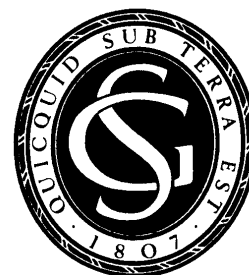


NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP
OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2005



Yes, it's that time already. The 2005/6 programme of field trips and presentations has been compiled and we trust that it provides a blend of topics that you will find interesting.

Welcome, if you are receiving our Newsletter for the first time. Our circulation has increased significantly after the fellowship questionnaire from Burlington House which has resulted in all members being assigned a Regional Group.

Firstly, **please note that the programme set out in this Newsletter differs from details in Geoscientist.** This Newsletter has the correct details and updates are posted on the Regional Group's events section of the Geological Society website www.geolsoc.org.uk

Last years' trip to the Alderley Edge mines was a great success. So, encouraged by the enthusiasm of Geologists to get underground we have arranged for the first meeting in this year's programme to be a visit to the historic Parys Mountain Copper Mines. We appreciate that this trip is at the extreme western edge of the Region so we have arranged for a mini-bus from Warrington to ease the journey for people from the eastern areas of the Region. We are sure that the trip will be well worth the effort of getting there. Places are limited so book early.

The first meeting is a presentation by Dr Bob Chaplow on the role of the Geologist in the disposal of Radioactive Wastes. The second meeting is a presentation by Mike Wilson of Pelorus on geophysical investigations in marine and estuarine environments. We have agreed to sponsor Bill McGuire for a second year running as part of the Chester Literary Festival.

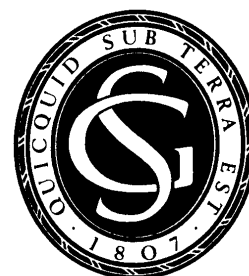
We have decided to rest the AGM and Quiz Night format for this year but we will still put the emphasis on relaxation before the frantic Christmas Period. This year we have coupled our AGM with a presentation on The Geology of Whiskey and it involves tasting various malts to ensure that any geological influences are picked up by the experts!

A new initiative is to invite Young Geologists (30 years old or less on 31 December 2005) to enter a North West Presentation Competition. We will issue a call for papers in January and would appreciate the support of employers/older colleagues in encouraging young geologists to enter this competition. The Committee would like to run this event on a regular basis in future and we are sure that it will form a valuable part of the Professional Development of the entrants.

We trust you will find our programme interesting,

Andy Moore (Secretary)

<p>NW Regional Group</p> <p>Chairman :</p> <p>Mark Parkin c/o Atkins Thomson House Birchwood Science Park Risley Warrington WA3 6AT</p> <p>mark.parkin @atkinsglobal.com</p> <p>Acting Secretary :</p> <p>Andy Moore c/o Waterman Environmental Delphian House Riverside New Bailey Street Manchester M3 5AP</p> <p>a.moore@waterman- group.co.uk</p>
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NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP **NEWSLETTER 2005 – 2006**



28 September 2005
Field visit to Parys Mountain Copper Mines
Guided Tour 6.30 pm

The Parys Underground Group have kindly agreed to provide a tour of the historic workings for up to 10 people. In two groups of 5, we will be able to explore the mines and gain an appreciation of the geology and history of the underground workings of the Parys copper mines.

There is evidence that some areas of Parys Mountain had been subjected to the fire setting techniques of Bronze Age man in an effort to gain copper for making crude tools and that the Romans had mined some areas of Parys mountain for lead and copper.

The Parys Mountain deposit was an historic source of copper in Britain. The ore was recovered from a series of open pits and underground workings which extended below the open pits to a maximum of 150 metres below the surface.

For those of you not making your own way there, a mini bus will leave the back of the car park at the B&Q Warehouse Superstore (Winwick, off Jn 9 M62) at 3.30 pm. We will meet in the Car Park at the top of the Mountain at 6.30 pm. Detailed directions and a map are available on the Regional website.

There is a 45 minute surface walk before we get to the mines and we will be below ground for approximately 2.5 hours. It is wet in some parts and dirty so please wear appropriate clothing.

Please note that **you must inform Carol Westhead** at TerraConsult of your wish to visit the mines and if you will be on the Mini-Bus, **before Friday 21 September 2005**. The email address is CWesthead@terraconsult.co.uk and telephone number 01925 291111.

13 October 2005
6.30 pm
Williamson Lecture Theatre, Manchester University

Dr Bob Chaplow
Independent Consultant to NIREX
Title: 'Has the Geologist a role to play in Radioactive Waste Disposal?'

Geological investigations at a potential repository site for the disposal of long-lived radioactive waste ceased in the UK in 1997 when planning permission for Nirex to carry out investigations in an underground laboratory was refused. Since that time the radioactive wastes continue to accumulate.

The creation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) means that significant quantities of new wastes will be generated from the decommissioning operations that they will manage. Currently CoRWM are formulating recommendations for long-term management strategies for radioactive wastes and implementation of their recommendations could commence in a few years time.

Bob Chaplow will discuss the changes that have occurred in the radioactive waste industry in UK and overseas since geological investigations ceased in 1997 and suggest possible scenarios including some that could mean that a site selection process followed by geological investigations at potential waste management sites could be commencing in less than five years. The potential involvement of geoscientists in this work will be discussed.

