

# NEWSLETTER No. 178 AUGUST 2006

The Society provides limited personal accident cover for members attending meetings or field trips. Details can be obtained from the Secretary. Non-members attending society field trips are advised to take out your own personal accident insurance to the level you feel appropriate. Schools and other bodies should arrange their own insurance as a matter of course.

Leaders provide their services on a purely voluntary basis and may not be professionally qualified in this capacity.

The Society does not provide hard hats for use of members or visitors at field meetings. It is your responsibility to provide your own hard hat and other safety equipment \*(such as safety boots and goggles/glasses) and to use it when you feel it is necessary or when a site owner makes it a condition of entry.

Hammering is seldom necessary. It is the responsibility of the hammerer to ensure that other people are at a safe distance before doing so.

Chairman Alf Cole

Vice Chairman Alan Cutler B.Sc., M.C.A.M., Dip.M., M.CIM.

Hon Treasurer Mike Williams

Hon Secretary Sarah Worton B.Sc., PhD.,F.G.S.

Meetings Secretary Gordon Hensman B.Sc., F.R.Met.S.

Field Secretary Bob Bucki/Andrew Harrison

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Copy date for October Newsletter is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

# Dudley Rock and Fossil Festival 2006

If you available over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006 can you spare some time to join with other society members to help make this year's event the best yet?

#### Fair Volunteers

As in previous years we are sponsoring the Rock and Fossil Festival, and as part of our sponsorship the society provide volunteers to act as stewards and cashiers for the event. Three cashiers take money on the door, and the other people act as stewards distributing programmes and helping people find their way around. We need approximately seven people 'on duty' at any one time which includes enough to allow breaks for everyone. No one is left on their own and it's a real team effort; a great way of getting to know other members. Once we know who is available to help we'll organise a get together to go through the details of who does what.

We usually organise the volunteer rota so that people help out for half day stints – in the past this has been from 10.00am to 13.30pm or from 13.30pm to 17.00pm, although we'll need to confirm the opening hours for the festival over the next month or two. Please can you complete the form below and return to me asap, indicating which sessions you can help with, and whether you have a preference for being a cashier or steward. If you are only available for part of a session please put your name forward anyway, indicating when you could help out.

#### **BCGS Stand**

As well as volunteers for the above, we're also looking for members who'd like to help man the Society's stand at the event. Basically we'd like members who can talk to the public about what the society does, take details of prospective new members and help to sell specimens or any other items donated by members for the event to raise funds for the society. Which brings me onto the last request..........

#### Request for Specimens etc

Do you have any rock or mineral specimens kicking about at home that we could sell to raise some money for the society? Ideally we'd like to know where the specimen is from and what it is as it's nice to pass the information onto the new owner. However, don't worry if you don't know, we'll have enough geologists at the fair to identify things if we need to!!! In some cases you may also wish to put a minimum sale price against the item. As well as specimens we're also looking for any other unwanted items with a geological theme such as books or maps that you don't need anymore. Again, if you have a minimum price please tell us or we will sell the item based on similar things we see on stalls at the fair. If you have any items for sale, please bring them along to the festival on Saturday morning.

All volunteers get free admission to the festival, and drinks on the day.

If you can help or have any queries on this or any of the above please call Sarah Worton, on 01384 235946.

# **FUTURE PROGRAMME**

Lecture meetings are held at Dudley Museum, St James's Road, Dudley. Phone (01384 815575)

7.30 for 8 o' clock start unless stated otherwise.

# FRIDAY - SATURDAY 1ST - 2ND SEPTEMBER 2006

#### WREN'S NEST CONFERENCE

This conference is being held at Dudley College (Mons Hill Campus) and will be considering **Community Conservation and Celebration.** The outline programme is:

#### Friday 1st September

Wren's Nest, Community and Culture
Wren's Nest, Science and Engineering
Wren's Nest, Conservation Past and Present
Wren's Nest, what does the future hold?
Evening canal excursion including supper

Saturday 2nd September

Wren's Nest Reserve

Session 6 Field visit to Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve

**Dudley Museum** 

Session 7 Lunch followed by viewing of the Commemorative Displays

If you are interested in attending this important occasion and have not received a registration form, please indicate your interest to Graham Worton at the museum, or Alan Cutler on 01384 443644.

