

# Review newsletter

## BGG wins national award



Enjoying a glass of bubbly to celebrate the award.

### Don't miss in this issue:

BGG wins national award

AGM review

GCLP update

Fond farewells

BGG monitors SSSIs

Future events

Membership and committee

In June 2021 our long 6-year project for the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (GCLP) came to an end. We have completed so much throughout the 6-years but in July we held a Celebration Event where we were awarded a national Certificate of Excellence from The Curry Fund, one of our match-funding partners, for our work on the new geotrails and the information booklet that were created as part of the GCLP project.

Dr Haydon Bailey, Chair of The Curry Fund, presented the Award for Excellence in a Curry Fund Sponsored Project to the group of members and invited guests at Clophill Eco Lodges. He gave an interesting speech about the Curry Fund and its history before explaining why BGG had received this award. He explained it was because the bid had been well-written and that the project would appeal to many people and enhance the knowledge of Bedfordshire's geology.

Haydon then handed the framed certificate to Bev Fowlston, who accepted the award on behalf of the BGG. She thanked the Geologists' Association's Curry Fund trustees for all their support and assistance throughout the project and went on to thank all the volunteers and members who had helped create and produce these (now) award-winning publications.



# 17th AGM Review

Our 17th Annual General Meeting was held at Clophill Eco Lodges on Thursday 16th September 2021. There was a good turn out of members, both old and new. Derek Turner chaired the meeting whilst Bev Fowlston gave the reports of the year. The business was wrapped up quickly and the evening continued with a presentation by new member Paul Hawkes. At the end of the evening Mike Kingdon, long-time member and advocate for his parish of Sutton Neighbourhood Plan, explained the flooding issues in the village and if any members could help with assessing the plan going forward. Both these presentations were well-received and the evening ended with a positive outlook for the BGG.

## Review of Paul Hawkes presentation by Derek Turner



Paul Hawkes (standing) keeps the audience enthralled.

You'll have to search hard to find an area that contains as much interest as the Wessex basin, where rocks represent 250 million years of geological time from the Triassic to the Tertiary. That was the premise behind Paul Hawkes' talk that followed the recent AGM. Having retired from the oil industry after 38 years in March 2020, Paul is one of our most recent members. His search for new reserves of oil took him right around the globe. After 1996, he put his experience to good use training up more exploration geologists and there was no better place to do this than by visiting the spectacular coastline centered on Dorset.

Paul's talk took us on a journey from the Triassic Budleigh Salterton pebble beds in the west through over 200 million years of geological history to the chalk and beyond in the east as the basin bobbed up and down due to continental drift and tectonic pressures. Fresh sediment accumulated on many occasions and erosion occurred at others but a fairly complete sequence of rocks reveal themselves along the coast. Add in the faults that controlled uplift and subsidence and the conditions were right at Kimmeridge for reserves of oil to form and be exploited at Wytch Farm. Many beautiful pictures accompanied the talk and Paul had prepared lots of maps and diagrams to explain what was going on in each. His comments also sparked some lively discussion and we were fortunate to witness a presentation of such quality.



One of Paul's slides showing the unconformity between the Portland Limestone and the chalk



# GCLP Update



As already mentioned, the GCLP project came to an end on 30 June 2020. We have achieved so much in the 6 years since Anne Williams and Bev Fowlston took on the management of the project.

We have completed three new geotrails: Eastern, Central and Western. A new information booklet was also produced. These four items are those mentioned in the previous article. During the summer of 2020, Derek Turner, along with a couple of other volunteers, waymarked the new geotrails making them easier to follow.



2017: Sandy Warren Lodge Quarry enhancements in progress.

The enhancement of two existing Local Geological Sites was completed enabling safer access to these regionally important sites at Sandy Warren Lodge Quarry, located in the RSPB's nature reserve in Sandy, and Potton Scout Hut Quarry in Potton.

In addition, we have also revealed a new section of the Woburn Sands Formation at Rushmere Country Park, where we also cleared and revealed the old quarry that has 'Dick Turpin's Hideaway' within it.



2018/19: Potton Scout Hut Quarry enhancement.

