



The
Geological
Society

North West Regional Group

Newsletter

Autumn 2019



Your guide to Geological Society events in the North West - 2019/20

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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 member Molly Brown! Molly takes a space on the committee vacated by Tony Pfaff, who has moved abroad, and will be our Early Careers Officer. The current status of the committee is:

Chair: Nik Reynolds
Secretary: Catherine Kenny
Treasurer: Rob Hunt
Outreach Officer: Katherine Harrison
Early Careers Officer: Molly Brown

Committee members:

Marie Convery
Andrew Moore
Mark Parkin
Martin Lucass
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 Lymm Dam.

LOOKING BACK AT 2018/19

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 the ICE NW Geotechnical Group, Manchester Geological Association, Liverpool Geological Society, Geological Society Engineering Group,
- Middlewich Geowalk
- Trip to the Shap Area
- Walk around Helsby Quarry
- Trip to Lymm Dam
- Trip to the Churnet Valley Geotrail
- Family Plesiosaurs Event at Manchester Museum

School's Challenge

Last Year's Geological Society NW Regional Heat of the School's Challenge was won by Runshaw College, Leyland. They won not only our gorgeous blue john fluorite trophy, but also the task of hosting the competition for 2019. Hence, on Tuesday 22nd January, a team of six students from Altrincham Grammar School For Boys and a team of four students from Aquinas College, Stockport arrived at Runshaw College to challenge for the title.

Altrincham presented first, with a quite terrifying look at the Yellowstone Supervolcano and the ways in which it could suddenly dish out death and destruction on a huge

scale. A death- and-destruction theme continued with the presentation from Aquinas and their discussion of the Anthropocene, and the numerous ways in which the human species has contributed to the slow poisoning of the planet. Finally, our hosts Runshaw presented on terraforming – maybe there is some hope for us as a species in the future?!

The presentations were followed by all three teams taking part in our quiz, whilst our four judges: Katherine Harrison from Manchester University, Chris Oates from Soiltechnics, Martin Lucass from REC and Marie Convery, went off to judge the poster competition.

The quiz was great fun – with some challenging questions from many different aspects of geology.

Marks from the presentation, poster and quiz were totted up, and this year's winners were Altrincham Grammar School For Boys, who took home the blue john trophy and the opportunity to attend the final of the competition at Geol Soc HQ in Burlington House in March, which THEY WON!! Huge congratulations to the team!



Altrincham Grammar School For Boys at Burlington House – National winners of the 2019 Competition

Our second prize trophy, made from a fantastic specimen of purple fluorite donated by the Weardale Mining Project, was awarded to Aquinas College, with Runshaw taking our runners-up tub of Celebrations!

We rounded off the evening with some celebratory pizzas and discussion of the posters.

A great evening and some really high quality stuff from the A level students! We are continually amazed by the standard of both presentations and posters from students this age.

We are looking forward to the 2020 Competition already!



Aquinas College



Runshaw College

If your school would like to be involved next year, or you would like to **volunteer as a judge**, please drop the NWRG secretary an email and see also <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/geochallenge>

Careers Event

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

Speakers from RSK, Geotechnics, Atkins, Stantec, Caudrilla, BP, and SRK described their own career pathways in geoscience. Companies also had a stall to chat to students and hand out information afterwards. We also ran a speed networking event, organised by Molly Brown, where students could talk directly in small groups to graduates at early stages in their careers.

This was a very well received event with 53 students attending and obtaining a useful insight into the range of careers available and the skills required.

Massive thanks to our hosts, and all that attended and especially our speakers and speed networking volunteers!
We are now looking for companies and speakers for our 2021 event so get in touch if you are interested!

Field Trips

Here's a selection of photos from our many trips this year!



September 2018: Residential trip to the Shap Area with Christine Arkwright: Permian



September 2018: Residential trip to the Shap Area with Christine Arkwright: Shap Pink



November 2018: Helsby Quarry with Fred Owen



April 2019: Lymm Dam with Fred Owen



May 2019: Churnet Valley Geotrail with Ian Stimpson



June 2019 Middlewich Geowalk with Cynthia Burek

Fantastic excursions delivered by our enthusiastic field trip leaders, with many thanks, and the weather has been kind to us on the whole!

We hope you enjoyed these trips - more trips to be announced for this year so come along!

Family Event: Earth Science Week



We celebrated the theme of 2018's Earth Science Week: Science in Our Lives by bringing our families with us to a lecture! We had 30 adults and 30 children aged 2-12 attend a short child-friendly plesiosaurs lecture from Dean Lomax of Manchester University, followed by an opportunity to ask loads of questions and also have a look at some real plesiosaurs around the Manchester Museum, and of course, a visit to the gift shop! This was so fun, we are looking to run a similar event in 2020.



