



**Circular 367  
January 2007**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: John Travis

[www.emgs.org.uk](http://www.emgs.org.uk)

## **INDOOR PROGRAMME** **WINTER 2007**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 - 6.30 pm**

**The United Arab Emirates: a geological tour**

**Speaker: Richard Ellison (British Geological Survey)**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - 6.00 pm**

**Foundation Lecture - Trilobites!**

**Speaker: Professor Richard Fortey FRS**

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

**Please ensure all applications are submitted by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at the latest.**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - 6.30 pm (following AGM at 6.00 pm)**

**Members Evening**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007 - 6.30 pm**

**Geology and disease**

**Speaker: Professor Gerard Slavin**

## 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.

### WINTER 2006 INDOOR MEETINGS

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 - 6.30 pm**

#### The United Arab Emirates: a geological tour

**Speaker: Richard Ellison (British Geological Survey)**

Until recently the United Arab Emirates, with the fourth largest oil reserves in the world, had no large scale geological maps. The rock outcrops, in the east of the country, occupy less than 10% of its area but hold the key to the geological history of much of the Arabian peninsula and thus provide a 'laboratory' for oil production research. Recent mapping at 1:25 000 scale has revealed that these outcrops are a fantastic geological treasure trove. The lecture will give a tour of the treasures on offer including classic carbonate platform sediments, slumped slope deposits and contemporary deep water sediments. Squeezed on to the carbonates in Cretaceous times, is the Semail Ophiolite, a slice of the oceanic crust including the Moho. Spectacular folds, formed during the arrival (obduction) of the ophiolite, and the effects of the later (Miocene) compression will be illustrated. Quaternary events, including the development of enormous alluvial fans, dune systems and the type sabkhas provide further stunning scenery.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - 6.00 pm**

#### Foundation Lecture

##### Trilobites!

**Speaker: Professor Richard Fortey FRS**

"Come and see the world as it once was through the crystal eyes of the trilobite. We shall find out how trilobites tell us the pattern of evolution, and how it can be read from the rocks. We shall discover how faith in trilobites not merely moves mountains but shifts whole continents. We shall see how cast-off shells can be re-animated into living animals. We shall understand something of the origins of the richness of the animal kingdom. Through trilobites, we shall take possession of the geological past".  
*Extract from the book 'Trilobite! By Richard Fortey (Harper Collins 2000).*

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - AGM 6.00 pm**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 11/3/2006;
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 2007;  
If there are no other nominations, it will be proposed from the chair that the following will serve:  
President - John Travis;  
Vice-President - Ian Thomas;  
Secretary - Janet Slatter;  
Treasurer - Christine Moore;  
Editor - Tony Waltham.
9. Election of Council for 2007 – 6 members are eligible for re-election (Colin Bagshaw, David Bate, Tim Colman, Beris Cox, Gerry Shaw, Ian Sutton) and there are 4 vacancies
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.

followed by:

**Members Evening - 6.30 pm**

There will be five speakers:

**Speaker:** Vanessa Banks

**Title:** Derbyshire springs as a source of potable water.

Springs once formed the potable water supply for villages in the White Peak. This presentation considers the vulnerability of such spring water derived from the limestone aquifer of the Wye catchment. Some were subject to derogation due to mining and were gradually replaced by mains supply because of vulnerability to contamination and drought. The distribution of springs formerly used for potable supply is considered in the context of formational differences and karst processes.

**Speaker:** Alan Dawn

**Title:** Digging for Jurassic sea reptiles in the Oxford Clay

The Oxford Clay, exposed by the brick-making industry of Peterborough and Bedfordshire, has yielded a rich fauna of marine reptiles and fish. This presentation describes some recent discoveries, and the methods of excavation and preparation from the matrix.

**Speaker:** Alan Filmer

**Title:** A brief look at the geology of the Big Bend National Park, Texas

Big Bend National Park and the adjoining Big Bend Ranch State Natural Park form the northeast extremity of the Chihuahuan Desert that covers much of northern Mexico. The scenery is principally moulded by two Tertiary events: crustal compression resulting in the uplift of the Rocky Mountains, followed by crustal extension related to the Basin and Range province. These have resulted in very large faults with extensive intrusive and extrusive volcanism.

**Speaker:** Tony Morris

**Title:** The Budapest Geological Institute – a Hungarian whimsy

Some brief highlights of a Hertfordshire Geological Society trip to Hungary, including the amazing 'confectionery cake' architecture of the Hungarian Geological Institute in Budapest.

**Speaker:** Gerry Shaw  
**Title:** Rock around Orkney

Hugh Miller's visit to the area was reported in 'The Cruise of the Betsy' published posthumously in 1858. Professor John Flett Brown led an O.U.G.S. field trip there in June 2006. This presentation links these events and shows how interpretation of fish evolution in the Orcadian Basin in Devonian times has changed over 200 years.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007 - 6.30 pm**

### **Geology and disease**

**Speaker:** Professor Gerard Slavin (Barts & The London Hospitals Medical College)

Human sickness and death are clearly seen in association with geological catastrophes such as earthquakes or vulcanism, but these overt effects may also be felt at great distances from the event and the cause is not immediately apparent to those affected. More covert, but of major significance, persistent health effects occur reflecting geochemical environments with, for example, anomalies in the availability of essential biological trace elements or the presence of toxic elements in the food chain or groundwater supply. Such effects, in isolated communities, are often geographically localised and may be overcome in part by improved communications with a food supply drawn from a wider area. However, anthropogenic major distortions of the environment have occurred especially through industrialisation of manufacturing processes which amplify geochemical anomalies and these have resulted in public health disasters on epidemic scales in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **AGM - Nominations for Council Members**

There will be 4 vacancies on Council following the AGM, as 3 members are due to retire in accordance with the Constitution. Please send nominations for new members to the Secretary by 10<sup>th</sup> February. **(Prior consent of the nominee is essential!)**

### **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. The rates remain the same as last year. Members who do not pay by Standing Order could please consider doing this as it eases the administrative load. 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. A blank Gift Aid form and Standing Order Authority are enclosed.

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

### **EMGS Website**

A plea for past EMGS Field Trip Photographs please for a gallery on the website. Pictures can be e-mailed to [website@emgs.org.uk](mailto:website@emgs.org.uk) or sent to the Secretary.

## **Mercian Geologist**

If any members have back issues of the Mercian which are now surplus to requirements, please could you contact our Secretary Janet Slatter as we frequently get requests for back issues which we are now unable to supply. Any help would be appreciated.

### **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](mailto: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.**

**The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007.**

**Secretary:** Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG  
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**Treasurer:** Mrs Christine Moore, The Steading, Main Road, Elvaston, Derby DE72 3EQ tel. no. 01332 573065.