

## **WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP**

Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL  
Email: [martynbradley@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:martynbradley@warwick.ac.uk) Tel: 02476 523533  
[www.wgcg.org.uk](http://www.wgcg.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER Issue Number 10 Autumn 2005

### **Report by Martyn Bradley - Chairman of WGCG**

As well as our monthly programme of winter talks and summer field trips we have organised longer weekends to Ludlow, Llandrindod Wells and Snowdonia.

Our conservation work is currently focussing on the Quaternary sand and gravel sites in south central - Warwickshire. At Wood Farm Quarry, Emma Wightman supervised a geoconservation project which included an experiment in soft sediment conservation of unconsolidated sands and gravels laid down prior to the Anglian glaciation when Warwickshire was overrun by an ice sheet which pushed southwards and realigned the course of the River Thames. At the base of these gravels, are found the teeth and bones of animals which roamed these Midland Plains some 500,000 years ago. Hand axes fashioned by Heidleberg man were found during our work at Wood Farm quarry and are evidence of the earliest 'human' spread into NW Europe.

**URGENT**

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR CHANGE OF DATE  
FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

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This work was funded by English Nature with ALSF funds which enabled us to put up an interpretation panel in the adjacent Ryton Pools Country Park and produce explanatory leaflets.

With further funds, we are going on to develop interpretation of adjacent sites in the area, including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Brandon Marsh Nature Centre with its adjacent geological SSSI and the internationally important Wolston sites first described by the late Professor Shotton.

## **MORE GOOD NEWS ON THE CONSERVATION FRONT**

Early in the summer the Group received good news from English Nature in the form of approval for our bid for £25,000 in support of geoconservation projects in the county.

You will remember that Emma Wightman and Clark Friend were employed over the winter to see whether it was possible to conserve a soft sediment section at Wood Farm, Bubbenhall, effectively and, just as importantly, to raise awareness of the importance of geological sites in the local community. While maintaining this very important site is having its difficulties, there is little doubt that the team has been very successful in raising interest and awareness among local people.

With so many important Quaternary sites in the county, especially in the area to the SE of Coventry, it was felt that the opportunity offered by English Nature should be grasped. The new grant will enable us to employ staff from September 2005 until June 2007, working principally on the conservation of sites at Wolston (where Shotton identified a sequence which he ascribed to a cold stage, the Wolstonian), at Brandon Country Park, a nearby location at Ryton and another at Ryton Pools Country Park. As at Wood Farm, exposures are revealed in the Baginton Sands / Thrussington Till sequence at all of these sites.

Building on our positive experience, with the community in Bubbenhall, the plan now is to involve locals from Ryton and Wolston in this project. Moreover, it was part of the proposal to offer training days for those interested in getting involved in practical conservation. So, there is much to be done over the coming months and to meet the challenges we have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Katie Snape (a recent Birmingham graduate in Geology and Geography) and Paul Akers (a retired consulting engineer who has been following Martyn Bradley's Open Studies course).

This may seem like a big undertaking for WGCG, but it is worth noting that other counties are pressing ahead still more rapidly. Both Oxfordshire and Worcestershire have reached the position where they essentially have ‘permanent’, full-time staff, albeit funded from ‘soft money’. For us there are many challenges still to be confronted, especially in our hard rock areas on the Nuneaton Ridge.

**Ian Fenwick**

**NEW DATE FOR SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP**

**Our joint Field Trip with the Leicester Group will now be on Sunday 18th September.**

**10:30 to 3pm**

**Meet at Bubbenhall Old School Loop road GR SP 364723 Landranger 140**

**Bring a packed lunch.**

**“Does Lake Harrison Hold Water?”**

Glacial Lake Harrison had long been accepted as a pro-glacial lake for which “detailed evidence” was available: shoreline, varved deposits and ice margin sands and gravels. BGS mapping in the 1980s introduced a refreshing air of controversy especially in relation to the shoreline bench. We will visit Wood Farm Quarry where WGCG are currently working on a soft sediment geoconservation project on the sands and gravels, Shotton’s famous Wolston site and the bench at Fenny Compton.

**Leader: Martyn Bradley**

**SPRING NEWSLETTER**  
**Articles by March 1st please.**

## **Wood farm Quarry Geoconervation Project**

In the Spring Newsletter, Emma Wightman wrote about the Geoconervation Project being carried out at 'Wood Farm Quarry near Baginton, where Smiths Concrete Ltd. is extracting the Pleistocene Baginton Sands and Gravel.

