



Bulletin of the North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists' Association Number 120 : October 2017

NSGGA Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 12 October @ 19:30 Lecture - 'Environment and extinction in the late Cenozoic of the North Atlantic area - insights from sclerochronology' by Andy Johnson (Derby)
- Thursday 9 November @ 19:30 Wolverston Cope Lecture - 'Geoconservation for Science and Society - past, present and future' by Dr Colin Prosser, Natural England and President of the Geologists' Association.
- Saturday 11 November @ 10:00 Geoconservation Day at Hulme Quarry, Park Hall
- Thursday 7 December @ 19:00 Christmas Social with talk on 'Diamonds' by Peter Floyd.
- Thursday 11 January @ 19:30 Lecture - 'The great 1815 eruption of Tambora and future risks from large-scale volcanism' by Dr Ralf Gertisser, University of Keele.
- Thursday 22 February @ 19:30 Lecture - 'The origins and evolution of the River Trent during the Quaternary: new insights' by Professor David Bridgland, University of Durham.
- Thursday 8 March @ 19:00 AGM and Chairman's Address by Dr Stuart Egan, University of Keele.

Winter Lecture Programme 2017/18

Lectures are held in room WS0.06 in the William Smith Building, Keele University

Thursday 12 October 2017 @ 19:30

Environment and extinction in the late Cenozoic of the North Atlantic area - insights from sclerochronology

Dr Andy Johnson (University of Derby)

Sclerochronology is the sister-field of dendrochronology, the study of tree rings. It involves analysis of the size and composition of increments within mineralised skeletons formed by accretion, such as those of bivalve molluscs, corals and coralline algae. Detailed information can be obtained on the age, growth-rate and environment of the organism concerned. In this talk I will show how sclerochronology is providing insights into Plio-Pleistocene changes in marine productivity and temperature in the North Atlantic region: their nature, cause and possible links to bivalve mass extinction during this interval (45% and 65% loss of species in the eastern and western Atlantic, respectively). This information may inform prediction of future extinction associated with global warming.



Image: Andy Johnson

Thursday 9 November 2017 @ 19:30

Geoconservation for science and society – past, present and future

Dr Colin Prosser, Principal Specialist, Geodiversity and Geoconservation and President of the Geologists' Association

Great Britain's geology and landforms are extremely diverse, with a wide range of rocks, fossils, minerals, geomorphological features and processes, and a remarkably complete stratigraphical record. In addition to this rich and spectacular 'geodiversity', the fact that numerous divisions of geological time and strata were first described here means that many geological sites have considerable national and international scientific and educational importance as reference sites. Given this rich and diverse heritage of important geology and geomorphology, it is not surprising that Britain was a pioneer, and remains a world leader, in geoconservation, with a long history of enacting legislation and taking action in order to conserve, manage and promote the best geological and geomorphological features for future generations.

Protecting sites in order to support scientific research and education has been a major justification for geoconservation in Britain, but the wider social and economic benefits that also arise are increasingly important; geoconservation is essential to geoscientists but it is also relevant to society in general. This talk will examine both the history of geoconservation in Britain, and the activities and initiatives that are taking place today, for example the work of UNESCO Global Geoparks, in order to explore the motivation behind it and the benefits for both science and society that have arisen through time as a result of local, national and international geoconservation activity. It will explore the challenges faced and the



Ironstone Trail Irchester Northants. Image Colin Prosser

opportunities that exist in establishing the role of geoconservation in the future management of the natural environment, and as a more widely recognised contributor to environmental, social and economic well-being. With 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries now using geology as a means of generating social and economic benefit, the opportunity to convince others of the relevance of geoconservation has never been greater.

Thursday 7 December 2017 @ 19:00 at the Sustainability Hub

'Christmas Social' including a talk 'Diamonds'

Peter Floyd (NSGGA)

As well as Peter's talk, there will be the judging of the photographic competition and 'Bring your own geology' displays. Tickets, including a buffet meal with a free glass of wine cost £12 each. Please complete the booking form at the end of this bulletin and return with payment to Tony Marks by post by Friday 10 November or in person at the October or November meetings.

NSGGA/GCStaffs Photographic Competition 2017

This is your last chance to enter the NSGGA/GCStaffs Photographic Competition. The theme for our third photographic competition is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Plate Tectonics, so photos of any features that are even vaguely related to plate tectonics (e.g. folds, faults, unconformities, volcanism, etc.).

