



**Circular 365
September 2006**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: John Travis

www.emgs.org.uk

FIELD PROGRAMME - SUMMER 2006

Sunday 17th September - 1.00 pm

Chatsworth House

Leader: Mick Cooper

INDOOR PROGRAMME – AUTUMN 2006

Saturday 21st October 2006 - 6.30 pm

Ice Age rivers and archaeology: The National Ice Age Network in the East Midlands

Speaker: Dr Mark Stephens (Project Officer for the National Ice Age Network,
University of Leicester)

Saturday 11th November 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)

Saturday 9th December 2006 - 6.30 pm

The artful jobber: Henry De la Beche and the early years of the Geological Survey

Speaker: David Bate (British Geological Survey)

Saturday 10th February 2007 - 6.00 pm

Foundation Lecture - Trilobites!

Speaker: Professor Richard Fortey FRS

Saturday 17th March 2007 - 6.30 pm (following AGM at 6.00 pm)

Members Evening - details later

Saturday 21st April 2007 - 6.30 pm

Geology and disease

Speaker: Professor Gerard Slavin

SUMMER 2006 OUTINGS

Sunday 17th September - 1.00 pm

Leader: Mick Cooper

Chatsworth House

Chatsworth House has an excellent collection of mineral specimens which was recently reviewed and collated by members of the Russell Society. This will be an afternoon visit; numbers are strictly limited and most places have already been taken.

Participants will be taken round in two groups. The first group will view the collection then be taken on a tour of the house by Ian Thomas, the second group will do this in reverse order. We will be shown the collection by a member of the Russell Society.

N.B. There will be an entrance fee of £6.75 payable if over 60, £8.75 if under 60 years.

Meeting Place: At Main Entrance by Car Park at Chatsworth House at 1.00 pm prompt

Please note a prompt start is absolutely essential.

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.

AUTUMN/WINTER 2006 INDOOR MEETINGS

Saturday 21st October 2006 - 6.30 pm

Ice Age rivers and archaeology: The National Ice Age Network in the East Midlands

Speaker: Dr Mark Stephens (Project Officer for the National Ice Age Network, University of Leicester)

The purpose of the National Ice Age Network is to raise awareness and improve our understanding of England's Ice Age heritage. Our work focuses in particular on the many types of Ice Age evidence to be found in England's sand and gravel quarries, including Pleistocene sediments that potentially contain fossil evidence of past environments as well as archaeological evidence for early human presence and ways of life. The Network is based at four regional centres: the University of Birmingham, the University of Leicester, the University of Southampton and the University of London. Each centre is responsible for visiting its region's sand and gravel extraction sites, with operator permission, with a view to assessing their likely potential for Ice Age remains. The team at the University of Leicester are responsible for visiting aggregates extraction sites in the East Midlands (from Lincolnshire to Bedfordshire) and Norfolk. Although previous finds are few in the East Midlands, a good potential exists for exciting Palaeolithic discoveries there. For example, the ancient Bytham river flowed through Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk more than half a million years ago and may have provided an important migration route for early humans from mainland Europe. We are also assessing quarries of younger river valley deposits, e.g. the Trent and the Ouse, for potential Palaeolithic and palaeoenvironmental information. Preliminary findings will be presented in this talk from quarry assessments across the East Midlands and will be put into the wider context of environmental change and archaeology in NW Europe.

Saturday 11th November 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)

This is a travelogue from Cambridge, England to El Paso, Texas and back. I have tried organized trips to the classic geological sites in the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains of Texas and New Mexico from the 1970's to present day. The logistical arrangements for these trips will be briefly mentioned and the great help by friends in the USA. 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.

Saturday 9th December 2006 - 6.30 pm

The artful jobber: Henry de la Beche and the early years of the Geological Survey

Speaker: Dave Bate (British Geological Survey)