The initial attempt to protect a small section with a cover was only partially successful with problems being encountered in securely fastening the fabric to the face. In order to overcome this problem, an overburden of clay to a depth of about 4 metres has been put in place and the section recut. A framework is now being constructed which will enable the fabric to be securely held in place by horizontal aluminium poles.

Taking resin peels also proved more problematic than anticipated and required the development of a more sophisticated process. The new procedure has now been successfully applied and examples of the face have been taken which provide a permanent record of the texture of the sediments at points just below the Thrussington Till, in the centre of the face and just above the gravel layer.

Another application to English Nature, through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has now been granted. This will allow the conservation of the face to be monitored until March 2007 as well as further promotion of awareness and interest in the site.

Monitoring of the performance of the cover fabric in conserving the face will be carried out on a regular basis. This will be done by taking video sequences over the entire surface. At the end of the project it should then be possible to assess whether the approach taken is a viable way of conserving soft, unconsolidated sediments or whether an alternative, such as latex spraying of the face, needs to be considered.

In order to promote the site, an internet web site will be established which will include photographs of various features in the face, illustrate how the face is being conserved and provide up-to-date information on the monitoring.

A display will also be set up in the Visitors Centre in Ryton Pools Country Park, which is adjacent to the quarry. This will include, photographs of the quarry as well as mounted displays of the peels.

A booklet is also to be produced to complement the leaflets and interpretation boards. This will explain in more detail the significance of the site and will include the geomorphological and archaeological history.

**Paul Akers**

### UPTON HOUSE

One of the most easy and pleasurable activities of the WGCG is the manning of the Exhibition Display of Warwickshire Fossils.

The Group is regularly asked to attend functions in a variety of venues and to date we have built up an impressive list including village halls, Company HQ's, Conference Centres and National Trust sites.

Among the latter we can cite Baddesley Clinton and Charlecote Park ( where the lesson was quickly learnt that an outside stand in flimsy canvas marquees is not the best arrangement in our English weather!!)

The display is housed in a slim line varnished cabinet that fits easily in the back of the car and along with a collapsible display and a lot of literature and brochures the layout is, we judge, attractive and approachable. This is not a display that is hidden beneath glass covers nor are there signs which state

DO NOT TOUCH

It is intended that all - and particularly young people - should handle, touch and feel the specimens that range from Worm casts of PreCambrian date to the Pleistocene mammoth teeth found in Woods Farm Quarry.

The link between the venue and the specimens is often brought out and this certainly occurred during our visit to Upton House in May.

Upton House is a National Trust property, a little distance from Edgehill and naturally it is made out of the local Jurassic Marlstone - a soft mellow rusty red/green freestone that was almost certainly quarried within 400 yards of the building.

For the whole of the flat-topped escarpment of the Marlstone was in times past readily quarried or alternately mined for its high iron content. The staff at the house proudly displayed their geological knowledge by walking around the building with us and showing where the remains of brachiopods and belemnites can be seen in the stonework.

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## REPORTS BY MEMBERS ON FIELD TRIPS

### **WGCG Spring Field Trip, May 13th - 15th 2005**

Fossils of the Kington, Ludlow and Llandrindod Wells Districts

#### **Dipping, Sloping and Fossiling Across the Welsh Borders**

A carefully crafted and well-organised weekend programme of fossil exploration in the Herefordshire, South Shropshire and Welsh Borders proved to be a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The ten strong group of amateur and professional geologists was promised at the onset by Tess Ormrod, the course leader, a productive two days. We were not disappointed. Whilst it came as no surprise that the group failed to unearth a *Diplodocus* in the Silurian or the Ordovician formations of the Welsh borderlands, the variety of fossils that were collected by the group at many road side exposures and in the disused Llanfawr quarry, Llandrindod Wells, demonstrated the rich variety of well preserved fossilised remains of graptolites, trilobites, bryozoans and brachiopods that resided in the area 400 to 500 million years ago.

It was slightly worrying that the number and size of specimens increased as the weekend progressed but, it was Tess's bilingual ability, mainly Latin, with a smattering of English, that helped to distinguish the types of fossils clustered around each location; thus an innocent looking Ordovician trilobite found in sedimentary shales was endowed with the label *Flexicalymene cambrensis*, a tiny graptolite, *Orthograptus calcaratus*, assumed the stature of a woolly mammoth and a fossil of a simple, unassuming Silurian brachiopod became transformed by its Latin sobriquet *Protochonetes leintwardinensis*.

