



**Circular 406
February 2014**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Brian Jones

www.emgs.org.uk

**WINTER 2014
LECTURE PROGRAMME**

Saturday, 15th February 2014 – 6.00 pm

The EMGS 50th Anniversary Special Lecture

Speaker: Professor Iain Stewart

Iain Stewart will be known to many of you for the wide range of inspiring geological programmes he has presented on television bringing his enthusiasm for the science of geology to a wide audience.

*The meeting is an **all ticket** event due to the anticipated interest in the speaker. If you have not yet obtained a ticket (free to members and £3.00 to non-members) please contact the secretary before the 15th*

The talk will be followed by the Society's **50th Anniversary Dinner**

Saturday, 15th March 2014 – 6.00 pm

AGM to be followed by:

Quaternary Glaciations of the Midlands and East Anglia

Speaker: Jim Rose

Saturday, 29th March 2014 – to be held at BGS, Keyworth

Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society, the BGS and the Geological Society of London – The Robert W. O'B. Knox Memorial Meeting

Saturday, 12th April 2014 – 6.00 p.m.

Sinking Cities

Speaker: Tony Waltham

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.

Please note: The Southern and Eastern access roads to the University may still be closed due to the tram works on University Boulevard and within the University Park. There is an alternative access signed 'University Only' from Clifton Boulevard, otherwise please use the Northern or Western access roads.

Saturday, 15th February 2014 – 6.00 pm

The EMGS 50th Anniversary Special Lecture by Professor Iain Stewart

Between a rock and a hard place: communicating geoscience to the public

Geologists are increasingly being encouraged to present their work to the wider public, and even to advocate more directly its policy dimensions. Yet how can we do that when, for most people, geology is about 'stones' and stones are 'boring'? This talk will explore how geoscientists can make rocks popular in a myriad of ways, not least ditching a fixation for facts and being better telling better stories.

Saturday, 15th March 2014 – 6.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 16th March 2013;
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 2014;
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 of Council for 2014
Vanessa Banks, Albert Benghiat, Sue Cotton, Richard Hamblin, Sue Miles, Ian Sutton and Geoff Warrington.

There are 3 vacancies for Council, any nominations (after having obtained the consent of the nominee) should please be made to the Secretary

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:

Quaternary Glaciations of the Midlands and East Anglia

Attempts to understand the glacial history of the East Midlands and East Anglia have been numerous and various, with much controversy and little enlightenment. It is agreed by most that the Last Glaciation (LGM) did not reach the East Midlands beyond the Lincolnshire Wolds and just reached the northern coast of East Anglia, but there is very little agreement about the glacial history of the area prior to the Last Glaciation.

This presentation outlines briefly the traditional views, a two stage model (Anglian and Wolstonian) and a one stage model (Anglian only), then goes on to present some new interpretations involving multiple glaciations (Happisburgh, Anglian, Wolstonian, Wragby, Tottenham). Rather than concentrating on 'names' the presentation attempts to explain the nature of the evidence used to identify glacial episodes (Till units), to separate different glacial episodes (organic deposits, palaeosols, and landscape changes) and to determine their age (direct dating of glaciogenic sediments and associated non-glacial materials, and correlation with marine isotope stages). The presentation also seeks to explain the reasons why the task of determining the pre-Last Glaciation glacial history is so difficult. As a hostage to fortune it ends with a proposal for a glacial history of the area with glaciations during Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) 16, 12, 10, 8 and 6, that is around 628, 434, 340, 248 and 133 thousand years ago.

Saturday, 29th March 2014 – 10.30am – 7.00pm

The Robert W .O'B. Knox Memorial Meeting at the BGS, Keyworth

The eminent geologist Robert William O'Brien Knox died in March 2013. He was principally a sedimentologist and stratigrapher and worked mainly in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic of Europe. He made significant contributions in geology, notably the use of heavy minerals in sedimentary provenance studies. He worked for BGS from 1973 until his retirement in 2002. He also made important contributions to the YGS in particular in his capacity as Editor of the *Proceedings* from 1982 to 1990.

This International Conference is a tribute to Robert by his colleagues and friends throughout the Earth Sciences. The ten formal presentations, all by eminent researchers, reflect his wide ranging research interests. These are the Jurassic geology of the Cleveland Basin, heavy mineral analysis and Paleogene stratigraphy.

Please note:

1. *Pre registration is essential as the lecture room space is limited. All wanting to attend (including YGS members) should register their intent to attend with Jim Riding by e mail at: jbri@bgs.ac.uk*
2. *Although there is no charge for attendance, delegates will be expected to make a voluntary contribution of £10 per head to help cover the catering costs associated with the meeting.*

Saturday, 12th April 2014 – 6.00 p.m.

Sinking Cities

Regional subsidence, on a scale such that a large part of a city slowly descends to lower levels, is almost always due to excessive groundwater abstraction with declining water tables that impact on compressible clay. Compaction of the clay and the amount of ground subsidence depend on clay type, clay thickness and amount of water table decline. The subsidence can be greatly reduced or stopped (but not reversed) by controlling abstraction and inducing water table rise. Mexico City holds the records for the amount of subsidence, and Bangkok currently has the greatest rate of sinking. Venice has subsided very little, but its critical position virtually at sea level now demands unusual remedies and expensive engineering works. Variations of the same process are subsidence on dewatered peat as at New Orleans (with the well known consequence of flooding during Hurricane Katrina), and subsidence due to oilfield exploitation as at Los Angeles.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Were due on 1st February.

Subscription rates remain unchanged and are as follows:

Ordinary members - £18.00

Joint members - £22.00

Please send you subscriptions to the Treasurer as soon as possible and if you pay by standing order please ensure this is for the correct amount.

New Members

Jennifer Luckcock, Stapleford, Nottingham
Dr & Mrs D E Hobson, Bingham, Nottingham
Mr Angus Croudace, Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire.

Nottingham Geotours Programme for 2014

1st – 7th June 2014 – The Geology and Scenery of South West Ireland.

23rd – 27th September 2014 – The North York Moors and adjacent coast.

Please contact **Ian Sutton** for further details 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 2014.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 6th March 2014.

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