



**Circular 384
January 2010**

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Tim Colman

www.emgs.org.uk

INDOOR LECTURE PROGRAMME **2010**

Saturday 23rd January 2010 - 6.30 pm

"A Geotour of Oman - world class geology and a great tourist attraction"

Speaker: Professor Hugh Rollinson

Saturday 13th February 2010 - 6.00 pm

Presidential Address "Gold in Britain - past, present and future

followed by the Annual Society Dinner – BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED

Please ensure all applications are submitted by Friday 5th February at the latest

Saturday 13th March 2010 - 6.00 pm

Annual General Meeting followed by Members Evening

Saturday 24th April 2010 - 6.30 pm

"The Forensic use of Micropalaeontology"

Speaker: Dr Haydon Bailey

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 23rd January 2010 - 6.30 pm

"A Geotour of Oman - world class geology and a great tourist attraction"

Speaker: Professor Hugh Rollinson

Hugh Rollinson was Professor of Earth Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman from 2002-2008. In this talk he provides a tour through the geological highlights of the country. Oman is a modern and developed country on the edge of the Arabian plate. It is a mountainous country and its desert scenery provides spectacular outcrops, while good roads provide easy access to the geology. Oman is famous for its 100Ma ophiolite, but it also provides the outcrop which links to the subsurface petroleum geology of the area, and it is an important source of meteorites. The geomorphology provides evidence of rapid uplift, and provides evidence of a changing climate in the last few 1,000 years.

Saturday 13th February 2010 - 6.00 pm

Presidential Address: Gold in Britain - past, present and future

Gold in Britain was certainly known to the Romans who worked the famous Dolaucothi mine in mid-Wales. Much gold in prehistory is thought to have come from Ireland, the sources of which are obscure, and the record is then very uncertain until the working of gold at Crawfurd Muir in the Southern Uplands in the 16th Century. There are sporadic records of gold in various places in Britain in the succeeding centuries, usually without substance, until the discovery of the Dolgellau gold field in the middle of the 19th Century. Mining there continued for 50 years. There was a short-lived alluvial gold rush to Helmsdale in Sutherland in the 1860s, and attempts were made to reopen Dolaucothi mine in the 1930s and the Dolgellau field in the 1980s. Entirely new areas were discovered in the 1980s and 1990s in the highlands of Scotland, the Sperrin Mountains of Northern Ireland and the Crediton area of Devon, and a small mine has begun production near Omagh.

The talk will briefly review these developments and then discuss the geological setting of a number of types of mineral deposit that contain gold in Britain. These will include the Cambrian porphyry copper-gold prospect of Coed y Brenin in Snowdonia, unconformity-related gold in the Permian rocks of the Crediton Trough, Devonian epithermal hot-spring type mineralisation at Rhynie in Aberdeenshire and the new mesothermal quartz-sulphide vein discoveries in the Dalradian rocks of Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as the Dolgellau deposits. Finally old and new methods of prospecting for gold from the gold pan to the computer will be discussed.

Saturday 13th March 2010 AGM - 6.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence;
2. Minutes of AGM held on 14/3/2009;
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes;
4. Secretary's Report;
5. Treasurer's Report;
6. Appointment of Auditor;
7. Editorial Report;

8. Election of Officers for 2010;
If there are no other nominations, it will be proposed from the chair that the following will serve:
President - Tim Colman;
Vice-President - John Travis;
Secretary - Janet Slatter;
Treasurer - Colin Bagshaw;
Editor - Tony Waltham.
9. Election of Council for 2010 – 8 members are eligible for re-election (Paul Guion, Richard Hamblin, Sue Miles, Duncan Short, Gerry Slavin, Ian Sutton, Neil Turner and Geoff Warrington) and there are 2 vacancies
10. Vote of thanks to retiring Council members;
11. Any Other Business.