A walk along the River Teme, the Teme Bank Trail, provided an introduction to the geology of the Ludlow area. The Trail was devised by and led by Kate Andrew of Herefordshire County Museum who was able to point out the sequences of sandstone, shales and limestone typical of the rocks deposited in the Ludlow area. Although strenuous efforts were made by the group to divert attention away from attempts to introduce exercises in dips and slopes of rock formations during the walk, a reluctant 'volunteer' was eventually coerced into calculating the apparent and true angle of dip of the beds which lined the western side of the river bank, allegedly, part of an asymmetrical conical anticline which narrowed towards its southern end.

The weekend began with a comprehensive information pack listing the fossils of each area to be visited and each day ended with a debriefing session when the group, under Tess's guidance, reviewed results making use of a binocular microscope to help identify the specimens.

Tess's enthusiasm was contagious and the group, amateurs and professional geologists alike, expressed their gratitude for having been given more than a glimpse of the Silurian and Ordovician geology of the area and an insight into her research and exploration of these relatively uncharted locations of the English, Welsh borderlands.

## **Colin R Frodsham**

### **Bubbenhall - Wednesday 18th May 2005**

Emma Wightman led this visit, which was well attended with approximately 40 members and visitors present, and we were privileged to have Professor David Keane and Dr. Clark Friend in attendance as well.

We started the visit in Ryton Pools Country Park with a gathering near the new notice board with Adam Smith's artwork proclaiming the area's Ice Age past. We were shown a locally collected display of Ice Age fossils (straight tusked elephant teeth and bones etc.) together with a reproduction of the first stone hand axe to be found here and the actual hand axe found here only three weeks before the visit.

We then moved on to Wood Farm Quarry, access to which had been kindly granted by John Green of Smith's Concrete who "counted us in and afterwards counted us all out." Together with the stone hand axes, we soon had further evidence of the quarry's claim to be the most important Ice Age Site in the Midlands, as we were shown an elephant tusk (*Palaeoloxodon Antiquus*) and leg bone that had just been uncovered by an excavator - both rather damaged by the excavator. Professor Keane told us that plant fragments and snails found at this level had been dated to approximately 500,000 years ago.

We viewed the various sand and gravel beds laid down in channels of the Byford River from the Anglian Glaciation. Our chairman, Martyn Bradley explained the sequence from the Mercia Mudstone on the floor of the quarry up to the Thrusington Till on the top of the cliff.

On one face Dr. Friend showed us an excellent section of outwash channels cross-bedded by later deposits. An attempt is being made to preserve a small part of this face under a huge lorry tarpaulin.

Our thanks go to the assembled academics who so ably commentated on the various finds, and the strata viewed, and to Smith's Concrete for granting us access to this important site.

**John Gaze**

### **Landscape and Geology Walk Berkswell, Wednesday 15th June**

Berkswell lies at the junction of two contrasting landscapes, the Warwickshire Plateau to the east and the Knowle Basin and Blythe valley to the west, separated by the fault-line scarp which slopes up from the village. The plateau is underlain by Upper Carboniferous rocks, covered in places by glacial boulder clays and forms the watershed between drainage to the Trent to the west and to the Avon to the east. The Blythe valley is underlain by Triassic rocks, which are extensively covered by fluvio-glacial sands and gravels, extensively quarried, and more recent alluvium. A circular walk across both landscapes allowed us to unravel how they reflect in a subtle way the underlying geology.

Apart from the easily observed slope produced by the fault-line scarp, the interpretation of the landscape needed careful matching of the land beneath our feet with the evidence from the geological map. Sometimes major geological features, notably the fault separating the Upper Carboniferous rocks from the Trias, were not obvious in the landscape, while in other places thin beds of sandstone within the ubiquitous mudstones produced significant changes in the steepness of the footpaths. However the small stream which flows from Berkswell through the Park and is a tributary of the Blythe, clearly follows the line of a minor fault. The walk ended in the twilight at the beautiful, part Norman, Berkswell Church, which displays both the local sandstones in its fabric and at Berk's Well where a natural spring emerges from beneath one of the thin sandstone beds.

**Brian Ellis**

### **BRUETON PARK - An Up-Date**

Damaged signs have now been replaced and smaller individual signs have been added. The project is now complete.



**Field Trip to the Old Brickyards at Napton on the Hill**  
**Wednesday 20th July**

This visit to a site, soon to be redeveloped, was led by Ian Fenwick and Jon Radley, who guided a large group through the changing marine environments that had produced the Middle Jurassic strata of Napton Hill.