24 October 2005
7.45pm Binks Building of the University College Chester (main campus)
(off Parkgate Rd = A540 just north of the inner city ring road).

Bill McGuire
Devastating Tsunami: past, present and future

The Geological Society has joined up with the Chester Literary Festival for the second year running to give members the opportunity to listen to this compelling and often controversial speaker. The topic is still high in both academic and media agendas due to the devastating tsunami on Boxing Day last year in South East Asia.

Bill McGuire is author or editor of over a hundred books, papers, and articles, focusing primarily on volcano instability, volcano monitoring and volcanic hazards. He has worked on or visited volcanoes all over the world, including Mount Etna, Rabaul (PNG), and Mount Pinatubo (Philippines), and was Senior Scientist at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory during 1996.

Bill is a regular contributor to radio, television, and the press on hazard-related matters and he has written a number of popular science publications. Bill is a hugely engaging and entertaining speaker who speaks to the scientist as well as the interested layman.

22 November 2005
6.30pm The Swan, Winwick

Mike Wilson
Geophysical surveys in Marine and Fluvial Environments

Mike Wilson will provide an overview of Geophysics in the Fluvial and Marine Environment with particular reference to methods and practices commonly employed during site surveys. The presentation will include examples of recent surveys showing how information is obtained on the surface of both water and the river/sea bed.

7 December 2005
6.45 pm Ape and Apple, John Dalton Street, Manchester

AGM & The Geology of Whiskey
Dr Steve Cribb

The AGM will start promptly at 6.45 pm and will last approximately 20 minutes. Once the official AGM matters are out of the way the presentation on the Geology of Whiskey will commence. Dr Steve Cribb is an independent consultant who will explore the importance of geology and groundwater in providing the distinctive flavours of a range of whiskies.

An oft-quoted statement about the best water for whisky manufacture is "soft water through peat over granite". Distillery water sources vary enormously from rivers and burns, lochs, lochans and reservoirs to springs and boreholes. Each source is unique and, even where similar source rocks occur; each has a subtly different trace element chemistry. Distillers stand by the source chemistry as an important feature of their product. Among the well-known distilleries are Glenmorangie and Scapa.

Our venue is The Ape and Apple Pub in Manchester City. The Ape and Apple is a John Holts pub and will provide a Hot Pot supper to accompany the presentation. We are sure that this presentation will be well received and of course, it involves tasting a selected range of whiskies to gain that extra level of understanding.

Please note that numbers are limited to 60 and is subject to a £10 charge, **you must inform Carol Westhead** at TerraConsult if you wish to attend **before Wednesday 30 November 2005**. This will ensure that we can judge the catering effectively. The email address is CWesthead@terraconsult.co.uk and telephone number 01925 291111.





The Geological Society

NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2005 – 2006

Date/Time	Speaker	Title	Venue
Wednesday, 6.30 pm 28 September 2005	N/A	Field visit to Parys Mountain This visit is limited to 10 people	Please note that you must inform Carol Westhead at TerraConsult of your wish to visit the mines and if you will be on the Mini-Bus, before Friday 21 September 2005 . CWesthead@terraconsult.co.uk Tel. : 01925 291111.
Thursday, 6.30 pm 13 October 2005	Dr Bob Chaplow Independent Consultant to NIREX	'Has the Geologist a role to play in Radioactive Waste Disposal?'	Williamson Lecture Theatre Manchester University
Monday, 7.45pm 24 October 2005	Bill McGuire	Devastating Tsunami: past, present and future (Joint meeting with the Royal Geographical Society)	Binks Building, Main Campus University College Chester
Tuesday, 6.30 pm 22 November 2005	Mike Wilson of Pelorus	Geophysical surveys in Marine and Fluvial Environments	The Swan, Winwick
Wednesday, 6.45 pm 7 December 2005	Dr Steve Cribb	AGM & Geology of Whiskey This meeting is limited to 60 people and there is a £10 charge for Whiskey tasters and a Hot Pot Supper.	The Ape and Apple, 1 st Floor, John Dalton Street Please note that you must inform Carol Westhead at TerraConsult of your intention to attend before Wednesday 30 November 2005 . CWesthead@terraconsult.co.uk Tel. : 01925 291111.
11 January 2006 6.00 for 6.30pm	Sarah Claxton of Mouchel Parkman	Waste Management Regulations - their application on construction sites. (Joint meeting with the NW Geotechnical Group of the ICE)	Preston County Hall
Thursday, 6.30 pm 9 February 2006	Paul Robinson	Remediating Dounreay's shaft	The Swan, Winwick
Tuesday, 6.30 pm 14 March 2006	Mark Thewsey of the Environment Agency	Groundwater Rebound in Coal Measures and its effects on planned development	Haydock Thistle Hotel
Tuesday, 6.30 pm 11 April 2006	TBA	TBA	Williamson Lecture Theatre Manchester University
Thursday, 6.30 pm 11 May 2006	N/A	NORTH WEST YOUNG GEOLOGIST PAPER COMPETITION	Venue to be confirmed. Call for Papers will be in January 2006
7 June 2006	N/A	Site Visit to the Minosis underground hazardous waste repository in a salt mine.	Northwich

NW Regional Group Contacts
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Secretary : Andy Moore
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A COLOUR PROGRAMME AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON ALL MEETINGS IS LOCATED ON THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WEB SITE
www.geolsoc.org.uk