Entries in a digital format will be accepted via email to Ian Stimpson at i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk together with your details in the format specified below, to arrive by the 31 October 2017 closing date. A 'judging panel' will select '12 best photographs', these to be presented at the Christmas Social where all attending will have the opportunity of voting for the eventual winner(s). A small prize will be awarded to the winner of the competition and to the runner up.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entry restrictions: This year the competition is only open to NSGGA members and GeoConservation Staffordshire volunteers. The competition is not open to professional photographers. Entries cannot have either won a previous competition or been previously sold. Members of judging panel are excluded from the competition.
2. Electronic editing: Images may be cropped, enlarged and digitally enhanced.
3. Entry format: Digital images in jpg/jpeg format only. Images should have a minimum dimension of at least 500 pixels in either height or width but there is no maximum size.
4. Number of entries: Three maximum.
5. Entry submission: Images should be sent as email attachments to Ian Stimpson at i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk with the body of the email containing your details and your image details as set out below.
6. Judging: A judging panel of three (the NSGGA chairman, a representative from GCStaffs and one other invited person) will select the '12 best photographs' from anonymised entries. The competition winner(s) will be determined by participants (members, GCS volunteers and guests) voting at the Christmas Social. All attending the 'Social' will be eligible to vote at this meeting. Entrants (and family members of entrants) whose images have been 'shortlisted' as a potential winning entry will be barred from voting for their own entries (or those of family members). In the event of a draw the Chairman (or the Chairman's nominee) will have a casting vote. The judging panel reserves the right to exclude any entry they consider in breach of the competition rules. The judges' decision will be final.
7. Copyright matters. Entrants will retain copyright to their images but by entering them into the competition they grant permission for the NSGGA and GCStaffs to reproduce the photographs free of charge in/on any NSGGA/GCStaffs bulletin, website, calendar, geotrail or other publicity material. Due acknowledgement of the

copyright holder (photographer's name) will appear alongside any images used in this way.

COMPETITION ENTRY

Please copy the following text into the body of your email entry and complete with your details, your photograph details and send, attaching up to three photographs, to i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk with the subject "NSGGA Photographic Competition 2017" by 31st October 2017

Name:

NSGGA Member / GCStaffs Volunteer [state which]:

I understand that by entering this competition I retain copyright to the images but grant permission for NSSGA / GCStaffs to publish any photograph, with due attribution, free of charge.

Entry 1 : Title

Entry 1 : Location

Entry 2 : Title

Entry 2 : Location

Entry 3 : Title

Entry 3 : Location

Ian Stimpson



Prins Christiansund, Greenland. Image Ian Stimpson

Geoconservation Day

Geoconservation Day at Hulme Quarry NNR (at Park Hall Country Park)

Saturday 11 November 2017 10:00 to 13:00

Leader Ian Stimpson

Join us for a practical conservation work-party to help maintain Park Hall's nationally important rock faces.

All tools and full supervision will be provided. Please wear outdoor clothes, boots and gloves.

Please meet at the visitor centre car park, off Hulme Road, Weston Coyney at 10am OS grid reference SJ 930447



Park Hall Conglomerates. Image Ian Stimpson

Membership Subscriptions

Just a reminder that after your membership subscription payment 'holiday', subscriptions are now due for 2017/2018. Full membership is £13, family membership £15, retired/unemployed £10. Student membership is now just £3 for the entire duration of your course.

Please complete the membership form at the back of the bulletin.

Other Societies

Geologists' Association

Lectures are held at Geological Society of London, in Burlington House, Piccadilly but the lectures are available to view by members of the GA online via their website.

Saturday 14 October

Dinosaurs from China Exhibition – Mike Howgate

More details at www.geologistsassociation.org.uk

Black Country Geological Society

Indoor meetings are held at Abbey Room at the Dudley Archives, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ

Monday 16 October @ 19:30

The Corsi Collection of decorative stones: where geology meets the arts – Monica Price

Saturday 4 November @ 10:30

Geoconservation Day – Barrow Hill

Monday 20 November @ 19:30

Cave Development – Tony Waltham

Saturday 2 December @ 10:30

Geoconservation Day – Saltwells LNR

More details at www.bcgs.info

East Midlands Geological Society

Indoor meetings are held at the Geography Department (Sir Clive Granger Building) at the University of Nottingham

More details at www.emgs.org.uk

East Midlands Regional Group of the Geological Society

De La Beche Conference Suite, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham

Tuesday 7 November @ 19:00

Risk and Uncertainty in Exploration for Oil and Gas
–Malcolm Brown (President GSL) – Venue:
University of Derby