Throughout the past 6 years, BGG ran several workshops for the general public and members alike, passing on the knowledge and skills for conserving and managing the sites that are now revealed and in good condition.

Presentations and guided walks were carried out as part of the annual Greensand Country Festival which is held during the month of May. In 2020 these activities were not able to take place due to the pandemic, but in 2021 we gave two lectures via Zoom, led a guided walk around Ampthill and hosted a stand at Clophill Eco Lodges for fossil and rock identification to which several members of the public attended.



2021: Rushmere quarry clearance in progress.

## Brief timeline of GCLP project:

2015 - 2016: Development of the project

2017: Delivery of project begins: Sandy Warren Lodge Quarry enhancements and Eastern Geotrail designed and printed.

2018: Central Geotrail designed and printed, information booklet designed and work on Potton Scout Hut Quarry enhancement began.

2019: Western Geotrail designed, Potton Scout Hut Quarry enhanced and Dick Turpin's Hideaway cleared.

2020: Western geotrail and information booklet printed, Rushmere quarry discovered and cleared.



# Fond Farewells to Committee Members!

Our last newsletter was published back in the Spring of 2020 just as the Coronavirus pandemic started. We have had several newsletter editors over the years, and we owe a huge thanks to them all, especially to Henrietta Flynn who edited and published the newsletter from 2013. This time we welcome back Bev Fowlston as interim newsletter editor. If you have any news articles or things you wish to share with the group, then please email them to [bev.fowlston@gmail.com](mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com) along with any images you wish to be included in the next newsletter. If you feel this is a position you could fill then do get in touch.



Henrietta Flynn out-going newsletter editor.



Jan Munro out-going BNHS Recorder.

Jan Munro has been our Bedfordshire Natural History Society (BNHS) recorder for 12 years. Sadly, due to other commitments and her imminent retirement, Jan has taken the decision to stand down as BNHS recorder for geology and palaeontology. She will be continuing as a committee member in the short term but we thank Jan for all her hard work throughout the 12 years and wish her all the very best in her retirement.

This role, which involves collating all the enquiries and discoveries of fossils and interesting geological outcrops for the year, is both interesting and informative. If this is something you would be interested in taking on, then please come forward to the committee who can explain more and put you in touch with the BNHS. In the interim, Bev Fowlston has taken on this role for 2020/21.

Anne Williams, our long-standing Acting Chair, Information Officer and Local Geological Sites Manager has retired. Anne has been a stalwart of the organisation for

about 15 years. She has been a member of the committee for almost as long. Throughout her time with BGG she has always been enthusiastic about teaching others about the geology of Bedfordshire and her experience will be greatly missed. We do hope that we see her at events in the future. If any of the positions Anne held appeal to you, and you would like to help out with then please let us know.



Anne Williams out-going Chair, LGS Manager and information officer.

Our final farewell is to Tony Baker, our long-standing Membership Secretary. He has kept everyone's details up to date and helped to promote our group through working on the committee and at events, as well as contributing to project work over recent years.

The remaining three committee members continue to work tirelessly to keep our award-winning group going and to educate and inspire communities in this wonderful and ever-changing landscape of Bedfordshire.

We hope that our past committee members will continue to join us on our events and enjoy their retirements.



Tony Baker out-going Membership Secretary.

*Thank  
You*

# Monitoring SSSIs (and LGSs!)

At the end of 2020 Bedfordshire Geology Group became involved in a new and interesting project with The Geology Trusts and Natural England. The group were contracted to work on condition monitoring of several geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) across East Anglia but, due to Government restrictions, this had to be postponed until 2021.

The only site in Bedfordshire that was on the list to monitor was Biddenham Gravel Pit. From the designation paperwork Natural England have the site described, thus:



Biddenham Gravel Pit SSSI during condition monitoring (January 2021).

*This old gravel pit provides exposures in terrace gravel laid down by the Bedfordshire Ouse. The deposits include clayey and silty layers, which have yielded interglacial Mollusca and mammalian remains. A prolific Palaeolithic industry has also been identified in the lowest part of the gravels. The combination of Palaeolithic and palaeontological material at this site ensures that the Biddenham pit is of considerable scientific significance.*



Intrepid clearance crew in front of the newly cleared (July 2021) outcrop of Quaternary gravels.

