



**Circular 407
April 2014**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Brian Jones

www.emgs.org.uk

**SPRING/SUMMER 2014
PROGRAMME**

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, 12th April 2014 – 6.00 p.m.

Sinking Cities

Speaker: Tony Waltham

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.

SUMMER 2014
FIELD PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 7th May – 7.25 pm
(Repeated on Wednesday, 14th May – 7.25 pm)

Broadmarsh Caves, Nottingham
Leader: Tony Waltham

Sunday, 18th May – 10.30 am

Dudley Canal, Tunnel and Wrens Nest Hill
Leader: Graham Worton – Dudley Museum

Wednesday, 18th June – 6.30 pm

Evening walk around the National Stone Centre
Leader: Albert Benghiat

Sunday, 6th July - 10.30 am

Day trip to the Bonsall Area
Leader: Colin Bagshaw

Wednesday, 16th July – 2.00 pm

Afternoon trip to Dorket Head brickworks and quarry
Leader: Keith Ambrose
(Full details in the next Circular)

Saturday 6th/Sunday 7th September

Weekend Trip to the Yorkshire Dales near Ingleton
Leader: Tony Waltham
(Full details in the next Circular)

Sunday, 28th September

Day excursion around Nottingham
Leaders: Keith Ambrose and Oliver Wakefield
(Full details 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.

Sunday, 7th May 2014 - Broadmarsh Caves, Nottingham **(Repeated on Wednesday, 14th May 2014)**

Leader: Tony Waltham

Meeting time: 7.25 pm

Meeting place: In pedestrian area at south end of Lister Gate, outside the entrance to the public route through Broad Marsh towards the bus and train stations (or just inside if it's raining)

Please note: This is the only entrance open in the evenings, so do not go elsewhere. Do not be late; once the group goes in, doors are closed and latecomers cannot gain entry. Street car parking is very limited, but the Broad Marsh multi-storey is nearby. Ordinary clothes are appropriate, except that high-heeled shoes should be avoided; there are steep steps and rough ground to walk over. There is no wheelchair access. Most of the caves are lit, but there are dark corners so torches are helpful, but it is not essential for each person to have one. Photography is okay, but please do not bring tripods. Children over the age of about 8 are welcome, but the total group size is limited to about 20. Our visit will go round the normal tourist site, and then into the Western Caves and the Willoughby House Caves that are not normally open to visitors. This is because Wednesday evening is when the NHAS archaeologists are working in the caves, while we look around. We will finish at 9.00 pm when the NHAS team leave and lock up.

Book your places. Numbers are limited for each evening so it is essential that you book your places with Ian Sutton in advance for the evening of your choice. Please indicate on the registration form if you would be able to go on the evening other than the one you have chosen. You will be advised if for any reason we cannot accommodate you on your chosen date.

Sunday, 18th May 2014 – Dudley Canal, Tunnel and Wrens Nest Hill

Leader: Graham Worton – Dudley Museum

Meeting time: 10.30 am

Meeting place: The Car Park, Dudley Canal Trust Ltd., Off A4123 Birmingham New Road, Dudley, DY1 4SB

A pub lunch is possible. A small fee is chargeable for the canal trip.

This is a very exciting trip which you really should not miss. It is a repeat of the first ever EMGS field trip on 8th March 1964.

The canal with tunnels was opened in 1792 and was mainly constructed for the transport of lime from a number of quarries in the Silurian of Wrens Nest and Dudley Castle hills, inliers surrounded by Carboniferous strata.

This special field excursion takes us through tunnels and caves in the Silurian and Carboniferous rocks and we have the privilege of having the geological expert of the area leading us.

The canal trip will take place in the morning and, after lunch, Graham will take us to the iconic, highly fossiliferous exposures of the Wenlock Limestone on Wrens Nest Hill. It is possible to collect a vast range of Silurian fossils here.

A visit not to be missed!

Wednesday, 18th June 2014 – Evening walk around the National Stone Centre

Leader: Albert Benghiat

Meeting time: 6.30 pm

Meeting place: Meet at the National Stone Centre main car park. Turn off the A6 towards Cromford on the B5036 and continue towards Wirksworth. At the top of the hill just before the bridge turn right onto Porters Lane. The National Stone Centre is another 250 yards on your left (Tel. 07710 421581 on the day).

We will be walking the newly waymarked geo-trail around the limestone quarries of the National Stone Centre, examining various aspects of limestone deposition and a reef complex at the edge of the Derbyshire White Peak with plenty of fossils to be seen along the way. We will then take a short walk along the High Peak Trail to see the contrasting gritstones at Black Rock. Walking distance 1.5 miles – mostly on fairly level paths.

Sunday, 6th July - Day trip to the Bonsall area

Leader: Colin Bagshaw

Meeting time: 10.30 am

Meeting place: Meet at the lane immediately above Bonsall church (Grid Ref: SK280583).

The Bonsall area offers a wonderful opportunity to examine any of the aspects of the geology of the Lower Carboniferous strata in Derbyshire. On this visit we will be able to inspect features of the limestones and volcanic rocks, the hydrothermal mineral veins and quite possibly the recent formation of tufa deposits. Although a pub stop is possible, participants might wish to take a packed lunch as an alternative.

EMGS Council

At the AGM on the 15th March 2014 the following members were elected to serve on Council for the coming year:

President - Brian Jones
Vice-President - Tim Colman
Secretary - Janet Slatter
Treasurer - Colin Bagshaw
Editor - Tony Waltham

Ordinary members of Council: Keith Ambrose, Vanessa Banks, David Bate, Albert Benghiat, Sue Cotton, Richard Hamblin, Sue Miles, Ian Sutton and Geoff Warrington.

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.

Society Publications

- (1) **Leicester Building Stones Guide;**
- (2) **East Midlands Field Guide;**
- (3) **Sandstone Caves of Nottingham** (3rd edition)

Copies available by contacting the Secretary or at Indoor Meetings.

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

Volunteers wanted at the BGS

The British Geological Society has opportunities for volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks at its headquarters at Keyworth near Nottingham. These include digital data entry of catalogue and other material, photography of fossils, rocks and minerals, digital imaging of thin sections and scanning of legacy documents and other materials. The tasks will involve working with computers, cameras and other equipment but full training will be provided. Some regular commitment of time (1 day per week or per fortnight for example) is expected. Volunteers may be eligible for some benefits such as lunch, discounts on selected BGS publications and assistance.

Please e-mail Mr Simon Harris, BGS Conservator at simhar@bgs.ac.uk for more details and an application form.

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 June 2014.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 13th May 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

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOOKING FORM - FIELD EXCURSIONS 2014

Please book me/us for the following excursions:

Wednesday, 7 th May and Wednesday, 14 th May	Evening Walk – Broadmarsh Caves Evening Walk – Broadmarsh Caves
Sunday, 18 th May	Day Excursion – Dudley Canal, Tunnel and Wrens Nest Hill
Wednesday, 18 th June	Evening Walk – The National Stone Centre
Sunday, 6 th July	Day Excursion – Bonsall Area
Wednesday, 16 th July	Afternoon Excursion – Dorket Head brickworks and quarry
Saturday 6 th & Sunday 7 th September	Weekend visit to Yorkshire Dales
Sunday, 28 th September	Day Excursion - Nottingham

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.sutton035@btinternet.com