Tuesday 14 November @ 19:00

Wine, Whisky and Beer: the Role of Geology

More details at [www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups and Networks/Regional Groups/East Midlands](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups%20and%20Networks/Regional%20Groups/East%20Midlands)

Liverpool Geological Society

Indoor meetings are held at Lecture Theatre 137, James Parsons Building, Liverpool JMU, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF

Tuesday 24 October @ 19:30

Mechanisms of Igneous Intrusion – Janine Kavanagh

Tuesday 21 November @ 19:30

Geology of Wine: Languedoc, France – Roger Suthren (Ticket only event)

Tuesday 28 November @ 19:30

The Geology of Sardinia – Patrizia Onnis

More details at liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org

Manchester Geological Association

Indoor meetings are held at the Williamson Building, University of Manchester

Wednesday 25 October @19:00 The Science and Engineering of Shale - Prof Ernie Rutter

Saturday 18 November @ 13:30 The Broadhurst Lectures: Deep Earth Matters

Wednesday 29 November @18:30 Seismic Hazard in Istanbul - Prof Iain Stewart

Saturday 18 November @ 13:30 Some Aspects of Planetary Geology in the Solar System

More Details at www.mangeolassoc.org.uk

North West Regional Group of the Geological Society

Indoor meetings at Manchester University unless otherwise specified

Thursday 19 October @ 18:30 Basics of Soil Slope Stability – Bob Seedhouse

More details at [www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups and Networks/Regional Groups/North West](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups%20and%20Networks/Regional%20Groups/North%20West)

Shropshire Geological Society

Indoor meetings are held at The Shire Hall, Shrewsbury at 19:30

Wednesday 11 October @ 19:30 Re-interpretation of the Ediacaran fauna on Longmynd as gas bubbles - Latha Menon

More details at www.shropshiregeology.org.uk/SGS/SGSintro.html

Teme Valley Geological Society

Indoor meetings are held at Martley Memorial Hall B4197 by Sports Ground

Monday 16 October @ 19:30 Mountain Building – Paul Gannon

Monday 13 November @ 19:30 The Coal Measures of Martley and Newent - Dr Bernard Besly

More details at www.geo-village.eu

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Indoor meetings are held at St Francis Church Hall, Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL

Wednesday 15 November @ 19:00 The secret life of your mobile phone (strategic metals) – Andrew Bloodworth

More details at www.wgcfg.co.uk

West Midlands Regional Group of the Geological Society

Indoor Meetings at Lapworth Museum of Geology, Birmingham University

More details at [www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups and Networks/Regional Groups/West Midlands](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Groups%20and%20Networks/Regional%20Groups/West%20Midlands)

Western Institute of Mining and Minerals

Indoor meetings are held at the William Smith Building, Keele University

More details at www.iom3.org/wimm

NSGGA - Next Committee Meeting:

Thursday November 2, 2017 @ 19:00

In room WS1.44, the William Smith Building, Keele University

Contacts List: NSGGA Committee 2016-17

Chair: Dr Stuart Egan

Geography, Geology & the Environment, Keele University Tel. 01782 733174

e-mail: s.s.egan@keele.ac.uk

Vice-Chair: Dr Ian Stimpson

Geography, Geology & the Environment, Keele University Tel. 01782 733182

e-mail: i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk

General Secretary: Barbara Kleiser

email: barbara.kleiser@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tony Marks

4 Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook, Stoke-on-Trent, ST11 9AN

email: welsh_tony@tiscali.co.uk

Membership Secretary: David Osborn

Stretton, 2 Croyde Place, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7XD. Tel 01782 396692

email: david.d.osborn25@gmail.com

Speakers Secretary: Peter Jones

e-mail: p.f.jones@derby.ac.uk

Field Secretary: Steve Alcock

Longfields, Park Lane, Cheddleton, near Leek ST13 7J

Tel. 01538 360431 or mobile 07711 501028

e-mail: steves261@aol.com

GeoConservation Staffordshire Liaison Officer: Dr Ian Stimpson,

e-mail: i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk

Bulletin Secretary: Dr Ian Stimpson,

e-mail: i.g.stimpson@keele.ac.uk

Honorary Life Member: Ann Myatt

Executive Committee (honorary):

Peter Floyd, Don Steward

Executive Committee (elected):

Dr Lloyd Boardman; Dr Patrick Cossey; Janet Osborn (Minutes Secretary); John Reynolds, Richard Campbell.

Executive Committee (co-opted):

Eileen Fraser (John Myers Awards); Keele GeoSoc Rep.

