



**Circular 410  
November 2014**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Brian Jones

[www.emgs.org.uk](http://www.emgs.org.uk)

**AUTUMN/WINTER  
LECTURE PROGRAMME 2014**

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – 6.00 pm**

Members evening

***To be followed by the Christmas Buffet (£5.00) – please remember to bring a glass!***

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 – 6.00 pm**

Dr Philip Wilby – Charnwood

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 6.00 pm**

The annual presidential lecture - Dr Hugh Torrens – Celebrating the Bicentenary of William Smith

This will be a prestigious lecture by one of the foremost authorities on William Smith. It will be an all ticket event with tickets available at both the December and January lecture meetings or by contacting the secretary Janet Slatter whose contact details appear at the end of this circular

Two of the few remaining original copies of William Smith's famous map are held by the British Geological Survey in Keyworth and by the University of Nottingham and it is hoped that both of these original maps will be available for viewing prior to the lecture – further details of the timing for this will appear in the next circular

*The lecture will be followed by the Society's Annual Dinner – booking form attached*

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 – 6.00 pm**

AGM followed by

Ekbal Hussain – The North Anatolian Fault

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – 2.30 pm**

Phil Harding – Confessions of a Flint Napper

## **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, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – 6.00 pm**

### **Members Evening followed by the Christmas Buffet**

**Dr Vanessa Banks - “Wad deposits in the White Peak”**

Drawing on the findings of a small research project funded by the University of Derby this presentation will describe the physical and chemical characteristics; origin, and (former and potential future) uses of wad deposits.

**Dr Richard Hamblin - “Ironstone mining in Norfolk”**

A surprising number of ancient iron smelting sites are now known from the Cromer Ridge in north Norfolk, and most if not all are situated on glacial gravels of the Britons Lane Formation. Detailed consideration of the local geology suggests that the iron ore more likely came from the Wroxham Crag, which crops out at beach level along the coast and was extracted by winter storms.

**Dr Geoff Warrington - “Lost (Under)worlds”**

‘Revisiting’ underground workings in which a range of ores and other materials was investigated or mined but which, following abandonment, are now partly or wholly inaccessible as a result of flooding or other causes. Examples to be ‘visited’ are in the Erzgebirge and at Jachymov, Krupka and Harrachov in the northern Czech Republic, and in England, at Dudley in the West Midlands, Ecton in Staffordshire and Camborne in Cornwall.

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 – 6.00 pm**

**Dr Philip Wilby – “Life just got complicated: the Ediacaran world revealed in Charnwood Forest”**

The Ediacaran was a seminal interval in the evolution of life, witnessing the transition from a predominantly microbial world to one dominated by complex macro-organisms. It saw the first appearance of numerous ecological innovations, such as mobility, burrowing, predation, biomineralization and tiering, yet the nature of the organisms themselves is hotly debated. A systematic programme of moulding fossiliferous bedding-planes in Charnwood Forest is providing new insights into every aspect of the structure and composition of these biotas, and has revealed at least half a dozen new species, including several giant forms. A parallel U-Pb (zircons) dating programme indicates that some may be up to 611 million years old, making them amongst the

oldest complex fossils currently known and cementing Charnwood as a locality of global significance.

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 6.00 pm**

**Dr Hugh Torrens - William Smith & his geological advances as expressed through his work in Yorkshire.**

This lecture will first deal with Smith's early years, with reference to his several visits to Yorkshire, and the reasons behind them before 1815 when his great Geological Map was published. William Smith (1769-1839), the "father of English geology" (so named in 1825) from central Oxfordshire, had first worked out the dual geological principles for which he is now world famous in the Bath area, between 1791 and 1799. His first visit to Yorkshire, in 1794, gave an early indication of what he might expect this far north, as he worked here sporadically over the next 20 years, and his knowledge of Yorkshire's geology increased. His dual discoveries were first that English rocks were ordered, or stratified, and that this order could be determined and tabulated (the "superposition of strata"). This was of great significance in the search for useful, stratified, minerals (like coal, ironstone, lime, fire-clay etc.) during the world's first industrial 'revolution'. His second discovery was that those rocks which contained fossils could be identified using the fossils they contained.

The lecture will describe these discoveries, and Smith's visits to Yorkshire, and outline what was known of Yorkshire's geology before Smith's map was published in 1815. This revealed a significant mistake in the correlation of Yorkshire's rocks with those he had 'standardized' further south near Bath, by mis-representing the horizon of the Alum Shales. The important reasons for this previously misunderstood "error" will be explained. In 1817 Smith was working near Whitby and walked over to Scarborough. Here he met the town's historian and benefactor Thomas Hinderwell (1744-1825). Soon afterwards Smith was imprisoned in London, when many of his possessions were re-possessed by the member of the Bath landed gentry who had caused Smith's imprisonment for debt. Smith, who was never a bankrupt, had incurred many of these debts in his selfless pursuit of geological knowledge during Napoleonic wartime, in an uninterested England, whilst producing its first Geological Map.

