



**Circular 411  
January 2015**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Brian Jones

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

**WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - 2015**

**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 we are delighted that both of these original maps will be available for viewing prior to the lecture between 4.30pm to 5.45pm only.**

**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, 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.

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

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014;
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 2015;  
If there are no other nominations, it will be proposed from the chair that the following will serve:

President	- Vanessa Banks
Vice-President	- Brian Jones
Secretary	- Janet Slatter
Treasurer	- Colin Bagshaw
Editor	- Tony Waltham
10. Election of Council for 2015  
Mike Allan, Keith Ambrose, David Bate, Tim Coleman, Ian Sutton and Geoff Warrington.  
There are 4 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:

### **Ekbal Hussain – The North Anatolian Fault**

The North Anatolian Fault is a 1300km long right lateral strike-slip fault located along the entire length of northern Turkey. It is one of the most active strike slip faults in the world and has a long history of devastating earthquakes. The most recent events in 1999 killed over 17,000 people in and around the city of Izmit, mostly due to building collapse. Worryingly, this earthquake occurred only about 100km east of Istanbul. Many researchers forecast the next big event to strike beneath Istanbul itself.

In this talk I will introduce some key aspects of global tectonics and build a narrative of where and why people die in earthquakes. I will introduce the North Anatolian Fault and some of its key features and discuss how confident researchers are that the next big event will occur by Istanbul. With a brief discussion of corruption in the building industry, I will explain why Istanbul is a major candidate for the next so called "million death quake." We have not yet had an earthquake that has killed a million people. Could Istanbul be the one?

With this in mind I will finish the talk with a few examples of what Istanbul is doing to prevent this tragedy.

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

### **Phil Harding – Confessions of a Flint Napper**

Most of us enjoy a good story. This presentation will aim to recreate a series of good stories using the evidence of short term knapping events through time to allow close contact with prehistoric individuals by their skills and thoughts. It will also argue that these events can be brought together, that the skills of individual stone workers can be shared and still be appreciated by those who learn them to the present day.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**A reminder that these will be due please 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**

Brian Statham, Ockbrook, Derby

Fran Rhodes, Nottingham

Frances Hagen, Belper.

Mrs Anthea Roe, Melbourne, Derbyshire.

Daniel Roe, Melbourne, Derbyshire.

### **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.

## **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 late March/ early April 2015.**

**The next Council Meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 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 fraiche

**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)