NSGGA web pages: www.esci.keele.ac.uk/nsgga

Thursday 11 December 2014 at 19:00

The Christmas Social at The Keele Sustainability Hub

with the judging of the NSGGA/GCStaffs Photographic Competition, bring you own geology displays (rocks /minerals / fossils / books / maps etc.) and a short talk "Diamonds" by Peter Floyd

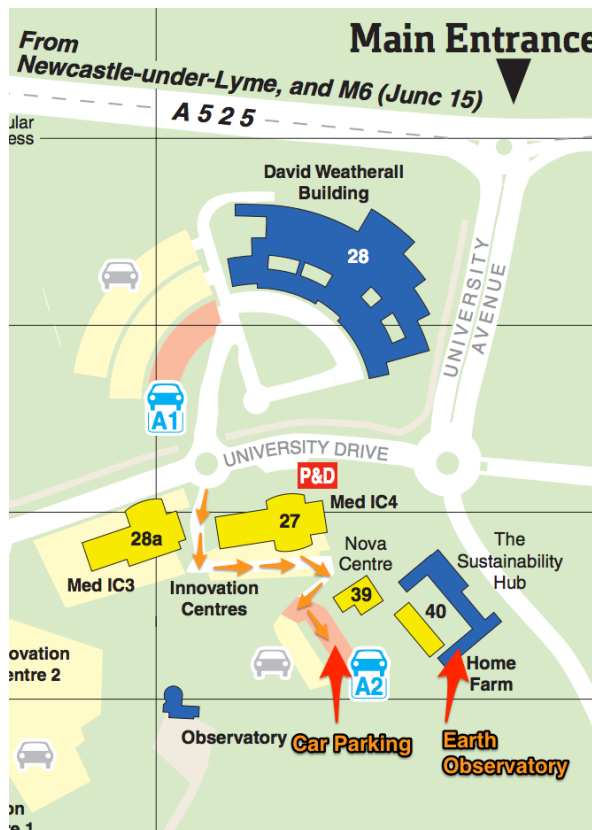
The buffet for NSGGA Members / GCStaffs Volunteers and their families will be £12 per person with free glass of wine, please book using the booking form below, enclosing payment, by **Friday 10th November.**

The Christmas Social this year will again be held in the Earth Observatory at the Keele Sustainability Hub, Home Farm by the main Keele entrance.

There is limited parking outside the Hub itself but ample parking is available in car park A2 behind the MedIC4 building which will be free of charge at that time of the evening.

Please send form with payment to:

Tony Marks,
4 Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook, Stoke-on-Trent, ST11 9AN



Pre-booking is essential, as numbers have to be pre-booked with the caterer

To book a meal, please enclose a cheque (payable to NSGGA) for the full amount

I/We would like to book _____ places for the Christmas Social on Thursday, 7th December, 2017

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to NSGGA

Name/s

Address

Telephone

Please Tick: I am a member of NSGGA

I am a GCStaffs Volunteer

NSGGA MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions due from October 1st



Fossils, Rocks & Minerals
 Summer Field-Trips
 Winter Talks
 Site Conservation
 Regular Newsletters

Name

Address

Telephone

e-mail address

Would you be willing to receive your Bulletins by e-mail yes no

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Ordinary (Full) | £13.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family * | £15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Retired/Unemployed | £10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student ** | £ 3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

John Myers Award Fund*** contribution of £.....

* For insurance purposes, please list the names of all members of the household to be included:

** Students please name your **full-time** course:

Cheques should be made payable to the: "**NSGGA**" and sent to:
 David Osborn (NSGGA Membership Secretary),
 Stretton, 2 Croyde Place, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7XD.
 Tel: 01782 396692. e-mail: david.d.osborn25@gmail.com

For our records, are you currently a member of the national GA? yes no

*** Two John Myers Awards are presented annually to students at Keele University. John Myers gave a 60-year contribution to the understanding of Geology in North Staffordshire and beyond. From 1927 he taught at Wolstanton Grammar School for 40 years and began evening classes at "Stoke Tech" [now Staffordshire University], encouraging members to join the Geologists' Association of London. Thus was born the NSGGA in 1948. In the 1950s and 60s he helped Keele University Postgraduate Certificate of Education students with a teaching methods course, joining the staff of the Education Department in 1967 on his retirement from teaching. Also in 1967, he was a Founding Father of the Association of Teachers of Geology that had its inaugural meeting at Keele, at which he was elected Treasurer, a post he held for 10 years. His daughter Ann has generously funded the John Myers Awards in his memory.