



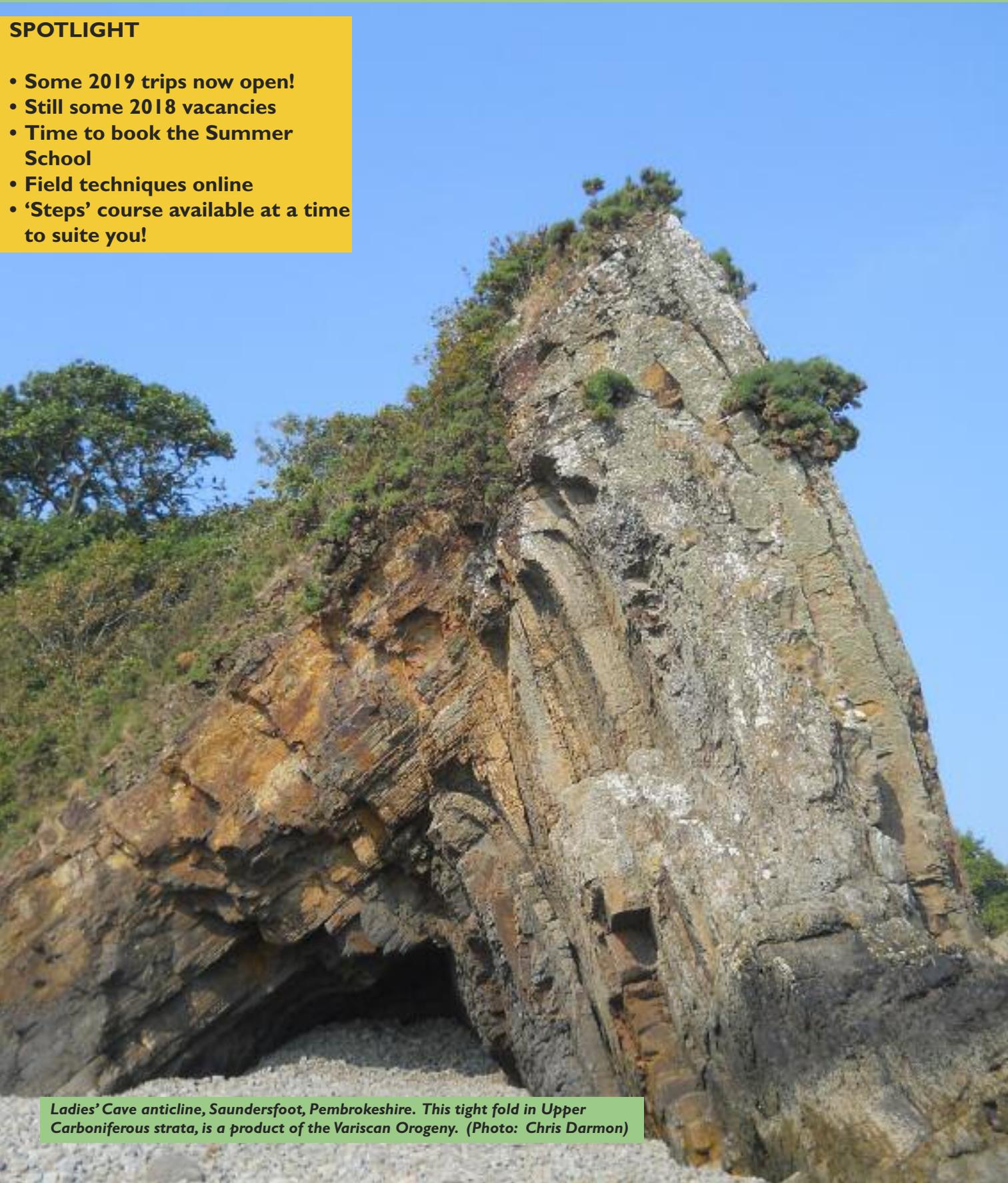
Down to Earth

extra

Issue 64 April 2018

SPOTLIGHT

- Some 2019 trips now open!
- Still some 2018 vacancies
- Time to book the Summer School
- Field techniques online
- 'Steps' course available at a time to suite you!



