

and Manager of Geology, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, Mr Graham Worton, who impressed us with the Museum's work on the conservation of the important Silurian Reef complex at the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve. This site is surrounded by 'sink' estates, and he and his team have worked with local community groups to involve the local children in the upkeep, knowledge communication and conservation of this vital site. These efforts in community outreach are having a major impact in lowering crime rates and fostering community wellbeing.

The Bath Geological Society, along with many other national, regional and local organisations made poster presentations during the breaks from the lectures. Our poster depicted our work at Brown's Folly and was well received and may I add my thanks to David Bridgland from the GA for his help in getting the poster printed and laminated. (The poster is reproduced on Page 5.)

INSIDE A MAGMA CHAMBER

Jane Browning

For the first time in history scientists, led by University of Iceland volcano researcher, Dr Freysteinn Sigmundsson, have descended into the magma chamber of a dormant volcano. The exploration team descended 650 feet into Thrihnukagigur volcano, Iceland which is about 100 miles from Eyjafjallajokull, which erupted in March 2010. The volcano last erupted about 3,000 years ago. They used traditional climbing equipment such as ropes and metal anchors before a metal lift was built to transport heavy scientific and recording equipment.

The inside of the magma chamber was tinged an eerie red due to the rusted iron ore that lined the chamber walls. They saw a weak layer of rock, that may have eroded easily helping with the creation of the volume that filled with magma during the last eruption. This magma then drained out and created an "open part" of the magma plumbing system which could be explore. These channels were on the order of two to six foot wide.



Photograph by Hans Strand
Volcanologists examine a piece of rock inside Thrihnukagigur

The team's observations will help in the knowledge of magma chamber formation and are being compared against other volcanoes such as Eyjafjallajokull.

Bath Geological Society is now on Facebook. Here you will find reminders about lectures and field trips, links to the Geology of the West Country Blog and any other tit-bits of information I can find.

Other sites which may be of interest include BGS, USGS and NASA .

Mellissa Freeman