



**WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL  
CONSERVATION GROUP**

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**NEWSLETTER Issue No.12  
Autumn 2006**

From the Chair

Our thanks to Julia for editing the newsletters. She and Bob are shortly moving to Dorset. We wish them well, and are sorry to lose a longstanding member who has contributed much to WGCG.

Katie Snape is also moving, she will be working with an environmental firm in Shropshire. She writes in this issue about her work on our projects at Brueton and in the Wolston area. She has also helped with administration and the committee have now decided to appoint an administrator. This part time post will be advertised in the next issue of 'Down to Earth' and is on our website. Colin, who makes the coffee at our evening meetings at St. John's museum, has copies which you can pick up at meetings or from the museum. 'Earth Heritage' ( available free from [david.evans@english.nature.org.uk](mailto:david.evans@english.nature.org.uk) or tel. 01733 455 204) has an account in the summer issue of our conservation work at Wood Farm by Jon Radley and Clarke Friend. These funded projects, administered by the conservation sub committee, have supported our workers, equipment and office, but require input of matching volunteer time. Members' help will continue to be needed for any future project.

The Countryside Agency, which with English Nature, will become part of 'Natural England' this autumn, recently sent their congratulations to WGCG on our "very successful project" at the Wildlife Trust's Park-ridge Centre in Brueton Park, Solihull. Do go and have a look at our recently refurbished display of Warwickshire's rocks. Colin F. is working on a new display panel, display and leaflets which should be ready shortly.

Of the original team who worked so hard to secure the HLF grant and mount the opening by Nigel Marven (currently appearing on the ITV dinosaur series).

Continued on page 18

**WARWICKSHIRE QUATERNARY GEOCONSERVATION**  
**PROJECT 2005 - 2006**  
**ALSF Grant TAL0068**

**Background**

This project was an extension of WGCG's last ALSF funded venture (ref. DH/2004/415) to conserve a section of soft sediment at Wood Farm Quarry, Warwickshire. The objectives were to continue the conservation and interpretation of the Pleistocene deposits in South Warwickshire, focusing on four main locations: Wood Farm Quarry, Bubbenhall, Ryton Pools Country Park, Bubbenhall; Wolston SSSI, Wolston and Ryton & Brandon Gravel Pits, Brandon. The project has so far included presentations to local parish councils including Wolston, Baginton, Brandon & Bretford and Ryton-on-Dunsmore, attendance and promotion at public events and the production of public information materials including leaflets and interpretation panels.

**Wood Farm Quarry**

Further monitoring has been undertaken and recorded at Wood Farm Quarry to map the progress of the previous soft sediment conservation project. The site has been utilised for public and academic purposes such as an Ice Age 'Rockwatch' Day (Fig. 1) and as a study area for the GeoValue project headed by Professor Peter Scott of Cambourne School of Mines.

**Ryton Pools Country Park**

A conservation area has been created at Ryton Pools Country Park for use by supervised parties. The Baginton Sand and Thrussington Till contact has been preserved by an experimental enclosure (Fig. 2), which it is hoped will prevent the erosion of the face. (NB. This was funded by a supplementary grant) Terracing has been used to expose good examples of the Thrussington Till and it is proposed that steps giving easier access will be built. Two gravel 'pits' have been constructed containing Baginton Gravel deposits, primarily to facilitate erratic pebble identification exercises. Work has been done with the UKRIGS Earth Science On-Site Project who will produce educational materials to complement the site. A fence was installed and a pathway cleared to provide easy and safe access to the site. A padlocked gate has also been installed for security. The site was used for the first time in May as part of a 'Rockwatch' event (Fig. 3). An indoor display has been erected in the Country Park's visitor's centre and WGCG's Ice Age leaflets are held there for people to take away with them.



*Fig, 1 Showing people the conserved face at Wood Farm*

### **Wolston SSSI**

The current state of Wolston SSSI has been evaluated. A presentation was given to the Parish Council and members of the public; which was received well.