Ladies' Cave anticline, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire. This tight fold in Upper Carboniferous strata, is a product of the Variscan Orogeny. (Photo: Chris Darmon)

From the Editor...

It's now three months since we started to log the number of people that Colin and I come into geological contact with. Already, I'm pleased to say that figure has reached an impressive 858! Remember that we count it in people days, or parts thereof, so a person coming on a week long residential will count a total of seven times. Even so, this is actually rather more than I thought that it would be at this stage and bodes well for a year end total of somewhere in excess of 3,000.

Collecting the figures has also given us a focus on the people themselves and also the range of activities we've been doing with them. More than half of the people have engaged with us either in a face to face class, as part of a course in the Sheffield or Manchester areas or on one of our day schools. During the period we've held day schools in Devizes, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield, Birmingham and London. We've studied rocks and landscape, the British Isles, metamorphism and the geology of the Peak District. Most of all, we've had some real fun!

We've held one successful residential field trip to the Canarian islands of Tenerife and La Gomera which was attended by 26 people. As an aside, we managed to escape the 'beast from the east' back in the UK. To complete the range of activities, 54 people came out in rural Worcestershire to hear me talk about the evidence for British ophiolites, at a meeting of the Teme Valley Geological Society.

As to the people themselves, that's always an interesting one. Starting with the positive, it's pleasing to see that its pretty well balanced between the sexes, particularly on the day schools. That said, there's an overwhelming tendency towards retired people. That said, there was a school student at our Newcastle day school who came with his mum. Finally, it seems that an interest in geology is a white British affair, unless that is we aren't reaching out effectively to the wider society. We'll keep you informed as the year progresses.

Chris Darmon

Down to Earth extra Editor

Day Trips aplenty & a first look at 2019! Have you booked anything yet?



news update

Ancient shoreline discovered during HS2 construction works in West London...

When people were protesting about the route of the High Speed 2 (HS2) route between London and Birmingham, I doubt very much that they had in mind geomorphological sites. That said, there were plenty who were looking out for wildlife habitats and even archaeological sites.

However, during March it was the discovery of an early Tertiary shoreline that made the headlines. Engineers working on Britain's new high speed railway have discovered an ancient, sub-tropical coastline dating back 56 million years.

The rare discovery was made at a site in Ruislip, West London, when HS2's ground investigation team unearthed a previously unknown material, located up to 33 metres below the surface.

The layer of black clay, which HS2 Ltd has named 'the Ruislip Bed,' is thought to have been formed from densely wooded marshes on the edge of a sub-tropical sea. HS2 Ltd made the surprising find while investigating ground conditions in the area, prior to the construction of the Northolt Tunnel, a 14 kilometre tunnel which will run from West Ruislip to Old Oak Common.

HS2 has been investigating the ground at around 8,000 locations along the first phase of HS2, from London to the West Midlands. So this may not be the only discovery to be of interest to the geologist, indeed it would be amazing if it was. We long ago realised that there were surprises to be found not far below the surface, whether in the Quaternary drift or Tertiary soft sediments.



The Ruislip Bed in all its glory. It's the first time that it's been seen in 56 million years. (Photo: HS2 Ltd)

Dr Jacqueline Skipper, a geological expert from Geotechnical Consulting Group, said: "Although ground investigations regularly take place across the country, it's really exciting and very unusual to come across a material that no-one has ever seen before. The Ruislip

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Bed discovery is particularly fascinating, as it is a window into our geological history.

It would have been formed during the Paleocene period, which was a time of intense change, with new animals evolving following the extinction of the dinosaurs. Most of Southern England was covered by a warm sea and this clay helps us to pinpoint where the coastline was.”

Steve Reynolds, HS2’s Ground Investigation Programme Manager, added: “Since 2015, we have been investigating ground conditions along the route of HS2, so we can design the railway in the safest and most efficient way.

We have been exploring the soil and rocks beneath the surface through various methods, ranging from drilling into the ground and taking samples to using radar technology. Our main investigations are almost complete, with over 1 million laboratory tests undertaken on the samples we have taken. It’s the largest ground investigation programme that the UK has ever seen and an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the ground beneath our feet.”

