



**Circular 416
November 2015**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Vanessa Banks

www.emgs.org.uk

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015
LECTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday, 12th December 2015 – 6.00 pm
Richard Hawkes – Stone Treasures
(followed by Cheese & Wine evening – *Please remember to bring a wine glass*)

Saturday, 16th 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, 13th February 2016 – 6.00 pm
Vanessa Banks, BGS – Sinkholes and the media
Followed by the Annual Dinner – booking form in the next circular

Saturday, 19th March 2016 – 6.00 pm
Rory Mortimore, Professor at Brighton University – Chalk of the Paris to London fast railway route

Saturday 9th April 2016 – Members Evening -speakers and titles 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. **There are no parking charges for this car park at the weekend.** Lectures are held in Room A48

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

Saturday, 12th December 2015 – 6.00 pm

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!

Saturday, 16th January 2016 – 6.00 pm

Early Palaeogene Lava Fields of the Inner Hebrides – are they just monotonous piles of basalt ?

It's all too easy to see the Palaeocene Lava Fields of NW Scotland as bleak, featureless landscapes, endless tracts of grassland and blanket-peat bogs, beset by rain, mist, ticks and midges. The rocks too are often considered unexciting, dull monotonous piles of old, cold and boring basalt, intractable and unworthy of detailed field-based research. Nothing could be farther from the truth of course, and this talk aims, hopefully, to convince you to consider them in a very different, fascinating and certainly more dynamic light. Taking specific case studies from my research on Skye, Mull and Canna, the lecture aims firstly to summarise our current knowledge and then to detail how recent field-based research has significantly increased our understanding of the physical volcanology, stratigraphy and facies architecture of these rocks.

The talk will also cover field-based and isotopic age relationships, elements of geochemistry and secondary mineralisation, and the sedimentary environments and processes associated with the volcanism. Do you know, for example, how the classical columnar jointing of the world famous Fingal's Cave formed, and that the volcanism that produced it was intimately associated with sedimentation in a developing graben populated by thriving ecosystems, or that the Talisker area on Skye was once the site of what is known as 'intracanyon' volcanism'? In lighter 'non-scientific' vein, the final part of the talk will consider the legacy of this volcanism in determining present-day Landscape Character, and how perceptions of these "lava field landscapes", including the iconic features of Fingal's Cave on Staffa and the Old Man of Storr on Skye, have inspired myths and legends and played influential roles in both art & cultural circles whilst becoming increasingly important to the (Geo)tourism industry.

Saturday, 13th February 2016 – 6.00 pm

Sinkholes and the media

The winter period from December 2013 to January 2014 was characterised by exceptional periods of winter rainfall in England and Wales. Extensive flooding and increased numbers of slope failures, landslides, and sinkholes, affected infrastructure across the country, thereby generating considerable media attention. In addition to government and stakeholder requirements, the BGS

experienced an unusually high level of enquiries from the public and the media pertaining to “sinkholes”. This talk will describe the wave of incidents, the data that is held by the BGS and the processes associated with their formation.

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 will be due on 1st 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.

Society Publications

- (1) **East Midlands Field Guide;**
- (2) **Sandstone Caves of Nottingham** (3rd 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 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.

Open University Geological Society East Midlands

Geology and Space

Day of Talks on Saturday 12th December – 10.00 to 16.45 at BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham

£8.00 per person including lunch.

Registration form and full details can be obtained from Don Cameron on dqca@bgs.ac.uk

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 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

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 early January 2016 .

The next Council Meeting will be held on 5th January 2016 .

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