At the base were the same grey clays containing ammonites and belemnites found at Blockley. As more silt was deposited and the water became shallower brachiopods began to colonise and a number of examples were found particularly in the ferrous and calcareous nodules that abounded in the region. Above this was a layer of shelly limestone indicating the slowing down of silt deposition, possibly due to increased turbulence as the sea became shallower or possibly through the loss or displacement of the silt carrying currents. It also demonstrated the feedback mechanism by which the accumulation of coarse shells on the seabed began to eliminate those creatures needing soft silt for their survival. Finally we reached the overgrown remains of the brickyard clays where Ian and Jon invited us to speculate on the nature and origin of the doggers which had been found at depth in the clay and dragged clear. The amounts and level of discussion generated showed this to have been a very successful session.

**Phil Henser**

**Warwickshire Web Site**

Have you visited the museum web site recently?

If you haven't, do look. You will find new information on the web pages for Warwick Museum including:

“Warwickshire’s French Connection,”

“Fire and Ice,”

“Climatic Change - Jurassic Style”

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

**Jon Radley**

## **HALF A MILLION YEARS OF HUMANITY**

Humans have lived in Warwickshire, albeit discontinuously, for at least 500,000 years, probably representing three different species trying to cope with three very different environments.

### **Walking tall, in Africa and beyond**

It is a mystery-shrouded story that goes something like this. About 5 million years ago, much of the planet's water was being locked up in polar ice caps because of ice ages resulting in a much drier climate. Forests shrunk dramatically, particularly in Africa, and many groups of animals and birds evolved new grassland-adapted forms as a consequence - including antelopes, sparrows, butterflies and, of course, apes. Those early apes started to walk as well as climb but their brains stayed ape-sized for over 2 million years. We still do not fully understand what made them want to walk and how they evolved this ability so quickly. Those early 'southern apes' mostly fall within the genus *Australopithecus* and include 'Lucy' (*A. afarensis*) and the huge-jawed Nutcracker Man (*A. boisei*). The males were much larger than females and vegetation probably made up much of their diet.

### **From ape-men to humans**

But something happened about 2 million years ago that caused brain-size to increase and the appearance of simple tools. We think that the first *Homo* species (*H. habilis*) relied a lot more on scavenging carcasses and eating bone marrow. This requires strategy and cooperation and proper stone tools to smash bones quickly. *Homo ergaster* followed. He had a tall, slim physique like modern Maasai - seemingly adapted for prolonged walking and jogging in a hot environment - and possibly for unprecedented levels of hunting. The sexes were more similar in size. *Ergaster* seems to have been the first human to enter Asia giving rise to *Homo erectus* in east Asia. (e.g. Peking Man) and the recently-discovered Flores pygmies *H. floresiensis* in Indonesia, leaving evidence of this dispersal in places like west Asia (Georgia.) en-route...

## **Heidelberg Man comes to Bubbenhall**

About a million years ago, bigger-brained, more robust forms appeared, better adapted for northern temperate conditions. *Homo heidelbergensis* (Heidelberg Man) is so-named because the first fossil (a mighty big jaw) was discovered near Heidelberg, Germany. There is little dispute that *Heidelbergensis* was an adept hunter capable of tackling big game like horses, hippos and rhinos. He had a well-developed stone technology called Acheullean and used spears. We think he was the earliest human to enter Europe - from West Asia, and left evidence in Spain and Italy from perhaps 900,000 years ago and from East Anglia perhaps 750,000 years ago. At Boxgrove, Sussex, many stone tools and the remains of animal bones from about 400,000 years ago give a fascinating insight into his life. But we also know he inhabited Warwickshire, because he left some wonderful Andesite hand axes in the quarries of Bubbenhall, Warwickshire that are about 500,000 years old. Andesite is not a local rock, so we assume that he travelled a fair bit and carried certain tools with him.

## **Neanderthal Man - a cool customer**

Heidelberg Man could not cope with the increasingly cool conditions that started to affect Europe about 480,000 years ago, but Neanderthal Man, (*H neanderthalensis*) could. He evolved from Heidelbergensis stock, but was much shorter and stockier, bigger brained (brain size usually exceeding ours) and with large sinuses in the face to deal with cool air. His technology changed too - new types of stone tools called Mousterian. Neanderthals were superbly adapted to life at the edge - hunting mammoths, woolly rhinos, deer and wild cattle by stealth in the boreal birch and conifer forests. We have no hard evidence for his existence in Warwickshire - the last Ice Age probably swept it all away. But we know he occasionally inhabited other parts of southern Britain and fossils of his prey have been found in local gravel deposits.