The initial ground investigation programme on Phase One of the railway, from London to the West Midlands, will be largely complete by the end of March 2018. This will be followed by supplementary, targeted investigations, led by HS2’s main works contractors.

For more information and to watch an interesting piece of u-tube footage, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-workers-discover-ancient-coastline-in-west-london>

More homes in North Norfolk succumb to the powers of the sea...

This has been a winter that has seen a number of damaging easterly and northeasterly winds. Whilst these bring us cold weather and sometimes snow, they also spell danger for our vulnerable east coast. From Essex, right up to Yorkshire there have been a number of places where significant damage has been caused in the last few months.

At Redcar, the beach has been stripped of sediment, revealing a significant petrified forest that has not been seen for some years.

However, the most spectacular scenes have been filmed on the North Norfolk coast at Hemsby where a number of homes have been evacuated and others have had to be demolished. Whilst this isn’t a new phenomena, and homes have been disappearing for years, it does seem to be accelerating.



Beyond saving, another Hemsby home teeters on the edge (Photo: Sky News)

Local newspaper, *The Eastern Daily Press*, printed experts’ maps that starkly illustrate how hundreds of people in the county could find their homes in similarly precarious positions in the decades ahead as the county loses miles of its coastline. They claim the latest predictions by experts for where erosion will happen over the next 25, 50 and 100 years paint a worrying picture for people in a string of coastal villages which are ravaged by the sea. These include: Overstrand, Sidstrand, Mundesley, Walcott, Ostend, Caister-on-Sea, California, Trimingham, Hopton-On-Sea and Happisburgh. At Happisburgh, even the Norman church is among buildings at risk.



Show Dates

April 7 & 8 Rock, Gem ‘n’ Bead Show
Musselburgh Racecourse, Nr. Edinburgh

April 28 & 29 Rock, Gem ‘n’; Bead Show
Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire

May 12 & 13 Rock, Gem ‘n’; Bead Show
Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet

June 2 & 3 Rock, Gem ‘n’ Bead Show
Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury on Thames

June 9 & 10 Rock, Gem ‘n’; Bead Show
Wood Green Animal Sanctuary, Godmanchester

July 21 & 22 Rock, Gem ‘n’; Bead Show
Newcastle upon Tyne Racecourse

All shows are indoors with refreshments & ample free parking

**All shows are open: 10am - 5pm Saturday
10am - 4pm Sunday**

Admission (one entrance fee covers the whole weekend):

Kempton Park: adults £5.50, seniors £3.00

All other shows: adults £4.50, seniors £2.00

All shows: children 8-16 £1.00, under 8’s free

**Rock and Gem Ltd., 27 Common Hill, Steeple Ashton,
BA14 6EE Tel: 01380 871835 • <http://www.rockngem.co.uk>**

Announcing GeoWeek, May 5-13...



The Earth Science Education Forum (ESEF) has approached as many geoscience organisations across the country as possible to encourage them to become involved in an initiative. They were invited to choose the best name and the best dates for a nine-day 'week' in 2018.

The organisations approached included: the Geological Society, the Geologists' Association, University Geoscience UK, the Earth Science Teachers' Association, the physical geography group of the Geographical Association, Geoconservation UK, the English and Scottish Geodiversity Forums, the Open University Geological Society and many more. Although tying the initiative in with either Earth Science Week in October or Science Week in March were discussed, we were advised, particularly by academics and school teachers, that October is one of the worst times of the year from their perspectives for such an initiative and that March is not much better – the better weather of the summer was preferred by most people.

All interested people were asked to 'vote' by completing a brief online questionnaire. We are glad to report that 137 people 'voted' and more than a third of the votes were for the name 'GeoWeek' far ahead of any other suggestions – so GeoWeek it is. Meanwhile, two of the nine-day 'week' option choices were far ahead of the others and were neck and neck, so we went for the one that did not coincide with the school

holiday, of Saturday 5th May to Sunday 13th May 2018. Later the strapline of 'Active geoscience week' was added, allowing the British Geological Survey (BGS) to kindly design our logo for us.