The Minutes of the last AGM and the Treasurer's Report will be distributed at the meeting, followed by:

Members Night - 6.30 pm

Title: Spotland on Shetland

Speaker: John Aram

Abstract: When Shetland is mentioned in the company of geologists, chances are that they think of oil. But, since this lies deep within rocks, below some of the World's stormiest seas and is difficult to photograph, this talk will concentrate on the fascinating geology of the hundred or so islands that form The Shetland Islands.

On-shore rocks record many events from Earth's earlier history, from 2.5 billion years ago, through the Moinian, Grampian, Dalradian, Caledonian and Devonian. Around 300 million years ago the opening of the North Sea Basin led to the deposition of sediments and organic materials that subsequently formed the oil and natural gas that are now piped to Shetland's refinery at Sullom Voe. During the last million years Shetland had its own ice-cap that partially deflected the massive Scandinavian ice-sheet southwards down what is now the North Sea. The post-glacial rise in sea level then flooded the lower ends of the valleys forming the sheltered 'voes' (sea inlets). Today the sea pounds the exposed coastline, moving sediment to form single bars, tombolos and fine sand beaches, whilst the highest and most exposed hill tops still have active patterned ground with stone polygons, stripes and turf-banked terraces.

Gneiss, migmatite, schist, quartzite, marble, serpentinite, granite, rhyolite, andesite, diorite, sandstone, conglomerate, limestone and many other rock types and minerals gave a rich endowment for prehistoric man to use. In September 2009 the Shetland Islands became a European Geopark. Come and see why.

Title: The Golconda Mine

Speaker: J A Jones

Abstract: The Golconda ore bodies are horizontally disposed at the contact of the dolomitised zone of the Carboniferous limestone above, and the unaltered zone of the same limestone below. Early phases of mineralisation resulted in the production of solution cavities at the base of the relatively porous dolomite and also where the dolomitised beds are separated by clay wayboards derived from contemporary volcanic dust horizons.

The Mine produced lead ore from the mid-18th century to the turn of the 20th century, and was also a major barytes producer from the late 19th century until its closure in the 1950's. This presentation will describe the geology, mineralogy and underground workings of the mine and some of the artefacts left by miners from the 1915-1950 period.

Title: In the steps of a master: following James Hutton around Scotland

Speakers: Gerard Slavin, Gerry Shaw and Brenda Slavin

Abstract: James Hutton presented his System of the Earth in two lectures at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1785, based upon years of geological study and travel. Thereafter he spent a further three years searching out positive evidence to support his Theory, which he published in 1788. We have spent some time visiting sites in Scotland which proved important to him - some well known but others less so. Hutton was supported in these travels by colleagues and friends of the "Scottish Enlightenment", who not only accompanied him but provided him with specimens and information which stimulated and guided his journeys. These same friends were responsible for supporting his Theory after his death in 1797, in a hostile intellectual environment, and led to its eventual acceptance. Hutton's letter to friends in Scotland and England show him to be not "Quaker like" as Robert Louis Stevenson described the portrait by Raeburn, but rather a bawdy individual, perhaps typical of Scots of his time.

This presentation records our visits to some sites that may be accomplished in a pleasant series of weekend cross border raids, much as did the Border reivers of old. Hutton's geological travels were illustrated by Sir John Clerk of Eldin and were meant to accompany his books. They were described by Sir Archibald Geikie as "lost" but were, however, safely cared for in the papers of the Clerk family and came to light almost 200 years after their execution. Facsimiles were reproduced and published by Edinburgh University in 1978 and a selection of these will be demonstrated.

