



MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President: Dr Ray Burgess

Founded 1925

March 2014

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

# YOUR COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!!



Vacancies Still Exist After Recent  
AGM

[See Page 2 for more information](#)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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## QUICK DIARY

12 April 2014: Monsall Head with Eileen Fraser  
1 June 2014: Tegg's Nose with Jane Michael  
14 June 2014: Macclesfield Building Stones with Jane Michael  
21 September 2014 Formby (joint with OUGS)

# MGA NEWS

## Annual General Meeting Report

Because of the dreadful weather, only 19 people managed to get to the AGM on 11 February. Later in this newsletter you will find a copy of the Accounts which had not been part of the AGM mailing in advance of the meeting.

Meanwhile, the main point which came out of the meeting was that we now have FOUR vacancies on Council. Not just four ordinary vacancies but FOUR OFFICER positions. This is going to make running the Association quite tricky over the next year.

The vacancies are INDOOR MEETINGS, OUTDOOR EVENTS, NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP. Whilst Niall Clarke, our Treasurer, is coping with undertaking membership as well as treasurer, the other three positions affect YOU the members.

Whilst Jim and Jane have started to plan and organise events for 2014/15, people are needed to take these forward or there will be no meetings for you to attend and no field meetings either.

The newsletter is the primary method of communicating with all of you members: no newsletter editor, no newsletter, no news!! The edition you are currently reading has been produced by one of the Harry Potter House Elves but, as I am sure many of you realise from reading to your children/grandchildren (or reading yourself), House Elves have many duties and can't be relied on all the time!!!

So, please think about whether you could offer to help - you may have been on Council before, in which case you know what a friendly bunch we are. You won't be expected to take over and do everything with no help from anyone. There is plenty of support, advice and guidance available to you from all of us.

At the end of the day, it is YOUR ASSOCIATION and on behalf of Ray and other members of Council, we hope you will at least 'give it a try'!!

If you are interested, please contact Secretary, Sue Plumb whose details appear on the last page.



# 2013 Annual Accounts

As many people were unable to attend the AGM and the Accounts had not been ready for the AGM mailing, they are given below.

Niall Clarke would also like me to remind you that **SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE!!**

So if you haven't yet paid, please send him a cheque as soon as possible. The rates are:

Full member, correspondence by email	£16.00
Full member, correspondence by post	£18.00
Full member and an associate member, correspondence by email	£18.00
Full member and an associate member, correspondence by post	£20.00

## ACCOUNTS for the YEAR ENDED 31 Dec 2013

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

#### GENERAL FUND

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subscriptions 2013	1,261.00	Indoor Meetings	357.49
Subscriptions 2014	193.00	Broadhurst lecture Jan 2013	3,323.20
Interest & donations	1,217.66	Field Trips	82.35
Gift Aid Tax Refund	380.00	Newsletters	576.61
Mcr Building Stones	113.00	Affiliation & Insurance	185.00
Broadhurst lecture Jan 2013	465.00	Publications	195.26
		Secretarial Support	138.12
			<b>4,858.03</b>
		Surplus to Funding A/cs	-1,228.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,629.66</b>		<b>3,629.66</b>

### BALANCES ON FUNDING ACCOUNTS

#### GENERAL FUND

Brought Forward at 1 Jan 2013	War Stock	60.00
	Natwest Reserve A/c	1,957.86
	Natwest Current A/c	5,221.36
	unpresented cheques from fy 2012	-103.76
	to income & expend a/c	-1,228.37

**TOTAL FUNDS at 31 December 2013** **5,907.09**

### ASSETS & LIABILITIES

War Stock	60.00
Natwest Reserve A/c	1,958.84
Natwest Current A/c	3,888.25
unpresented cheques @31/12/2013	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS &amp; LIABILITIES at 31 December 2013</b>	<b>5,907.09</b>

Signed Niall Clarke (Treasurer) 12 February 2014

Signed Peter Prydderch (Examiner) 12 February 2014

We have been asked to publicise the undermentioned Conference

**Extractive Industry Geology Conference 2014  
Incorporating the 50th Forum on the Geology of Industrial Minerals**

11th - 13th June 2014  
St Andrews University

The Extractive Industry Geology Conferences are renowned as a series of highly successful biennial conferences, providing a unique scientific and technical shop window for the non-petroleum extractive industry.