So now the votes have been cast, it is time for action. Given that the initiative plans to involve as many geoscientists as possible doing as many activities as possible to engage as many members of the public as possible, we hope that all geoscience-orientated groups around the country will be willing to become involved.

Whatever you decide to do, please let us know so we can monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of GeoWeek to help us to increase its scope in the future.

- GeoWeek does not carry any funding.
- Please ensure that your activity is risk-assessed and insured, either by your institutional insurance or through the Geologists' Association insurance scheme.
- If your field trip is to a distant site, you, your organisation, or your participants must cover transportation costs.
- Please use the GeoWeek logo in your publicity, and publicise your event(s) as widely as possible.

We see 2018 as a pilot year, and hope our learning through this pilot year will boost the initiative in the years ahead – so please give us feedback to help us to be more dynamic and reach a wider and more enthusiastic audience in the future.

*Chris King (chris@earthlearningidea.com) and
John Stevenson (esefew@gmail.com).*



HimalayanGeoTours

Annapurna Circuit Trek with Geology Focus
Led by Dr Danny Clark-Lowes
20 October to 04 November 2018

A 'HimalayanGeoTours' trip



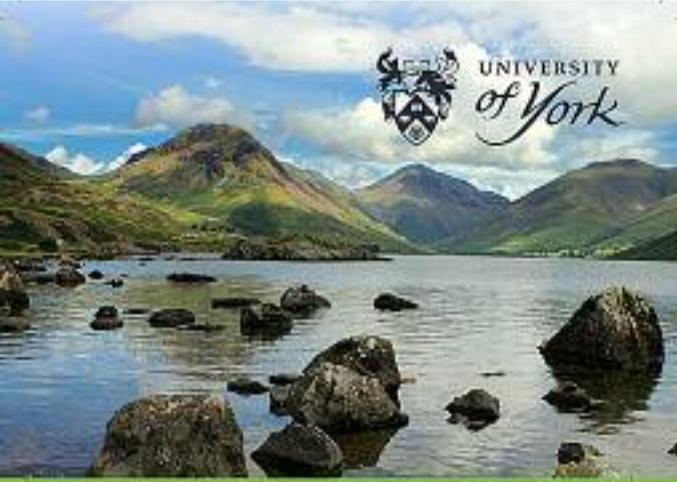
Cost for tour with shared room is £2200.
Participants arrange own flights to and from Kathmandu.

Contact: Dr. Daniel D. Clark-Lowes FGS, HimalayanGeoTours

Tel: 01984 624528
d.clarklowes@btpopenworld.com



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Papua New Guinea magnitude 6.9 earthquake, and tsunami alert March 30th...

I'm indebted to *Down to Earth* reader Chris Rogers for alerting me to the fact that there's been a magnitude 6.9 earth quake almost as I was writing this issue!

The USGS reported the event as occurring at 23.25 UTC time, in the sea off the Island of New Britain, at a depth of 35 km.

As a matter of course, a national tsunami warning has been issued, for nearby places, including the town of Kimbe which has a population of more than 18,000 people. This is a an area of very frequent earthquakes, but 6.9 is quite high and some damage may well occur from any tsunami wave that may be generated.



This is from the website Deutsche Welle:

"A powerful earthquake struck Papua New Guinea early Friday, one month after an even stronger quake killed 125 people on the island nation.

Hawaii's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center registered the tremor at a magnitude of 7.2, but said that an immediate danger had passed. There were no immediate reports of damages or casualties, this is not unusual however, as the country's mountainous and remote landscape can make it difficult to ascertain the extent of a quake's impact for several days.



Location map for March 30th earthquake

Earthquakes are common in Papua New Guinea, which sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire." Roads and houses are still being rebuilt from last month's earthquake. On February 26, a magnitude 7.5 quake buried buildings, destroyed homes and sparked landslides that prompted 35,000 people to flee their homes and killed at least 125."

Let us hope that this latest earthquake isn't as bad.

Mount Etna is on the move!

Recent news reports have stated that Mount Etna is on the move - no it's not quit April yet! This slide is estimated to be at a rate of 14 mm per year in the direction of the Mediterranean. Whilst this isn't rapid,

it is considered to highly significant and also a little worrying. An international team, led by volcanologists from the UK have published their findings in the *Bulletin of Volcanology*.

