

# WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP

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## NEWSLETTER

### Issue Number 7: Spring 2004

**Editorial:** We have a busy programme of events this summer, with three weekend field trips arranged, in addition to our evening meetings. We hope you will be able to be present at the opening of our Geological display at Brueton Park, Solihull. This is the culmination of many months work by Maureen Newrick, Maurice Cooke, David Coates and Adam Smith. It promises to be an exciting day with a free lunch too!

Julia Williams

### Deserts and Sea-dragons — Warwickshire's Heritage

On July 4th this year, we will be opening our geological display to the public at the Parkridge Centre in Brueton Park, Solihull. Ten paired interpretation boards will explain, through original paintings, photographs and words, Warwickshire's geological heritage and how this is reflected in the landscape, buildings and industry of the County.

It will be a day of activities and fun for adults and children - come along and meet Mr Sandstone (!), try your hand at model making, make dinosaur eggs ..... and we might even have an electronic trilobite for you to play with!

The timing of the activities has not yet been finalised but we expect the Parkridge Centre to be open from 10.30 am to around 4 o'clock. All WGCG members are invited to a buffet lunch (there is also an excellent café at the Centre), but we are looking for people to help us out on the day, the various jobs and responsibilities to be determined nearer the time. We are also looking for a small group of people to help erect the interpretation boards on 16th May and 22nd & 23rd May so if you're handy with a spade or saw we'd like to hear from you.

Volunteers' names to Brian, please - or ring me: 01931 715370.

Greetings from the far, but very beautiful, north - and looking forward to seeing you on July 4th.

Maureen

**Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group — Study Tours**  
**Geology & Scenery in South Shropshire, Sat. 27th & Sun. 28th March**

Leaders — Martyn Bradley and Hugh Jones

The relationship of topography and geology can be readily appreciated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Here on Housman's "Blue remembered Hills" we find a wide variety of rock types, -sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic -and structures, -escarpments, volcanic hills and a rift valley.

Each will give an opportunity to walk on the hills and relate geological theory to a memorable landscape. The tours are open to all full members of WGCG and are particularly suited to University of Warwick Open Studies students.

Each day will involve short walks over some rough country, so stout footwear and suitable outdoor gear is needed. WGCG has third party insurance arranged through the Geologist's Association, personal accident cover is advised. All participants must agree to follow the WGCG field work code, please ask for a copy.

OUTLINE ITINERARIES — Full details will be sent to all participants.

**Saturday 27th March**

Meet at 10 am at Cleve Hill. Short walk to view point and Carboniferous, dolerite exposures. Drive via Nordy Bank for 2km Devonian Walk. On to Wenlock Edge, viewpoint, Silurian limestone. Pub or packed lunch. Afternoon ascent of Caer Caradoc, Uriconian volcanics. Finish at All Stretton approximately 5pm

**Sunday 28th March**

Meet in All Stretton at 9:30 am (First day of summer time) for 3 km walk around a glacial channel. Drive over the Pre-Cambrian Long Mynd to the Ordovician Stiperstones and walk to the village 3 kms. Pub or packed lunch. Drive to Snailbeach for minerals and finish the day along the Onny River geological trail. *There is a charge of A7.50 per person per day. Book your place direct with the leader — cheques payable to WGCG. Travel is the responsibility of the participants who will be put in touch with each other for car sharing*

**These field trips are now fully booked.**

**If you would like to go on a waiting list, please contact Martyn Bradley:**

**Tel: 01926 428835**

**Warwickshire Fossils**

Adam Stuart-Smith needs good quality local fossils for the WGCG display box which will go on display at several venues. If you are able to help, please contact Adam on: 02476 416569

**Earth Heritage Trust News**  
**Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark**

The Geopark covers over 1250 km<sup>2</sup> with the Abberley and Malvern Hills forming the backbone of the area. The geological and geomorphological significance of this area has been recognised from the nineteenth century. There are more than 70 protected sites and a fine range of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, illustrating over 500 million years of Earth History. There are many biological and Special Wildlife Sites. Archaeological sites of importance are also recorded and protected.

The area contains an industrial and mining heritage stretching back many centuries, although mining ceased in 1972. The quarrying industry further illuminates the geological story with many disused sites now providing excellent educational facilities for Earth Science education for everyone from beginner to advanced academic.

The official opening is on Easter Monday, April 12th and Tuesday 13th, 2004. Members of WGCG are invited to attend the opening in Ledbury.

For more information visit our website at **[www.worc.ac.uk/eht](http://www.worc.ac.uk/eht)** and follow the links to the Geopark.