# SATURDAY – SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 DUDLEY ROCK & FOSSIL FESTIVAL 2006

This will be held in the Museum and Dudley Concert Hall from 10am – 5pm on the Saturday and 10am – 4pm on the Sunday. The many exhibitors will be mounting superb displays of fossils, crystals, gemstones and equipment. There will lots of other things going on, particularly for children, and, as usual, our society will have a stall which will require members, so please try to keep this weekend free. See <a href="https://www.discoverdudley.org.uk/rockandfossil">www.discoverdudley.org.uk/rockandfossil</a> and see page 2.

## WREN'S NEST NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

You can use the same website above, or pick up a leaflet at the Museum or libraries about this event. The actual day is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, and there are *Rock and Fossil Festival Field Trips*, on the Wren's Nest on 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup> September. Most of these events require booking and some have a charge attached. The *Dudley Winter Ales Festival*, in Dudley Concert Hall is from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November, and this will feature a special brew: *Wren's Nest Trilobitter* See <a href="https://www.dudleycamra.org.uk">www.dudleycamra.org.uk</a>

# **MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 (Indoor meeting)**

Mike Fereday: (North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists' Association)

#### "The Geology of the Chaine de Puys, France."

Mike is the Chair of the North Staffs Group and is a good friend of our society. Originally an engineer, and he lived in Clermont Ferrand for a year, and although at the time he knew little geology, he knew that the Chaine de Puys was interesting. The Massif Central holds one of the youngest volcanic regions in Europe and historically is one of the most studied volcanic areas.

# **MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006 (Indoor Meeting)**

## Dr. Jacqui Malpass: "The Brymbo Fossil Forest."

Jacqui Malpass is a graduate of the Open University who studied marine flooding surfaces in Sinai, Egypt for her PhD at Manchester University. The Brymbo Fossil Forest was discovered during a Geodiversity audit of north-east Wales. The talk will describe the Brymbo Fossil Forest in the Carboniferous deposits which is reputed to be even better than the long famous Glasgow find, which has been featured, albeit with a little artistic licence, in encyclopaedias over the last century. The struggle now is to preserve it from weathering and the predations by Homo sapiens.

## MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006 (Indoor Meeting)

**Members Evening:** There is plenty of time to think about your possible talk, demonstration and display.

# **MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 (Indoor Meeting)**

Neil Rushton,: (Team Leader Engineering Advice Telford and Wrekin)

"Landslips in Telford."

Neil spoke to the Shropshire G.S. on 11th January 2006.

# MONDAY 26<sup>Th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 (Indoor Meeting)

Dr. Cynthia Burek: (University of Chester)

Dr. Burek will probably talk on "Women in Geology" Further details later.

# August 2006 *EDITORIAL*

There is a potential shortage of professional geologists. This is a recurring theme when talking to practising geoscientists and Earth Science academics, and occasionally it is backed up by concrete figures. In July of this year a report by the *British Geophysical Association* warns of a chronic shortage of geophysics graduates (Education Guardian; 25/07/06). Geophysicists are required in a wide range of earth science disciplines such as climate change, radioactive waste disposal, energy supply and global water resources. "The population in the industry is aging while the number of students entering university to read geophysical science is falling and courses are being discontinued. If current rates of decline continue there will be no geophysics undergraduates by 2030. The problem is global."

This is not a new situation. In 2004 the *Institute of Physics* bemoaned the relentless decline in Alevel physics students, and this affects not only earth science, also engineering and a host of scientific disciplines, many of them in hospitals. Dr Julia King, the chief executive of the Institute said that, "Physics is in decline and other subjects, such as media studies and art, are increasingly popular despite the poor career prospects they offer. It's a crazy situation." Last year, Lord May of Oxford, the President of the Royal Society commented, "We are still facing a crisis in physics, maths and chemistry at A-level. Compared to 1991, the overall numbers of A-level entries in 2005 were 12.1% higher. But entries in physics were 35.2% lower, entries in mathematics were 21.5% lower, and entries in chemistry were 12.6% lower. We will not be able to meet the needs of employers and enjoy a strong economy in the UK in the future if we do not have sufficient numbers of people trained and qualified in science and mathematics,"

This is being written one week before the 2006 A-level results are announced, but I would be surprised if this trend is not continuing. In 2004 there were 28,698 A-level entries for physics, 37,254 for chemistry and 58,508 for maths, all declining. For comparison the entries for psychology were 46,933; media studies; 26,894 and sociology 25,571 and all increasing. The total entries in all subjects in 2004 were 766,247. The solutions offered are that the at risk subjects must be made more attractive to students in the market place, then more 16 year olds will choose them.

