



**Circular 400
March 2013**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Brian Jones

www.emgs.org.uk

**SPRING 2013
LECTURE PROGRAMME**

Saturday, 9th March 2013 - Joint Meeting with the BGS and EMGS – 9.00 am

The 24th British Cave Research Association – Cave Science Symposium

To be held at Environmental Science Centre, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Notts.

Saturday, 16th March 2013 – 6.00 pm
Annual General Meeting followed by:

Uncovering the Hidden Histories of Mineral Oil Exploration in the East Midlands

Speaker: Andrew Naylor

Saturday, 13th April 2013 – 6.00

The problems of Chirotherium and the Triassic Environment

Speaker: Geoff Tresise, Honorary Curator Geology of the National Museums Liverpool

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.

SUMMER 2013 – FIELD PROGRAMME

Date	Venue	Day/Evening	Leader
19 th May	The Roaches	Day	Albert Benghiat
19 th June	The Geology Walk at BGS	Evening	David Bate
3 rd July	Ticknall	Evening	Keith Ambrose
21 st July	Building stones in local churches	Day	Albert Horton
10 th August	Monsal Dale	Day	Peter Gutteridge

September	Weardale and Teesdale	Weekend	Ian Sutton
September	Lincolnshire Wolds	Day	David Robinson

Full details of the excursions, including meeting times and locations, will appear in the next Circular.

Saturday, 9th March 2013 – Registration 9.00 am

24th British Cave Research Association
Cave Science Symposium – hosted by Dr Andrew Farrant - BGS

The British Cave Research Association's next one-day Cave Science Symposium will be held at the Environmental Science Centre, British Geological Survey, Keyworth on Saturday 9th March 2013. This will be a **joint meeting with the BGS and EMGS**. During the Symposium visits will also be arranged to the BGS Archives and the 3D Visualisation Suite. Cave Science Field Meetings to the Lincolnshire karst and to the sandstone caves of Nottingham are planned for Sunday 10th March, as well as an Open Day at the British Caving Library. For further information contact Dr Trevor Faulkner at: tfaulkner@bcra.org.uk

Each year the Symposium covers a wide range of cave science topics, providing much of interest for academics, amateur scientists, geologists or cavers. Registration will take place at the start of the meeting. There will be an admission charge of £5.00 to cover morning and afternoon refreshments. Attendees should bring their own lunch. A provisional programme of events can be obtained from the BCRA website –www.bcra.org.uk

Saturday, 16th March 2013 – 6.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 10th March 2012;
3. Matters Arising;
4. Secretary's Report;
5. Treasurer's Report;
6. Annual subscriptions;
7. Appointment of Auditor;
8. Editorial Report;
9. Election of Officers for 2013;
If there are no other nominations, it will be proposed from the chair that the following will serve:

President	- Brian Jones;
Vice-President	- Tim Colman;
Secretary	- Janet Slatter;
Treasurer	- Colin Bagshaw;
Editor	- Tony Waltham.
10. Election for Council 2013
Re-election – Vanessa Banks, Albert Benghiat, Sue Cotton, Richard Hamblin, Sue Miles, Gerry Shaw
New Members – Ian Sutton, Geoff Warrington and 2 vacancies;
11. Vote of thanks to retiring Council members;
12. Any Other Business.

The Minutes of the last AGM and the Treasurer's Report will be distributed at the meeting, followed by:

Uncovering the Hidden Histories of Mineral Oil Exploration in the East Midlands

Until the mid-19th century, sperm, tallow and palm oils provided Britain with artificial lighting. This changed with the introduction of mineral oils which provided a constant source of pure, bright white light. Victorian enlightenment has been studied from a plethora of different perspectives, notably in literature, science and the arts. Moreover, light in darkness has been explored as a symbol of Christianity, Victorian civility, sanctity and progress through explorers such as David Livingstone. Enlightenment, as a Victorian ideology, is deeply etched into the history of the East Midlands. This talk reveals how the science of geological exploration created a physical as well as metaphorical symbol of enlightenment, distributed globally through paraffin oil and candles. During the 1840's, in a coal mine located in the heart of Derbyshire, the accidental discovery of a bituminous substance would change the world forever. The characters involved in the discovery altered man's relationship with the science of geology, reformed British education, advised on British politics, worked to abolish slavery and ultimately reconfigured a low key side line venture in Derbyshire into the multi-billion pound global oil industry that we know today.

