



**Circular 378
November 2008**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: John Travis

www.emgs.org.uk

INDOOR LECTURES **AUTUMN/WINTER 2008/2009**

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday, 15th November 2008 - 6.30 pm

The Rotunda Museum - its role in the birth of Geology on the Dinosaur Coast and its Redevelopment

Speaker: Will Watts

Saturday, 13th December 2008 - 6.00 pm

Salt Terrains of Iran

Speaker: Tony Waltham

Followed by our Christmas Cheese and Wine Evening PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A GLASS!

Saturday, 10th January 2009 - 6.30 pm

The Secret of Sherwood Forest - Duke's Wood Oil Museum

Speaker: Kevin Topham

Saturday 21st February 2009 - 6.00 pm

Foundation Lecture - Palaeobotany of Antarctica

Speaker: Professor Jane Francis

to be followed by the Annual Society Dinner (booking form in Next Circular)

Saturday 14th March 2009 - 6.00 pm

Annual General Meeting and Members Evening

Saturday, 18th April 2009 - 6.30 pm

Lecture - title to be advised

Speaker: Neil Ellis.

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, 15th November 2008 - 6.30 pm

The Rotunda Museum - its Role in the birth of Geology on the Dinosaur Coast and its Redevelopment

The Rotunda Museum

Its role in the birth of Geology on the Dinosaur Coast and its redevelopment

'The Rotunda Museum is unique. It is perhaps the only museum whose design, original displays and even the stone of which it is built combined to express the logic of William Smith's ideas and the, then, brand new science of geology' (Professor Simon Knell, University of Leicester).

The Rotunda Museum in Scarborough first opened in 1829 and over 175 years later it is the subject of a £4million redevelopment scheme that was completed in May 2008. This talk will explain the rationale for the redisplay of the Rotunda Museum. How, in the context of the aspirations and diverse interests of the Scarborough Philosophical Society and its Museum we present Smith's ideas. The return of the Museum to the cutting edge of science through the 'Shell Geology Now' gallery and the provision of a gateway to the wider geological heritage of the Yorkshire Coast through the Gateway to the Dinosaur Coast.

In 1827 a meeting was held in Scarborough to discuss the possible formation of a philosophical society and the building of a museum. Attendees at this meeting included Thomas Hinderwell a local natural historian and holder of large, varied and important collections from the area. Also present was William Smith, the 'father of English Geology' recently employed by Lord Derwent at the nearby Hackness estate as land steward. Two years later in August 1829 the dream of a Scarborough based philosophical society with its own museum was realised with the opening of the Rotunda Museum, built to designs suggested by William Smith who also acted as foreman of works. The museum housed the collections of Hinderwell and other local collectors and covered a huge range of subjects from geology and natural history, through ethnography to social history, a truly cross subject display. Although the museum originally featured geology in pride of place this soon changed as other subjects became more prominent, including natural history and archaeology. These changes in interest coupled with the expansion of the museum through the addition of the two wings in the 1850's saw the geology redisplayed in one of the lower galleries, no longer using Smith's concept of sloping shelves holding objects to mirror their natural 'stratigraphic' position in the field.

The museum closed in 2006 to allow the £4.4 million redevelopment programme to begin. This has seen the complete restoration of the building, the addition of new space at basement level and the complete redesign and installation of the exhibitions to provide three contrasting but linked galleries.

The Gateway to the Dinosaur Coast and Shell Geology now occupy the two wings whilst the original Rotunda Gallery on the first floor has been restored to its former purpose and glory.

The finished museum is a unique experience for the visitor that builds on (in this author's opinion) the three key elements for a successful museum, real people; the visitors and staff, real objects; over 1000 of them will be displayed, and real places; an awe inspiring 175 year old museum located yards from the stunning Dinosaur Coast.