It is run by geo-professionals working within the industry, with the aim of delivering a focused training event for people working in this sector.

The EIG Conference is an essential training event for all earth scientists associated with the extractive industrial minerals sector, helping them to keep abreast of current and future trends, innovation and best practice.

In particular it will appeal to those involved in the following fields:

- Geology
- Hydrogeology
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Quarry Development Design and Planning
- Restoration and After Use
- Reserve and Resource Estimation and Reporting

The themes include:

- Scottish Economic Geology
- International Case Studies
- Building Stone
- Community Engagement
- Fracking
- Geotechnics & Ground Control
- Hydrogeology & Water Monitoring
- Mineralogy
- Planning & Environment
- Resources & Exploration

The full programme and costs etc can be found at <http://www.eigconferences.com>.



# Herdman Symposium

Saturday 22 February 2014

## Geoscience Frontiers 5

I attended the well respected Herdman Symposium at Liverpool University on Saturday 22 February 2014. This was the first time I had ever been: I'd heard (!! ) lots about it and I wasn't disappointed. Organised by the students under the watchful eyes of Professor Peter Kokelaar and his wife, Helen, we were greeted by tea and coffee giving us ample opportunity to see who else was attending. There were about a dozen from the MGA which was great: total attendance was around 300 including students.

Our first lecture was by Pete Kokelaar himself as unfortunately Brian Bluck was unable to attend. His title 'Extreme avalanche mobility: theories, experiments and for real' was fascinating. He and his students had been researching 'avalanching' in its widest sense on low level slopes (1 or 2°). Using flume channels and slowed down video, his researches have shown, inter alia, that levees formed behind the head of any flow and that in granular flows, movement is by roll waves. Investigations of the flow of material at Mt St Helens has shown a series of debris flows, not just one (or at least I think that was the conclusion).

Next up was Dr James Hammond from Imperial College talking on 'Science with borders: Unravelling the mysteries of Mt Paektu Volcano, North Korea'. This was not just a talk on Mt Paektu, a volcano which straddles the Chinese/N Korean border but on diplomacy and international politics!! The volcano (whose plate tectonic setting is unusual) doesn't erupt very often but when it does, history says it will cause a lot of problems although the style of eruption is not known so planning for it is difficult. It is showing signs of life!! The North Koreans may have invited the scientists to help sort this out but getting them and their equipment in, was a whole different ball game.

Manchester's Dr Katherine Joy was our third speaker. Her title was 'Moon impacts: unravelling the history of inner Solar System bombardment' and she is involved with trying to sort out the early (4.5 to 3.8Ga) geological history of the moon by using cratering and analysis of moon rocks. This is because what happened on the moon, could well have happened on earth, affecting our atmosphere and biosphere with implications for the development of life. Again another fascinating talk.

After a buffet lunch and more time to chat, Prof Andrew Scott from Royal Holloway spoke about 'Wildfire: the burning issue: the geological history of fire'. Now I knew that wildfires had been around for much longer than human existence but apparently lots of people don't! He spoke about his researches on charcoal. This is a substance found within the rock record from the Silurian onwards although often the pieces are microscopically small. But it preserves information on the type of plant and so much more!! Next time I look at a piece of Carboniferous sandstone and see small 'black bits', I won't assume what they are: they may well be charcoal!

Cambridge University's Prof Simon Conway Morris gave a very humorous but thought provoking talk entitled 'Eight evolutionary myths: the closing of the Darwinian Mind'. The 8 Myths he gave are (with my comments in brackets): Good fossil record (there isn't always),

Missing Links (perhaps: perhaps not), Mass extinctions and lucky survivors (well maybe, maybe not), Randomness (is anything really random?), Simplicity and 'well, it'll do' (should never say that!), Extraterrestrials (we wish), Mentality (ours) and Consciousness (does everything have one or not?). This was also interestingly illustrated (you had to be there!).

The final presentation was by Prof Tim Lenton from Exeter. He spoke about 'Revolutions that made the Earth'. By this he meant rare evolutionary events: each revolution being contingent on the previous one. The three he specifically mentioned were: the Inception of the biosphere, the Oxygen Revolution (when oxygen levels increased and oxygenic photosynthesis started) and the Complexity Revolution (being the development of multicellular Eukaryotes). By the time we reached this point, my brain was so full of information, I found it really difficult to follow what he was saying: there was a 'lorra, lorra' science in there!!