It is time the whole question of the free market and complete freedom of choice in 16-19 education is appraised. A-level courses are increasingly taught in Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges. They are in competition with each other for students, and likewise within the colleges, individual faculties and departments are also often in competition. If a subject is losing students, to maintain staff in employment you may have to offer new subjects. The student perception and that of many teachers is that maths, physics, chemistry along with foreign languages are hard subjects whereas the newer subjects are not only easier but; 'sound interesting'. There is evidence that students tend to choose 'easier' subjects. If a college tries to restrict student choice or decides not to offer a subject because it does not believe it has a place on the curriculum, it risks losing the student to a rival college. Targets are all about total student numbers and pass rates, not about curricular content. It is a crazy situation.

A-level geology is a small subject with entries around 2,000 - 3,000 mark, and yet probably provides a significant number of professional geologists. It is kept going in schools and colleges by a band of enthusiasts, but like all sciences it is expensive to deliver requiring laboratory space, and cost is another consideration in our market orientated further education system.

Bill Groves.

# **MEETINGS REPORTS**

## SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 (Field visit)

## Leaders: Martin Allbut and Mike Williams - BUILTH WELLS ORDOVICIAN INLIER

The Builth Wells Inlier; think trilobites and tuning fork graptolites, but no longer. After the visit by BCGS, Mid Wales Geological Group and Woolhope Naturalist Club, now think; pillow lavas or volcanic bombs, Spilites and dacites, Rhyolitic ash flow tuffs, buried shorelines and ancient volcanic land surfaces.

We can only thank BCGS member and Informal group leading light Martin Allbut for researching and putting together yet another "top-drawer" field meeting. I therefore include Martin's notes and

map as an indication of the geological features to be found on this field trip in the immediate area of Newmead Scar.

Mike Williams

#### The Ordovician Builth Wells Inlier

Both in age, i.e. Llandeilo & LLanvirn Series of the Ordovician, and in orientation, i.e. SW to NE this inlier has some affinities with the Shelve inlier of Shropshire. However whilst showing a shale/volcanic sequence, it is more dominated by the volcanic members and cannot easily be put Into any sort of one-to-one relationship with the sequence at Shelve.

Roughly 15 kms from SW to NE, 7.5 kms wide in the north, 2.5 kms wide in the south the inlier is wholly surrounded by Silurian sediments. Although there is some folding this is nothing like as influential as that of the Shelve Inlier; instead an overall average dip, c. 30 degrees, to the northwest is the main control of outcrop with oldest rocks to the south-east, youngest to the north-west. In the southern part three major east-west faults, named from south to north as Carneddau, Wern-to and Cwmamliw; effectively divide the outcrop into discrete offset blocks, a feature which can be recognised in the ridge and vale topography.

A major unconformity divides the stratigraphic column apparently separating a prolonged period of vulcanicity from one of quieter deep water shale deposition. Somewhat earlier than this, Jones &. Pugh (1949) claimed there was another unconformity characterised by recognisable features within the local topography of shore-line cliffs, beach sands, boulder beds etc. Some scepticism attaches to this claim but examination of such features as still remain (after 50 years!) provides a suitable lead-in to a field excursion.

The main shore-line features lie within the block between Wern-to & Cwmamliw faults centred upon Newmead farm and Tan-lan. Within this block stratigraphy has been well established although there are differences over naming of the several units.