## **The Wise Man cometh**

Physically modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) appeared in Africa some 150,000 years ago. Those ice ages that had forged cold-adapted Neanderthals in the north also created drought-adapted people in the south. 'Moderns' had a less muscular physique but their technology and ability to communicate outstripped any other human. Initially, they liked warm, coastal regions, could island hop (Australia had been reached 60,000 years ago), trade, talk, create art and tame wolves to create 'dogs'. But Europe was not entered until 40,000 years ago.

This brought modern humans into contact with Neanderthals and by about 30,000 years ago only the Moderns were left. Some experts suggest battles between the two species, others of slow, passive displacement, others of interbreeding. But it may simply have been the weather affecting Europe at this time. The theory that Neanderthals evolved into Moderns is largely dismissed - their DNA and many skeletal features suggest they were a specialised side-branch of humanity. But even after Neanderthals had gone, Warwickshire remained out of bounds for many millennia, due to the Devensian glaciation. Moderns eventually entered Warwickshire some 10,500 years go following the end of this. Local forest clearance was already well advanced by the Iron Age and we have been changing the local environment ever since, creating the Warwickshire landscape and settlements we see today.

To discover more about early humans in the Midlands, visit the Shotton Project web site at: [www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/shottonproject](http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/shottonproject).

**Steven Falk, Warwickshire Museum**

**Autumn & Winter Meetings of Leicester University Section C  
Geology Group (Meet at Ken Edwards Building, Leic. Uni. 7:30pm)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>	<b><u>Theme</u></b>
5th Oct.	Dr. Liam Herringshaw	Wenlock Limestone
19th Oct.	Dr. David Pyle	Super Volcanoes
2nd Nov.	Prof. Dick Aldridge	Chenyang Fauna.
16th Nov.	to be filled	
30th Nov.	Dr. Adrian Wood	Ostracods
5th Dec.	Parent Body Lecture at New Walk Museum - Tsunamis	
14th Dec.	Christmas Meeting, New Walk Museum	
11th Jan.	to be filled	
25th Jan.	to be filled	
8th Feb.	Members evening	New Walk Museum
22nd Feb.	Dr. Murray Gray	Geodiversity
8th March	Dr. Jenny Clack	Evolution of Fish to tetrapods
11th March	Saturday School	Aspects of Leicestershire Geology
22nd March	AGM— Mark Evans	Marine Reptiles

Tel: Secretary, Joanne Norris 0166 2833127 (after 6pm for details)

## Colonsay

**Colonsay? 2 hours south of Oban by ferry; Nothing; what's to be expected - Torridonian and not even an arkose. Psammites, pelites and phyllites.**

*Come again???*

**Oh sorry, metamorphosed sandstones, limestones and slaty rocks, not worth the candle.**

*Really ? what about the rocks by the harbour ?*

**You mean the augite diorite?**

*Yes, a beautiful mottled black and white granite-looking rock that is used in the pier and the mole.*

**So you have been there?**

*Yes, and you should see the folded rocks on the Island.*

*There are raised beaches there, you know - periglacial evidently - and this means that the rocks are all exposed for about 50 - 100 yards inland - and more in some places - and you should see all the crenulation folding and slickenside. Its so easy to photograph.*

**You do know the reason for this folding?**

*Of course, I am aware that the Great Glen Fault runs down between this island and Jura and you ought to see the way it has shattered these metasediments.*

**Have to confess not been there - Skye, Rhum, Eigg, Ardnamurchan and Arran for me any day. Besides no distilleries on the island and between you and me that's the only reason for visiting the places, eh, what ?**

*And then there are the igneous dykes running across the beaches - lamprophyres just like the ones in the Nuneaton area and dolerites too.*

*Mind you not sure about the BGS 1;50 000 map - found a massive dyke in Cable bay not on map.*

*And strange the BGS now say it's not Torridonian but Dalradian - weird 'cos that's shoving it forward some 500 in years. Must check this out ..... And makes you think a bit.*

*And what's this about all this area being down south as far as Patagonia and then drifting up and colliding with the N American landmass. Some movement!!!*

*Did you know that the Appalachian mountains, Newfoundland Scotland and Scandinavia were once all in line like the Rocky Mountains and equally big ?*

*Whisky, did you say? Yes. What have you got ? , ..... Single malt, I mean, ..... Oh dear; well I was wondering whether you had other than a blend ..... Yes, that'll do nicely ... Haven't tasted it but ..... no, without water thanks, I like my whisky as God intended it to be .....*