**WEB LINKS**

**[www.wgcg.org.uk](http://www.wgcg.org.uk)**

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group's new website.

**[www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)**

For information on the geology of Warwickshire, search for Geology on this site or, click on Warwickshire Web - Geology from the WGCG website.

**[www.naturalstonespecialist.com](http://www.naturalstonespecialist.com)**

Click on Stone Explained for an explanation of limestone, sandstone, granite, slate and marble.

**[www.geologist.demon.co.uk](http://www.geologist.demon.co.uk)**

The web site of the Geologists' Association gives a mass of geological information.

**[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)**

Use this site for geological images. For example, type in "ammonite" for 6160 possibilities or "brachiopod" for 1590.

## **Notes about WGCG committees**

Since the changes made at the October AGM, we have now set up the new committees. The memberships are as follows:

### **Management Committee**

Chairman	Brian Ellis	02476 468571
Geology Officer	Martyn Bradley	01926 428835
Secretary	Moyra Butterworth	01926 855813
Membership Officer	Debbie Kelsall	01676 532879
Finance Officer	Maurice Cooke	01789 415271
Deputy Chairman	John Crossling	01926 613256

Plus  
Jon Radley and  
  
Chris Hodgson

### **Education Sub-Committee**

Chair: Chris Hodgson (01926 511097), Moyra Butterworth, Maurice Cooke, Brian Ellis, Colin Stevens, Kathy Turrell (secretary), Adam Stuart-Smith, Julia Williams

### **Conservation Sub-Committee**

Chair: Martyn Bradley, Jon Radley (01926 412481) Anton Irving, Jane Worrall, John Crossling.

Any members of the committees would be pleased to discuss any matters concerning the Group, would be pleased for ideas for future activities and would welcome volunteers to speak, to lead field trips or to help at events where WGCG has been invited to attend or to help in any other way.

Brian Ellis  
Chairman Management Committee

## **Milverton Trip - Wednesday evening 9th June - Martyn Bradley**

Meet at 7 pm by the entrance to Guy's Cliff House on A429, 1 km south of the Leek Wootton/Warwick turn off the A46 (OS Landranger sheet 151 - grid ref: SP 291 666)

The evening will give us the opportunity first, to examine the famous exposure of Bromsgrove Sandstone at Guy's Cliff where reptilian footprints were found in the nineteenth century. The site is now a SSSI. We will then move north to cross the River Avon at the Saxon Mill, where historic levels in the flood plain are re-recorded. We then walk across the fields to Old Milverton, crossing three river terraces which WGGC have recently designated as a RIGS. Return to Saxon Mill where there is parking off the A429 for the Harvester restaurant and pub.

Martyn Bradley

## **Field trips which we are invited to attend**

Mon 12th & Tues 13th April, Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark Launch, at Ledbury, Herefordshire. (Organised by Hereford, Worcestershire, Gloucester and Shropshire branches of The Geology Trusts.)

WGGC members' support has been requested.

Tel: 01905 855184 for further information.

22nd May, Nature Ramble through a classic Upper Greensand hollow way led by Andrew Tucker. (Organised by Wiltshire RIGS.) Meet at 2.00 pm at Coxill Lane, Potterne. Tel: 01380 871008 for details.

5th June, Geopark Extravaganza at Severn Valley Country Park. (Organised by Shropshire Geological Society.) Tel: 01547 530660

June, International week of events for the Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark. (Organised by Hereford & Worcs Earth Heritage Trust.) Tel: 01905 855184

14th August, Field Excursion to look at Jurassic geology led by Isobel Geddes. (Organised by Wiltshire RIGS.) Meet at 2.00 pm at Wootton Bassett mud springs & Swindon Town Gardens. Tel: 01380 871008

Sat 18th & Sun 19th September, Rock and Fossil Show by Graham Wharton at Dudley Museum. Tel: 01384 815574

## **The Aggregate Geodiversity Project and the Future for Geoconservation in Warwickshire**

Well, the project is coming to an end and the final geodiversity management plan is almost finished. Since the last newsletter I have completed the site management plan (SMP) for Purley Quarry which was a huge challenge, and the final SMP for Griff No. 4 Quarry will be ready in the next week or so. Purley Quarry is packed full of reasons for geoconservation, the unique Cambrian trilobite fauna, the exposure of the dolerite sill, and from the historical aspect the use of part of the site by Professor Charles Lapworth and its value in determining the age of the rocks in the Nuneaton Inlier. I can only hope that the proposals outlined in the SMP will be taken forward. As for Griff No. 4, well, I was shocked at the size of the hole in the ground. When Jon Radley and I visited the site in January, I was in geologists' heaven! An excellent site again with huge potential for geoconservation and public involvement.