Saturday 24th April 2010 - 6.30 pm

The Forensic use of Micropalaeontology

Speaker: Dr Haydon Bailey

Microfossils are rarely used in criminal investigations but they do have some potential. A brief history of the forensic use of micropalaeontology in the UK is outlined, albeit limited. The majority of the presentation examines how microfossils were used in the Soham murder case and how the integrated calibration of foraminiferal and nannoplankton data provided some of the evidence which led to the conviction of Ian Huntley.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions will be due on 1st February 2010. The rates remain the same. Members who do not pay by Standing Order could please consider doing this as it eases the administrative load. Please also consider paying your subscription by way of a Gift Aid declaration. It costs you nothing but benefits the Society considerably and helps to keep our subscription rates down. A blank Gift Aid form and Standing Order Authority are available by request from the Secretary or Treasurer.

Subscription rates are: £12.00 ordinary
 £15.00 joint membership
 £ 5.00 student membership

Information for Other Societies

We hold information of lectures and field meetings for other local societies such as the NSSGA, Black Country Geological Society and Leicester Lit & Phil Society. If you would like details of any of these, please contact the Secretary.

Society Publications

- (1) **Leicester Building Stones Guide;**
- (2) **East Midlands Field Guide;**

(3) **Sandstone Caves of Nottingham** (new full colour edition) .
Copies available by contacting the Secretary or at Indoor Meetings.

We are still looking for volunteers please in the Leicester area to help in distributing the Leicester Building Stones Guide. If you can help, please contact the Secretary (details below).

EMGS Website

A plea for past EMGS Field Trip Photographs please for a gallery on the website. Pictures can be e-mailed to website@emgs.org.uk or sent to the Secretary.

New Members

Deborah Langer, Gleadless, Sheffield
Miss Georgina Coles, Bubbennall, Warwickshire.
Mr B D Statham, Ockbrook, Derby
Mr David Oliver-Williams, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics.

Marketing the Society's Publications

We are still in need of a volunteer to promote the marketing of the Society's publications such as the East Midlands Field Guide, Leicester Building Stones Guide and the Sandstone Caves of Nottingham books. If you have any expertise in this field, or even if you haven't but would like to volunteer to help, please contact the secretary or any other member of Council.

The National Stone Centre

Are looking for volunteers for guiding and other activities on the site at Wirksworth. If you can help, please contact Ian Thomas on 01629 824833 or ian@nationalstonecentre.org.uk

e-mail addresses

To minimise postal costs and photocopying charges which amount to approximately £4.00 each year for every member who still receives their Circular by post, 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 early March 2010.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 15th January 2010.

Secretary: Mrs Janet Slatter, 100 Main Street, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5DG e-mail: janet.slatter@btinternet.com . tel. no. 01509 843297.

Treasurer: Mr Colin Bagshaw, 150 Scalpcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 9AD, e-mail: Colin.bagshaw@yahoo.co.uk tel. no. 01283 564520

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

46th Anniversary Dinner
13th February 2009 at 8.00 pm

The 46th Anniversary Dinner will be held in the University of Nottingham Club after the Presidential Address. Join other members on this special occasion for a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink before the meal, a three course dinner and coffee. Cost is **£20.00** per person.

Starter Melon Trio with Winter Fruits Coulis
Moroccan Style Carrot Soup with Chermoula Oil (V)
Cured Salmon with Watercress, Yoghurt and Lemon dressing

Main Chicken Breast with Dauphinoise Potato, Café au Lait Sauce
Haddock Mornay with Fine Beans
Roasted Shallot Tart Tatin with Cauliflower Puree, Basil Oil

(A Family Service of Potatoes and Steamed Vegetables)

Dessert Steamed Chocolate Sponge Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream
Lemon Tart with Raspberry Sorbet
Cheese Course with Pickled Walnuts, Biscuits

Coffee

Please indicate your choice of starter and main courses below.

Booking form: 46th Anniversary Dinner

Please reserve places

My/our choice of the three courses are as follows:

Starter.....

Main.....

Dessert.....

Name & Tel. No:

Cheque payable to EMGS enclosed for £.....

Please send to: Ian Sutton, at 30 Alford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6GJ
Tel. No: 0115 923 2360 e-mail – ian.sutton@idsgeo.demon.co.uk