Will Watts, Head of Learning Partnerships, Scarborough Museums Trust

Saturday 13th December 2008 **Salt Terrains of Iran**

The southern Zagros Mountains of Iran are unique in having over a hundred salt domes that survive at outcrop in the desert environment. Each dome is a diapiric structure, a few kilometres in diameter, of Cambrian salt squeezed up from depths of some kilometres. Some have developed spectacular salt glaciers, also a few kilometres long, where the salt extrusion rate exceeds its weathering rate and so flows down off its anticlinal mountain at a few metres per year. Exposed salt domes develop dramatic karst landscapes with large sinkholes in both the bare salt and the cover of dissolutional residuum. Stream caves that drain through some of the salt hills provide excellent exposures of the internal structure of the diapirs, and also contain magnificent displays of salt stalactites. The lecture presents experiences and observations gathered on a visit to just a few of the salt domes near Bandar Abbas early in 2008.

Saturday 10th January 2009 **The Secret of Sherwood Forest - Duke's Wood Oil Museum**

During the Second World War, the discovery of oil in the Duke's Wood district of Sherwood Forest was said to be Winston Churchill's greatest secret, and before this discovery oil had been one of the biggest worries. This talk will describe the part the 214 oil wells in the Duke's Wood area played in World War 2 the personnel who transferred from Bletchley Park to the Anglo Iranian Oil Co research station at Kirklington Hall in the 1940's, the American input of 1943 which doubled production of Duke's Wood crude, and today's North Sea assets of oil and gas.

OTHER NOTICES

FREE BGS TOURS - Professionals Day Friday 28th November and the Public Day on Saturday 29th November.

Please Note: Booking is essential for both the Professional and Public days, as places are strictly limited.

BGS is running its fourth free annual event for the public, at Keyworth, in support of the National Archives Awareness Campaign (<http://www.archiveawareness.com>), on **Saturday, 29th November 2008**, and is providing tours of its Records Centre, Materials Collections, Library, Enquiry Services, and 3D Visualisation Suite. The Dando drilling rig will also be demonstrated. The national theme is 'Community Participation' and the tours will follow a geological time line highlighting the conditions on the earth through various times and the geology we see today. They have selected local industries in the Midlands that have exploited this resource, e.g. road stone, gypsum, coal, ironstone, etc. and will demonstrate how these uses have developed and changed over time. They will highlight the records and archives they hold, show how they are of increasing value today, particularly in respect to the geohazards and past exploitation and how we supply information of value to communities today, through the services they provide. **Booking is via:**

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/education/archive_awareness/home.html and it is aimed to appeal to all the family.

BGS are also running their second Professionals Day on **Friday 28th November** in which a wide range of professionals and professional users will tour these same facilities and get an in-depth preview of the public event. This tour will highlight the value of their extensive holdings to researchers looking at land use, both current and historical, and the wide variety of information they can provide for engineers, geologists, planners, academics, consultants and other professional users. It is also an opportunity for them to showcase their services and exchange best practice with professionals managing similar facilities. If anyone is aware of any external professionals who would benefit from attending this event, or you would like to put up a poster display, please contact Becky White: <mailto:rwh@bgs.ac.uk>

Open University Geological Society - East Midlands Branch

Day of talks at BGS, Keyworth - Saturday, 6th December 10.00 am

- 1) **Evaluating the long-term evolution of the British Ice Sheet during the Pleistocene - Dr Jonathan Lee, BGS;**
- 2) **Establishing the ages of major 'traumatic' events in Earth history - Sarah Sherlock and Simon Kelley, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The Open University;**
- 3) **"What's underground? Geophysical techniques to discover subsurface geology" - Sarah Hannis, BGS.**
- 4) **Preserving the unpreservable, a lost world rediscovered at Christian Malford, Wilts - Dr Phil Wilby, BGS**

Non Members welcome.

A Buffet lunch will be provided at a small cost and the BGS Shop will be open.

Contact: Don Cameron, tel. no. 0115 936 3489, dqca@bgs.ac.uk for more details.

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.

New Members

Mr D Allen, Lace Market, Nottingham.

Dr J Radley, Warwick

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.

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

To minimise postal costs and photocopying charges which amount to approximately £4.00 each year for every member who still receives their Circular by post, 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 late December 2008.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 21st November 2008.

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