Thus from the three most recent studies we have as follows:-

Jones &Pugh (1949)	BGS 1:25000 sheet (1977)	Bevins & Metcalfe (1993)	
Glyptograptus teretiusculus Shales	G. teretiusculus Shales		
~~~Main Unconformity~~~	~~~~Main Unconformity~~~		
•	,	Upper Didymograptus Shales	
Flinty Mudstones	Flinty Mudstones	Newmead Group	
Pyriteous Felspathic Sandstone/	Coarse Felspathic sandstone		
Grey Felspathic Sandstone	~~Shoreline Unconformity~~		
~~Shoreline Unconformity~~	Spilitic andesites	Massive Basalt (Builth Volcs)	
Lower Spilites	Spilite Boulder Tuff	Pillowed Basalt ( " " )	
Bouldery Spilitic Ash	Main Tuff Group:- includes		
Pebbly Felspar Ash	Tuffs		
	Lower Didymograptus Shales		
CONTINUATION TO EAST	Keratophyre & platy Andesite	Dacite	
	Rhyolitic Tuffs	Llandrindod Volcanic Group	
	Upper Didymograptus bifidus	Didymograptus bifidus Shales	
	Shales		

[We had great difficulty putting in this map, but if you would like a full A4 copy, please contact Bill Groves]

#### .Glossary

**Spilite:** A mafic volcanic rock, usually pillow lava with albite & chlorite, probably representing altered basalt.

**Keratophyre:** A rock with albite, chlorite, epidote formed by alteration of intermediate (dacite) volcanic rock.

**Dacite:** A lava or pyroclastic rock of the calc-alkaline **Basalt-Andesite-Dacite-Rhyolite** association.

#### References

Jones, O.T. & Pugh, W.J. (1949); An early shoreline near Builth Wells. QJGS <u>105</u>, pp 65-99. Bevins, R.E. & Metcalfe, R. (1993); Ordovician Igneous Rocks of the Builth Inlier; Geological Excursions in Powys, pp 243-258

# WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 2006

#### The Black Country Geodiversity Action Plan Launch

"It is the geological variety of rocks, minerals, fossils and landscape together with the natural processes which form them"." It is the link between landscape, people and their culture; it is the variety of geological environments, phenomena and processes that make the landscape and soils and provide the framework for life on earth." "Biodiversity relies on geology for diversity of habitat and the ecosystem and the soil is the link between them."

These are some of the statements from the Steering Group Partnership which has brought into being the Black Country Geodiversity Action Plan (BCGAP). Its aim is stated thus:

"To make a positive contribution to the enrichment of the Black Country environment and quality of life by conserving, enhancing and managing the region's geological heritage and diversity for the benefit of all."

The Black Country Geological Society was well represented at the launch of the BCGAP at the Black Country Living Museum. Those in attendance included the Mayors of Dudley and Wolverhampton, the leader of Dudley Council, British Geological Survey, Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group, Lapworth Museum, University of Birmingham, English Nature, Arts Council, British Waterways, Dudley Canal Trust, Wildlife Trust, BBC, Dudley Zoo, Black Country Consortium, National Ice Age Network and many others.

Alan Cutler, the Project Co-ordinater, introduced the BCGAP and explained how work began on it several years ago. He pointed out how the great early 19th century geologist Sir Roderick Murchison had stated that the region, of what is now the Black Country had the most diverse geology within its boundaries of any comparable small area in the world. It was this, Alan pointed out, that had given rise to the early start of the Industrial Revolution in the Black Country. BCGAP aims to integrate the natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of the people of the Black Country - Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Alan then introduced Councillor David Caunt, Leader of Dudley Council, and Chairman of BCGAP, to speak on the Black Country Vision. He explained how 3½ years ago the four Black Country Boroughs came together to form the BCGAP. It is a 30 year vision for the development of the Black Country which has a population larger than Birmingham. The plan aims to increase the population by 120,000 with 70,000 new households, 50,000 of which would be of the higher income groups. Income levels are planned to rise by 10% with 160,000 new jobs created to mop up the decline of manufacturing. It would have an emphasis on local centres ( regarded as very important), with 4 strategic growth centres linked by Public Transport Corridors and Interchanges as a network. The Black Country would be regarded as an Urban Park with Landscape Action Plans.

A former chairman of the BCGS and Keeper of Geology, Dudley Museum, Graham Worton spoke next. He pointed out how appropriate it was that the Action Plan should be launched this year - the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the first National Nature Reserve for Geology in the country at the Wren's Nest, Dudley.

Graham illustrated the diversity of Black Country geology with some well chosen computer pictures. The world famous fossiliferous Dudley Limestone with something like 650 macro fossils and volcanic ash deposits, the outcropping 10 yard coal, Gornal Sandstone, Etruria Marl, Barrow