During the day, I heard about more new research and ideas in earth sciences than you could shake a stick at. It was a truly fascinating day: roll on next year.

Jane Michael

## Other Events

### **The Cumberland Geological Society**

#### **2014 Field Events**

27 April: Eycott Hill Volcanic Group and Dinantian Limestones

14 May: Embleton Quarry Microdiorite intrusions – search for minerals in the scree

7 June: Classic features of the Shap Fell area

28 June: Drygill mines spoil tips

6 July : Alston / Nenthead – Mines and geology

July 16th: Threlkeld Mining Museum tour

September 6th: Geology of the area around Grizebeck and Gawthwaite

Further information on the website [www.cumberland-geol-soc-org.uk](http://www.cumberland-geol-soc-org.uk)

### **Liverpool Geological Society**

#### **16th-18th May - Weekend Field Trip to The North Yorkshire Jurassic Coast**

Fossils Galore (Sat 17th) & Moors (Sun 18th) N. Sea Oil Reservoir Rocks with Joe Crossley & Hazel Clark.

Staying at Royal Hotel, Whitby £99 for weekend from Friday Dinner to Sunday Breakfast inclusive. As this is a very good & popular hotel, bookings ASAP to Joe Crossley with £25 per person deposit made payable to Joe Crossley.

Please see the Liverpool website for further information:  
[www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org.uk)

## **MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

### **OUTDOOR EVENTS 2014: Booking is ESSENTIAL**

**DATE** 12 April 2014

Venue: Monsal Head

Leader: Eileen Fraser

Time: 10 am

Description:

The re-opening of the tunnels along the route of the old London-Midland railway has revealed some interesting geology especially at Headstone Cutting. Known as the Monsal Trail, this travels high above the Wye valley through the heart of the Peak District from just outside Buxton to Bakewell. <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle/monsaltrail>

On this field trip we will cross the fields on a good level footpath from Little Longstone (just to the east of Monsal Head), to reach the Trail just north of Hassop Station. From there we will walk west along the Trail examining the successions within the Carboniferous and the Headstone Cutting. The Trail passes through this rail tunnel which has a wide, paved surface and is well lit. We will then walk a short way along the trail beyond the tunnel. Depending on the weather and timing we can either examine the corals on the Trail or climb up to Hobb's House landslip and return to Monsal Head at about 4 p.m. Those who do not wish to continue to Hobb's House can retrace their way across the fields to the cars (about 3 miles in total) or take the steep track back up to Monsal Head Hotel.

Contact: [outdoors@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:outdoors@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

**DATE Sunday 1 June 2014**

Venue: Fred Broadhurst Memorial Field Trip: Tegg's Nose

Leader: Jane Michael

Time: Morning

Description: This is a half-day trip is based round Walk No 15 in 'Rocky Rambles in the Peak District'.

Contact: Jane Michael 07917 434598

**DATE Saturday 14 June 2014**

Venue: Macclesfield Building Stones

Leader: Jane Michael

Time: Morning

Description: This is a half day walk round Macclesfield based on the Cheshire East leaflet 'A Geological trail round Macclesfield'. The walk is approximately 3km (2 miles) with one shortish steep climb up a set of steps which can be avoided by a longer walk up a road.

Contact: Jane Michael 07917 434598

**DATE Sunday 21 September 2014**

Venue: Formby Joint with OUGS

Leader: Alison Burns and Steve Suggitt

Description: TBA

Contact: Pam Norris [pamandnodge@btinternet.com](mailto:pamandnodge@btinternet.com)

**DATE**            **Saturday 4 October 2014**  
Venue:            Vernon Park and Poise Brook  
Leader:           Paul Aplin  
Description:      TBA  
Contact:           outdoors@mangeolassoc.org.uk

### **Friends of Saddleworth Museum Geologically-themed Fun Day for Children**

Saturday 28 June 2014 11am until 3pm  
Organised by Jo Holt of Oldham Geological Society

This is a geologically themed activity day for children taking place at Saddleworth Museum being held as part of the Museum's fund-raising efforts for their Heritage Lottery bid.

