catastrophic; methane has about twenty times the warming potential of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Because of the physical and chemical properties of hydrates, the mechanisms of release are complex, but it is likely that hydrates have contributed to major climatic change in the past. Consequently, research into understanding how hydrates destabilize is important, particularly when we are warming our oceans and polar regions through climate change. Geological hydrate research does not only cover such issues but also the future potential for society to store greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, within hydrates. It is important that we understand these very common, but rarely seen, minerals better in the future.

Saturday 10th December 2005 - 6.30 pm

Anhydrite to Zinc - a pictorial survey of working mines in the British Isles

Paul Deakin is a well known cave and mine photographer. A fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, he has an extensive library of photographs gathered over a period of nearly 40 years at sites in the UK and throughout Europe. The mining images provide a unique and comprehensive history of the mining industry past and present. His photographs have appeared in many articles and publications, and have won many accolades as well as several prestigious awards.

www.paul-deakin.freeserve.co.uk

Saturday 14th January 2006 - 6.30 pm

Caves: dark, dank holes in the ground or geological treasure troves?

Caves are not just dark, cold wet holes in the ground. As well as being beautiful and fascinating places to explore, they also contain a wealth of geological information which can help unravel past climate change and landscape evolution. Using examples from both the UK and overseas, the lecture will demonstrate how caves and cave deposits can be used to provide information on a variety of geological issues.

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 2.00- 5.00pm at BGS Keyworth

Tour of the BGS Collections

Details later

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 6.00 pm

President's Evening – to be followed by the Annual Dinner
Derbyshire's Mineral Wealth

Derbyshire's contribution to mineral production has probably been greater than that of any other comparable area in the UK - in terms of both variety and volume. Since at least the seventeenth century, it has led the field in limestone output, accounting for more than 1000 million tonnes. Britain's largest coalfields extend within it and together with its two own smaller coalfields, these have produced a similar tonnage of coal. In lead ore and latterly fluorspar and barytes, in fireclay, dolomite and alabaster, it has ranked, at various times, first or second in the league tables. Sandstone, gravel, chert, ochres, igneous rock, umbers, ironstone and oil have all been a part of the story. In total, these have not only provided tens of thousands of jobs but they have underpinned the iron, steel, glass, chemicals, agriculture and construction industries of this and most surrounding areas. This rich history and its geological basis are inextricably intertwined.

New Members

Mr E & Mrs Z Blackett, East Goscote, Leicester
Mr Allan Metcalfe, Rearsby, Leicester
Mr Ivan and Mrs Karen Finney, Stapleford, Nottingham
Ms A Pritchard, Derby
Dr D Sutherland
Mr Adrian Scotney, Derby

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.

NOTTINGHAM GEOTOURS

A programme of geological tours has been organised, or are being planned, for the coming two years. They are as follows:

23 – 30 March 2006	-	The Almeria region of southeast Spain
27 May – 2 June 2006	-	The Assynt area of northwest Scotland based in Ullapool

Tours in the process of being organised:

September 2006	-	The Dorset Heritage Coast (3 days)
February 2007	-	Hawaii (2 weeks)
May 2007	-	The Lothians of Scotland (4 days)
September 2007	-	Northern Ireland (5 days)

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Ian Sutton, tel. no. 0779 5211761 or e-mail ian.sutton@idsgeo.demon.co.uk

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.

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 2006.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd November 2005.

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