

THE BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN	A. CUTLER, B.Sc., Dip.M., M.Inst.M.
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HON. SECRETARY	J. E. GOLLEDGE, M.A.
HON. TREASURER	M. J. WOODS, B.Sc., M.Sc., F.G.S.

NEWSLETTER No. 19 - February 1980

NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 7th

DR COLIN PHIPPS WILL SPEAK
ON "GEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL
ASPECTS OF OIL EXPLORATION".
DUDLEY MUSEUM 7.45pm
COFFEE & BISCUITS 7.15pm

The Social

On November 19th, undaunted by the freezing weather, members of the Black Country Geological Society ventured forth on the field trip which occurs annually and is known as "The Social". This year the event took place in wildest Clent at the Fountain Inn. Having located the rear car park of the Inn, members found their way to the upstairs Skittle Room. Those of us who are timid, had first to be encouraged to pass a shed containing two dogs which howled furiously when anybody went by. Members were then divided into two groups and were encouraged to study the dip and strike of the skittle alley while attempting to knock over nine skittles cunningly placed so that the ball rolled easily between them. The ladies team played with great skill and flair but were unfortunately narrowly beaten by the gentlemen. Members then consumed a superb buffet supper provided by the staff of the Fountain Inn. Even with the hunger worked up by the Skittles match we were unable to finish all the food provided, tasty though it was. Following the buffet, the teams were rearranged and another match played between the Uglies and the Beautifuls. By this time it was

noticeable that the standard of play had evened out considerably and some observers put this down to the amount of alcohol being consumed. Amid much excitement and cheering, the Uglies won proving that Beautiful is not always best.

All members present had a most enjoyable evening. As a new member this year, attending my first social event, I would like to encourage everybody who couldn't come this year to make sure they don't miss next year's Social on November 21st 1980. This year was very good but next year could be even better. It is much easier to have a coherent conversation and get to know people over a drink instead of trying to make oneself heard in a howling gale while trying to observe some interesting geological feature and keep warm all at the same time! (Anne Sutcliffe)

Hon. Sec. now has copies for sale of the N.C.C. Wallchart "The Last Glaciation". Price 75p (at meetings) or 85p (by post).

Hammers now in stock again, price £4.20, from Hon. Sec. at meetings and field trips.

Welcome to following new members:-

Mark Chamberlain of Bloxwich
Roland Pate of Walsall
Sue Whatmore of Wolverhampton
Peter Knight of Warley
Geoff. Thompson of Birmingham

The Shropshire Geological Society was inaugurated in Sept.79. The 1980 programme details are available from Hon. Sec.

We also have details of the programme of the Nationwide Geology Club.

MINES OF THE PEAK

Losehill Hall, Peak National Park Study Centre

Mines of the Peak District

29 February - 2 March 1980

A weekend course for the amateur geologist and industrial archaeologist. The Peak District landscape owes much to the early lead miners who have left surface traces of their activities. Superficially the results of mining are obvious to the visitor but only a knowledge of the geology, mining methods and social conditions will help to reveal the discernable pattern of workings. This course will endeavour to unravel some of the explanations that ordinarily would pass the visitor by.

COST - £33.00

NOTES - This course will involve short walks and underground visits. Participants are advised to bring waterproof clothing and strong footwear.

REMAINING PROGRAMME FOR 1980

Indoor meetings at 7.45pm
Coffee and Biscuits at 7.15pm

March 6th A.G.M. and Film Night
Dudley Library. Sherry at 7.15pm.

March 22nd Geological Museum London.
Meet Dudley Museum, St James's Rd,
9.00am. Booking form and details below.
(N.B. Original field trip cancelled).

Easter Field weekend. South Wales
Coalfield and Gower Peninsula. Details
to follow. 12/13 APRIL

May 1st Members' Evening. Talks and
slides. Dudley Library.

June 5th Meeting before field trip.
Dudley Library.

June 8th Field trip to East Midlands
Jurassic. Leader Dr R.G.Clements of
Leicester University.

July 10th Meeting before field trip.

July 13th "Black Country geology" part
two. Leader Alan Cutler.

Sept 11th "Silurian Fossils". Lecture
by Dr I.Strachan of Birmingham
University.

Oct 30th Meeting before field trip.

Nov. 2nd Field trip to Lickey Hills.
Leader W.G.Hardie of Birmingham
University.

Nov. 21st Social evening.