Hill volcano and nearby ash deposits at Tansey Green containing the fossils of the earliest known coniferous plants, the marvellous Ripple Beds of the Wren's Nest where Abraham Darby was born, the Dolerite/Basalt of the Rowley Hills, the refractory clays, moulding sandstones--- the list goes on. It will increase in the future with the ongoing data gathering programme revealing more and more, such as the recently revealed important geological information of Triassic Desert Sand dunes in the Compton/Tettenhall area.

Graham emphasised how important it was to make all this relevant to Black Country folk, and he was engaged in a programme of school visits and school parties visiting the museum to educate our children so that they have knowledge and pride in their local area. Both Graham and the previous speaker explained how tourism is the biggest growth industry in the area replacing the metal bashing industries for which the Black Country was once famous. Geotourism would be increasingly important with the growing numbers of educated people all over the world.

Graham used the Step Shaft on the eastern flank of the Wren's Nest to illustrate the growing list of Geo-attractions we have to offer. This shaft was dug in Victorian times and originally had a cast iron spiral staircase leading down to the canal which runs underground from Castle Hill to the Wren's Nest Limestone Mines. Not much work needed to be carried out on the linking tunnel, and there was no doubt this would be a very important attraction in future. All it needed was money for repairs and development. The BCGAP has 7 stages to follow until its completion. It is a pioneering blueprint for all local authorities in the country to follow.

This launch of the BCGAP is extremely important for the Black Country and offers a real way forward to a prosperous and attractive future for us all.

Gordon Hensman

# FROM OUR MEMBERS

## From Lucy Hollis

I have had an email from one of our younger members, *Lucy Hollis*. She has just completed an MSci in Geology from Birmingham with a First! Congratulations Lucy. She also won a geology prize. She is now in Canada at the University of Vancouver studying for an MSc in economic geology. She is looking for Copper-Molybdenum deposits in British Columbia. Lucy writes:

"We're heading off into the southern Chilcotin Mountains of B.C. next Friday, so the past week has been a blur of preparations for camping gear, field gear and maps. It's nice to be so busy though. My fieldwork this season will be centred on three main Cu-Mo deposits that the company that is sponsoring my thesis have showings in. They're called the Hub, Charlie and Northwest Copper. We've seen some publicity shots from the area - the terrain is pretty harsh, but the scenery looks pretty awesome and our supervisor went to do a fly-by last week to check on the snow pack (apparently it's been bad this year) and she reckons we'll have fun up there with the bears! Plenty of bear flares and bear spray should do the trick I think (or hope!)."

■ Chilcotin Mountains, British Columbia.

#### From Graham Hickman

The hunt for erratics continues and it is becoming evident that the North West fringes of the Black Country into neighbouring South Staffordshire and Shropshire are littered with them. Many were left in what is now the City of Wolverhampton. Graham emailed his recollections: "In response to your query about erratic boulder sites in the West Midlands, I have a specimen which my father collected around 1972 (?) when the Mander Centre was being constructed. It came from Bell Street Wolverhampton. [Grid Ref: SO 914 984]. It is a light coloured granodiorite. I remember him going along on a Sunday morning when they blew it up to make way for the foundations of the Mander Centre, I think the event was advertised in the Express & Star before hand so there was quite a crowd. I am sure a search of the Express and Star archives might reveal more facts about the original dimensions and perhaps some photos." Do any other members recollect this occasion? Please let us know. It is interesting that the Victorians transported their erratics to West Park whereas more recent developers blew them up.

#### Letter from Ananda Shamo:

Dear Bill,

I was interested about your editorial on Nuclear (Newsletter 177 ~ June 2006), as I'm presently doing some studies on the problems involved with radwaste (as well as with mad humans). As at least one possible answer is to do with geology, it would be really good to have a lecture on this, especially as it's all in the news again.

The conversazione – it was great fun – a good idea to have more. How about one on 'for and against Nuclear' ~ would be at least as controversial as the last one.

Letters page would be good too.

Love and Blessings, Ananda

#### Letter from Gordon Hensman:

There seems to be an assumption by some geologists that global warming is a geological phenomenon. This is clearly incorrect. If we examine what actually happens then it becomes apparent that it is the result of the way the gases in the air interact at a molecular level with the different electro-magnetic radiations going through it.

Global Warming is confined to the lowest layer of the atmosphere - the TROPOSPHERE about 16kms thick - within which all our weather occurs. The opposite effect has been observed at the top of the troposphere where temperatures are around  $-60^{\circ}$ C. The next 35kms - the STRATOSPHERE - reverses the temperature fall, and temperatures reach about  $0^{\circ}$ C at about 50kms altitude. This increase is due to the absorption of solar radiation by ozone.

