



**Circular 361
January 2006**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Ian Thomas

www.emgs.org.uk

PROGRAMME - WINTER 2005/2006

Saturday 14th January 2006 - 6.30 am

Caves: dark, dank holes in the ground or geological treasure troves?

Speaker: Dr Andy Farrant (British Geological Society)

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 3.00 (not 2.00 as given in last circular) - 5.00 pm at BGS Keyworth

Tour of the BGS Collections - BOOKING ESSENTIAL – please see note on next page

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 6.00 pm

President's Evening

Derbyshire's Mineral Wealth

Speaker: Ian Thomas (National Stone Centre)

Please note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not unfortunately be able to hold the Society's Annual Dinner this year. The University Club Dining Room and Kitchen are closed for refurbishment and it has not been possible to arrange an alternative venue.

Saturday 11th March 2006 - 6.30 pm (preceded by AGM at 6.00 pm)

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site: Earth science, conservation and outstanding universal value

Speaker: Vincent May (Emeritus Professor of Coastal Geomorphology and Conservation, Bournemouth University)

Saturday 18th March 2006 - 2.00 pm at BGS Keyworth

Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society

The Quaternary of Eastern England

Speakers from Royal Holloway London and BGS

Further details to follow in next Circular.

Saturday 8th April 2006 - 6.30 pm

Student tours to the USA: the geology of the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains, Texas and New Mexico

Speaker: Dr Tony Dickson (University of Cambridge)

LECTURE VENUE

Indoor meetings will take place in lecture theatre B3 of the 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 Biology building is at the right hand side of the rear of this car park.

Saturday 14th January 2006 - 6.30 pm

Caves: dark, dank holes in the ground or geological treasure troves?

Caves are not just dark, cold wet holes in the ground. As well as being beautiful and fascinating places to explore, they also contain a wealth of geological information which can help unravel past climate change and landscape evolution. Using examples from both the UK and overseas, the lecture will demonstrate how caves and cave deposits can be used to provide information on a variety of geological issues.

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 3.00- 5.00pm at BGS Keyworth

Tour of the BGS Collections

Enter site at main entrance (on Nicker Hill). From car park, follow signs to Meeting Room 1. Dr Mike Howe (Chief Curator) will give a brief introductory talk before the tour itself.

Please let Beris Cox know beforehand if you will be attending (either by [e-mail beris.cox@btinternet.com](mailto:beris.cox@btinternet.com) or at the January lecture)

Saturday 11th February 2006 - 6.00 pm

President's Evening
Derbyshire's Mineral Wealth

Derbyshire's contribution to mineral production has probably been greater than that of any other comparable area in the UK - in terms of both variety and volume. Since at least the seventeenth century, it has led the field in limestone output, accounting for more than 1000 million tonnes. Britain's largest coalfields extend within it and together with its two own smaller coalfields, these have produced a similar tonnage of coal. In lead ore and latterly fluorspar and barytes, in fireclay, dolomite and alabaster, it has ranked, at various times, first or second in the league tables. Sandstone, gravel, chert, ochres, igneous rock, umbers, ironstone and oil have all been a part of the story. In total, these have not only provided tens of thousands of jobs but they have underpinned the iron, steel, glass, chemicals, agriculture and construction industries of this and most surrounding areas. This rich history and its geological basis are inextricably intertwined.

Saturday 11th March 2006 - 6.30 pm (preceded by AGM at 6.00 pm)

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site: Earth science, conservation and outstanding universal value

The lecture will describe the evidence upon which the Inscription by UNESCO of the Dorset coast site was based, the process of gaining Inscription and the effects that has had on the site itself and the community. The evidence includes not only the geological and geomorphological features of the site, but also the very important role the area has played in the development of Earth science. Assuring the future of the site depends on understanding the changes which occur within it, making sure that the integrity of the site is not threatened by responses to those changes or by development. The future depends both on a monitoring programme and the custodianship of the site and its surrounds by the community.

AGM – Nominations for Council Members

There will be 4 vacancies on Council following the AGM as 4 members are due to retire in accordance with the Constitution. Please send nominations for new members to the Secretary by 10th February. **(Prior consent of the nominee is essential!)**

**Saturday 18th March 2006 - 2.00 pm at BGS Keyworth
Joint Meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society**

The Quaternary of Eastern England

Further details to follow in next Circular.

Saturday 8th April 2006 - 6.30 pm

Student tours to the USA: the geology of the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains, Texas and New Mexico

This is a travelogue from Cambridge, England to El Paso, Texas and back. I have organized trips to the classic geological sites in the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains of Texas and New Mexico from the 1970s to the present day. The logistical arrangements for these trips will be briefly mentioned and the great help by friends in the U.S.A. The famous Lower Carboniferous Muleshoe Mound perched on the side of the Sacramento Mountains above Alamogordo has been climbed by many parties and its origin will be discussed. The star of the trip, however, is the world famous Permian reef of the Guadalupe Mountains. We have examined this on the 'reef trail' in McKitterick Canyon, Walnut Canyon, on a climb up the West face of the Guadalupe Mountain and inside the mountains in Carlsbad Caverns. This is one of the best known fossil reefs in the world due partly to the discovery of oil in the nearby subsurface Permian rocks. Despite many decades of study, the construction of this reef is still controversial and some of the various hypotheses will be presented. The formation of modern evaporates on Salinas, which we cross below Guadalupe peak, and the gypsum dunes at 'White Sands' near Alamogordo will be compared to the Permian evaporates visited in the Delaware Basin.

New Members

Adrian Scotney, Derby.
Andrew Shore, Leicester
Richard Smith, Keyworth, Nottingham
George Waterfall, Ripley, Derbyshire.

EAST MIDLANDS FIELD GUIDE

Members of EMGS may purchase these at a discount price of **£6.00**. To non-members the price is **£8.00**.

Copies are available for sale from the Secretary or other Council members, or at the Society's Indoor or Field Meetings.

NOTTINGHAM GEOTOURS

A programme of geological tours has been organised, or are being planned, for the coming two years. They are as follows:

23 – 30 March 2006 - The Almeria region of southeast Spain (*now fully booked*)
27 May – 2 June 2006 - The Assynt area of northwest Scotland based in Ullapool

Tours in the process of being organised:

September 2006 - The Dorset Heritage Coast (3 days)
February 2007 - Hawaii (2 weeks)
May 2007 - The Lothians of Scotland (4 days)
September 2007 - Northern Ireland (5 days)

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Ian Sutton, tel. no. 0779 5211761 or e-mail ian.sutton@idsgeo.demon.co.uk

Lectures & Field Meetings of Other Organisations

The Secretary or the Circular Editor have contact details for the representatives of other local Geological Societies who organise field trips and indoor meetings. Please ask one of them for details.

e-mail addresses

We would very much like to send you your Circular by e-mail. If you have not already done so, please send your e-mail address to the Circular Editor, sue.miles@freethcartwright.co.uk.

Please can you also confirm your name and address when sending your e-mail so we can correlate these details with our membership listing.

The next Circular will be published in March 2006.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st March 2006.

Secretary: Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG
e-mail: j.slatter@zoom.co.uk. tel. no. 01509 843297

Treasurer: Mrs Christine Moore, The Steading, Main Road, Elvaston, Derby DE72 3EQ tel. no. 01332 573065.