

**Circular 351
November 2003**

Registered Charity No: 50361

President: Ian Thomas

www.emgs.org.uk

WINTER PROGRAMME

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday 13th December 6.00 pm followed by Christmas Buffet (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME FROM PREVIOUS CIRCULAR).

William Smith and the Search for Raw Materials 1800-1820

Speaker: Professor Hugh Torrens (Keele University)

Followed by Christmas Wine & Cheese - PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A GLASS!

Saturday 11th January 2004

The Geology of Bottled Water

Speaker: Professor John Mather (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Saturday, 7th February 2004

President's Evening Celebrating 40 years of the EMGS

To be followed by the Annual Dinner. Details and booking form in the next Circular to be published in early January 2004.

Saturday, 13th March 2004

Earthquakes in the English Midlands

Speaker: Dr Brian Baptie (BGS, Edinburgh)

Saturday, 20th March 2004 (2.00 pm)

Environmental Geology

Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth

Saturday, 3rd April 2004

The Life and Work of Alfred Wegener

Speaker: Dr Clare Dudman

LECTURE VENUE

Meetings will take place in lecture theatre B3 of the Life Sciences (Biology) building at the University of Nottingham. If you require to use the lift to B3, please speak to the security attendant who will assist you. B3 is equipped with induction loop hearing assistance. If you are attending meetings or joining a coach at the University of Nottingham, enter from the South Entrance on University Boulevard. Cars

should be parked in the car park on the bend in the road just beyond the security point after Science Road. The entrance to the Life Sciences building is at the right hand side of the rear of this car park.

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME - WINTER 2003

William Smith and the Search for Raw Materials 1800-1820

This lecture will initially draw attention to what Smith called himself during his several careers. He first described himself as a land surveyor and drainer in his 1801 *Prospectus* but as an engineer and mineralogist in his first book (1806). His use of the latter word then only reveals the lack of use of the term 'geology' before the foundation of the Geological Society of London (1807). The lecture next discusses Smith's several careers and tries especially to shed new light on his work as a mineral prospector, of which he can be regarded as one of the true pioneers. The term he used for this, from John Farey (1808) was 'mineral surveyor' which was how he described himself in the prospectus to his great *Map of the strata of England and Wales* (1815) and his most important book *Strata Identified* (1816-19).

Some of the mineral prospects with which Smith was involved are then described. These can be divided into those which used his stratigraphic science in positive searches for new coal (the main mineral he sought) and others in which his new stratigraphic knowledge could equally demonstrate that many coal searches being made elsewhere were simply doomed to fail. These latter attempts, which were frequent, were always made in lithologies which resembled, but were not in, the Coal Measures. Smith was the first to show how unfortunate the British stratigraphic column was in abounding in these similar lithologies (Lias, Oxford, Kimmeridge, Wealden clays etc.). Equally unfortunately, but now for Smith, many of the founding fathers of the Geological Society were unconvinced of either the reality or utility of Smith's discoveries. Its leaders at first did not believe he had uncovered anything of significance and then simply stole much of it.

The Geology of Bottled Water

Almost all bottled water is groundwater derived from springs or boreholes. Groundwater comes in turn from rainfall with small contributions from formation waters preserved in pore spaces within water-bearing rocks such as the Chalk. This rainfall becomes mineralised as it moves through the soil and the underlying bedrock. The water-rock interactions which take place will be outlined and a range of bottled waters examined to trace their origins. They range from waters which are very close to rainfall in composition to mineralised waters such as Vichy and Badoit from France. Finally, in a more light-hearted vein, the marketing gimmicks employed by the bottled water industry will be reviewed.

President's Address

Celebrating 40 years of the EMGS

The East Midlands, although the most difficult of all English regions to define, has now been formalised officially. Whereas the boundaries pay no regard to geology they do embrace tremendous geological variety. It is just this richness which endows the region with character in its landscapes and townscapes, in the inventiveness and industry of past generations, in its farming patterns, its continuing considerable contribution to the UK and even in its traditional customs. The Presidential Lecture will take an holistic perspective, examining how apparent disparate themes interrelate through geology.

The Society was founded in 1964 and we are hoping in this our 40th Anniversary Year that as many as possible of the past Presidents, Officers and members of the Society will be able to attend our special Celebration Dinner to be held at the University Club after the Presidential Address. A Booking Form and further details will appear in our next Circular to be published in early January 2004.