Open University volcanologist, and lead author, Dr John Murray told the BBC: "I would say there is currently no cause for alarm, but it is something we need to keep an eye on, especially to see if there is an acceleration in this motion."



*Mount Etna erupting on March 26th 2018
(Photo: Live Science)*

Murray has been studying Mount Etna for nearly 50 years and over that time has observed the movement thanks to the network of high precision GPS stations, he's placed around the volcano. The instruments primarily track changes in the shape of volcano, including the detection of any swelling that may be taking place, but with 11 years of data, this sliding is now obvious.

Etna is moving down a slope of 1-3° in a southeasterly direction towards the coastal town of Giame. Murray isn't certain of the underlying cause, but thinks that it may be due to the volcano sitting on a platform of weak pliable rock. If so, then this is the first recorded instance of such a phenomena.

Expedition to find Antarctica's 'missing' meteorites, reports that it's making progress...

Manchester University reports that it is making progress in finding some of Antarctica's 'missing' iron meteorites. Find out more at: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/expedition-uncover-lost-meteorites-antarctica/>

YORKSHIRE MINERAL & FOSSIL FAIR

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Spring distance learning courses

Commencing in early April we'll be rolling out our "Field Techniques" course once again. This is a great opportunity to hone your field skills, or simply to learn how to read rocks and landscape. You can also join our online learning community on Moodle.

For those of you looking for a beginners' course in geology, we're delighted to be able to inform you that our popular 'Steps towards the rock face' course is now available 'on demand', at any time of the year. It allows you to access the materials at any time for a period of 6 months at our Moodle site, or to receive them in printed form. See below for more details.

The following courses will run:

"Field Techniques in geology" - This course starts with simple things such as Earth materials, geological time and rules of stratigraphy and then moves to more specific things like the measurement of dip and strike, field sketching, recording notes in a field book and photography. It ends with information about geological mapping and vertical logs. It will surely help anyone in the field to get more out of any rock section.

Runs for 10-weeks. Cost £75.00 by email, £100.00 by post.

"Steps towards the rock face" - our popular course for those new to geology and the Earth sciences. It covers a wide spectrum of basic materials on rocks, minerals and fossils and much more besides. This course has been specifically designed with adult learners in mind. It does not require you to submit homework and you can do it electronically or by post to suit your requirements.

Cost: £75.00 by Moodle, or £100.00 by post, student under-19 £50.00 (Moodle only).

For more information email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Spring Day Trips

The standard price is £15.00 per person, with some trips at the lower rate of £10.00 per person. All trips offer a £3.00 discount for holders of Club Class, students under 19 and groups of 5 or more people booked together.

Day trips are suitable for all levels of knowledge, unless shown otherwise.

Wednesday, April 4

Geology of the Lickey Hills

The Lickey Hills are only around 10 miles from the centre of Birmingham and are easily accessible. They expose rocks from the Precambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Carboniferous. Within a small area, there's lots to see. Walking moderate, 2-3 miles, with steps.

Meeting: Lickey Hills Country Park at 11.00 Standard prices

Wednesday, April 4

Building Stones walk around Central Manchester

This walk around the city centre takes in some fine architecture as well as building materials from the UK and around the world. This is your opportunity to see exotic rocks such as polished marbles and unusual igneous rocks as well as the more mundane local gritstones.

There's a surprise around each and every corner!

Meeting: Town Hall extension on Mount Street at 10.30

Price: £10.00, discounted rate £7.00

Saturday, April 14

Geology of Hartland Quay

This trip is taking place during a week long residential trip to Bude. Other days may also be available - contact us for details. Hartland Quay shows some of the most amazing geology of the area with excellent fold and fault structures to see in the Carboniferous rocks. Beach walk with a fairly steep descent on the road way.

Meeting: Cliff Top Park at 10.30 Standard prices

Tuesday, April 17

The Geology of Tintagel, north Cornwall

Tintagel is an amazing place with some excellent structures including both vertical and thrust faults. There are also volcanic rocks as well as the more normal slates. Tintagel Island is an idyllic place especially when it is viewed from the south. All we need for an excellent day is good weather, so what are you waiting for?