Editor :- Sheila Pitts, 4 Siskin Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, W.Mids. DY9 7HU.

BOOKING FORM - GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, LONDON. SAT 22ND MARCH

Please reserve the following places

..... Adults (£3.50) Students (£2.50) Children (£1.00)

Non members 50p extra

Total remittance of enclosed

To Field Secretary, 81 Market Street, Kingswinford, Dudley, West Midlands.

List of Members at 31st. December 1979

Wolverhampton

Robert Griffiths
Graham Hickman
David Middleton
Andrew Marshall
Andrew Mountford
Stephen Waltho
Maitland Woods
Sue Whatmore

Walsall

Mark Chamberlain
Bill Evans
James Falconer
Stuart Mortimer
Roland Pate
Peter Whitehead

Sutton Coldfield / Birmingham N

Kate Ashcroft
Mark Bennett
Ken Dawson
Cath Duckworth
Janice Kempshall
Hilary Logan
Colin & Mavis Mitchell
Sutton College F.E.

Dudley / Sedgley / Gornal

R. Duncan
John Garside
Peter Parkes
John Sifford
Ellowes Hall School
Roger Tilley
Dave Wraight
Martin Wood
Douglas Warren

Kingswinford / Brierley Hill

Glyn & Celia Barton
Alan Cutler
John Easter
Johnson, Poole & Bloomer
Tim O'Mara
Crestwood School

Sandwell

Peter Knight
Mike & Christine Newman
Keith Perry
Margaret Trevor
Muriel Woodhouse

Birmingham West / Central

Nicholas Andrews
John Ashworth
Anne Sutcliffe
Geoff Thompson
John Whitehouse
Mike Williams
Roger Jackson

Stourbridge / Halesowen

John & Christine Golledge
Peter Guggenheim
Mark Jones
H. B. Keight
Sheila & Neil Pitts

Birmingham South

Doug Bedson
Paul & Judith Shilston
Mrs. M. Sweet
Shenley Court School
Maypole School

Hagley / Kidderminster

Margaret Crocker
Margaret Oliver
Pete Oliver
Freda Tabberner

Other Areas

Keith Allden
Eileen Bakewell
Richard Hamblin

Geological Fieldwork Safety and Behaviour

The Committee of Heads of University Geology Departments (CHUGD) has issued the following summary of Advice to Students doing field work individually or in groups. There are some parts of this that could apply equally well to experienced professionals, and it is reprinted here for general information.

SAFETY

To All Students Attending Geological Field Courses

Geological field work is an activity involving some inherent special risks and hazards, e.g. in coast exposures, quarries, mines, river sections, and mountains. Severe or dangerous weather conditions may also be encountered at any season, especially on mountains or the coast.

In accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Act, leaders will have been advised by their Departments to follow certain safety precautions and to take every reasonable care concerning the safety of members of their parties. However, *the potential dangers make it imperative that students should co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.* Each individual is responsible for his or her own safety.

You are specifically asked to:

1. Observe all safety instructions given by party leaders or supervisors. Anyone not conforming to the standards required may be dismissed from the field course.

Stay with the party, except by clear arrangement with the leaders. Assemble where requested (e.g. outside a quarry) in order to receive specific instructions regarding likely hazards. Observe instructions for reporting after completion of work.

Report any injury or illness.

2. Wear adequate clothing and footwear for the type of weather and terrain likely to be encountered. Shirt, loose fitting trousers, warm sweater, brightly-coloured anorak with hood, are normally desirable in the UK. A woollen hat (in addition to the hood of the anorak) is useful in winter or on high ground. Gaiters and waterproof overtrousers are desirable for wet weather. Jeans are generally unsuitable because they don't give sufficient protection when wet and are subject to a cold wind, but can be all right if waterproof overtrousers are also worn.

Walking boots with rubber mountaineering soles are normally essential. Sports shoes are unsuitable for mountains, quarries and rough country. Wellingtons are generally best reserved for walking through shallow water, peat bogs and the like.

Leaders may be advised by their departments to refuse to allow ill-equipped students on their field courses, since they have a responsibility to see that students observe the provisions regarding personal safety.

3. Wear a safety helmet (preferably with a chin strap) when visiting old quarries, cliffs, scree slopes, etc, or whenever there is a risk from falling objects. It is obligatory to do so when visiting working quarries, mines and building sites.