Insurance

Members are reminded that the Society has only public liability insurance and that personal accident insurance is a matter for individual members to arrange as they consider necessary. Up to date hard hats are obligatory for all field excursions involving quarries or cliff faces and strongly recommended for all trips. High visibility clothing is sometimes required in working quarries. High visibility tabards can be obtained from GA Enterprises, 126 Fleetside, W. Molesey, Surrey KT8 2NQ at £4.70 incl. pp. Members without suitable hard hats may be refused access to certain sites! Suitable hard hats can be obtained from many Builders' Merchants, Wickes, B&Q Warehouse etc. for about £4. Where a member has to cancel a booking it is requested that they contact Ian Sutton (0115 951 6516) as early as possible.

New Members

Mr S D Rice, Shepshed, Loughborough.
Mr Ian Kane, Derby
Mr David I Smith, Mickleover
Mr Dave Spencer, Beeston, Nottingham.
Mr Peter Beastall, Arnold, Nottingham

Lectures & Field Courses of Other Organisations **Other Notices**

Geological Society - East Midlands Regional Group

Thursday, 11th December at BGS Keyworth - 6.30 pm

Professor David Lerner, University of Sheffield "The impact of cities on their underlying groundwater"

Yorkshire Geological Society

Saturday 6th December 2003 - AGM and Presidential Address.

Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd December - British Sedimentological Research Group AGM at University of Leeds.

STAMFORD

Stamford Geological Society

Wednesday, 10th December 2003 - Dr Jenny Clack, Dept. of Zoology, University of Cambridge "Gaining Ground: the past decade of progress on the fish-tetrapod transition".

Wednesday, 13th January 2004 - Dr Michael Crow, formerly of BGS "Sumatra, and the break-up of Gondwanaland"

Wednesday, 11th February 2004 - Dr Tony Waltham "Aralsk to Huanglong - geological treats across Central Asia".

LEICESTER

Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society

Wednesday, 3rd December 2003 - Dr Jan Zalasiewicz, Department of Geology, University of Leicester: "Sliding into the deep freeze: the Plio-Pleistocene geology of East Anglia".

Wednesday 17th December 2003 - Christmas meeting to be held at the New Walk Museum, Leicester.

Monday, 12th January 2004 - Dr Jane A Evans of NERC Isotope Geosciences Lab, BGS, Keyworth: "You are what you eat... isotope studies and migration".

Wednesday, 14th January 2004 - Dr Graham Weedon, Dept. of Environment, Geography and Geology, University of Luton: "From climate change to time scales: examples from the Jurassic in England".

Wednesday, 28th January 2004 - Dr Diana Sutherland, Mears Ashby, Northampton: "Geology above ground in Northamptonshire".

WEST MIDLANDS

The Black Country Geological Society

Monday, 26th January 2004 - Dr Paul Smith, Lapworth Museum, University of Birmingham: "You can take a cow to water the evolution of whales".

Monday, 29th March 2004 - AGM followed by Mike Williams and Andrew Rochelle "The Geology of the Longmynd, Priors Holt and the Knills area".

EAST MIDLANDS FIELD GUIDE

The Society's long awaited **East Midlands Field Guide** has now been published by the Society jointly with the Geological Association.

Copies are on sale to members at a discount price of **£6.00**. To non-members the price is **£8.00**.

Copies are available by post on application to Ian Sutton at University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ. Copies are also available for sale to members in person at the Centre, or from the Secretary or other Council members.

(Please note: there will be a postage and packing charge of £1 for posting if this is requested - please add the appropriate amount to your cheque, and submit this with the application form enclosed with this Circular).

Copies will also be available for sale to members at Indoor Meetings.

Northamptonshire Stone

The Dovecote Press have produced a new book **Northamptonshire Stone** by Dr Diana Sutherland. We are able to purchase this for the special price of £12, including postage, if ordered before the end of 2003.

Geology of North East Norfolk

An introduction to Norfolk geology - to order a book please send a cheque for £4.50 made payable to Jill Eyers at 13 Pusey Way Lane End, High Wycombe, Buck HP14 3LG

FIELD TRIPS

University of Nottingham Field Study Tours 2004

9 th to 14 th May	-	Pembrokeshire
11 th to 13 th June	-	North Wales
3 rd to 24 th August	-	Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia

For details, please contact Ian Sutton at University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ, telephone number: 0115 951 6515.

e-mail addresses

If you have not already let us have your e-mail address, please consider doing this so we can send your Circular by that means. The format is exactly the same whether you receive the Circular by post or by e-mail. It would be of great benefit to the Society (and the Circular Editor!) if more members would be prepared to receive their Circular this way. Please, therefore, could members send their e-mail addresses to the Circular Editor, Sue Miles at sue.miles@freethcartwright.co.uk.

It would be helpful if you could also confirm your name and address with your e-mail address so we can correlate these details with our membership listing.

The next Circular will be published in January 2004.

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