



**Circular 376
June 2008**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: John Travis

www.emgs.org.uk

FIELD MEETINGS **SUMMER/AUTUMN 2008**

Wednesday 11th June - Evening walk: Hopton Wood Stone

Leader: Ian Thomas (Provisional)

Sunday 13th July - Skipton Moor

Leader: Neil Aitkenhead

Wednesday 23rd July - Evening walk: Charnwood Forest

Leader: Keith Ambrose

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th October - Weekend trip to the Gower

Leader: Ian Sutton

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED BOOKING FORM FOR THE FIELD TRIPS AND RETURN TO IAN SUTTON.

SUMMER 2008 FIELD MEETINGS

Evening Walk - Wednesday 11th June - 6.30 pm

Hopton Wood Stone - England's Premier Decorative Stone

Leader: Ian Thomas

Starting Point: Middleton Top Visitor Centre Car Park, Middleton by Wirksworth, Derbys NGR: SK275 552 Post Code DE4 4LS (parking fee via honesty box)

c. 4 miles

(no toilets or refreshments purchasable en route)

This is one of nine walks featured in a new guide produced by the National Stone Centre, covering geology, history and wildlife. It will concentrate on the geology and the development of the various workings of this famous cream limestone, the comprehensive story of which was published for the first time earlier this year by the leader of the walk.

The route makes a circuit of Middleton Moor. An exceptionally pure limestone is overlain by a protective layer of basaltic lava, enabling Hopton Wood Stone, sometimes in the past known as Hopton Wood 'Marble' (in current geological terminology - the Bee Low Limestone), to remain unblemished by iron staining. The stone provided not only one of the most sought-after materials for interior decorative work from the late C18th to the mid 1950's, but one Britain's most favoured carving media and, by way of a massive and unique mine, for 50 years a vital source of high chemical grade limestone for a hundred and one applications. Although we are unable to enter the mine (which closed in 2006) the portals on opposite sides of the Moor will give some idea of the scale of operations.

During the tour it is planned to unravel some of the many myths surrounding the stone, its origins and its use.

Day Trip - Sunday 13th July 2008

Skipton Moor

Leader: Neil Aitkenhead

Skipton Moor is one of the classical areas of the Millstone Grit of Namurian age. There are some very thick sandstone units such as the Pendle Grit with the variable sandstone, siltstones and mudstones of the Surgill Shale member of the Millstone Grit Group which provide some of the delightful scenery of this area. It is many years since we last visited this area with Neil and we look forward to this excursion which should provide us with some spectacular Carboniferous geology.

Those people who register for this trip will be contacted by Ian Sutton just before the excursion to give you details of the initial meeting place.

Evening Walk - Wednesday 23rd July 2008 - 6.30 pm

Charnwood Forest

Leader: Keith Ambrose

Starting Point: Quarry Weighbridge. Take the road due north out of the village of Huncote (called Forest Road). After just over 0.5km from the village centre, the quarry entrance is on the left. Drive down this until you reach the weighbridge - the first building you come to.

We will be looking at 2 exposures. The first shows the Bytham Sand and Gravel. Where best developed, there is a clear subdivision with basal cross bedded clast supported gravels up to 10m thick, overlain by cross bedded sands, up to 6.5m in thickness. The current exposure shows mainly gravel with some sand. The gravel clasts are mainly of local Carboniferous, Triassic and Jurassic origin. In the sands, coal is locally common. Current directions are mainly to the east and north east. At the second exposure, we will be looking at Oadby Till and Thrussington Till.

Weekend Excursion - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2008

The Gower

Leader: Ian Sutton

Full details will be published in the next Circular.

Insurance and Safety

Members are reminded that the Society has only public liability insurance and that personal accident insurance is a matter for individual members to arrange as they consider necessary. Up to date hard hats are obligatory for all field excursions involving quarries or cliff faces and strongly recommended for all trips. High visibility clothing is sometimes required in working quarries. High visibility tabards can be obtained from GA Enterprises, 126 Fleetside, W. Molesey, Surrey KT8 2NQ at £4.70 incl. pp. Members without suitable hard hats may be refused access to certain sites! Hard hats can be obtained from many Builders' Merchants, Wickes, B&Q Warehouse etc. for about £4.

Any non-members attending field excursions will have to pay a temporary membership fee of £2.00 and all participants are reminded that they must comply with any instructions from excursion leaders or, for example, quarry managers or their employees on Health & Safety issues.

Society Publications

- (1) **Leicester Building Stones Guide** (new);
 - (2) **East Midlands Field Guide**;
 - (3) **Sandstone Caves of Nottingham** (new full colour edition) .
- Copies available by contacting the Secretary or at Indoor Meetings.

We are looking for volunteers please in the Leicester area to help in distributing the Leicester Building Stones Guide. If you can help, please contact the Secretary (details below).

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 or sent to the Secretary.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st February 2008. If you haven't paid yet, please send your subscription in to the Treasurer as soon as possible. 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 available by request from the Secretary or Treasurer.

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

Marketing the Society's Publications

We are still in need of a volunteer to promote the marketing of the Society's publications such as the East Midlands Field Guide, Leicester Building Stones Guide and the Sandstone Caves of Nottingham books. If you have any expertise in this field, or even if you haven't but would like to volunteer to help, please contact the secretary or any other member of Council.

New Members

Mr John A Laycock, Bilsthorpe, Newark, Notts
Dr Joanna Thomas, West Bridgford, Nottingham
Miss Stephanie Smith, New Basford, Nottingham
Chris Traxon, Darnall, Sheffield.
Ms Emma Ward, Keyworth, Nottingham

The National Stone Centre

Are looking for volunteers for guiding and other activities on the site at Wirksworth. If you can help, please contact Ian Thomas on 01629 824833 or ian@nationalstonecentre.org.uk

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 August.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 10th July 2008.

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: Mr Colin Bagshaw, 150 Scalpcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 9AD, e-mail:
Cb68@tutor.open.ac.uk , tel. no. 01283 564520

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOOKING FORM - FIELD EXCURSIONS 2008

Please book me/us for the following excursions:

Wednesday 11th June - Evening walk: Hoptonwood Stone

Sunday 13th July - Skipton Moor

Wednesday 23rd July - Evening walk: Charnwood Forest

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th October - Weekend trip to the Gower

*(Please delete the trips you will **NOT** be attending)*

Name(s):

Address:

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Tel:

e-mail address:

I/we do/do not have a car available.
I/we would be prepared to offer transport.

I/We would like to purchase High Visibility Tabards at a price of £3.00 each – PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHEQUE for the appropriate amount made payable to “East Midlands Geological Society”

Please send completed booking forms to the Field Secretary,
Ian Sutton, at 30 Alford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6GJ
Tel. No: 0115 923 2360 e-mail – ian.sutton@idsgeo.demon.co.uk