4. Wear safety goggles (or safety glasses with plastic lenses) for protection against flying splinters when hammering rocks or chisels. Don't use one geological hammer as a chisel and hammer it with another; use only a soft steel chisel.

Avoid hammering near another person, or looking towards another person hammering.

5. Take special care near the edges of cliffs and quarries, or any other steep or sheer faces, particularly in gusting winds. Ensure that rocks are safe before venturing below. Quarries with rock faces loosened by explosives are especially dangerous.

Avoid working under an unstable overhang. Avoid loosening rocks on steep slopes. Do not work directly above or below another person. Never roll rocks down slopes or over cliffs for amusement.

Do not run down steep slopes.

Beware of landslides and mudflows occurring on clay cliffs and in clay pits, or rockfalls from any cliffs.

6. Avoid touching any machinery or equipment in quarries, mines or building sites. Never pick up explosives or detonators from rock piles; if found, inform the management immediately.

Comply with safety rules, blast warning procedures, and any instructions given by officials. Keep a sharp look-out for moving vehicles, etc.

Beware of sludge lagoons.

7. Do not climb cliffs, rock faces or crags, unless this has been approved as an essential part of the work.

Take great care when walking or climbing over slippery rocks below high water mark on rocky shores. More accidents to geologists, including fatalities, occur along rocky shorelines than anywhere else.

8. Beware of traffic when examining road cuttings. Avoid hammering, and do not leave rock debris on the roadway or verges.

Railway cuttings are not open to geologists, unless special permission has been obtained from the appropriate authorities.

9. Do not enter old mine workings or cave systems unless it has been approved as an essential part of the work. Only do so then by arrangement, with proper lighting and headgear, and never alone. Ensure that someone on the surface knows your location and expected time of return. Be sure to report after returning.

Leaders of parties will follow the general guidance contained in: *A Code for Geological Field Work*, issued by the Geologists' Association; *Mountain Safety Basic Precautions*, published by Climber & Rambler; *Guidelines for Visits to Quarries*, laid down by the British Quarrying and Slag Federation.

To All Students Undertaking Geological Fieldwork Alone, in Pairs or in Small Groups (e.g. undergraduates doing independent mapping, or postgraduate research students)

ALL the provisions of the above section also apply to independent fieldwork.

However, since the nature of the training involves an important element of self-reliance and the ability to cope alone, students in this category are necessarily responsible for their own safety in the field, and the following further advice is offered:

1. Discuss likely safety problems or risks, and check equipment, with the supervisor before departure or commencement of work.
2. Plan work carefully, bearing in mind experience and training, the nature of the terrain and the weather. Be careful not to overestimate what can be achieved.
3. Learn the mountain safety and caving codes, and in particular the effects of exposure. Rock-climbing, caving and underwater swimming may be useful in research activities, but are dangerous for the untrained or ill-equipped. They should only be undertaken with the prior approval of the Supervisor or Head of Department.
4. Don't go into the field without leaving a note and preferably a map showing expected location and time of return. Never carelessly break arrangements to report your return to local people. Camp near habitation if possible.
5. Check weather forecasts. Keep a constant look-out for changes. Do not hesitate to turn back if the weather deteriorates.
6. Know what to do in an emergency (e.g. accident, illness, bad weather, darkness).
7. Carry at all times a small first-aid kit, some emergency food (chocolate, biscuits, mint cake, glucose tablets), a survival bag (or large plastic bag), a whistle, torch, map, compass and watch.
8. Avoid getting trapped by the tide on intertidal banks or below sea cliffs. Obtain local information about tides and currents. Pay particular attention to tidal range. For sea cliff study, local advice can be obtained from HM Coastguards. Always wear footwear when wading in rivers, lagoons or on the shore.
9. Know the international distress signal: (a) 6 whistle blasts, torch flashes or waves of a light-coloured cloth; (b) a one-minute pause; (c) another 3 blasts (flashes, waves) at 20-second intervals.

10. Always try to obtain permission to enter private property, and follow the recognised procedure for visits to quarries, etc. Be careful to report after completion of work.

11. Take special precautions when working offshore: small boats should normally be used only with an experienced boatman or colleague. Always wear a life-jacket. Aqualung equipment should only be used by experienced divers.

12. Ensure you are conversant with the particular safety and health requirements if you work in a new environment: underground in mines, abroad in tropical; desert or arctic conditions, etc.