An interpretation is being produced for display in Wolston village detailing the area's importance in relation to the Midlands Ice Age and a public presentation event has been planned.



*Fig: 2 Experimental cover to protect Sand / Till contact*

### **Wolston and Ryton Gravel Pits**

Meetings have been held with staff at Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, which is adjacent to the now landfilled Wolston and Ryton pits and an interpretation panel aimed at children is being produced to be displayed in the courtyard of the nature centre.

### **Information Materials**

Two new leaflets have been professionally produced; one aimed at a general audience detailing Warwickshire's Ice Age history and another aimed at primary level children (advised on by Warwickshire County Council's Heritage Education department). Two information panels are currently coming towards the end of the design process. One is to be placed on the village green in Wolston, an area which has a strong link with the development of British Pleistocene stratigraphy.

Another is to be aimed at children and displayed at Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Brandon Marsh Nature Centre in Brandon.

### **Training**

Training has been undertaken in the form of various events and fieldtrips including: UKRIGS & ESTA conference. Landscape and Geology of Shropshire and the Welsh Borders, the launch of the Black Country geodiversity Action Plan and an English Nature Geoconservation Seminar held at BGS Keyworth.

**REPORT BY KATIE SNAPE**



*Fig. 3 Classroom activities at Ryton Pools.*

**A FOLLOW UP ARTICLE FROM PETER HOMER IN RELATION TO  
IAN FENWICK'S ARTICLE IN THE  
SPRING ISSUE, "STEAMING AHEAD ON RIGS"**

I was interested in Ian Fenwicks information about the old quarry in 'Pauls' land Nuneaton:  
Steaming Ahead on RIGS. WGCG newsletter issue No. 11. Spring 2006.

This is perhaps another example like the Cherry Orchard brick pit he mentions, of a site that is overlooked because it is already assumed to be a RIGS. I have known this site since I was a child and in those days it was deeper and contained a pond which Great Crested Newts bred in, maybe it silted up but I suspect it was filled in around the 70s and before Crested Newts were protected. The outline of the pond can still be seen due to settling. Above the face of the quarry was the Pauls own garden and house which were already derelict by then, in the garden there were staddle stones in two rows and I have wondered if they were in their original position and that there was once a barn or hayrick there when it was farmland. The area was originally called 'Teddy Kem's Heaven' and there was a 'Teddy Kem's Heaven Farm'. I think there was still some livestock there when I first knew the area and "Quarry" lane which was then the entrance to that part of Paul's land had a "kissing gate", Were the staddle stones carved from the quarry stone? Some of them may still exist buried or re-used as ornaments in the gardens of Mill Close which replaced the Paul's house and garden which was demolished. The garden also had a couple of ponds which were overgrown but probably ornamental at one time but I wonder were they originally small quarries as well.

Nuneaton council produces a heritage leaflet on local building stone with text by Alan.F.Cook. This describes this area as being the source of Attleborough stone known in the 14<sup>th</sup> century as 'Attilburgh Stone' this can be seen in a number of local buildings including the foundations of my local church in Weddington Nuneaton and formerly Teddy Kem's Heaven farm and 'Weddington Castle', which was demolished to build Castle road where I now live and there is no sign of the stone there anymore.

I first came across the term 'Waterstones' which Ian Fenwick used to describe the Pools' land stone on the Coventry area geological map which includes Nuneaton.

There it was described as brown siltstones and mudstones or 'Waterstones' and shown in the area of Weddington in the cross section, but I have not been able to find a copy with a cross section to confirm this since. What is meant by the term 'Waterstones' ? I presume it is water retentive porous stone and I thought this might be why the houses in Castle road were originally able to be supplied with water from wells. Perhaps the older houses on Lutterworth Road backing on to Paul's land once had wells, I remember water seemed to drip continually from one corner of the quarry and I sometimes drank from it. The pond was probably maintained this way but both are now gone.

