



**Circular 386
July 2010**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Tim Colman

www.emgs.org.uk

FIELD PROGRAMME **SUMMER 2010**

NEW DATE TO BE ADVISED - Afternoon Visit to Chatsworth House

Leader: Ian Thomas

Chatsworth House have now advised us that the original date for the visit to the House needs to be changed. We are currently waiting for the new date. All of you who have registered for the visit will be informed as soon as the new date is arranged. We are sorry for this inconvenience, but it is out of our control.

Saturday, 18th September - Charnwood - Joint Meeting with the Hertfordshire

Geology Society

Leader: John Carney

Sunday, 19th September - Charnwood - Joint Meeting with the Hertfordshire

Geology Society

Leader: Keith Ambrose

Sunday, 17th October - Guided Visit to the Coal Mining Museum at Wakefield

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

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.

FIELD MEETINGS

Saturday, 18th September - North-West Charnwood Forest

Meeting Place - Mount St Bernard Abbey car park (SK 4588 1612)

Meeting Time - 10.00 am

This excursion will visit exposures demonstrating the various types of volcanic activity that formed the Charnian Supergroup. It will also give an insight into where the volcanoes were located in late Precambrian times. Mount St Bernard Abbey is a fine example of a vernacular Charnwood Forest building, and its walls are largely composed of blocks of porphyritic dacite breccia. This lithology is typical of the Whitwick Volcanic Complex, interpreted as a part of a high-level magma chamber to a Charnian volcano. From the Abbey, we will walk into the Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve to view the famous 'Bomb Rocks', which are the produce of a large-volume pyroclastic eruption. A traverse westwards, via more breccias and (possible) andesitic intrusive sheets, will take us to Warren Hills. Those exposures show the nature of the transition from proximal, highly explosive volcanism in the Charnwood Lodge Formation to the relatively more subdued activity represented by overlying volcanoclastic strata of the Bradgate Formation. The excursion ends with a short drive and then climb up to the top of Bardon Hill, where andesitic breccias of the Bardon Hill Complex represent another Charnian volcanic centre. From the summit fine views into Bardon Hill Quarry show palaeovalleys carved into the Precambrian rocks and subsequently filled with red, Triassic (Mercia Mudstone) strata.

Sunday, 19th September - Charnwood Forest

Meeting Place - Old John Tower "Hunts Hill entrance" car park of Bradgate Park (SK 5232 1167)

Meeting Time - 11.15 am

PLEASE NOTE: There is a Daily Parking Fee of £5.00 for the car park and there are WC facilities there.

The visit will start at Bradgate Park looking at tuffs and breccias of the Bradgate Formation, the youngest part of the Charnian sequence. We will also see an outcrop of diorite or markfieldite of the South Charnwood Diorites, by Bradgate House, home of Lady Jane Grey, the 90 day Queen. The next stop will examine the Stable Pit Quartzite which has been equated with the basal Cambrian quartzites of other areas. The final stop will view the Mercia Mudstone Group in a quarry that may have been used to make the bricks for Bradgate House. We then move on to Swithland Wood to examine the Swithland Formation, whose slates have famously been used as roofing slates in many of the local houses and also for grave stones in many local churchyards. We will also see one of the main quarries that worked the slate.

WINTER 2010/2011 **LECTURE PROGRAMME**

Saturday, 23rd October 2010 - 6.30 pm

Going Underground: in search of Carboniferous coal forests

Speaker: Howard Falcon-Long

Saturday, 20th November 2010 - 6.30 pm

The Jurassic Coast: a walk through time

Speaker: Sam Scriven

Saturday, 11th December 2010 - 6.00 pm

The Earth after us

Speaker: Jan Zalasiewicz

Saturday, 15th January 2011 - 6.00 pm

Britain in the Freezer - a long term perspective of Quaternary Ice Ages

Speaker: Jonathan Lee

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.

INDOOR LECTURES

Saturday, 23rd October 2010 - 6.30 pm

Going underground: in search of Carboniferous coal forests.

