



**Circular 369  
March 2007**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: John Travis

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

## **INDOOR PROGRAMME** **SPRING 2007**

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

### **Members Evening**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 - 2.00pm – 5.00pm**

### **Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at BGS, Keyworth**

**Engineering Geology through the Centuries**

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

### **Geology and disease**

**Speaker: Professor Gerard Slavin**

### **Other Society's Lectures**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - 9.00 am – 5.00 pm at the University of Leicester**

### **Leicester's Fossil Celebrity: Charnia and the Evolution of Early Life**

Organised by Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, Section C (Geology) in conjunction with the Department of Geology, University of Leicester & Leicester Museums and Galleries.

Annual Saturday Seminar – Bennett Building, LT1, University of Leicester

# **FIELD PROGRAMME**

## **SUMMER 2007**

### **6<sup>th</sup> May 2007 - Day trip to Ketton Quarry**

**Meet 10.30 am**

**Leader: Alan Dawn**

### **13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 - Evening trip along the Manifold Valley**

**Meet 6.45 pm**

**Leader: Colin Bagshaw**

### **Evening Trip to the Hemlock Stone**

**Date to be arranged**

**Leader: Gerry Shaw**

### **15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 - Day trip to Cloud and Breedon Quarries**

**Meet 10.00 am**

**Leader: Keith Ambrose**

### **1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 - Weekend trip to East Anglia**

**Leader: Richard Hamblin**

### **29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - Day trip to Stanage Edge**

**Meet 10.00 am**

**Leader: Fred Broadhurst**

The booking form for the Field Trips will be in the next Circular.

## **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.

## **SPRING 2007 INDOOR MEETINGS**

**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.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 - 2.00 – 5.00 pm**

**Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at BGS Keyworth**  
**Engineering Geology through the Centuries**

The meeting will form part of the 'Local Heroes Initiative' of the Geological Society of London as it celebrates its bicentenary. There will be 5 or 6 speakers with each talk lasting 20-30 minutes. Subjects will include William Smith (1769-1839), Herbert Lapworth (1875-1933), Rudolph Glossop (1902-1993), Fred Shotton (1906-1990) and Bill Dearman. Dr Helen Reeves will open the meeting by outlining the background to the engineering geology science developments over the years.

Further details will be placed on the EMGS website when they become available.

*As in previous years, the BGS shop will be open prior to the meeting (until 2pm).*

**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 volcanism, 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.

**Other Society's Lectures**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - 9.00 am – 5.00 pm**

**Leicester's Fossil Celebrity: Charnia and the Evolution of Early Life**  
**Held at Bennett Building, LT1, University of Leicester**

The Precambrian fossil biota preserved in Charnwood Forest is of major international significance. Charnia and Charniodiscus were the first 'Ediacarans' to be recognised as the macroscopic remains of Precambrian life, even before the significance of the famous Australian biota was realised. (Ediacarans are bizarre extinct multicellular organisms which may, or may not, be the first fossil animals). This Seminar will highlight the global importance of the Ediacaran biota from Charnwood Forest. 2007 and 2008 mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the discovery and description of the biota, so it is an ideal time to

celebrate *Charnia* and the Charnwood Ediacarans. The Charnwood fossils continue to generate controversy and debate, and the latest high-tech methods are providing surprising new insights into their evolutionary significance. This and other exciting science will be presented at the meeting by distinguished speakers and researchers from Australia, Canada, Ireland and the UK. Everyone is welcome and the talks are aimed to appeal to the widest range of listeners. The Seminar is running in conjunction with National Science Engineering Week and is part of the Geological Society's Bicentennial and the Geologists' Association's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

In association with the Seminar, there will be a Reception at Leicester's New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, sponsored by the British Geological Survey, which will take place at 6pm. The reception will formally open an exhibition of local and international Ediacaran fossils called 'Charni@ 50' and will launch a new BGS map of the geology of Charnwood. The exhibition will be open to the general public from 11 March – 15 April 2007.

### **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions were 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.

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

### **New Members**

Mr Thomas St John, Market Harborough, Leics.  
Mr John Howe, Woodthorpe, Nottingham  
Mr Robin Thomas, Silverdale, Nottingham

### **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 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007.**

**Secretary:** Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG  
e-mail: [j.slatter@zoom.co.uk](mailto: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.