The estate where I used to live is called 'Whitstone' and a stone painted white still stands at the corner of Golf Drive on the Lutterworth Road , Gypsy Lane

and Golf Drive mini islands, and believed to be its original site. This seems to have been carved or moulded, (I have wondered if it just concrete) and is like an un-opened mushroom and one piece so not the same as the staddle stones.

I believe I remember it a little further down Golf Drive than it is now and lying on its side. It seemed larger then but it would to me at about eight. I told my younger brother that it was the "Whitestone", partly as a joke, but I seem to have been right or others had the same idea. Then it seemed grey rather than white but the present stone can not actually be very white if it has to be painted white. This has made me wonder if the area is named after the stone formerly quarried there which is not white but could it have been suitable as a 'Whetstone' for sharpening blades or a millstone (How did Mill Close get its name?), in other words 'Wheatstone', or was there a local name of "Wetstone" equivalent to 'Waterstones' for the local stone and the area. Also the name 'Wetstone' is sometimes used for a sharpening stone although this usually means wetted with oil rather than with water.

**PETER HOMER.**

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### **WINDMILL HILL, UPPER TYSOE,** **WGCG excursion 24/5/06.**

Windmill Hill is one of a number of outlying hills capped by Middle Jurassic strata that characterise southern Warwickshire's picturesque Cotswold and ironstone fringe. Due to its position east of the Vale of Moreton Axis, the Middle Jurassic sedimentary succession on Windmill Hill lacks the thick Cotswold limestones of the Inferior Oolite Group, present west of the Stour Valley.

Instead, on Windmill Hill, the Whitby Mudstone ('Upper lias clay') is capped by rusty sandstones of the Northampton Sand that represent the lowest part of the Inferior Oolite. The Geological Survey 1:50 000 sheet for Banbury doesn't recognise younger strata on Windmill Hill, though fossils found by local collectors in fields higher up suggest a trace of Clypeus Grit.

Windmill Hill differs from other local outliers and the main Edge Hill ridge in the apparent absence of the Dyrharn Formation ('Middle Lias silts and sands') and the Marlstone Rock Formation, that occur between the Charmouth Mudstone ('Lower Lias clays') and the Whitby Muiistone in the local Early Jurassic succession. On Windmill Hill these strata are faulted out by the Epwell Fault, and the Northampton Sand consequently outcrops at a similar height to the superficially similar Marlstone on the nearby ridge at Tysoe Hill on the Warwickshire-Oxfordshire border, This can be appreciated by the view from near the hill top towards the east, where rusty soils pick out the Martstone.

The Charmouth Mudstone underlies the lower part of the hill, and the surrounding clay lowlands. As we have seen at other localities in southern and eastern Warwickshire, a topographic bench has been locally recognised, running along the higher part of the Charmouth Mudstone outcrop at about 120 metres above sea-level.

This was formerly taken as evidence for the proglacial Lake Harrison shoreline. However, roughly 25 years ago, Geological Survey mapping in eastern Warwickshire revealed that at least locally, the bench feature is due to the presence of relatively hard, calcareous shelly marker bands, notably the so-called '70' and '85' marker members, within the higher part of the Charmouth Mudstone.

Those of you who visited Napton with Ian Fenwick and I last summer will recall an exposure of the '85' marker at the top of the exposure, developed as a *Gryphaea-rich* limestone. These marker beds indicate periods of heightened wave or current influence in the Charmouth Mudstone sea, possibly due to shallowing. The resulting coarse, shelly substrates were colonised by *Gryphaea* and other bottom-dwelling invertebrates.

