



**Circular 415  
September 2015**

**Registered Charity No: 503617**

**President: Vanessa Banks**

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

**SUMMER 2015  
FIELD PROGRAMME**

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October/Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Field weekend Flamborough area and North York Moors**

**Leader: Ian Sutton**

**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.

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October/Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 -  
Field Weekend Flamborough Area and North York Moors**

**Leader: Ian Sutton**

**Meet on Saturday at Sewerby (TA 202687) adjacent to the Ship Inn at 10.30 am.**

The Flamborough area displays the Cretaceous Chalk in its full glory. Although there are generally shallow dips in this sequence we will be able to see some excellent structures, very good coastal geomorphology and the impact in this area of the Pleistocene glaciation. Sewerby is a superb locality to start where a buried chalk cliff line is excellently displayed with overlying tills and outwash deposits. In the pre-lunch period a number of other localities will add to the detail of the geology of the Flamborough area. After a late lunch we will retreat from the incoming tide to inspect the geological features of the Forge Valley where the Upper Jurassic oolites are well displayed and where the last glaciation had profound effects on the drainage of the area.

On the Sunday we will take advantage of a low morning tide to see the superb sequence of Lower Jurassic (Lower and Middle Lias) at Staithes where we will be able to review the variety of rock

types, abundant fossils and tectonic structures of this much visited sequence. The remainder of the day will be spent inland on the North York Moors with visits to localities in the Tertiary Cleveland Dyke, further examples of a landscape influenced by the Pleistocene glaciation and possibly a final stop on the west facing escarpment of the moors, overlooking Lake Gormire, across to the Vale of York and further afield.

## **AUTUMN/WINTER 2015** **LECTURE PROGRAMME**

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

**David Harper, Professor Palaeontology at Durham University – Cambrian Explosion**

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

**Paul Nathanail, Professor at Nottingham University**

**Engineering and environmental geology in Cyprus**

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 6.00 pm**

**Richard Hawkes – Stone Treasures**

**(followed by Cheese & Wine evening – *Please remember to bring a wine glass*)**

**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 6.00 pm**

**Ian Williamson, BGS retired – Early Palaeogene Lava Fields of the Inner Hebrides – are they just monotonous piles of Basalt?**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – 6.00 pm**

**Vanessa Banks, BGS – Nepal earthquakes and landslides**

**Followed by the Annual Dinner**

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 6.00 pm**

**Rory Mortimore, Professor at Brighton University – Chalk of the Paris to London fast railway route**

**April 2016 – date, speakers and title to be confirmed in next Circular.**

## **CHANGE OF LECTURE VENUE**

**PLEASE NOTE** Indoor meetings will, from this October, be held in the School of Geography on the Nottingham University Campus which is in the Sir Clive Granger Building. Enter the University by the North Entrance, off the A52, and follow signs to the main Visitor Car Park. As you enter the car park, the Sir Clive Granger building is on your left and can be entered from the car park.

The Society is indebted to the School of Geography at the University, who are hosting our lectures, for the use of these facilities.

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

### **Cambrian Explosion: The Rise of the Animals**

Life has been diversifying on our planet for some 4 billion years. Nevertheless during a window of 200 million years, from the Ediacaran to the Ordovician, animals gradually dominated Earth's marine ecosystems, superseding the microbial world of much of geological time. Five stages are key: the appearance of large and spectacular organisms in the late Precambrian (the Ediacara biota), the first animals joined Ediacaran communities, skeletal organisms originate near the base of the Cambrian, the Cambrian Explosion of entirely new and often bizarre body plans and the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event involving a cascading increase in the numbers of families, genera and species. By the end of the Ordovician the modern marine ecosystems were in place and abundant and diverse metazoans were set to dominate our planet for the next 450 million years, in increasingly complex and diverse community structure, building a resilience to extinction.