For further information, please contact Jo Holt (jojoholt@aol.com/01457 874095).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION EVENT. We will probably have a stand and there may be some members attending. However, if you would like to help Jo Holt, please contact her direct.

## **Fforest Fawr Geopark Symposium**

### **The Old Red Sandstone: is it Old, is it Red, and is it all Sandstone?**

2 - 4 October 2014 at The Elim Church Conference Centre, Canal Road, Brecon

Outline Programme:

Thursday 2nd October: Day of lectures 10.00 – 17.00  
Conference Dinner

Friday 3rd October: Field meetings to local sites

Saturday 4th October: 'Geofest' public open day

The day of lectures will cover many aspects of Old Red Sandstone geology and the full programme is already coming into shape. There are already a number of confirmed speakers including some from Australia and France. It is hope that it will be possible to publish the proceedings of the symposium in due course.

Two field excursions by coach will be on offer to areas around Brecon to look at various aspects of Old Red Sandstone geology.

The public open day on the Saturday is aimed at being a festival of geology bringing geology to the attention of all. Local geological groups and other organisations will be putting on displays, public talks, hands-on activities and building stone walks around the town.

Further information from Dr John Davies email [sion\\_cwm\\_hir@hotmail.com](mailto:sion_cwm_hir@hotmail.com)





# Indoor Meetings 2014/15

## **Wednesday 15th October 2014 – Dinosaur Diversity in the British Isles**

Dean Lomax, Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery

## **Saturday 15th November 2014 – The Zechstein Evaporites**

Eden Valley Deposits – Dr Noel Worley, Yorkshire Geological Society and others

## **Saturday 6th December 2014 – Ophiolite Suites**

Ophiolites and Accretion Models for the Oceanic Crust

Dr Johan Lissenberg, University of Cardiff

Memories of Ocean Basin Opening and Closing preserved in Ophiolite Peridotites

Dr Brian O'Driscoll, University of Keele

Why the Oman Ophiolite did not form at a Mid-Ocean Ridge, Professor Hugh Rollinson, University of Derby

## **Saturday 17th January 2015 – The Broadhurst Lectures**

### **The Mineral World**

Minerals and Gems of the Cairngorms – Roy Starkey, The Russell Society

From Fluorite to Fluid Flow: an exploration of some iconic Northern Pennine

Minerals – Dr Brian Young, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Durham

The World Class Copper Deposits of Chile - Geology, Exploration and Discovery

Dr. Chris Carlon, Mineral Industry Consultant

+ other speakers to be advised in due course

## **Wednesday 11th February 2015 – Evolution of the Mars Atmosphere and Hydrosphere**

### **AGM followed by Presidential Address**

Dr Ray Burgess, University of Manchester

## **Wednesday 4th March 2015 – Coastal Dunes and Climate Change**

Dr Paul Rooney, Liverpool Hope University

## **These are pictures from the Broadhurst Lectures January 2013**



## BOOK REVIEW

### **An Excursion Guide to the Moine Geology of the Northern Highlands of Scotland**

Authors: Rob Strachan, Ian Alsop, Clark Friend and Suzanne Miller

Date published: 2010

Publisher: National Museums Scotland

No of Pages: 298

Price (Softback): £17.99

ISBN Number: 978-1-905267-33-0

This is a beautifully produced and handily-sized (A5) softback book which will fit in a backpack. At 648g weight I wouldn't take it up a Munro but for car trips, it's ideal. It has clear print, many maps and diagrams, a helpful contents page and a list of references at the end.

There are 14 excursions of varying lengths and requiring different amounts of physical effort covering the whole of the North West of Scotland beyond the Great Glen Fault. It incorporates some Devonian and younger rocks as well as the Moine. The book starts with a chapter summarising the regional geology which I found very interesting and updated my somewhat outdated knowledge of the area. Each excursion is colour-coded so can be easily identified in the book. There is a box giving information such as maps required, terrain, length, weather warnings, SSSIs, stalking and midges. If more than a day is needed, it says so. Similarly the locations for a shortened version are also given. Some excursions also include diagrams, photos and tables as well as maps.