During the summer of 2021, having seen the condition of the site during this monitoring project, a handful of members went to the pit and cleared the site to reveal once again the gravels and glacial features in the small outcrop.

The project ended in March with nine SSSIs throughout Beds, Cambs and Herts being monitored, and their condition reported to NE via The Geology Trusts. We hope to receive more work of this nature in the future.

Having done this work for SSSIs, it is important that we monitor our own Local Geological Sites (LGS) in the same manner. It is a requirement of our group to provide regular condition monitoring similar to County

Wildlife Sites. To this end we will be putting in place a rota of sites that need to be looked at before the next round of reporting by the Biodiversity Forum at Bedfordshire Council, which is in 2024. If you feel you can help at an LGS near you then please do get in touch with either Bev Fowlston or Glynda Easterbrook.



# Membership Information

Memberships are due on April 1st each year. They remain at £10 per person per annum or £25 for group membership (organisations with 4 or more employees).

Please pay online directly to the BGG account:

Account name: Bedfordshire Geology Group, no 21507427  
HSBC, Leighton Buzzard Branch, no 40-28-12

Please email [membership.secretary@bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk](mailto:membership.secretary@bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk) to let us know you have paid.

If you are unable to pay via online banking, cheques can be sent directly to the treasurer at the following address:

BGG Treasurer, c/o 9 Latimer Close, Wotton, Beds MK43 9QA.

Please let the membership secretary know, via email, of any changes in address, telephone no, email etc.

**Your membership entitles you to 4 newsletters a year, free entry to all BGG events (non-members pay £2 per event to cover insurance), walks & talks and frequent communications.**

## Quick Geology Crossword

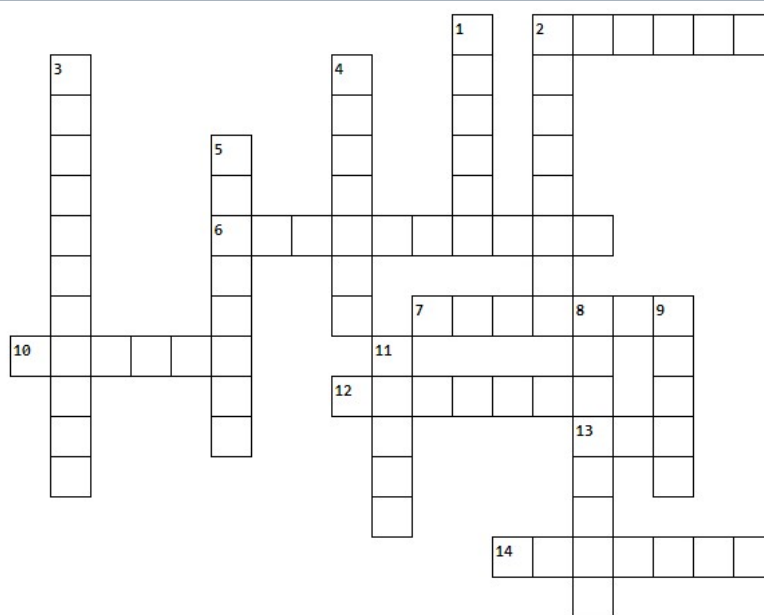
Answers from  
June 2020  
newsletter:

### Across:

1. Permian
2. Dolomite
3. Psi
4. Theory
5. Ore
6. Avon
7. Viséan
8. Brownfield

### Down:

9. Rudite
10. Inlier
11. Namurian
12. Echinoid
13. River
14. Eon



### Across

2. Made from limestone
6. \_\_\_ turns sediment to rock
7. Rock formed by fire
10. The Grand \_\_\_ is made out of sedimentary rock
12. Made when animals and plants are trapped in sediment
13. Can cause weathering
14. A dip slope is \_\_\_ than a scarp slope

### Down

1. Columns of metamorphic rock on the Isle of Mull
2. Type of sedimentary rock
3. Non-Porous rock
4. A scarp slope is \_\_\_ than dip slope
5. Type of movement that pushes and folds sedimentary rocks
8. Cools quicker than other igneous rocks
9. Loose limestone material
11. Mixture of different minerals

## Upcoming events ...

Please join us for these organised events. Book your place by emailing the event organiser or [secretary@bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk)

### Wed 6 Oct, 10am - 12.30pm

Guided geology walk around Ampthill with Bedford Group of the Wildlife Trust. Meet at Ampthill Park west car park, off the B530, Woburn Street, Ampthill, MK45 2HX.