**You do know the reason why there is no distillery on Colonsay? ..... Cheers and thanks .....**

*Well, these things you call psammites, phyllites and pelites: you see you don't get them on the other islands - there, the ground is acid due to the way the peat thrives on the granites and the bog waters are very acid. Barley likes the acid soil too and that's why they have distilleries. You didn't know that? Huh, well we are always learning.*

*You see. on Colonsay the metasediments weather down to give a rich loamy and marly soil and how the plants and trees thrive on it! Also because of the Great Glen fault the island is ridged North and South and these ridges provide shelter for woods, farming land and of course the famous gardens of Kiloran House. How you have missed something; cant 'bide geo-oficiandos" who cant see anything other than rocks sorry, I apologise.*

**Well, yes, maybe you're right, I have to admit.**

**Am a hard rock igneous man myself ..... Cheers .....**

*..... You see, because of all the trees and wildflowers, the insects thrive and the island is rich in bird life. Go to any other island and you wont see a better display .....*

*Igneous, did you say? Well, what about the Syenite in Kiloran Bay - haven't seen it myself, weather closed in and then there is an Olivine Monzonite towards the north end of the island and a Felsite on the northern tip which is evidently of Lewisian age ..*

*No, this one on me, I insist, but you shouldn't. OK ..... and do you know a rock called a - how do you pronounce it ? OUACHITITE.*

**What did you say? Tell me again.**

*Well, there is a dyke of this whatever you call it that cuts right across the island with massive crystals of biotite and hornblende but over the years it's seemed to have disappeared, they say, because of geologists hammering at it.*

**Tell me, where did you say this was ?**

**Maurice Rogers**

**July 2005**

**Professor Richard Fortey Lecture**  
**THE EARTH - AN INTIMATE HISTORY**  
**at KEELE UNIVERSITY, STAFFORDSHIRE**

**10th Nov. 2005**

**Buffet £3, 6:30pm in William Smith Building**  
**Lecture 7:30pm in Huxley Building**  
**Contact Martyn Bradley if you would like to attend.**

Continued from page 5 - [Upton House](#)

The WGCG were invited on account of a day's event celebrating "The Sea" and since the rocks were laid down in a marine environment, some maybe 270m yrs BP we felt justified in considering that our fossil display was of merit in this respect. And certainly the staff made us feel welcome in the location they chose in the Old Pantry.

Geology can be daunting if one is placed in a situation of being considered as an authority but there seems a friendliness, in handling a display of fossils in that each visitor seems to enjoy a different one from the last person and there is a wide variety of reasons for this. Merely displaying them and allowing people to handle them is enough to generate a strong interest and it comes as a bonus when one can suggest to the visitor some added feature that makes them look up and say, "Now is that so?"

In the case of Upton House a number of our members kindly offered to man the stand through the day and they can report their own reactions to the many questions fired by the visitors - From those dealing with the coal sample that many young children had never seen - to the reactions on learning the common name for Gryphea!

It was, in all a most enjoyable event and the staff have indicated that we will, for sure, be receiving another invitation in the not too distant future.

**Maurice Rogers**

**AUTUMN & WINTER DATES**

**ST. JOHN'S MUSEUM WARWICK**  
( 7:15 PM COFFEE FOR 7:30 START)

**Wednesday, October 12th; AGM.**

followed by a TALK by Ian Fenwick  
"Warwickshire Geological Site Monitoring"

**Wednesday, November 9th;** " On the Track of the Invisible Dinosaur  
The Triassic Footprint Record in Merseyside and Warwickshire"  
By Geoffrey Tresise, Liverpool Museum  
(Jon Radley will have exhibits on show)

**Wednesday, December 14th;**

Illustrated talks on the Building Stones in Coventry, Kenilworth,  
Cape Town and Sandwich  
By Warwick Open Studies students,  
Followed by Christmas Refreshments

**Dates for 2006**

**Wenesday, January, 11th,** Geological Doomsdays  
By Ian Stuart, University of Warwick

**Wednesday, February 8th,** To be arranged

**Wednesday March 8th,** Geodiversity Plans  
By Cynthia Burek, University College Chester

I would like to thank all the members who have written articles for this 10th Newsletter. You have responded so well to my request for articles that we now have four extra pages in this Newsletter!

There was no need for me to write an editorial, as have been able to start the Newsletter with our Chairman's article which summarises what has been happening in WGCG.

Julia Williams - Editor