The founding of the Geological Survey by Henry De la Beche in 1835 is a key event in the history of British geology. But the Survey's initiation actually began in 1832 when De la Beche was contracted by the Ordnance Survey to map the geology of Devon. It was not long, however, before De la Beche became embroiled in a fierce debate that very nearly toppled the Survey in its infancy. His chief antagonist was the forceful and haughty Roderick Murchison. What came to be known as the 'Great Devonian Controversy' evolved around the significance or otherwise of fossils in correlating geological formations. De la Beche's interpretation of the difficult Culm strata of north Devon, based on lithology and field relations, was vociferously criticized by Murchison who believed implicitly (and rightly as it happened) in the apparently contradictory evidence presented by the discovery of fossil plants in the Culm. Murchison was in any case no friend of the Geological Survey and saw it as a threat to his own quest for geological glory. Indeed, he referred to De la Beche as 'a dirty dog.....a thorough jobber and a great intriguer'. It is somewhat ironic, therefore, that Murchison was later to succeed De la Beche as Director of the Survey! Another contemporary described De la Beche as 'an artful dodger, for ever working for his own interest, heedless of that of others'. Whatever his motives, we must be thankful that De la Beche's single-minded determination succeeded in placing the Geological Survey on a more permanent footing than earlier but short-lived geological surveys in France and the United States. We must not forget also that De la Beche established a Museum of Economic Geology in 1835. Its first curator, Richard Phillips, undertook some curiously un-geological enquires on behalf of various government departments. One of his major lines of enquiry, which lasted about a year, sealed the fate of that most famous postage stamp - the Penny Black!

Insurance and Safety

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 nearly always 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. The Society also now has a stock of these tabards for sale at a price of £3.00. Please see Booking Form for field trips if you would like to purchase one. Members without suitable hard hats may be refused access to certain sites! Hard hats can be obtained from many Builders' Merchants, Wickes, B&Q Warehouse etc. for about £4.

Mercian Geologist

1. The Mercian Geologist will be distributed in late September;
2. One of our new members is interested in purchasing back copies of the Mercian Geologist. If you have any that you wish to dispose of, please could you contact Michael Montenari on his e-mail address: m.montenari@esci.keele.ac.uk

William Sarjeant Park.

One of our founder members, the late Bill Sarjeant, has had a park named after him in Saskatoon, Canada; this is unrelated to his geological interests, as it is in honour of his work in the preservation of buildings in Saskatchewan.

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.

The National Stone Centre

New Trail Guides for the National Stone Centre are now available at the Centre Shop. A donation of £1.50 for each Guide would be appreciated.

WEA Geology Courses - Autumn 2006

DERBY

The Earth Beneath Us - "Undergroundology". Tutor Gerry Shaw at Queen's Hall, London Rd , Derby
12 meetings Wed 10-11.30am + 2 visits, starting 20 Sept 2006
Fee: £75 (concessions A £49.45, B Free)

DARLEY DALE

Investigating sedimentary rocks, Tutor: John Marriott at Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale (Matlock Branch)
10 meetings Tues 10am -12.15 starting 26th Sept 2006,
Fee: £50, (concession A £43, B Free)

BELPER

The geology of the Dark and the White Peak, Tutor: Gerry Shaw at Holbrook Road School, Belper.
8 meetings 1.30-3PM plus field trip.starts 27th September 2006
Fee: £37.50 (concession A £32.25, B Free)

HOLBROOK

Shaping the earth Tutor: Gerry Shaw at the Holbrook Miners Welfare, Shaw Lane, Holbrook.
8 meetings Mon 7.30-9pm plus two visits Starts 8th January 2007,
Fee: £37.50 (concessions A £32.25, B Free).

CHESTERFIELD

The wonderful world of rocks Tutor Gerry Shaw at Hurst House ,11 Abercrombie St
8 meetings Mon 7–9pm plus 1 full day field trip starts 25 September 2006
Fee: A £43, B £35

Geology- metamorphic rocks and the agents and processes of metamorphism Tutor John Marriott at
Hurst House, 11 Abercrombie St
10 meetings Wed 10am–noon starts 27 September 2006
Fee: A £43, B £35

NOTTINGHAM

Rocks and scenery of the East Midlands Tutor Judy Rigby at Nottm Mechanics, North Sherwood St
8 meetings Tues 10.15am-12.15pm plus field trip. Starts 26 Sept 2006
Fee £50 (concession A £43, B free)

BEESTON

Yorks Dales and the White Peak: rocks and landscape Tutor Judy Rigby at Beeston Library
10 meetings Wed 7.30 -9pm Starts 27 Sept 2006
Fee £37.50 (concession A £37.50, B Free)

EAST BRIDGFORD

Bringing rocks alive Tutor Albert Horton at The Methodist Chape, East Bridgford
10 meetings Wed 7.30 -9pm starts 27 Sept 2006
Fee £37.50 (concession A £32.25, B free)

LOUGHBOROUGH

The wonderful world of rocks Tutor Gerry Shaw at Quest House Loughborough
10 meetings Wed 7.30 -9pm starts 27 Sept 2006
Fee £37.50 (concession A £32.25, B free)

FOR MORE DETAILS TELEPHONE WEA OFFICE 0115 9628416/7

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 October .

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th September 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.