### Sat 9th Oct, 10.30 am - 12.30pm

Guided geology walk around Maulden with Flitwick Wildlife Trust. Meet at Maulden Church car park, Church Rd, Maulden, Bedford MK45 2AU.

### Sat 16 Oct, 10.30 am - 4 pm(ish)

Guided walk around Reading area with Reading Geological Society. Meet in Nettlebed (which is between Henley-on-Thames and Wallingford) at the junction of the A 4130 and B 481 at OS grid reference SU 702 868. Room for several cars to park around what looks like a roundabout with a brick-built shelter with seating in the middle. A few metres north of it is the bottle oven chimney – a local landmark. The postcode is RG9 5BA.

### Thu 18th Nov, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Illustrated talk about Icelandic Volcanoes by BGG member, Glynda Easterbrook. Meet at Clophill Eco Lodges, Old Church Path, Clophill, Bedford MK45 4BP.

### Thu 9th Dec, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Pre-Christmas social meeting at Clophill Eco Lodges, Old Church Path, Clophill, Bedford MK45 4BP

#### COVID-19 UPDATE

All events are arranged with risk assessments including Coronavirus. Should Government guidelines change prior to the event and we have to cancel or postpone, we will inform you via email. All events must be booked with the event organiser or our secretary. This is for Test and Trace purposes.

## Other events proposed for next year include, but are not exclusive to:

**A visit to Coombes Quarry:** A visit to this limestone quarry over the county border in Buckinghamshire, led by Jill Evers who was instrumental in the formation of BGG. This may be a joint geology group initiative. Keep an eye on our website for details.

**EarthCache event:** We will be visiting Greensand Country EarthCache sites. Details will be announced later in the year.

**Ramble at Harrold-Odell Country Park:** A potential joint event with the BNHS taking in some of the stone buildings and structures in the area and the landscape of the Ouse valley. Optional pub lunch afterwards.

Please let us know if you have other places or events you'd like to include in this schedule. You will receive an email on each of these events nearer the time with exact details so keep watching your emails and check our website.

## BGG Committee: Join us!

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Group Secretary:</b>	Derek Turner	<a href="mailto:derek.turner@phonecoop.coop">derek.turner@phonecoop.coop</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>LGS Manager:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Meetings Secretary:</b>	Glynda Easterbrook	<a href="mailto:glyndaeasterbrook@gmail.com">glyndaeasterbrook@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Information Officer:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Projects/Fundraising Officer:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Greensand/GCLP Manager:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geologists' Association rep:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Geo-East rep:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>The Geology Trust rep:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chalk rep:</b>	Jan Munro	<a href="mailto:janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk">janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk</a>
<b>BNHS rep:</b>	Bev Fowlston	<a href="mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com">bev.fowlston@gmail.com</a>
<b>Events Coordinator:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>New Committee member:</b>	Paul Hawkes (role to be determined)	

**We are always looking for new blood to join the committee and bring fresh ideas.**

**Please contact any of us if you'd like to join our friendly team.**

Newsletter compiled and edited by Bev Fowlston.

If you wish to include an article, photo or share your geological interest in the next issue, please contact me by email at

[bev.fowlston@gmail.com](mailto:bev.fowlston@gmail.com)

Deadline for copy is 10th December for inclusion in the next issue.

**Hope you enjoy the read!**

Please look at our website for news of walks, talks and events. It's easy to download flyers & geotrails.

**[www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk)**

You can also find us on other social media platforms:

[www.facebook.com/bedfordshireGeologyGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/bedfordshireGeologyGroup/)

[www.instagram.com/bedfordshire\\_geology\\_group\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/bedfordshire_geology_group_/)

[twitter.com/BedfordshireG](https://twitter.com/BedfordshireG)

[www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk)