

Newsletter

Winter 2011/12

Annual Social Evening is a winner.

The Annual Social gathering for 2011 was well-attended as usual. Martin Whiteley hosted a fun quiz again this year, which had many of us stumped over some of the famous images he asked us about. Some lovely food and drink was provided by members that enhanced a very sociable evening. The whole thing was topped off by a brilliant presentation given by Dr Tom Hose. He talked to us about Geotourism and the role of geology on the holidaying endeavours of our ancestors.



A Note from the Editor

Sadly, I have had a computer crash and the software we used for newsletters previously is not compatible with my new computer so I had to produce this newsletter as a Word Document. It is not as good for publishing as the Serif software BGG owns. Please accept my apologies not just for the late edition but also for the 'amateur' publication!

Edited by Bev Fowlston.

If you have any comment or wish to include an article in the next issue of this newsletter then please contact me on 01525 375353 or by email bev.fowlston@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue is 25th May 2012.

I hope you enjoy reading.

Members' page.....

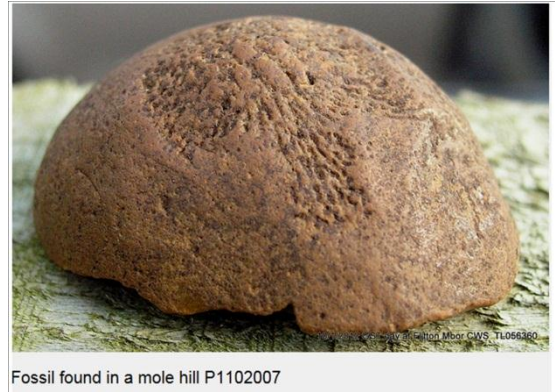
Dear Editor,

Is there anybody in the group who might give me a guide on the fossil I found yesterday at Flitton Moor? It was in a mole hill and presumably had been washed along the River Flit.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/pitzys_pyx/6674619107/in/photostream

Regards

John P (via email)



Dear John,

Thanks for sending us some intriguing photographs ...

My initial reaction is that you've found a flint nodule that has been derived from the Upper Chalk and reworked into the modern River Flit sediments. Its strong red-brown colouration suggests that it's been associated with iron-rich sediments (such as the sandy Head deposits and/or modern river sediments) around Flitton for a long time. It looks as if the original nodule might have been roughly spherical but has been broken, naturally or by Man, into two hemispheres; in the latter scenario it's tempting to think that the edges of the fracture have been worked (knapped) because there are a number of similar sized flakes knocked off the circumference.

The pitting on the outer hemisphere looks very odd - it may well be organic and represents some kind of fossil (coral or sponge perhaps?) which has been replaced by silica to form the nodule, or it may simply be the result of mechanical and chemical weathering. With 75 million years to play with, since the time the nodule was liberated from the Chalk, there's plenty of time for a weathered surface to be produced under a wide range of climatic conditions that have varied from sub-tropical to glacial.

I'd certainly like to see the specimen at some stage if possible (at which stage I reserve the right to change my mind completely!!), but meantime I look forward to hearing from others, particularly archaeologists and palaeontologists, about this interesting find ...

Regards

Martin (Whiteley), LGS Manager

If you have any interesting images or just want to voice your opinion on a geological issue, events or how the group is run then this is your page. Just send your images, in jpeg format, or any letters or comments as a Word .doc document via email to the editor at bev.fowlston@gmail.com

Events Review

January was a quiet month for BGG, but February saw an interesting talks evening. Prof John Catt, pictured here with Bev Fowlston holding his book, from Hertfordshire Geological Society gave a presentation about his fantastic book on the Geology of Hertfordshire. It was fascinating to hear that



the book took decades from its initial inception to the final publication. Also, that John had discovered some new and exciting hypothesis over the formation of the local geology and landscape. Many members attended and John was happy to sign copies of his lovely book. BGG are now proud owners of a signed copy which is available to loan from the ever-growing BGG library.

If you want to borrow book or paper held in our library then please contact BGG Membership Secretary on bgg.membership@btinternet.com

If you wish to see more images from our events then please visit our new Gallery page on the website.

www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk/gallery

Forthcoming events and contacts

Don't miss the next event

22nd Mar 2012 - Talk by Glynda Easterbrook

at Open University, Gass Building, MK at 7.30pm

COMING SOON

SATURDAY 28TH JULY

RUSHMERE PARK - STOCKGROVE GEOLOGY TRAIL – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE WORKS

Stockgrove is a Local Geological Site (LGS) due to its Pleistocene heritage including dry valleys and its cappings of glacial till and gravels. One objective of the LGS designation is the improvement of public access and understanding of our heritage and the establishment of an interpreted trail is an important element towards this end. Discussions with Natural England and others considered the possibility of creating exposures as part of the interpretation of such a trail.



The next step is to do some trial exposure work at two points where trial auger bores have given good evidence of the sub-surface content to see if we have something of value to show people.

We need a maximum of 10 people to help, bringing equipment to clear bramble and light brush, dig faces and a trench (spades, the odd pick-axe). The aim will be to work between about 10pm and 5pm with a break for lunch during which we will do a walk around the LGS to see the surface features and put the work we are doing in context.

If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Malcolm at msoliver@talktalk.net

Dates for your diary

22nd Mar – Talk on Italian volcanoes by Glynda Easterbrook, 7.30pm, Open University, MK

24th Apr – Munday’s Hill joint visit with BEHG **TO BE CONFIRMED.**

19th May – Joint field trip with HGS to Little Heath **TO BE CONFIRMED**

9th Jun - Fossil Fun Day at Harrold-Odell Country Park

28th Jul – Rushmere test pit day

August Field trip to Barton Springs (date to be confirmed)

A 12-month rolling programme of events is being organised - check the website for further details.

Further events will be confirmed via email and in the next newsletter. Watch this space!

If there is an event you would like to see then please let Bev Fowlston know and she will aim to organise it. For more information on any of the events, please contact Bev Fowlston at the details below.



Membership information

Individual membership is £7.50 per annum.

Group membership is £25.00 per annum

(Available to organisations that have 4 or more employees or members wishing to join BGG).

To continue to receive this newsletter by email or post then you must renew your membership. This newsletter is not the only benefit of remaining a member of the BGG; all our events for members are free of charge, non-members must pay £2.00 to attend.

You can renew now by either:

1. Sending a cheque made payable to BGG
2. Requesting and completing a Standing Order form

Both available through contacting:

Lindsay Hiles BGG Membership Secretary, 4 Phoenix Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3YW

***Remember without you - the members - this Group does not exist.
We need you!***

Committee Members 2011 - 12

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Events Organiser	Vacant	
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