Where our walk commences, we soon encounter clay soil full of *Gryphaea* and shelly limestone fragments. This material appears not far below the 120 m contour, and at least one topographic bench can be seen shortly above. It seems likely that (a) there is a shelly limestone marker bed here and that (b) the benches on Windmill Hill are due to one or more such beds in the Charmouth Mudstone, echoing the situation revealed by the British Geological Survey to the north-east. Investigation of the Windmill Hill *Gryphaeas* led me into an interesting little detective story a couple of years back. I noticed that many shells were heavily encrusted with serpulid worm tubes, colonial bryozoans and other invertebrates. This is a good indication that the shells were sitting around on the sea-bed for some time, with little mud deposition. In turn, this supports the concept of wave or current activity on the Charmouth Mudstone sea floor, winnowing away the fine-grained sediment. Many of the shells had a curiously worn appearance, involving 'scalloping' of parts of the shell. Microscopic inspection of carefully cleaned and mechanically prepared shells revealed that these wear patterns were due to the grazing activity of marine gastropods (sea-snails) on the shells, resulting in a bioerosional trace fossil known as *Radulichnus*.

This looks like a network of tiny criss-crossing tramlines and is due to the rasping action of the gastropod *Radula* - its teeth. Snails tend to feed on photosynthetic algae, so there was further indication that the Charmouth Mudstone sea was quite shallow, at least when the Windmill Hill *Gryphaea* shell bed was accumulating.

This discovery led me to Blockley Station quarry, Gloucestershire, roughly 18 kms to the southwest, where the '85 marker member is developed as Gryphaea-rich shelly mudstone and limestone, similar to the development that we saw at Napton last year, but less weathered. SEM investigation of shells from that site also revealed the tiny snail traces. Specimens from Fenny Compton within the museum collection are similarly grazed.

This little detective story shows how, in some cases, much can be learnt from little. A few Gryphaeas from a ploughed field have strengthened the Geological Survey's assertion that shelly marker bands in the Charmouth Mudstone are due to periodic shallowing events affecting the Early Jurassic sea. I've recently published these results and will try and bring along a few photos and maybe a specimen or two.

Higher up on Windmill Hill it is interesting to trace the boundary between the various formations, and look for the surface trace of the Epwell fault by referring to the geological map. It is interesting to note that the fault trends SE-NW. This trend is also adopted by the Dasset Fault, running down the axis of the Burton Dasset Hills to the north-east. This orientation is typically 'Charnian', raising the possibility that the Epwell Fault betrays an ancient basement dislocation.

Other local 'Charnian' faults, such as the Princethorpe Fault of eastern Warwickshire, appear to have been active in Early Jurassic times, influencing depositional patterns in the Blue Lias Formation. Evidence should be sought, perhaps from local thickness and lithological variations in the Marlstone, for similar movement on the Epwell and Dasset faults.

At the top of the hill, the windmill appears to be built at least partly from the local Marlstone rather than Northampton Sand. The Marlstone can be distinguished by its fossil content of brachiopods and belemnites, Rusty sandstones of the Northampton Sand can be seen in old walls on the hill top, and in an overgrown quarry that we've been given permission to visit. This is one of our RIGS, selected about four years ago during Bill Stokes' DETR-funded RIGS selection project.

The top of Windmill Hill affords views of the surrounding limestone and ironstone uplands and the extensive clay lowlands of the Warwickshire Feldon. Note the characteristic features of the latter an open aspect, and a planned landscape of large geometric. fields. More of this in the forthcoming WGCG book!

**JON RADLEY**

## **A Weekend in Cornwall**

Cornwall and its most southerly tip - the Lizard - has long been cast as a tourist area to be avoided.

Deep set and narrow roads persistently blocked by either errant cows or perverse 4x4's. Rains and squalls that send Grockles ( or are they Emetts ?) scurrying back from the beaches to shelter. Pretty fishing harbours designed as tourist honey pots, with inevitable Cornish clotted cream being served in tea rooms overlooking the rugged coastline. Cliff walks frightening parents since the HSE have never visited this neck of the woods and closed them off. Such is the common cast of mind but to the 20 or so WGCG members who spent four days here the contrast could be no more sharp.

As we see this years weather panning out, we can confidently say that the glorious 2006 summer started here. We had booked the whole of the Lizard YHA Hostel. This was formerly a luxury hotel next to and within the immediate proximity of the Lighthouse foghorn.

The planning over the previous months had been done to a "T" and, as a first task, agreement was readily achieved on the "food preparers" and the "washing uppers". These two separate castes - we do not know whether each deemed themselves as superior to the other - set to work with an ease bordering on high skilled feel slightly guilty.

The Lizard is an obvious well-stamped geological ground , yet - as we were to find out - not worked out in terms of geological appreciation. Attractively written field guides were seen in the local shops dealing with this area and these were new to both us and our guide Chris King.

Despite the complexity of the Lizard - largely the result of many modes of torture - recent researches have confirmed earlier ideas of the 1980s that the rocks at the surface of this area originated at extreme depths of the Earth where there is a major boundary - the Moho. Principally we can suggest that the whole of the Lizard Complex is made up of metamorphic rocks and these comprise sediments that were thrust down deep into the earth and exposed to severe pressures and temperatures along with the interaction with superheated steam. There are darker iron-rich schists showing strong mineral crystalline alignment ( Hornblende schists in some places and lighter ( granitic ) Mica schists equally seen as crystalline representing more acidic rocks.

Shot through these are seen folding and contortions along with veins of quartz and we have to conclude that these were sediments that had been metamorphosed as the result of plate movements as ancient Continents collided crushing adjacent marine sediments and snaking over each other. This was some 350 million BP and involved processes taking millions of years. Nearby mountain chains formed and deep beneath them acidic

magmas formed due to the heat and pressure and these formed plutons that formed the bosses we see in the chain of granite outcrops seen on Bodmin Dartmoor. And associated with these were the veins of metal ores of copper , tin and silver along with the semi-precious gemstones.

But the Lizard is singularly free of this mineralisation. There are no Cornish mines here with their characteristic wheel houses. It seems that the deep rocks that formed above the MOHO were bulldozed laterally and upwards and these must have travelled some distance. Into them were however intruded some definitely igneous rocks but these too on account of the depth have suffered metamorphism,

The Lizard is - and has been for a long time - associated with the famous Serpentine rock.

This rock, so very varied and weirdly coloured was early on so named after its similarity to a snake's skin. It was mined in vast quantities during Victorian times and we could , in one location, see a now-derelict factory complex sheltering in a cove where the finished goods could be easily transported on to ships that lay just off shore.

But more recently it has been recognised that Serpentine is in fact a magnesium rich silicate rock and this, along with others seen in Coverack Bay, indicates a pressure, depth and chemical metamorphic environment Close to the MOHO boundary many kilometres below the surface we were standing on.

We moved on engrossed with the technicalities that Chris explained and with such care and clarity. A distance north near Mullion Bay the rocks change and more conventional mudstone sediments are seen. These date from Devonian times and are in fact older than the rocks of the Lizard, They can be seen to be duly layered with conventional folding and faulting Intriguingly we could see the fine 60° cross-fracture lines filled with calcite and an extreme degree of interest and excitement on the part of the writer, in recognising that these were exactly similar to the Luder's lines commonly seen in thick plates of metal subject to similar bending, caused a minor but fortunately harm-free event in his losing balance and crashing down among the crowd of WGCG members listening intently to the Guide's explanation. Cares and concerns at such ungainly behaviour led to a general consensus that despite the use of a hiking stick maybe a Zimmer frame would be a better device for the person in question.

Throughout the whole weekend the weather stayed warm and sunny. Part of each evening was taken up with reviewing the days geology. And the feeling always seems to be that maybe we should return and see again the sites, to take more rock samples, to read more and to obtain a better perspective of an area that should be rightly described as a National Geo-heritage site.

**MAURICE ROGERS**

## Coventry Spires Walk

Wednesday 12th July 2006

The evening was still warm when a group of approximately 14 members gathered outside Holy Trinity Church around 7pm.

After Martyn Bradley's introduction the leader quoted an extract from the Victoria County History for Coventry in which it described the topography and underlying rock and marl types beneath the city.

