



The
Geological
Society

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West Midlands Regional Group

Newsletter

October 2012



WELCOME all, to the inaugural issue of the Group Newsletter!

Since election in February the Committee has been eagerly updating the Group to suit the modern era. We now have a single email address for all your queries (geolsoc_wmrg@live.co.uk), together with a Jiscmail distribution list and pages on Facebook and LinkedIn which we encourage all Members to join.

So far this year we have a total of seven talks planned, on various topics; taking us from October 2012 until May 2013, when we will also have our traditional Spring Field Trip. We are also starting to pencil in talks for August 2013 onwards!

Sadly many of the lectures during the previous 2011/2012 session were poorly attended, but we think that the new series of talks offers something for everyone and will encourage member re-engagement!

Even so, we have over 600 members subscribed to the Group so, if you know of a subject that would be of interest to our members, please contact the Group Secretary.

The Group are keen to stress that attendance at talks and meetings is an important part of maintaining your record of Continued Professional Development (CPD) - to which end the Group will, for the first time, be offering CPD certificates for all attendees upon request.

Next Group Talk

Tuesday 13th November *Severn Trent Water Low Flow Investigations* **18:00 for 18:30**

Mike Streey (Environmental Science International) and Andy Banham (Severn Trent Water Limited)

ESI Ltd, New Zealand House. SY2 6FD

Severn Trent Water Ltd supplies water throughout the midlands of England and parts of eastern Wales. It is licensed to abstract from nearly 200 groundwater sources, mainly in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire and this provides about a third of supplies (about 600 MI/d) so is a vital component of the company's operation. During AMP5 (2010-2015) the Environment Agency identified over 40 groundwater abstractions (~180 MI/d) that required investigation under the NEP/RSA process. These groundwater abstractions mostly abstract from the Permo-Triassic sandstones. This is a major programme of work and is driven to a large extent by the EA's need to implement the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The work at each site will be carried out in Phases: Desk Study, Further Investigation, Impact Assessment and Options Appraisal (if appropriate).

This presentation describes the scope of work carried out and highlights some of the key lessons learned.

Note: This venue is limited to a maximum of 20 persons (excluding ESI employees). Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are likely to be delayed, it is advisable to reserve a seat via the Group Secretary

Committee 2012

Chair	Dr Clive Roberts University of Wolverhampton
Secretary	Daniel Welch SITA UK
Treasurer	Neil Cooper URS
Chartership	Adrian Collings ARUP
Web Officer	Dan Jefferies Atkins
Members	Graham Worton, Dudley MBC Sarah Worton, Atkins Verity Smith, Atkins Richard Mitchener, Atkins

All of our evening lectures are free to attend for Geological Society London Members, with attendance also open to non members for which we invite you to donate a contribution of your choice.

We look forward to seeing you at the events we provide during this season!

If you have any comments or questions regarding the Group or the Talks Programme, please feel free to make contact using the details provided below.

Regards,
Daniel Welch
West Midlands Regional Group Secretary

Website: www.geolsoc.org.uk/wmrg

Email: geolsoc_wmrg@live.co.uk

Programme Extract

Prior to each talk a flyer will be made available. I would encourage all members to keep an eye on the Group's web page (www.geolsoc.org.uk/wmrg) which is updated regularly and will announce any revisions to the advertised programme.

Date & Time	Title & Speaker	Venue
11 December 2012 6:30pm	Wine, Whiskey & Beer: The Role of Geology Professor Alex Maltman - Lecturer, Aberystwyth University	Lapworth Museum of Geology
January 2013 Date to be Confirmed	Details to be Confirmed	To be Confirmed
12 February 2013 6:30pm	Geohazards in the UK Hon Prof. Martin Culshaw - University of Birmingham	University of Birmingham
12 March 2013 6:30pm	Shale Gas (<i>provisional</i>) Nick Riley - Team Leader, Unconventional Gas at the BGS	University of Wolverhampton
9 April 2013 Time to be Confirmed	DOUBLE FEATURE: Sampling Methodology/ Upcoming R&D Peter Dumble - Technical Director/Hydrogeologist Waterra UK Limited Evolution, Green Chemistry and Recent Advances in Environmental Analysis. Ameeta Parekh-Pross - Technical Manager Environmental Scientifics Group	University of Birmingham
14 May 2013 6:30pm	Thermogeology/GSHP's (<i>provisional</i>) David Banks - Director, Holymoor Consultancy Ltd and author; <i>"An Introduction to Thermogeology - Ground Source Cooling and Heating"</i>	University of Wolverhampton
Late May/June 2013 6:30pm	Spring Field Trip	To be Confirmed

Future Talk Abstracts

Tuesday 11th December 18:00 for 18:30

Wine, Whisky and Beer: The Role of Geology

Professor Alex Maltman

The Lapworth Museum of Geology

The world of wine is full of the importance of geology. Wine labels, advertising, magazine articles and the like enthuse about how the soils and bedrock in the vineyard affect wine taste, even in some cases that the geology can actually be tasted in the wine. Whisky writings are similar, highlighting the rocks that the all-important distilling water came into contact with. Beer, in contrast, attracts a relatively sparse literature and it rarely mentions geology.

