



The
Geological
Society

North West Regional Group

Newsletter

Autumn 2018



Your guide to Geological Society events in the North West - 2018/19

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COMMITTEE NEWS

We welcome you back to the regional group for a new season of lectures and fieldtrips. We welcome our new committee members Tony and Chris! The current status of the committee is:

Chair: Nik Reynolds
Secretary: Catherine Kenny
Treasurer: Rob Hunt
Outreach Officer: Katherine Harrison

Committee members:

Marie Convery
Martin Lucass
Mark Parkin
Tony Pfaff
Andrew Moore
Chris Oates

The AGM will be held in January just before our January lecture, so if you would like to join the committee or have any ideas for events, trips and lectures then please come and have your say!

The photograph used on the cover of this year's newsletter is from the field trip to The Shap Blue Quarry.

LOOKING BACK AT 2017/18

We hope you all enjoyed our previous season of activities. Highlights of our events last year include:

- School's Challenge
- Careers Event at Manchester University
- Joint Lectures with Liverpool Geological Society and North Staffs Geologist's Association
- Chester City Geowalk
- Trip to Shap Blue Quarry
- Fellows Event at Manchester University

School's Challenge

The Geological Society's School's Challenge Competition encourages teams of science, geography and geology students to produce a themed poster, and then develop a 5-minute presentation on their chosen (geology related) topic to a panel of geologists from academia and industry. The teams then compete in a geological quiz, set by Burlington House. The Challenge is aimed at years 12/13 (age 16-18).

Once again, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys (AGSB) hosted the NW Regional Heats of the School's Challenge, having won the 2017 Regional Heat.

We initially had seven teams apply to join the challenge but in the last-minute rush up to Christmas, some of the teams unfortunately had to cancel. In the end, AGSB were opposed by two teams, one from Aquinas College, Stockport and one from Runshaw College, Leyland.

Runshaw's impressive presentation and poster on "The Caledonian Orogeny In Great Britain" and excellent performance in the quiz saw them take their places as this year's winners, and the team went on to represent the North West Region at the finals in Burlington House. You can view their poster here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/geolsoc/40174658095/in/album-72157665138665847>



Aquinas College: Second Runners-Up



Altrincham GSB: First Runners-Up



Runshaw College: Winners

We wish to thank all the schools for excellent presentations and for taking part! Many thanks also to our volunteer judges: Rob Hunt from Atkins, Martin Lucass from WSP and Richard Moss from the Environment Agency.

As our regional winners, Runshaw College will host the 2019 event on 22nd January, with the final scheduled to take place at Burlington House on 28th March 2019. **We are now looking for schools to take part in this challenge.** The title of the talk is open to the schools, it can be on anything related to geology.

If you would like to be involved in this competition, or could spare some time to act as a judge, please email geologicalsociety.northwest@gmail.com. Its always a great evening (including pizzas!) and a fantastic experience for the students.

More information and the competition rules can be found at: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/geochallenge>

Careers Event

In May, we held a careers event for geology students from all over the northwest, hosted by the University of Manchester.

Speakers gave talks on their own career pathways in geoscience, with representatives from many varied industries in our area: Oil and Gas (Cuadrilla and BP), Geotechnical Engineering (WSP), Ground Investigation (Geotechnics Ltd.), Environmental Geology (RSK), Quarrying and Mineral Exploration (Atkins), and Hydrogeology (ESI, now Santec). Companies also had a stall to chat to students and hand out information afterwards. This was a very well received event with around 80 students attending and obtaining a useful insight into the range of careers available and the skills required.

Massive thanks to all that attended and especially our speakers.

We are now looking for companies and speakers for our 2019 event so get in touch if you are interested!



John Booth from Geotechnics at the Careers Event

Field Trips

Two field events were held this year with visits to Chester and the Shap Blue Quarry.