Saturday, 13th April 2013 – 6.00 pm

The Problems of Chirotherium and the Triassic Environment

The footprints called 'Chirotherium' because of their resemblance to human hands were found in Triassic sandstone from Germany in 1834 and Cheshire in 1838. As no bones or other fossil remains were found at either locality, the trackmaker's identity was a mystery. Mammals were first suggested but in 1842 Richard Owen confidently identified the prints as those of labyrinthodont amphibians. In the twentieth century it was suggested that pseudosuchian reptiles were more likely candidates and this view was confirmed with the discovery in Switzerland of the skeleton named *Ticinosuchus ferox*.

British geologists have traditionally regarded the Triassic landscape as being that of an arid desert with little or no vegetation. Conversely the German view had been of a semi-arid environment with a sparse but varied vegetation. Recent research on the Wirral Peninsula has provided support for the German interpretation. The Lluta valley in the Atacama Desert of Chile appears to provide a surprisingly close approximation to the Triassic environment.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2012/13

Subscriptions are now due:

Please note the subscription rates are now as follows:

Ordinary member - £18.00

Joint member - £22.00

If you have not yet done so, please let the Treasurer have your subscription as soon as possible. If you pay by standing order please can you check the amount which was paid from your account as a number of payments at the old rate are still being received. If your subscription is one of those, please can you let the Treasurer have a cheque for the difference and ensure your standing order instruction is amended for next year.

Other Local Events

Saturday, 2nd March 2012 - 10.00 am – 5.00 pm followed by Drinks Reception

Annual Saturday Seminar

Geological Section (C), Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society

Lecture Theatre 1, Bennett Building, University of Leicester

FROM BRADGATE PARK TO THE GRAND CANYON CELEBRATING THE GEOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR TREVOR FORD OBE

This year Leicester Lit. & Phil. are proud to celebrate the life and work of Dr Trevor Ford, Life Vice President of the Society and former President of the EMGS. The day starts at 10.00 am with coffee followed by a series of talks by well-known authoritative speakers reflecting Dr. Ford's very wide interests accrued over 60 years of geological research. The lectures will cover his contributions to the discovery of Charnia and Precambrian life, the hydrology and mineralogy of the Peak District and South Pennines, the geology of the Isle of Man, the Grand Canyon and much more! The day concludes with a celebratory reception.

Tickets for the Seminar and Reception are £20 with a buffet lunch or £15 without lunch and can be obtained from the Geological Section Secretary. For further details please visit our website www.charnia.org.uk or contact Dr. Joanne Norris on 07816 755858 or by e-mail: j.e.norris@ntlworld.com

Thursday 21st March – a Public Lecture at the University of Nottingham – 6.00 pm

A Prehistory of the World in Ten Fossils by Susannah Lydon

Lecture Theatre B1 School of Physics and Astronomy

Nottingham Geotours Programme for 2013

5th – 11th June – The Isle of Skye

22nd – 25th September – Mid-Wales based in Aberystwyth

21st – 28th November – Lanzarote and Fuerteventura

For further information, please contact **Ian Sutton** at 30 Alford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6GJ. Tel. No: 0115 923 2360. E-mail: ian.sutton035@btinternet.com

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.

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.

EMGS Website

The publications page on the Society website (www.emgs.org.uk) has been tidied up and updated. It now includes links to two archives:

One is the archive of the early Mercian Geologists where scanned copies of complete issues are being diligently prepared thanks to the hard work of David Bate. This is still being added to (with successive volumes) and will eventually reach volume 12 for 1991.

The other is the archive of papers and reports in the more recent issues. These will go onto the webpage two years after they appear in the paper issues of the Mercian. Currently only the 2009 material is online, but files will be extracted and posted, working backwards as far as 1992, and this takes time. Files for 2010 onwards are already prepared and will go online on their second birthday.

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 April 2013.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 7th March 2013.

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