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

### **Engineering and environmental geology in Cyprus**

The island of Cyprus is largely a fragment of obducted ocean crust comprising igneous rocks overlain by a sedimentary sequence. Other terranes include the limestone dominated Kyrenia range; the extensive arable lands of the Mesaoria plain and the Mamonia complex. Our speaker will share his experiences of 30 years' work in Cyprus. The Sheeted Dykes and Pillow Lavas of western Cyprus presented a blast design challenge in order to widen the patrol track used by the United Nations. The impact on local hydrogeology of the peculiar geometry of the Troodos fanglomerates had to be understood to discern where and how deep groundwater wells had to be to provide secure water supply to the UN. The soils of Cyprus show evidence of both geologic and anthropogenic sources of potential harmful elements. The solubility of gypsum couple with over abstraction of a local aquifer created unstable ground. The recent and Quaternary history of Larnaca dominates both its geomorphology and the geotechnical properties of the ground on which many hotels and much critical national infrastructure have been built.

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

### **Stone Treasures**

Stone Treasures, based at Edwinstowe Craft Centre near Mansfield, has been preparing fossils and other geological materials for over 30 years by carefully removing the rock matrix to reveal the natural beauty of the specimen within. Richard Hawkes, the co-proprietor, has worked on ammonites, dinosaurs, fossil wood, crinoids, trilobites, sea urchins and many other creatures as well as a variety of minerals, such as quartz and fluorite, and rocks, both hard and soft. Some of the ammonite specimens are over a metre long showing numerous well preserved shells. Richard will describe his methods of acquiring, preparing and displaying the various specimens and also outline the history of his craft.

Richard will also bring a selection of fossils, minerals and rocks from his shop at Edwinstowe Craft Centre for members to view and purchase after his talk while they enjoy the wine and cheese on offer. These could make excellent Christmas presents!

## **Geopark in Derbyshire**

The EMGS is conducting a feasibility study to examine the options for creating a geopark in the Peak District. A geopark is a unified area with geological heritage of international significance that promotes geo-conservation, geo-tourism and sustainable development. Many of you may already be familiar with other geoparks in the UK including NW Scotland and GeoMon in Anglesey.

The Peak District has geological features of importance where the influence of the underlying geology on the landscape, history and economy of the area is very well demonstrated and is easily accessible to a large urban population, making it an ideal location for a geopark.

At the moment, we are assessing the level of support from potential partners and looking at the likely costs of the project, working closely with the Peak District National Park Authority. Alongside, we are also co-ordinating the production of a Geodiversity Action Plan for the Peak District. We hope to conclude this work by the autumn of this year, so that a final decision can be taken whether or not to proceed with the project with a view to seeking accreditation by the European Geopark Network within two or three years. Please get in touch with Albert Benghiat (albert@ajb12.plus.com) if you would like any further information and/or a copy of the prospectus.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

### **A reminder that these were 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.*

*We are also trying to ensure that as many of our subscriptions as possible are gift aided. This costs you absolutely nothing but means that the Society will receive much needed extra funds by way of tax rebates, so if you haven't already completed a Gift Aid declaration, please contact the Treasurer and request one.*

## **New Members**

Emeritus Prof Allan Straw, Petershead

## **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.

### **Geologists Association Events and Conference**

The following field trips organised by the Geologists Association may be of interest to you:

#### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

##### **BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

**Geologists Association Annual Conference to be held at British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham – the programme comprises:**

**Friday morning session, 9<sup>th</sup> October – Rocks and stones: curating urban geology – Ruth Sidall;**

**Friday afternoon session, 9<sup>th</sup> October – The Global Heritage Stone Initiative – Brian Marker**

**Saturday field trips – (1) The building stones of Nottingham led by Tony Waltham and Graham Lott, and (2) The Devonshire marbles of Birmingham led by Gordon Walkden.**

**Full details and registration can be found on the GA website:**  
<http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/ukfield.html>

### **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 November 2015.**

**The next Council Meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

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