I will argue in the talk that this state of affairs is in reality the wrong way round. While vineyard geology has a role in vine growth, its influence on wine taste is largely anecdotal and is probably complex and very indirect. The importance of geology for whisky is similarly over-hyped (unfortunately!). But with beer, geology demonstrably influences the growth of hops and barley, and most breweries rely on the local groundwater. Aquifer geochemistry not only directly affects beer flavour but the brewing process itself, historically helping define the classic styles of beer we have today.

Tuesday 12th February 18:00 for 18:30

Geohazards in the UK

Hon. Professor Martin Culshaw

The University of Birmingham

When the public becomes aware of geological hazards, it is usually because a catastrophic event such as an earthquake, a volcanic eruption or a tsunami has occurred elsewhere in the world.

While Britain does experience these 'geohazards' very occasionally, their effect is usually small. Yet, geological hazards in the UK cause losses in terms of damage to buildings, structures and infrastructure of between £0.5bn and £1bn every year. In addition, people occasionally lose their life or are injured.

The lecture will discuss the natural and artificial geological hazards that affect Britain. The difference between 'hazard' and 'risk' will be explained (even though all professional geologists should already know this!)

Suggestions will be given as to how geological hazards can be mitigated and the risks reduced using the geological information already available to us.

Website: www.geolsoc.org.uk/wmrg

Email: geolsoc_wmrg@live.co.uk

Other Local Events

WMRG / GSL members are normally welcome to attend meetings of other societies/ groups but, we advise that you always check with the relevant representative first. Below is a summary of events for the next month:

- Wednesday 10th October – Shropshire Geological Society** 19:15 for 19:30
Forensic Geology and Links with Archaeology
Venue: Shire Hall, Shrewsbury
Speaker: Dr Stuart Black
Nominal charge for non-members. For more details visit www.shropshiregeology.org.uk
- Sunday 14th October – Black Country Geological Society (Field Meeting)** 10:00 for 10:30
Charnwood Forest
Leader; Mike Allen.
For more details contact fieldsecretary@bcgs.info
- Monday 15th October – Black Country Geological Society** 19:30 for 20:00
The Geological Photo Archive of the Geologists' Association.
Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Larwood, senior palaeontologist, Natural England, Peterborough.
Venue: Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, Dudley. DY1 1HU
For more details contact meetingsecretary@bcgs.info
- Wednesday 17th October – Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group** 19:00 for 19:30
Annual General Meeting and Historical Figures in Early Geology
Speaker: Jim Passmore
Venue: The Lammas Room, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick CV34 6HF
£2.00 for non-members. For more details visit www.wgcg.co.uk
- Thursday 18th October – Wombourne and District Scientific and Natural Society** 19:00 for 19:30
New Findings and Developments at the Wrens Nest
Speaker: Graham Worton, Keeper of Geology, Dudley Museum
Venue: Wombourne Library and Community Centre, Wombourne. WV5 9EZ
Visitors £1.00. For more details, contact Graham Worton, Keeper of Geology (01384 815 757)
- Sunday 28th October – Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust** 10:45 for 11:00
Lickey Hills Guided Walk
Leaders: Lickey Hills Geo-champions
For more details visit www.earthheritagetrust.org or email lickeychampions@gmail.com
- Monday 29th October – Lapworth Lecture Series** 17:00 until 18:00
The Art of Suspension: Niche Pioneering in the Mesozoic
Speaker: Dr Jeff Liston, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh
Venue: Dome Lecture Theatre, Earth Sciences. University of Birmingham. BH15 2TT
For more details, visit www.lapworth.bham.ac.uk/events/lectures.shtml
- Wednesday 31st October – Dudley Museum & Art Gallery** 11:00 until 13:00
Rock and Fossil identification. 11:00 – 13:00
For more details, contact Graham Worton, Keeper of Geology (01384 815 757)
- Saturday 3rd November – Black Country Geological Society (Conservation Day)** 10:30 for 11:00
Springvale Park, Wolves
For more details contact fieldsecretary@bcgs.info