Lecture Series 2018/19

Our first lecture was in October from Keith Seymour, GSL Vice President for Regional Group, "Reflections of a Retired Hydrogeologist on the use and management of the Permo-Triassic Sandstone Aquifers of NW England" (Attendance: 43).

Chris Martin from BP, and Working Party Chair, presented our November lecture at Manchester University on the recently published Engineering Geology Special Publication: "Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains". (Attendance 72). **We'd like to present a more detailed lecture on one of the**



chapters of this book – please contact the secretary if you would like to volunteer!!

Our December lecture was “Soil Vapour Risk Assessment – Reducing Uncertainties in the Assessment of Inhalation Health Risks” by Paloma Montes, Associate, WSP (Attendance 53).

In January, Rob Ward, Director of Groundwater Science at the BGS, spoke on “Groundwater Resource Protection” (Attendance 70). We had two lectures in February: “BGS Geoenergy Observatories” by John Midgley of the BGS (Attendance 84), and “Buxton Thermal Water” by Rick Brassington, Consultant Hydrogeologist (Attendance 30).

Thomas Clifford from Atkins delivered our March lecture on “The Importance of Geological Modelling from 1D to 6D” (Attendance 37).

April saw “The Return to the Cheshire Brinefields” presented by Pauline Cooke and Kathrene Rowell from Keele University (Attendance 34).

Victoria Edmonds and Ady Koe from Atkins presented “Rock Slopes at Hinckley Point C” in May (Attendance 45).

We hope you all enjoyed these lectures! Huge thanks to our lecturers and to our venue hosts for supporting the Regional Group.

We’re always open to ideas for fieldtrip and lectures so if you have a topic you are keen to hear something on, or have a lecture you would like to deliver, or a field trip, please contact the secretary!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2019/20

Our draft programme of events is presented on page 7.

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: CBB017 in the Best Building, 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)

Geological Society Code of Conduct for Meetings and other Events

- *The Geological Society of London is a professional and learned society, which, through its members, has a duty in the public interest to provide a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees of our meetings, workshops, and events regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, or career level.*
- *This Code of Conduct applies to all participants in Society related activities, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, service providers, representatives to outside bodies, and applies in all GSL activities, including ancillary meetings, events and social gatherings.*
- *Breach of the Code of Conduct*
- *If an incident of proscribed conduct occurs either within or outside the Society's premises during an event, then the aggrieved person or witness to the proscribed conduct is encouraged to report it promptly to a member of staff or the event's principal organiser.*
- *Once the Society is notified, a member of staff or a senior organiser of the meeting will discuss the details with the individual making the complaint. Any witnesses who have been identified, and then the alleged offender will be consulted before determining an appropriate course of action.*
- *Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that it does not compromise the rights of others.*



North West Regional Group of the Geological Society (NWGS) Programme for 2019/20

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

Date	Group	Venue	Event	Speaker
26/09/2019	NWGS	Chester University	Geoconservation and Cheshire's Geodiversity Sites	Prof Cynthia Burek, Chester University and Dr Ros Todhunter
09/10/2019	NWGS ICE	Birchwood	Priming the Industry: An Innovation in Earthworks Monitoring	Prof John Chambers, BGS
18-20/10/19	NWGS MGA	Manchester University	Manchester Geological Association Conference: see https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/conferences/	Various
14/11/2019	NWGS MGA	Manchester University	Geology and Geodynamics of the Betic Cordilleras, SE Spain	Prof Ernie Rutter, Manchester University
05/12/2019	NWGS ICE	Birchwood	The Emerson's Green Landfill Reclamation Project: RAWFILL	Duncan Scott, Vertase FLI
09/01/ 2020	NWGS	TBC	AGM Gas Membranes (Title TBC)	Paul Colbeck, Geoshield
Feb 2020	NWGS	Altrincham Grammar School For Boys	Schools Geology Challenge: Regional Heat	-
Sat. TBC Feb 2020	NWGS	Manchester TBC	Family Event: Dinosaurs	Professor Phil Manning, Manchester University
27/02/2020 STARTS 7PM	NWGS LGS	Liverpool	Chilean Earthquake of 27 th February 2010	Iain Henrys
March 2020	NWGS	TBC	Early Careers Lecture: Coal Mining Investigations (title TBC)	Helen Bennett, Coal Authority
April 2020	NWGS	TBC	TBC	
May 2020	NWGS	TBC	Martian Geology	Foz Jammal
Evenings May 2020	NWGS	Field	Field Trips to Alderley Edge Mines	Derbyshire Caving Club
Sunday 21/06/2020	NWGS	Field	Fish n Chips at The Orme: Informal walk up the Great Orme, guided tour to the Copper mines, and fish n chips in Llandudno	