About 47% of short-wave solar radiation reaches the earth's surface. Some evaporates water; some heats the surface which globally averages 15°C. The earth radiates on an appropriate wavelength which is longer than the incoming short-wave radiation. Of this, some passes through the atmosphere into space; some is reflected back to earth by clouds, dust and other impurities; some is absorbed by the atmosphere which also radiates on its wavelength. In this way the clouds and the atmosphere act as a kind of screen and long-wave radiation is shuttled back and forth keeping the earth warmer because of the reduced escape.

The total re-radiation to earth from the atmosphere is not quite twice the short-wave radiation received by the earth from the sun. This discrepancy is now called the Greenhouse Effect, bearing in mind the analogy between the atmosphere and a thin sheet of glass is far from perfect. Over a period of time the temperature of the lower troposphere can only be constant if there is an exact balance between incoming and outgoing radiation. The increasing quantity of CO2 - from about 260-270 ppm say, 200 years ago - to 390 ppm now is upsetting this balance. And that is to say nothing about methane and other gases.

This warming is beyond doubt a meteorological phenomenon. The only link with geology is the exploitation of fossil fuels, and the complex interactions between soil and its uptake and release of carbon.

Gordon Hensman

# **BLACK COUNTRY FOSSILS**

*Marsupiocrinus coelatus* is the name of this editions fossil and is quite obviously a crinoid. This particular specimen is on display in Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, but its history is unknown except that is comes from the Much Wenlock Limestone in Dudley, and has been in the collection since at least 1912.

Crinoids are very common in the local limestones of the Silurian, but to find a complete cup, particularly one as complete as the illustration, is rare. More commonly you can pick up individual plates from crinoid stems, which is probably the most abundant fossil found at the Wren's Nest. When taking young schoolchildren to search for fossils we tell them to look for 'little polo mints'

One misconception that many new students of geology often have is that crinoids were plants. They are animals that lived on the top of a stem in groups and are related to sea urchins and starfish. Today they are found from tropical to arctic waters. (Scale on illustration in cms.)

Bill Groves

# **GEOBABBLE**

One of the most difficult parts of writing this section is to find geological terms which fit the bill of Geobabble. This time the problem has been solved by the excellent magazine, *New Scientist (8 July 2006)* and the term is *THAGOMIZER*. A thagomizer is the cluster of spikes at the end of the tail of a Stegosaur. Although it is a good word in itself, it is its origin that that is most interesting. It is not derived from some classical word, but it has been taken from Gary Larson's cartoon series, *The Far Side* which features cavemen and dinosaurs. It was called a thagomizer after Thag Simmons who was killed by a Stegosaur; in the cartoon.

The word has been eagerly taken on by Vertebrate Palaeontologists, and is now being used in major American museums. But the originality of research workers did not stop there. Leigh Van Valen of the University of Chicago has named 20 fossil mammals from J.R.R. Tolkein's books. Insects have been named after Gary Larson, a louse called "Strigiphilius garylarsoni", and a 4-metre-long Australian fossil snake was named" Montypythonoides"

Bill Groves

# and finally...

Chris Skidmore has emailed; "I thought that members would be interested to know that the BBC television series Earth Story is now available on DVD from August 7<sup>th</sup> 2006. I am sure that most members found this series very interesting the first time round. A copy on DVD would be a welcome addition. The disk is available on offer from <a href="www.bbcshop.com">www.bbcshop.com</a> price £12.99 + £2.45 p&p"

# **CONTACT US**

As ever we would love to hear your news and views, particularly for the new 'from our members' spot, so please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and give us your thoughts. We are often able to print photographs that are sent by email or colour print. Notices that appear in this Newsletter will remain in future editions until the date of the related meeting or event has passed. In order to include material in the October Newsletter, please send or give it to one of the Editorial Team by **Monday 2**<sup>nd</sup> **October 2006** 

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Hon. Secretary: Sarah Worton 158 Oakham Road Oldbury B69 1QQ Tel 01384 235946 Graham Worton
Dudley Museum and Art Gallery
1 St James' Road
Dudley
DY1 1HU
Tel 01384 815574
Or email:
graham.worton@dudley.gov.uk

Bill Groves
23 Churchward Grove
Wombourne
Wolverhampton
WV5 9HB
Or email:
bill.groves@dudley.gov.uk
billgroves300@btinternet.com

# BCGS Website now at www.bcgs.info