The development of coal forests during the Carboniferous is one of the best-known episodes in the history of life. Although often reconstructed as steamy tropical rainforests, these ancient ecosystems were a far cry from anything we might encounter today. Giant club mosses, horsetails and tree ferns were the dominant plants, not flowering trees as in modern rainforests. At their height, coal forests stretched all the way from Kansas to Kazakhstan, spanning the entire breadth of tropical Pangea. Most of what we know of their biodiversity and ecology has been learned from two centuries of coal mining; without coal mining, our knowledge would be greatly impoverished. Over the past few years we have been exploring underground coal mines in the United States, where entire forested landscapes have been preserved intact over huge areas. Never before have geologists had the opportunity to walk through mile upon mile of fossilized forest.

Saturday, 20th November 2010 - 6.30 pm

The Jurassic Coast: a walk through time

Sam Scriven grew up only a few miles away from the Jurassic Coast and it is where he developed his interest in geology and fossils. After gaining a Masters in Geology from the University of Plymouth, he worked as an assistant warden and geologist at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for four years. The experience he gained there in geological interpretation led him on to the position of Earth Science Adviser for the Jurassic Coast. He has always been determined to work in geological conservation and

interpretation and feels privileged to be able to work along the coastline that he loves and that inspired him to study geology in the first place. As the Earth Science Adviser, Sam helps develop interpretation for the team and its partners and co-ordinates input into several events along the World Heritage Site. Sam's work also takes him away from the coast where he assists in the monitoring and interpretation of important geological sites inland.

The Jurassic Coast was given World Heritage Status in 2001 because of its unique record of Mesozoic strata. We will look in detail at this astonishing record covering 185 million years of Earth's history following the environmental changes, the resulting sediments deposited and the fossils that give testimony to the evolution of life through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. We will finish by looking at how the coast is managed and the impacts of the World Heritage Status.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st February 2010. If you have not yet paid your subscription, please can you contact the Treasurer as soon as possible. The rates remain the same. 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

Of Local Interest

A Message from the friends of Elvaston

"We have many members and supporters for our campaign to prevent Derbyshire County Council from selling a 150 year lease on Elvaston Castle Country park, which will see it completely altered forever and lost as an open access public open space. What we do not currently have are sufficient numbers of activists to carry forward some aspects of the campaign necessary to ensure its success. Quite simply, if you want to save this precious asset you have to fight for it. Are you one of those people who leaves these things to everyone else? All that we are asking is for a little of your time, as little as one hour a month!"

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Moon Hotel, Station Road, Spondon, beginning at 7.30 pm. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 11th August, or you can e-mail us: info@friendsofelvaston.co.uk Ask yourself this question - What does Elvaston Castle Country Park mean to you?

Information for Other Societies

We hold information of lectures and field meetings for other local societies such as the NSSGA, Black Country Geological Society and Leicester Lit & Phil Society. If you would like details of any of these, please contact the Secretary.

Society Publications

- (1) **Leicester Building Stones Guide;**
- (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 still 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 John Barnett, Sherwood, Nottingham
Mr John Guest, West Bridgford, Nottingham.
Mr R E Whitney, Aspley, Nottingham
Dr Colin Baker, Ruddington, Nottingham

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 September 2010.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 3rd September 2010.

Secretary: Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG
e-mail: janet.slatter@btinternet.com . tel. no. 01509 843297.

Treasurer: Mr Colin Bagshaw, 150 Scalpcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 9AD, e-mail: Colin.bagshaw@yahoo.co.uk tel. no. 01283 564520

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOOKING FORM - FIELD EXCURSIONS 2010

Please book me/us for the following excursions:

- NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED - Afternoon Visit to Chatsworth House
- Saturday, 18th September - Charnwood - Joint meeting with Hertfordshire Geo.Soc.
- Sunday, 19th September - Charnwood - Joint meeting with Hertfordshire Geo.Soc.
- Sunday, 17th October - Guided visit to Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield

(Please delete those 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.

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