Meeting: Cliff top by Tintagel YHA at 10.30. Standard prices

Sunday, April 22

Geology & landscape of the Dorking area, Surrey

Join us on a 4.5 mile circular walk as we take in the beautiful varied landscape of the Weald. Most of the rocks are Lower Cretaceous in age and include clays, sandstones and limestones. These are then overlain by the Chalk. Above all, this is a landscape walk that links the underlying rocks to drainage, topography and even vegetation. A relatively gentle walk with moderate slope angles.

Meeting: Denbies Hillside Car Park (NT) at 10.30 Standard prices

Wednesday, April 25

Rossendale, the Valley of Stone, Lancashire

This easy walk around a massive former stone quarry gives something for everyone. For the beginner there are opportunities for field observation and measurement of things like dip and strike. For those with more knowledge there are excellent sedimentary structures and for everyone the landscape of this part of the Pennines. Easy walking

Meeting: Lee Quarry car park at 10.30 OL13 0BB Standard prices

Saturday, April 28

Geology of the Brassington area, Derbyshire

The Peak District National Park is almost all within Carboniferous rocks, with the famous limestones of the White Peak and the sandstones of the Dark Peak. This visit takes in much younger rocks of the Neogene from the Tertiary. These are highly deformed colourful sediments that fill pockets in the surface of the limestones. There has been much speculation as to the origin of these sediments - we can decide for ourselves! We are able to visit this locality by kind permission of the owner.

Meeting: Bull's Head, Monyash at 10.30 Standard prices



Don't worry, we don't bite!

All our educational classes and courses are friendly, informal and open to all.

Come and join us!

Saturday, May 12

Geology of Ingleton Waterfalls Walk

This is one of those places that if you haven't done it - you should! It's a commercially operated trail with a well paved path with many steps. Geologically, it provides lots of interesting features that appeal to a wide range of knowledge and interest including faults, a famous unconformity and waterfalls! Aside from the Carboniferous limestone there are faults, ancient greywackes and even a dyke!

Meeting: Ingleton waterfalls visitor centre at 11.00 Reduced prices (An admission charge of £6.00 is payable)

Wednesday, May 16

Geology of Robinswood Hill, Gloucestershire

The Cotswolds' escarpment comprise Jurassic limestones, but Robinswood Hill, close to the City of Gloucester is a small outlier separate to the main Cotswolds. These have been actively quarried for brick clays and sand. As a result of this activity there are outcrops of Lower Jurassic or Lias rocks for us to enjoy, all set in an attractive country park. Moderate walking.

Meeting: Country Park visitor centre at 10.30 Standard prices



Edinburgh's Arthur's Seat volcano.

Monday, May 21

Geology of Arthur's Seat Volcano, Edinburgh

Arthur's Seat is an amazing place offering superb views over the City of Edinburgh with its fine geological setting. Walk in the footsteps of people like James Hutton and admire his famous section that shows the contact between sediments and the Salisbury Crags sill. Examine the rocks of an ancient vent and the fabulous columns that are Sampson's Ribs.

Meeting: Outside the Holyrood Parliament at 11.00 Standard price

Residential Trips 2018

Time is running out for early trips...

We do still have some vacancies on 2018 trips - see advert for our Summer School. We also have specific vacancies for single people willing to share a twin room on several trips - see below.

For further information go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk or email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

The Moray Coast of Northeast Scotland, Portsoy, April 30 - May 7

We have one twin/double room available for a couple.. We can also accommodate a single male willing to share a twin room.

Scottish Borders & Fife, May 19-27

We can accommodate a single female and a single male each in twin rooms with another female and male respectively

Northwest Scotland, May 30 - June 7

We can accommodate a single female in a twin room. We can also

accommodate a couple in a double room.

Ilfracombe, North Devon, October 12-17

Yes, October is a long way off, but we are somewhat disappointed by the response to this trip. This is a new location for us and it provides such a range of different geology on the north coast of Devon and Somerset. We are including a day trip to the Isle of Lundy, weather permitting. Check out the website and see the brochure for yourself.