After his release from prison, in the autumn of 1819, Smith went into exile with his newly geologically-apprenticed nephew John Phillips. They became at first itinerant all over the north of England. But his short visit to Scarborough in 1817 had made Smith aware of the delights and geological potential of Scarborough. So Smith settled in Scarborough, with his mysterious wife, Mary Ann, after she had showed serious signs of mental disturbance in 1819. Smith's immediate contacts in this part of Yorkshire in the 1820's will be dealt with next in the lecture. These included his important part in the foundation of the Scarborough Philosophical Society and Rotunda museum, and his work at Hackness for Sir John Johnstone. He planned, and was works' foreman, for this museum, built in Scarborough to demonstrate his geological principles. After extensive renovation, it was re-opened early in 2008 as "The Rotunda: the William Smith Museum of Geology", a magnificent tribute to Smith's work. Smith's forgotten work here as a trainer of geologists will also be described. His pupils included such later significant geologists as Roderick Murchison and George Featherstonhaugh from America. Finally Smith's part in that significantly Yorkshire advance in geology, involving the careful discrimination of fossil distributions within single litho-stratigraphic units (as exemplified by the work in the 1830's of Louis Hunton and William Williamson) will also be outlined, as will Smith's death, its aftermath and its sad effect on his widow. The lecture will provide an oral tribute to Smith and explain why the Rotunda Museum should be so special to geo-scientists.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**A gentle reminder that these will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Subscription rates remain unchanged and are as follows:

Ordinary members - £18.00

Joint members - £22.00

*Please send your 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**

Dr Martin Clarke, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham.

Michael Foster, Gamston, Nottingham

Andrew Barker, Nottingham

Mr Geoff Bagley, Beeston, Nottingham.

### **Society Publications**

(1) **East Midlands Field Guide;**

(2) **Sandstone Caves of Nottingham** (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

(3) **Leicester Building Stones Guide**

Copies available by contacting the Secretary or at Indoor Meetings.

### **Mercian Geologist – Back numbers**

Do you need any back numbers of the Mercian to fill a gap in your collection ?

The scanning of every single issue of the Mercian Geologist that the Society has published is now complete. As soon as they are all accessible through the Society's website the stocks of back numbers that the Secretary currently holds will be disposed of although a complete set of hard copies will of course be kept for archive purposes. So please contact the Secretary Janet Slatter at [secretary@emgs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@emgs.org.uk) or on 01509 843297 if you have any gaps that you want to fill

### **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.

### **OUGS East Midlands Day of Talks on Climate – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – at the BGS Keyworth**

Non members are welcome

There is a charge of £8.00 per person to cover expenses including a buffet lunch.

For more details and booking please contact Don Cameron, BGS, Nicker Hill, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, tel. 0115 9363489, e mail: [dgca@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:dgca@bgs.ac.uk)

### **EMGS Website**

The publications page on the Society website ([www.emgs.org.uk](http://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 the huge task of diligently scanning and preparing copies of all the back issues has now been completed thanks to the hard work of David Bate. These will soon, if they are not already, all be accessible through the Society's website.

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. Files will be extracted and posted, working backwards as far as 1992, and this all takes time. Files for 2010 onwards are already prepared and will go online on their second birthday.

### **Costs of the Circular**

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@freeths.co.uk](mailto:sue.miles@freeths.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 January 2015.**

**The next Council Meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

**Secretary:** Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG e-mail: [janet.slatter@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:Colin.bagshaw@yahoo.co.uk) tel. no. 01283 564520

# **EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

## **51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner** **14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.45 pm**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner will be held at The Helmsley, University of Nottingham, after the lecture by Dr Hugh Torrens. Join other members on this special occasion for a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink before the meal and a three course dinner. Cost is **£26.95** per person.

### **MENU**

#### **Starter**

**Roast tomato & red pepper soup (V)**

Basil oil

**Duo of salmon mousse**

Cucumber crème fraîche

**Fanned cantaloupe melon**

Pomegranate dressing

#### **Main Course**

**Pan fried cod fillet**

Pea & spinach risotto, lemon parsley butter

**Roast chicken breast**

Rosti potato, red wine sauce

**Walnut & feta bread & butter pudding**

Madeira & chive cream

**Served with roast new potatoes and seasonal vegetables.**

#### **Dessert**

**Pain perdu**

Spiced winter fruits

**Dark chocolate mousse**

Vanilla cream

**Selection of British cheese**

Served with a selection of biscuits and house chutney.

***Please indicate your choice of starter, main course and dessert below.***

**Booking form for 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

Please reserve ..... places

My/our chose of three courses are as follows:

Starter(s): .....

Main Course(s): .....

Dessert(s): .....

Name(s) & Tel. Nos: .....

.....

.....

Cheque made payable to EMGS enclosed for £

**Please send to:** Ian Sutton at 30 Alford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6GJ  
Tel. No: 0115 923 2360. E-mail: [ian.sutton035@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.sutton035@btinternet.com)