The centre of the city lies on a slight eminence which rises to its highest point just south of Holy Trinity Church, To the north the ground falls away fairly steeply, rather less so to the west and east and very gently to the south; this convex site is itself in a shallow basin, with a range of hills to the north-west and west and sporadic hills to the north-east, the greater part of the modern city is on Permian Breccia and Sandstone, with a ridge of Triassic Keuper Sandstone giving place to Keuper Red Marls on the eastern side.'

The whole area is well watered, for the River Sherbourne (now largely carried in culverts) meanders through the western, central, and eastern parts of what was the medieval city and is joined from the north by Radford Brook, or "the water from Hill Mill'. Until recent times the Sherbourne with its mill streams, Radford Brook, and the Endemere (later Springfield Brook) which passed through Swanswell Pool: formed a network of small waterways. The River Sowe, which crosses the south eastern quarter of the modern city from north-east to south-west is joined by the Sherbourne at a point 2,5 miles south of the city centre, and itself flows into the River Avon near Stoneleigh, outside the city boundary.

In ancient times, the Forest of Arden covered the area of the city and with so many streams and brooks it would have been well supplied with nutrients and water. The present day names of Swanswell, Pool Meadow and Fenside etc suggest areas of low-lying marsh land which probably retained its water due to an iron pan, formed by iron hydroxide separating out as a hard layer which holds up drainage.

The group then proceeded to view Holy Trinity Church. As the Church closed at 7pm all viewing was restricted to the exterior. Very little of the Coventry or Warwick Red Sandstone could be seen, most had been restored / refaced or replaced by Nottingham red stone. However, the small shells and exfoliation in the honey coloured Oolitic limestone were obvious.

As the enclosed area was in use and guarded, it was not possible to take a close look at the weathered walls and Yorkstone flags. Warwick Red Sandstone was used to build this original Cathedral and the stone is also referred to as the Corley-Kenilworth series by Professor Shotton.

Again, as the new St Michael's Cathedral closed at 7pm the crinoid and limestone floor as well as the font a conglomerate boulder from Jerusalem, could not be viewed, but the tiles of Westnoorland Green Slate on the exterior of the Chapel of Unity looked very attractive in the evening light.

On the way through to the High Street, Martyn pointed out a cast iron pump stand which was re-installed as an example of the many pumps that would have been in use in the old city. Professor Shotton mentioned the good supply of hard well water from the early Permian Sandstones and conglomerates in the Keele and Corley - Kenilworth series..

The Banks - In the High Street the Halifax Bank displayed a doorstep example of Dartmoor Granite, and water lain limestone entrance surround, Barclays Bank has a very attractive example of porphyritic granite with pink orthoclase phenocrysts, some occasionally twinned. Contrasted with this are sections of the beautiful Rapakivir, Baltic Brown granite.

Alliance & Leicester, Lloyds TSB (corner of Greyfriars lane) and National Westminster all exhibit examples of Oolitic limestone from Dorset, formed during the Jurassic age. Many fossils have been weathered into relief in this Portland Stone.

The National Westminster also has a cream limestone front entrance and red granite tiles for wheel chair access, The Hertford Street entrance has large plynths clad with 'Bon Accord' and granite steps of pink/white/grey feldspar thought to be 'Rosa Porrino' from Western Spain.

At the Post Office (entrance in Hertford Street) further examples of plain sandstone , grey granite, and black/red granite were noted.

Fords Hospital ( Grey Friars Lane ) has a much darker limestone door step believed to be from Wilmcote, Warwickshire.

Greyfriars ( New Union Street ) is the final spire of Coventry's famous three, and has examples of Coventry/Warwick Red Sandstone, quarried on the Black Prince's estate, as well as Bath Stone and Oolitic lime stone.

Cheylesmore Manor ( off New Union Street ) was also built from Red Sandstone on the Black Prince's estate, Hand cut chisel marks are really obvious in many of the stones: On the south side an attractive footpath of Yorkstone paving showing deposition of sediments was again noted.

