

Chairman's Report for the Annual General Meeting 2012

Again the Society continues to flourish, with a very interesting and stimulating programme of events. Thanks to our membership Secretary, our membership remains high at 97 at the end of 2011. We may be levelling out but I am hopeful we can increase during the year. For your information 'membership' attendance stands at around a third, at between 30 to 40. That number does not include 'walk-ins' for whom we are very grateful.

Last year's programme was very successful with many interesting talks and field trips; and that was echoed in the attendance numbers. The field trips were again varied and adventurous. I do hope that the replacement of the Club Evening by a lecture has not disappointed any of you.

Again many thanks to our journal Editor for producing a very professional and interesting journal. I know that a lot of time and energy is required for that to be successful.

We continue to work with WEGA and Bristol Nats in sharing field trips and I must thank Elizabeth Devon for her continuing ownership of the West Country Geology Blog and the considerable interest that it generates and the good it does for the geology in this area.

I must thank all the committee members for all their continuing hard work and of course, a special thanks again to Elizabeth Devon for the substantial time and effort she has (and continues) to give to this society, especially as the past Chairman. Thank you Elizabeth. And our unsung hero – our refreshments lady – what could we do without our coffee, tea and biscuits. A very special thanks to the BRSLI and Bob Draper and his team as well.

May I reiterate our past Chairman – this is your society and please feel free with your suggestions and thoughts.

Richard Pollock

Geologists' Association Burlington House 9th November 2012

Local Societies Meeting

Richard Pollock

The Bath Geological Society has, as most of you will be aware, 'Affiliated Group' status with the Geologists' Association (GA). The other status is 'Local Group' status. Once a year all the societies/groups are invited to meet together at Burlington House under the auspices of the Geologists' Association to exchange ideas, review programmes etc. This is followed on the Saturday by the Festival of Geology; this year held in London, which some of our members attended. Indeed Elizabeth Devon and Isobel Geddes of the Wiltshire Geology Group (WGG) shared a table to exhibit the Box Rock Circus and the WGG's 'Explore' series of Landscape and Geology Trails around Wiltshire and surrounding areas.

The difference between 'Affiliated Group' status and 'Local Group' status is based on the number of members of each society who also belong to the Geologists' Association; and twelve (12) is the magic number! So I am asking that any of our members who are also members of the GA, please let me know. There will be some advantages in moving to become a 'Local Group'.

I also wanted to let you know of some upcoming dates of interesting geological events that are taking place in the next year with some of the GA Groups: more information about these events can and will be found on the GA website – www.geologistsassociation.org.uk

Manchester Geological Society, 12th
January 2013

Oxford Geology Group, Oxford Colloquium,
16 March 2013

Lyme Regis Fossil Festival, First May Bank
Holiday 2013

Geologists' Association, 2013 Annual
Meeting, Durham – Onshore and Offshore
Geology, the vital link, 21st/22nd September
2013

(continued on Page 31)

with Terrace 4 deposits. In the Exe system, Terrace 4 is separated from Terraces 1, 2 and 3; these lower three abut on the floodplain. Optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL) dates Terrace 4 at c. 59,000 years, i.e. Devensian age.

The wide floodplain here (Netherex Basin) covers an area 5km in length and up to 1.5km in width on bedrock of Dawlish Sandstone (Permian) with sandstones and shales of the Crackington Formation (Carboniferous) to the north and south. The difference in valley shape between the broad basin on the Permian rock and the narrow valleys overlying the more competent Carboniferous rock, is noticeable. The floodplain sediment consists of gravels overlain by silts. The clasts in the gravel, slates and sandstones with occasional pieces of quartz, all appear to be derived from between here and Exmoor.

Part of the basin valley floor is an SSSI for its geomorphology. Many palaeochannels can be

seen; we were fortunate in that all the recent wet weather had meant that these were filled with water on our visit and so were clearly visible. From recent research it seems that avulsion, (rapid abandonment of one river channel for another), has been the dominant process of floodplain formation.



Palaeochannels of River Exe

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to our field leaders Dr. Jenny Bennett, Dr. Sarita McVicar Wright and Dr. Richard Scivener"

Exam Howlers

Without rocks, then the standard of living with cars and central heating would not be happening

The three main types of rock are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic

If the soil is contaminated the polluter may become airborne and be inhaled by organisms

Without the lithosphere, there would be no ground to stand on

Taphonomy is the burial rights

(Continued from page 1)

Geologists' Association Local Societies Meeting

The major outcome, I thought, from this meeting this year was the emphasis on intra group relationships; let's get to know our neighbours in the geological arena and maybe work together more. The BGS is certainly doing this with our joint Field Trip programme. There was also the suggestion that the local groups forge links with other groups such as

the Ramblers, Forestry and RSPB for example. I think that our association with the Avon Wildlife Trust at Brown's Folly is an excellent example of this already working extremely well in our area.

The GA also realises that as an organization it is very London centred, and that is one of the reasons that the last two Annual Meetings have been held outside London, at Worcester and Exeter. This will continue next year with the 2013 meeting being held in Durham. There was some discussion that we could also hold the 'Festival of Geology' again outside London, as in Liverpool a few years back. Time will tell!