



# THE BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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HON. SECRETARY	D. J. WRIGHT
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## NEWSLETTER NO. 5 - AUGUST 1976

### Informal Meeting - Thursday 12th August 7.30p.m. Dudley Library

An informal meeting to discuss various topics including the Dudley Canal Trip and work at Pouk Hill.

If you have any interesting slides, fossils, rocks etc. please bring them along.

### The Cretaceous Coal of New Mexico

Dr. George Bennison lectured to the Society on May 20th at Dudley Library. In addition to the Santa Fe Railway, New Mexico's other claim to fame is its geology. It is structurally part of the Western Cordilleras consisting of plateaux at 6000' in the east end and fold mountains up to 15000' in the west.

The Dakota Sandstone with its shallow water and channel features marks a marine transgression in the Lower Cretaceous. This is followed in New Mexico by 6000' of Upper Cretaceous sediments (equivalent to the Greensand and Chalk in Britain). There are 4 facies indicating cyclic sedimentation associated with marine advance and retreat. Impersistent sandy coals occur with cross bedding and flame structures usually following the marine retreat. The coals are probably detrital.

To collect data in the area is difficult as horizontal bedding planes extend for miles, therefore location of the sub-bituminous coals, for opencast extraction, is undertaken by borehole programmes.

Finally the significance of plate tectonics was indicated when a possible link with the non-marine Upper Cretaceous of Portugal was suggested.

### Report on informal meeting held on June 10th 1976

A total of 16 members had an enjoyable 2 hours discussing programme ideas and other geological matters.

Peter Parks brought along slides of some exposures at the edge of Mons Hill which have now been lost to a housing estate. The slides show the unconformity between the Silurian inlier of Wren's Nest and the Middle Coal Measures.

Ray Sheldon brought along some interesting mineral samples which he had found recently.

Those who were present discussed the present programme and helped the committee with ideas for next years programme.

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### Next Formal Meeting - August 22nd Dudley Canal Tunnel and Wren's Nest

Meet at Essex Road/Holly Hall Road junction (A-Z reference, page 45 4F. Grid Reference 932890) at 10.00. The canal trip in the morning will last about 2 hours and cost 50p for members and 60p for non-members. There are still a few places available.

Wren's Nest and Mons Hill in the afternoon. Bring a packed lunch.

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### Meeting Thursday September 23rd

The Society will be honoured once again by the presence of a distinguished guest. Dr. Peter Toghill of Birmingham University will talk on 'Conserving Shropshire's Geology'

Dudley Library	7.45p.m.
Tea and Biscuits	7.15p.m.

## Secretary's Report

- 1) Future meetings of the Society will be held in Dudley Library and not in the Museum as previously advertised.
- 2) Change in Committee. We would like to express our thanks to Terry Bond who has served on the Committee for a year but now finds he is unable to continue as a committee member.

Peter Parkes has been co-opted on to the committee to take Terry's place.

- 3) 1977 Programme. Planning for 1977 has now begun and members will be notified as soon as the programme is finalised.
- 4) Nature Conservancy Council. The Society is in contact with the Council on various matters including Wren's Nest, Mons Hill, and ~~Pouk~~ Hill. We have been requested to continue helping as watchdogs on the geological sites of interest in our area. Data on S.S.S.I.'s and other sites of local importance to geologists is needed, if these sites are to receive consideration in development and reclamation works which are liable to affect them.

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## Letters to the Editor

The Editor would like to receive letters from members, and others, to be printed in the newsletter. If they are not too long and have a geological theme they will be printed.

Please note that all contributions for the November Newsletter must be received by the end of October.

## Pouk Hill

Members have been working very hard in recent weeks recording and collecting from sections at the northern end of the Quarry. There is still a lot of work left to do but it is hoped that this

initial stage of recording will be completed by September. The programme has been to select a number of sections, accurately locate these, take samples and colour photographs.

It is important to mention here the fact that the West Midlands County Council has been extremely helpful. The County Council has allowed us access to the site and has excavated a new section at the southern end of the quarry. This section is an excellent one. There are two others that require some improvement but this can easily be undertaken by ourselves.

## Forthcoming Events

October 16th Coach Trip to the Geological Museum, London. Leave Dudley at 8.30a.m. and return Dudley Library 8.30p.m. approximately. Cost £1.50 per person. Please book now.

November Social evening.

December 9th 'The History of Tectonics'  
Doug Bedson. Dudley Library. 7.45p.m.

## Advertisement

Cottage to let, Staithes, North Yorkshire Coast, Near Whitby, in old fishing village with outlook to sea. Sleeps 4. Available autumn. Malcolm Ormrod, Great Witley 566, for further details.

## New Booklet

Geology of the Ludlow Area of the Shropshire Herefordshire border.

This booklet, available at a cost of 25p from the Ludlow Museum, Butler Cross, Ludlow describes the succession of the Ludlow Anticline.

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