

# WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP

Chairman -Martyn Bradley 01926 428835.

Secretary - Julia. Williams

c/ o The County Museum, Market Square, WARWICK CV34 45A

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No 1 AUTUMN 1999

### EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of a newsletter to our members. We plan to produce issues in spring and autumn.

It is nearly 10 years since the foundation of the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group which grew from an initiative of the Wildlife Trust. Our aim is to conserve geological sites in Warwickshire, to foster interest in geology and geological conservation and to support geological education.

The County of Warwickshire boasts a remarkable geological diversity.

In the north are the hard and ancient rocks of the Nuneaton Ridge and the Coal Measures once extensively worked in deep mines and open cast sites.

In central Warwickshire red mudstones colour the soils and red desert sandstones of various ages were used in building old Coventry Cathedral and Kenilworth Castle. These contrast with the younger, lighter coloured sandstone of the castle in Warwick.

To the south are the rusty coloured ironstones of Edgehill (formerly used as an iron ore), and in the far south, there are honey-coloured Cotswolds oolites. Sands and gravels, largely found in the river valleys, are still worked and yield valuable evidence of former ice age and interglacial conditions. This geological heritage provides evidence for a remarkable range of environmental conditions over the last 600 million years. From Precambrian volcanic beginnings, the area has subsequently played host to trilobite-infested seas, coal swamps, arid desert fans and ice sheets. The landscapes of the county reflects the is wide variety of solid rocks sculptured and mantled by glacial deposits.

Much of this rich geological heritage is hidden beneath towns, villages and fields but comes to light in quarries, road and railway cuttings, stream banks, and temporary exposures such as construction sites, and building foundations. This irreplaceable resource is coming under increasing pressure from developers and landfill and the number of sites available for people to visit and learn is diminishing.

One of the key roles of the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group is to safeguard the county' sites allowing them every chance of long-term survival for use by future generations. The group has designated nearly fifty Regionally Important Geological Sites [RIGS] within the old county boundary ( which includes Coventry and Solihull). Volunteers from the WGCG record and monitor sites of geological interest complementing the work of the Museum where Jon Radley, the Keeper of Geology maintains Warwickshire's geological record centre .

The WGCG also has a programme of summer field trips. Winter talks with a wide appeal are held by kind permission in St John's Museum Warwick.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

All held at 7.30pm at the St John's Museum, Warwick

DECEMBER : Wednesday 8th

### **Christmas Social**

Members Holiday contributions most welcome

JANUARY : Wednesday 19th.

### **“The Pleistocene of Central China”**

Talk by Prof David Keen of Coventry University

FEBRUARY Wednesday 16th.

### **“The Dawn of the Cretaceous and the Geological Conservation Review”**

Talk by Jonathan Radley, Geologist of the County Museum

MARCH : Wednesday 15th

### **“Open University Field trip to Hawaii”**

Talk by Jean Sutton and Kathy Turrell, W.G.C.G

Our programme is advertised on the County Council WEB site.

There is also a national WEB site for RIGS at [www.rigs.org](http://www.rigs.org) and there is an opportunity here for us to have own page Please contact Martyn if you would like to organise this.

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

There will be an

### **OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING**

on WEDNESDAY MARCH 1st 2000 at 7.30pm

at the St John's Museum, Warwick.

**Ken Addison**, the Chairman of the National RIGS will talk and answer questions on the new structures in place for coordinating RIGS activities throughout the whole of the UK. This is open to all members and we hope that as many as possible will come to this important meeting.

## **AROUND THE REGIONS**

Wednesday 26th Jan '00 at 7.30pm in Leicester University,  
Geology Dept

**“The Geophysics of Continental Rifts”** Talk by Prof Khan,

Wednesday 9th Feb '00 at 1.00pm Coventry University, Dept  
of Geography,

**“Ocean-atmosphere interactions & historic climate change  
in the N Atlantic region”** Talk by Prof Dawson.

Saturday 19th February

Saturday 4th March '00 Leicester Day School at the Vaughan  
College Leicester

**“GLOBAL WARMING - nothing new under the Sun ?”**

A Symposium on climate changes past, present and future.  
Booking forms available from WGCG Secretary.

Saturday 18th March Geology Day at the Peterborough  
Museum. Minibus from Warwick University, departs 9am  
Total Cost £ 8.00 Contact Martyn Bradley

## **HELP WANTED**

Over the years our group has failed to develop a number  
of initiatives due to the lack of time and money. Our new  
Committee are actively following up various projects and we  
now need help and expertise. Most pressing is the securing  
of funding for these projects, though not necessarily the very  
large sum that Worcester RIGS secured from the Lottery!

We would like to produce coloured county RIGS leaflets and put  
up some information boards. With the Warwickshire Wildlife  
Trust we are hoping to establish the county's first Geological  
Nature Reserve. These plans will need funding.

Money is available from various bodies but our Group so far  
has not had someone with time to handle this matter. If you  
can help, liaising with our new Treasurer, Thelma Gee, please  
contact Martyn Bradley .

MEMBERS OF THE WGCG COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Martyn Bradley Tel 01926 428835  
VICE CHAIRMAN Alan Cook  
SECRETARY Mrs Julia Williams Tel 01455  
220586  
TREASURER Mrs Thelma Gee  
PROGRAMME SEC Maurice Rogers  
MEMBERS John Crossling, David Mills,  
Peter Briggs.  
CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Anton Irving; English Nature  
Jonathan Radley; Keeper of  
Geology, County Museum.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Members are reminded of the need to pay their annual  
subscription as soon as possible.

(£10.00, £7.50 Concession for Wildlife Trust Members)

The WGCG is affiliated to  
The Geological Association and to  
The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  
It is supported by English Nature