The polished face of a water trough placed near the pedestrian path on the green in Warwick Row is made of 'Blue Pearl Larvakite ( a Labradorite ) from Oslotjord, Norway, the trough itself is believed to be a light grey granite,

On the same green, close to Warwick Row path, the James Starley memorial was viewed. Examples of Carrara marble ( the uppermost figure), pencil veined marble ( James Starley sculpture ), red granite from Peterhead in Scotland and light grey granite columns were observed.

Returning to the city centre via Warwick Row, the Age Concern shop front was clad with Bracciated Serpentinite and the recessed wall with cream Travertine Unfortunately the best example of Bracciated Serpentinite has been dismantled, as the old Alders shop is undergoing major re-furbishment due to new ownershipmajor.

More examples of 'Bon Accord' and pencil veined marble were noted in Broadgate at the entrance to the Leofric Hotel.

The last stone type to be examined was the cladding on the Broadgate and Precinct stanchions. These tiles were cut from Edgehill maristone which clearly reveals many different shells including Brachiopods and Betemnites.

On a final note, members of the group contributed many helpful personal memories, background knowledge, as well as detailed scientific information which was much appreciated.

Refs:    1 *Victoria County History Volume VIII.*  
          2, *The Coventry District A Naturalist's Guide*  
          - 1960 *Geology section - F W Shotton, MBE, FRS*

**JANE MITCHELL**

## **HELP!**

The wheels of writing the Group's book on our local landscapes and geology grind slowly but steadily on. You will be pleased to know that we do now have some text written and we are beginning the process of editing. However, this is a request for help from all members and that means YOU. There is no point in publishing the book unless it sells well and so we are thinking carefully about marketing strategy. Part of this means we need to tap into your local knowledge. We are compiling a list of as many as possible local outlets where the book might be sold and that's where we think you might be able to help.

Can you let me know ( [brian@cwells.freemove.co.uk](mailto:brian@cwells.freemove.co.uk) or by post to 30 Claverdon Road, Coventry CV5 7HP ) details of any places which sell books in your local area or any you have come across on your travels which might sell a book about Warwickshire's Landscape. The sort of outlets we are looking for are local independent booksellers, books sold in "non-conventional" book places—National Trust Houses, visitor attractions, garden centres, museums, tourist information offices and many we haven't thought of—that's why we are relying on you.

We are also hoping to sell books through personal contact with sister societies. Obvious ones are the Wildlife Trust, Coventry Natural History Society and so on. But any others you know about and especially have contact with and/or are members of we would like to know about—with a contact name would be especially helpful. In these cases we are hoping to be able to increase our publicity locally and thus increase sales. We may be offering a pre-publication 'offer you can't refuse'.

The book's content will cover the modern county of Warwickshire plus Coventry and Solihull, but we expect that sales will be possible in adjacent areas Birmingham, Leicester (shire), Oxford and so on, so I can encourage you to think quite widely.

Please don't be put off if you think your idea is a long shot or by thinking "this is so obvious someone else will have thought of that". Just let me know and I'll let the technology deal with the very long list I am hoping for.

Many thanks in advance for your time and effort—and your patience.

**Brian Ellis**

# **BRUETON PARK**

You will be pleased to know that WGCG has completed renovation work on our geological site in Bruerton Park, Solihull.

Martyn has received a letter from the Countryside Commission, congratulating us on our project.

It's good to know that everyone's efforts have been appreciated.

**Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society**

**Section C- Geology**

Their programme is not yet available but here are the dates of their meetings:

October 4th & 18th

November 1st, 15th and 29th.

December 13th

January 17th and 31st

February 14th and 28th

March 14th and 28th

Telephone Mark Evans (0116 225 4900) for more information.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

We need a new editor for our newsletter as I am moving to live in Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

I have done this job for some years now and I have enjoyed it - most of the time - depending on the whim of my computer!