As part of 2017 Earth Science Week, 24 of us took a Geowalk around Chester under the expert eye of Professor Cynthia Burek from Chester University. Prof. Burek's main research area is in geoconservation and our trip involved examination of building stones in Chester as well as a walk around the Roman and Medieval walls, and a trip to look at Triassic sedimentary structures in Chester Cathedral! The trip concluded with a short tour around the building stones and gravestones in Overleigh Cemetery. It was a really interesting morning and I will certainly never look at a kerbstone in the same way again!

Booklets and leaflets about the trails, should you wish to have a go yourself are available from Cheshire RIGS.



Chester Cathedral



Overleigh Cemetery

In May, Paul Jennings from CEMEX UK kindly showed 25 of us round the Shap Blue Quarry in Cumbria. We examined the engineering geology, quarry development and design, face stability issues and economic values, and, of course, there was a massive GARNET HUNT. There were some amazing specimens, and we all had a very interesting and informative afternoon, with good weather as well!!



At the bottom of Shap Blue Quarry



Garnets!



Examining the Faulting, and Face Stability Issues

Fellows Event

The North West hosted an event for Fellows of the Society in May, at Manchester University. The first of its kind outside of London, the event was organised by Burlington House and offered the opportunity to meet Malcolm Brown, President of the Geological Society at the time, and listen to his address on the importance of the regional groups in our Society. This was followed by an entertaining lecture from renowned palaeontologist Dean Lomax on Ichthyosaurs. Staff from Burlington House demonstrated the remote services offered by the library over a drinks and canapes reception.

The event was attended by around 75 of us and it was a brilliant evening celebrating the Fellowship of the

Geological Society! We hope that this event will run again in the future!



Malcolm Brown Addresses the Fellows Event

Lecture Series 2017/18

We kicked off the 2017/18 lectures season with Chris Eccles from Terraconsult presenting "Subsurface Risks for the Construction of the High Speed 2 (HS2) Rail Link in Mid-Cheshire" (Attendance: 60).

Bob Seedhouse from WSP presented our October lecture at Manchester University on "The Basics of Soil Slope Stability", the second lecture in our series aimed at early career geologists and geotechnical engineers. (Attendance: 47). **If you want to volunteer a lecture in a similar vein for our 2018/19 season please contact geologicalsociety.northwest@gmail.com!**

Laurance Donnelly was unfortunately unable to deliver his forensic geoscience lecture as planned due to last minute work commitments, and we hope to incorporate this lecture into our new programme, so watch this space.

Our December Lecture from Andrew Moore from WSP on "Assessing Asbestos in Soil - What Constitutes Best Practice?" lead to some great post-lecture discussion. (Attendance: 32).

January's lecture was from Adam Thomas (CGG NPA Satellite Mapping) and Keith Nicholls (Network Rail, formerly Opus International Consultants), on "Satellite InSAR for Mining Related Risk Assessment: A Case Study from Manchester" (Attendance: 55).

February is our traditional month for the joint lecture with the Liverpool Geological Society, and Professor Richard Chiverrill delivered "Lake Sediments and Climate Change" at Liverpool John Moores University (Attendance: 45).

In March, Rob Hunt and Jeremy Jones from Atkins presented on "Wylfa Newydd: Ongoing Ground Investigation for a New Build Nuclear Power Station" at Chester University (Attendance: 46).

In April, on perhaps the hottest day of the year so far at that point, our joint event with the North Staffordshire Geologist's Association was held at Keele University: "Hydrogeology of Beer" with Professor Rick Brassington, Consultant Hydrogeologist. (Attendance: 12, which I attribute to the weather and last-minute barbeques!).

Our May meeting comprised a short lecture on the new CPD system with Bill Gaskarth from Burlington House and Chris Eccles, followed by a short chartership workshop (Attendance: 37).

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2018/19

Our draft programme of events is presented on page 6.

It should be noted that there may be reasons why our events change. This may be associated with problems with a speaker or venue which cannot be avoided. We will aim to have fliers issued a month before each event, and will keep our members informed about any variations to programme to the best of our ability.