Further advice on safety is given in the following:

Mountain Safety: Basic Precautions, published by Climber & Rambler, Perth PH1 5TT or 56 Fleet Street London EC4.

Safety on Mountains (1975), published by the British Mountaineering Council, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Manchester University, Manchester M13 9RZ, distributed by Cordee, 249 Knighton Road, Leicester.



GENERAL BEHAVIOUR

All participants in geological field courses, or undertaking independent field work, are expected to observe sensible standards of behaviour, to conduct themselves with consideration for others, particularly in hotels or other accommodation, and not to damage property in any way (e.g. by climbing over walls, leaving gates open, trampling crops).

Please do not disturb the environment more than is absolutely necessary:

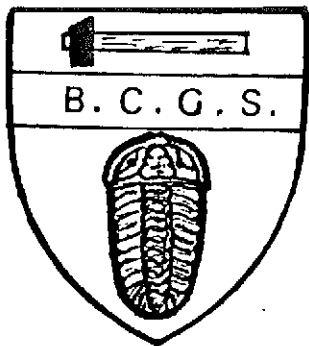
Do not collect specimens unless required for serious study.

Do not hammer outcrops casually or indiscriminately.

Do not disturb living plants and animals.

Do not leave litter, including rock chippings.

Observe conservation requirements. Remember that public access is an acute problem in the countryside and especially in areas designated as National Parks.



THE BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Please return to the Hon. Treasurer, 132 Mount Road
Penn
Wolverhampton.
or at any meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1980

Membership subscriptions are now due and should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer as soon as possible.

Subscription rates are as follows :-

Individual Membership	£4.00 per annum.
Family Membership	£5.50 per annum.
Student Membership	£1.00 per annum.
Associate / Group Membership	£10.00 per annum.

Names

Address

Tel.

I / We enclose £ for Membership.

Date

Signed

BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the fifth Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 6th March 1980 at 7.45 pm in the Central Library, St. James Road, Dudley.

In accordance with article four of the constitution, the committee propose to formally introduce two new offices of Conservation Secretary and Field Secretary.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 15th March '79
3. Statement of Accounts and Treasurers report.
4. Annual Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Vice Chairman
 - c) Hon. Treasurer
 - d) Hon. Secretary
 - e) Conservation Secretary
 - f) Field Secretary
 - g) Three Committee Members
 - h) Hon. Auditor
6. Any other business.

The retiring officers and committee are:-

Chairman	A Cutler
Vice Chairman	Dr P G Oliver
Hon. Secretary	J Golledge
Hon. Treasurer	M J Woods
Committee Members	P Parkes, C Mitchell, T O'Mara

The retiring officers and committee being eligible, offer themselves for re-election (excepting Mr Golledge and Mr Parkes)

To date the following nominations have been received:-

Hon. Secretary	Paul Shilston	Proposed J Golledge Seconded A Cutler
Conservation Secretary	Colin Mitchell	Proposed P Parkes Seconded A Cutler
Field Secretary	Tim O'Mara	Proposed A Cutler Seconded P Oliver
Committee Members	David Reynolds	Proposed A Cutler Seconded M Woods
	John Easter	Proposed P Parkes Seconded A Cutler
	Anne Sutcliffe	Proposed J Golledge Seconded C Mitchell

WEEKEND FIELD TRIP

This year we propose to visit the South Wales Coalfield area, and the Gower Peninsula. We hope to have leaders from the University College of Swansea.

DATE: 11th, 12th, 13th April 1980

COST: the cost is not yet fixed, but should be reasonable, as we will be staying at a University Hall of Residence. An estimate would be around £15-£20 per adult.

TRANSPORT: this is NOT provided. Lifts can be arranged for those without their own cars.

PRELIMINARY MEETING: Thursday 3rd April, at Dudley Central Library.

BOOKING FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

I wish to book places for the weekend field trip.

I enclose a deposit of £5 per person, total £.....

PLEASE SEND TO: Tim O'Mara, Programme Secretary, 81, Market Street,
Kingswinford, Brierley Hill, WEST MIDLANDS DY6 9LJ

VISIT TO GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, LONDON

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH

Please reserve the following places:

.....Adults (£3.50) , Students (£2.50) Children (£1.)

Non-members: 50p extra.

Total remittance of £..... enclosed.

PLEASE SEND TO: Tim O'Mara, 81, Market Street, Kingswinford,
Brierley Hill, WEST MIDLANDS DY6 9LJ