When I started, I had to type everything so it was a big job. In the intervening years we have become more computer literate & it is now much easier and quicker. All contributors e-mail their articles to me & I just copy and paste.

I use Desk Top Publishing but if you don't have it, just use Word. Please think about volunteering to produce the biennial newsletter.

**Julia Williams**

## **GOODBYE**

*I'd like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the many people I have met through WGCG.*

*Our decision to move to Dorset was made in June & providing all goes smoothly with the sale of our bungalow, we should be in Dorset early in October.*

*It all seems to be happening quickly & I only got to see a few members at the July meeting & will be on a fly drive holiday in September, driving from Denver through the Rockies to Seattle via The Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park, so I have attended my last WGCG meeting.*

*in July it seemed quite fitting that the meeting was a walk around Coventry looking at building stones, for the first meeting I attended was, as I remember, a similar walk around the city led by John Crossling.*

*I have seen WGCG go from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work of its members. Recently the grants which have been forthcoming have led to big developments and new achievements.*

*I would like to wish the group continued success in all that it does.*

**Julia Williams**

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### **From the Chair, continued from Page 1**

Maureen has moved to the Lake District and Maurice is busy breeding German Shepherd dogs. David continues with us and recently helped taking minutes for the committee. Do let the committee know if YOU can help in any small ways towards WGCG activities. Maurice, our treasurer, made a major contribution securing the final Brueton funding and is looking to delegate some of the treasurer's functions next year.

Ian has been following up RIGS work with the aid of volunteers and is involved with the displays and leaflets currently being prepared for Wolston village and Brandon Marsh Nature Centre. The new interpretation areas at Ryton Pools country park and at Wood Farm geoconservation site were visited by over seventy Rockwatch children and parents in May and a local sixth form in June.

Paul will continue monitoring the experiment into next year. UK Rigs are currently preparing teaching materials for schools based on the deposits and displays at Ryton Pools. WGCG is a member of the geology trusts.

I represent GT on the Earth Science Education Forum and this year have also attended meetings of both the all party parliamentary group in Westminster and ESEF(CYMRU) in Cardiff.

**Martyn Bradley**

## **AUTUMN FIELD TRIPS**

You need to book if you wish to attend either.

### **Saturday 9th September.**

Joint meeting with the Leicester Group to Croft quarry led by John Carney of BGS.

This South Leicestershire quarry works a distinctive quartz diorite with basic xenoliths which is overlain by Permo-Trias deposits. The quarry will only allow parties to enter in a minibus. We plan to hire one in Leamington with pickups in Kenilworth at 9.45 and Coventry at 10am. Please contact Martyn on 01926 428835 if you would like to come. A donation of £5 towards the cost will be invited.

### **Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th October**

The accommodation for this residential weekend to the Forest of Dean is now fully booked.

Please contact Chris Hodgson on 01926 511097 if you would like to be put on a waiting list.



Think of me in Colorado from 2nd September!

Julia

## **WINTER PROGRAMME OF TALKS**

To be held at St John's Museum, Warwick

**OCTOBER 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Talk by Maurice Rogers on the geology of Colonsay

**NOVEMBER 22ND**

Talk by Prof Lisle, Dept. of earth Sciences, Cardiff University, " The Great Glen Fault"

**DECEMBER 13TH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND PHOTO EXHIBITION**

**JANUARY 10TH**

Talk by Prof Knell Leicester Museum,

" HUGH MILLER. The great populariser of Victorian Geology and his journey to Warwick in 1845."

**FEBRUARY 21ST**

Talk by Brian Ellis

"Canyons, Gorges and Waterfalls."

**MARCH 21ST**

Talk by Dr. Jenny Chambers, National Ice Age Network.

" Technologies of the Ice Age; stone tools and early human behaviour."

Coffee is served from 7.15pm, meetings start at 7.30 pm

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# **SPRING NEWSLETTER 2007**

ALL ARTICLES SHOULD BE READY BY

1ST MARCH 2007