The North West Regional Group is YOUR society - If you have any comments or questions, or you have a brilliant idea for a lecture or field trip that you would like us to organise, or if you could offer to lead a field trip, then please feel free to make contact using geologicalsociety.northwest@gmail.com

We wish to extend our thanks once again to all the venues, and to all the speakers who delivered our programme last year and we hope you enjoy the programme for the up and coming year.

Best regards to you all on behalf of the Committee,
Catherine Kenny
Secretary, North West Regional Group of the Geological Society of London



Social Media

We have an active Facebook webpage which we encourage you to visit. We try and keep these sites up to date with information regarding meetings and other relevant interesting geological bits and bobs we find!!!



Our Friends in the North West

LGS: Liverpool Geological Society
<http://www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/>

MGA: Manchester Geological Association
<http://www.mangeolassoc.org.uk/indoormeetings.php>

ICE: Institution of Civil Engineers North West
<https://www.ice.org.uk>

CLA: Geological Society Contaminated Land Group
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/contamland>

Venue Information

Manchester University: Williamson Building, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL
<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/maps/> This building is situated opposite the Manchester Museum. Go up the steps from Oxford Road, the lecture theatre is the first room on the left.

Birchwood Centre, Birchwood Park, Warrington WA3 6YN
<http://www.thecentreatbirchwoodpark.co.uk/location.aspx>

Chester University: ParkGate Road Campus: Beswick Lecture Theatre, Chester University, Chester CH1 4BJ
<http://www.chester.ac.uk/find-us>

The Pied Bull: The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 9SH
<http://www.piedbull.com/findus.html>

Liverpool University: Lecture Theatre 137 of Liverpool John Moores University, Byrom Street L3 3AF. See <http://www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/meetings.htm> Go in the main entrance - up to the first floor - and all the way along the corridors towards the James Parsons Tower. At the end of the corridor is the Lecture Theatre (LECTURE AT LIVERPOOL STARTS AT 7PM)



North West Regional Group of the Geological Society (NWGS) Programme for 2018/19

All lectures start at 6.30pm except where stated (note Liverpool lecture is 7pm)

Date	Group	Venue	Event	Speaker
22-23/09/2018	NWGS	Shap	Field Visit	Christine Arkwright, OU
11/10/2018	NWGS	Manchester University	Reflections of a retired hydrogeologist on the use and management of the Permo-Triassic sandstone aquifers of north west England.	Keith Seymour, GSL VP for Regional Groups
14/10/2018 1.15pm	NWGS	Manchester Museum	Earth Science Week family Event: Plesiosaurs Lecture	Dean Lomax, Manchester University
15/11/18	NWGS	Manchester University	Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains (Eng Geol Sp. Pub. 28)	Chris Martin, BP
18/11/18 10am-12pm	NWGS	Helsby Quarry	Field Trip: Informal Walk around Helsby Quarry and stroll over Helsby Hill. https://www.merseyforest.org.uk/things-to-do/walks-bike-rides-and-more/walks/helsby-quarry-woodland-park/	
13/12/18	NWGS/ ICE	Birchwood	SoBRA Vapour Risk	Paloma Montes, WSP
17/01/19	NWGS / MGA	Manchester University	Water Resources	Prof. Rob Ward, BGS
22/01/2019	NWGS	Runshaw College	Schools Challenge	
05/02/2019 7pm	NWGS/ LGS	Liverpool University 7pm	BGS UK Geoenergy Observatories	John Midgeley, BGS
28/02/2019	NWGS	Manchester University	Buxton Water	Rick Brassington, Consultant Hydrogeologist
TBC		TBC	Careers Event	
21/03/2019	NWGS	TBC	East- West Rail	Atkins
TBC April 2019	NWGS	TBC	Cheshire Brine Subsidence	Pauline Cooke, Keele University
16/05/2019	NWGS	TBC	Hinckley Point C	Atkins
19/05/2019 10am - 4pm	NWGS	Froghall Wharf Car Park ST10 2HJ	Field Trip: Froghall To Winston Section of the Churnet Valley Geotrail (8km) http://srigs.staffs-ecology.org.uk/Geotrails/Churnet/index.html	Ian Stimpson, Keele University