So, what is the future for geoconservation in Warwickshire? From being involved with this project and with The Geology Trusts I have realised that there is a huge scope for geoconservation in all counties but particularly for Warwickshire. Bill Stoke's comments in the Autumn 2003 newsletter were spot on - geoconservation involves more than recording and designating RIGS, it is about promoting the value and excitement of our Earth heritage to local people. To this end the Brueton Park project can only be a good thing. There is definitely potential in Warwickshire to run more projects like Brueton Park and the aggregate geodiversity project. The money is out there to fund these projects and, with the support of The Geology Trusts, WGCG just needs to go out there and get it.

Jane Worrall  
March 2004

### **Newsletter copy dates**

Please can you let me have your articles for the next newsletter by July 31st. A big thank you to members who have sent their article in Word as an e-mail attachment. It makes my job much easier.

Please e-mail to :  
[julia@wgcg.org.uk](mailto:julia@wgcg.org.uk)

Julia Williams

# Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

## Spring and Summer Programme 2004

Please telephone Christine Hodgson (01926 511097) if you are attending a field event, ideally 7 days before the meeting. It will help to know numbers attending so that we don't leave a leader of a field trip with too few or too many members.

**Sat 27th & Sun 28th March: Shropshire field trip  
led by Martyn Bradley (fully booked)**

**Sat 3rd April: Edge Hill Quarry  
led by Jane Worrall**

Meet at Edge Hill Quarry, grid ref: SP 373 470 at 11.00 am. Cars will have to be parked either in Edge Hill Village or in the minor road to the south of the quarry. Do not enter the quarry unaccompanied. This meeting is not restricted to members of WGCG. Please contact Chris Hodgson, on 01926 511097 if you will be attending.

**Fri 30th April - Mon 3rd May: Bude field trip, led by Chris King  
(fully booked).**

**Sat 15th May: Griff Quarry, Nuneaton  
led by Jane Worrall**

Meet at the quarry entrance, grid ref: 362 890 at 11.00 am. A maximum of 20 people are allowed on this field trip. As you enter the site there is a visitors' car park on the right. Do not leave the car park unaccompanied. This meeting is not restricted to members of WGCG. Please telephone Chris Hodgson on 01926 511097 if you will be attending.

**Wed 9th June (evening): RIGS, Milverton  
led by Martyn Bradley**

Meet at 7.00 pm by the entrance to Guy's Cliff House on A429, 1 km south of the Leek Wootton/Warwick turn off the A46 (OS Landranger sheet 151 - grid ref: SP 291 666)

### **Sunday 4th July: Parkridge Centre, Brueton Park**

Launch of the Geological Display. Day of activities from 10.30 am.

### **Wed 14th July (evening): RIGS, Rowington, Henley, Arden sandstone led by Jon Radley**

Meet at 7.00 pm. Details will be available on WGCG website: [www.wgcg.org.uk](http://www.wgcg.org.uk) and from Jon at the Museum - e-mail: [jonradley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonradley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

The excursion will focus on Triassic sandstone sites in the Warwick area, historically important as the source of many fossils, recent conservation initiatives, as well as geological and historical aspects.

### **Sunday 12th Sept: Geopark Day, Abberley and Malvern Hills led by Dr Cheryl Jones**

Meet at 10.30 am at the parking place, just off the B4218 at Wyche Cuttings, Malvern Hills. Landranger Sheet 150, grid ref: 770 440. Please contact Chris Hodgson, on 01926 511097 if you will be attending.

### **Friday 24th - Sun 26th Sept: Welsh Borders, residential field trip led by Hugh Jones**

It is planned to base the trip in the Llanymynech. On the Friday we will visit the Permo-Carboniferous desert sandstones in the Severn Valley and Ordovician volcanics in the Breidden Hills. On Saturday the Carboniferous limestones on Llanymynech Hill and on through the Ordovician of the Tanat valley to Pistyll Rhaeadr, the highest waterfall in Wales in the Berwyn Mountains.

Return on Sunday via the working stones quarries at Grinshill from where replacement stone is brought to match our Bromsgrove sandstone buildings in Warwickshire.

(Full details of this field trip will be available at the meeting on 15th May.

If you cannot attend on 15th May, but would like details, please send a SAE to Kathy Turrell at 9 Brackendale Drive, Barby, Rugby, CV23 8TJ )

### **Dates of WGCG Winter Meetings at St John's Museum, Warwick:**

Wednesdays:

15th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December 2004

19th January, 16th February, 16th March 2005