As I had just returned from walking in Glen Shiel, I used Excursion 5 as a 'test'. The instructions seem fairly straightforward with clear explanations. It is very much up to the reader/leader to find the structures but shouldn't be beyond an amateur. Non-professionals might need a geological dictionary on first reading for some technical terms (there is no glossary). The maps appear very helpful. I was pleased to find that I had identified the types of rocks and structures I had seen correctly. My criticisms would be that some of the colour differentiation could be better – there is light purple and a slightly darker light purple – not easy to differentiate between in poor light. I would also have expected that the option of starting from Kyle of Lochalsh would have been considered.

Overall this looks a very useful book and I will be purchasing my own copy as I visit the area at least once a year – it's much easier reading than the BGS memoirs!!

Jane Michael

Bsc (Hons) Natural Sciences with Earth Sciences (Open)



# Augmented Virtual Reality Field Trip round Castleton

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Discover Geology – a new augmented reality application designed to guide visitors through the surroundings of Castleton whilst helping them discover the formation and history of this area has just been launched.

To make the most of your Castleton visit you can now access the Discover Geology augmented reality information by installing the Junaio browser on your mobile device and scanning the QR code found on the following website:

<http://manconline.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/discover-geology-ar/>.

Then I think you need to be there for the rest to take effect! Let us know how you get on.

## An Offer from Cambridge Journals

To celebrate 150 years since the first publication of Geological Magazine Cambridge Journals is delighted to offer complimentary access to the recent themed issue on Ancient Marine Reptiles until 30th April 2014.

To view the Journal, please go to

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displaySpecialArticle?jid=GEO&bespokeld=7904>.

No log in or account seems to be needed.

Happy reading!!

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### MANCHESTER GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Council 2014-2015

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President: **DR RAY BURGESS**

Vice President: **JANE MICHAEL**

General Secretary: **SUE PLUMB**

*Address: 20 Ridge Crescent, Marple, Stockport SK6 7JA Tel: 0161 427 5835*

Membership Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: **NIALL CLARKE**, *Tel: 07785778250*

Indoor Meetings Secretary: Vacant

Field Meetings Secretary: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Vacant

Archivist: **DR DEREK BRUMHEAD MBE**

Website: **PETER GILES**

GMRIGS group: **MARJORIE MOSLEY**, *Email: gmrigs@hotmail.com*

Past President: **PETER DEL STROTHER MBE**

Other Council Members: **NICOLA FOWLER, LISA JEPSON, JAMES JEPSON, JENNIFER RHODES, NORMA ROTHWELL**

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#### EMAIL CONTACT:

To contact our **President** - [president@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:president@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

To contact our **Vice President** - [vicepresident@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:vicepresident@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

To contact our **General Secretary** - [secretary@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

For **membership** - [membership@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

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For the **newsletter** - [newsletter@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

For **general enquiries** - [info@mangeolassoc.org.uk](mailto:info@mangeolassoc.org.uk)

## OTHER SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

**Black Country Geological Society (www.bcgs.info):**

Contact: Andrew Harrison –  
andrew\_harrison@urscorp.com

**Cumberland Geological Society (<http://www.cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk/>)**

**Lancashire Geological Association (www.lancashiregeologists.co.uk):**

Contact: Jennifer Rhodes – s\_j\_rhodes@hotmail.com

**Leeds Geological Association (www.leedsgeolassoc.freeserve.co.uk):**

Contact: Anthea Brigstocke –  
anthea.brigstocke@zen.co.uk

**Liverpool Geological Society (www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org.uk):**

Contact: Joe Crossley – 0151 426 1324

**North Staffs Geological Association (www.esci.keele.ac.uk/nsgga):**

Contact: Eileen Fraser – frasers@netfraser.me

**Oldham Geological Society:**

Contact: Jo Holt – 01457 874 095

**Open University Geological Society North West Branch (www.ougs.org/index.php?branchcode=nwe):**

Contact: Jane Schollick – 01704 565 751

**Russell Society (Mineralogy) (<http://www.russellsoc.org/nwbranch.html>):**

Contacts: Alan Dyer – Aldilp@aol.com or Harry Critchley – 01204 694 345

**The Manchester Museum:**

Website: <http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/whatson>

**Wilmslow Guild (www.wilmslowguild.wikidot.com):**

Contact: Wilmslow Guild 01625 523903

Manchester Geological Association  
members are welcome guests at other  
societies' events

For more details on any of the societies  
listed please check their websites