If in doubt about any trip availability - contact us!

Residential Trips 2019

Bookings are now being taken...

We are now taking bookings for almost all of the trips running in the first half of 2019. This covers our trips to: El Hierro, Norway, Southwest Scotland, The Far North of Scotland, Jersey and the Eastern Lakes & Howgill Fells.

El Hierro & Tenerife, February 23 - March 2

Norway, April 5-14

Isle of Jersey, April 20-27

The Far North of Scotland, May 31 - June 8

Eastern Lakes & Howgill Fells, June 16-21

Southwest Scotland, June 28 - July 6

To obtain a brochure for any of the above trips, please contact us by email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or telephone us on 0114 2455746



**Become a Club Class
or Club Class Duo
member for 2018**

**CLUB
CLASS**

We are once again offering 'Club Class' for 2018. Don't forget you can choose between a 'solo' and a 'duo', which allows a second person discounted rates on day field trips and day schools, provided the named member also attends. The discount on Day Schools has also increased to £5.00 per person.

- Join any geological day trip in 2018 and bag a saving of £3.00
- Save £5.00 on the advertised price of any day school
- Take out any **Down to Earth** subscription renewal or new subscription and save £2.00 on the advertised price
- Enrol for any **Down to Earth** distance learning course in 2018 and save £5.00 on the full advertised price.
- Save 10% on books and maps from BGS when ordered from Geo Supplies - only available to callers or telephone orders.
- Additional offers that we may make available from time to time

Terms & Conditions

- The benefits are only available to the named 'Club Class' member.
- Holders of 'duo' can claim discount rates for a second person on day schools or day trips.
- It is the 'Club Class' member's responsibility to draw to our attention that fact that you are entitled to any discounts at the time of ordering
- Club Class cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer to obtain multiple discounts on a product or service and neither can it be used retrospectively for something already booked, or purchased.

To enrol for 'Club Class' for just £10.00 or Club Class Duo for £15.00, go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

To book go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746



Down to Earth

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Come and join are second Summer School...

Shropshire Summer School July 28 - August 4 2018



Harper Adams University is set in beautiful grounds.

Shropshire, England's finest geological county - field geology in the steps of the pioneers

Let us tempt you with some of the goodies that will be on offer during the Summer School!

- Geology of the Wrekin & Ercall Quarries - including an optional mapping exercise
- Geology from a steam train - on the Severn Valley Railway
- Rocks & fossils of Wenlock Edge
- An optional visit to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum
- Rocks & Minerals of the Church Stretton & Shelve areas
- Murchison localities in the Ludlow area
- The Triassic rocks of Grinshill - the stone of No. 10 Downing Street!
- The fossils of Wren's Nest and an underground canal boat trip - in the steps of Murchison

All this, plus indoor evening talks and guest speakers - something for everyone!

See the full brochure at: www.geosupplies.co.uk or email us as at: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield - Joint leaders & organisers



2018/19 Residential Field Trips **There's still some 2018** **vacancies available - book now!**



The narrow and spectacular Nærøysfjord, viewed from the cruise that begins in Flam, Southwest Norway (Photo: Chris Darmon)

At the same time as filling the final vacancies on our 2018 trips, we're also looking forward to the programme for 2019.

We gave our Down to Earth readers, a first look in the February issue and already have more than 30 bookings! Our Norwegian, fjords, rocks & landscapes trip, which is set for April, has 21 bookings and the February trip to El Hierro is also doing well.

For 2018 trips, see the brochures online at: www.geosupplies.co.uk

*Then ask us for a booking form:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk*

*For 2019 trips, ask us for a brochure for any trip marked with an * opposite, then request a booking form!*

A first look at our 2019 field trip programme...

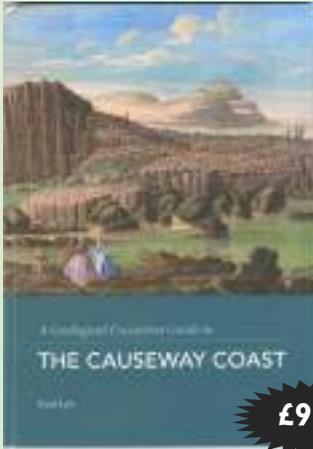
- El Hierro - February 23 - March 2 *
- Norwegian, fjords & landscapes - April 5-14*
- Jersey, Channel Islands - April 20-27 *
- Oban & Colonsay - May 11-19
- Far North of Scotland - May 31- June 8 *
- Eastern Lakes & Howgill Fells - June 16-21 *
- Southwest Scotland - June 28 - July 6 *
- Summer School, Peak District - August
- South Cornwall - September 7-14
- Northumberland Coast - September 22-27
- Llyn Peninsula - October 12-17
- Hastings Coast, Sussex - October 22-27

*Trips marked with an * already have brochures available & bookings are being taken*

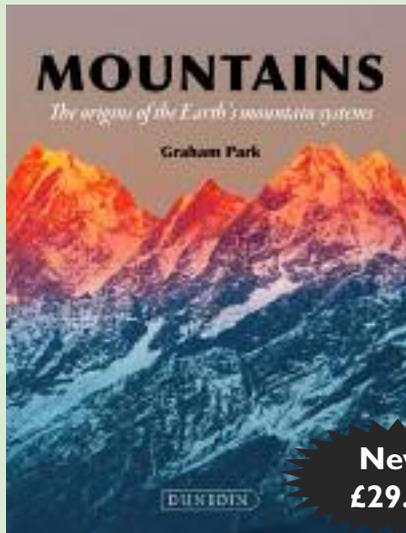


Featured books February - April

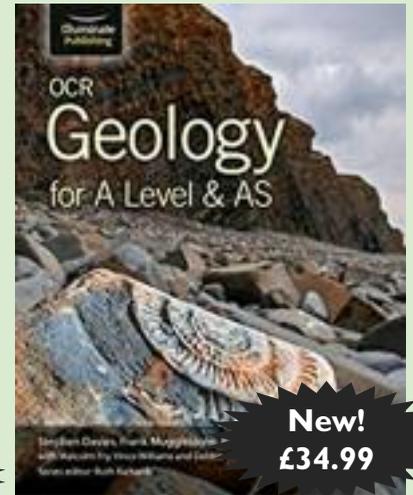
In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of the month shown above, provided that stocks are available. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



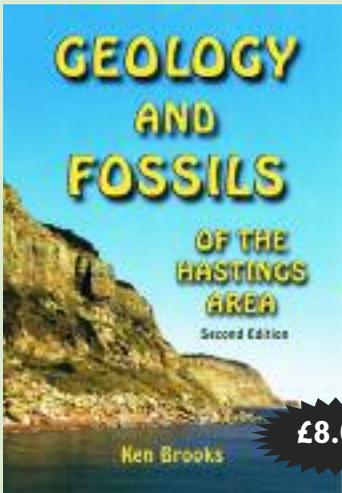
£9.50



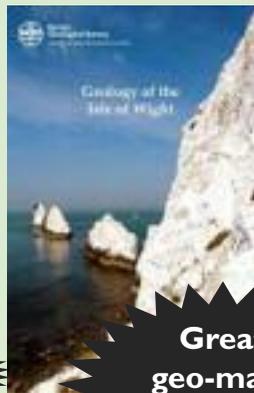
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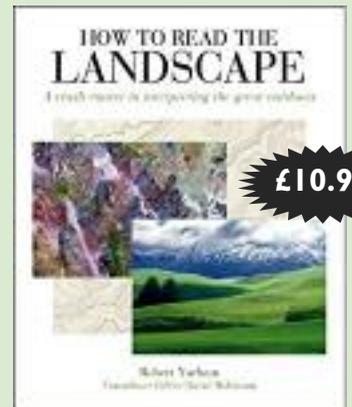
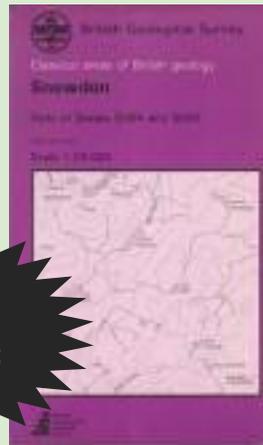
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