



NORTH EASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter February 2012

Dear Member,

- 1. NEGS AUTUMN/WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME.**
- 2. NEGS SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS.**
- 3. OTHER NEWS.**

Herdman Symposium Liverpool, Saturday 18th February 2012

Earth Heritage Magazine.

- 3. ADMINISTRATION.**

Hello everyone,

As I have just taken over as Chair of the Society, I thought that it might be a nice idea to introduce myself in the Newsletter.

My working background has always been in geology or computers (or frequently a combination of the two). After working in IT in London for a number of years I returned to the North East to do Geology at Durham University as a mature student. I then became a research associate in the Geology Dept, working in a team looking at pressure in oil field systems. When that project came to an end, I moved across to the University IT Service where I looked after the University's GIS (Geographical Information System) software amongst many other roles. I took the big step of leaving the IT Service after seven years in 2009. Since then I have been a freelance researcher, geologist and IT consultant. My main interests in geology are glacial sedimentology, local geology, climate change, volcanic systems and palaeontology. My current research focuses on the glacial history of North East England.

As many of you will already know, I help look after the Geology Section of the Natural History Society of Northumbria, with Brian Young.

Finally, I teach a course on Geology at the Hancock Museum on Wednesday mornings.

I am very pleased to have taken over the Chair from John, who did an excellent job keeping the ship afloat for so long. The enthusiasm and support I have received so far has been very encouraging for the future of our society. Hopefully, we will all be able to work together to make NEGS a popular and enjoyable forum for geology into the future. I would very much like to hear everyone's views on how NEGS should go forward.

All the best,

Derek

1. NEGS AUTUMN/WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME.

The January lecture was given by Dr Lisa Baldini, Univ. Durham: Cave calcite deposits as recorders of palaeoclimate.

Dr Lisa Baldini delivered a stimulating lecture on her palaeoclimate research using stalagmite evidence from caves.

Research to find the value of isotopes in stalagmites in recent climate change has been used to study limestone caves across Europe (and even further afield) the precipitation of calcite from groundwater allows the slow accretion of isotopes. The deposits show clear evidence of seasonal climate change through isotope ratios. The data also allows for reliable absolute dating of the material over 14000 years. This use of a geochemical signature is enabling detailed correlation with the possible environmental actions of our ancestors who appear to have affected some of the trace elements (such as Magnesium and Strontium) which are also preserved in the stalagmites. The La Garma cave on the northern coast of Spain is one site that is providing excellent data.

Mavis Gill has kindly produced this summary of the lecture, supported by Gordon Liddle.

Please check out the web site for a fuller report.

<http://www.northeast-geolsoc.50megs.com/january-2012-stalagmite-lecture.doc>

(please copy into your browser)

For a fuller report on the previous lecture - Lusi Mud Volcano

<http://www.northeast-geolsoc.50megs.com/the-lusi%20mud-volcano-of-java-full-report.doc>

(Please copy into your browser)

Images and additional information are available at the following web sites:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/earth.sciences/staff/?id=5379>

http://www.sepm.org/CM_Files/SedimentaryRecord/SedRec8_2.pdf – scroll down to page 3

<http://sp.lyellcollection.org/content/336/1/283.full>

If you don't have a computer, go and check it out at your local library.

OUR NEXT LECTURE IS

17th February, 2012 Prof. Philip Gibbard, Univ. Cambridge: The last glacial cycle in lowland England

16th March, 2012 Dr. Mike Norry, Univ. Leicester: Shetland; the evolution of geology, language and people

Please remember Professor Gillian Foulger, our Lecture Coordinator, has a website which gives details about the lectures, lecturers and their websites. To access it, [click here](#).

She also has her own website which members might like to view: [click here](#).

2. NEGS SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Our field trip organiser John Waring is hard at work sorting out some interesting trips for us in the new year, please make a note in your diary/calendar now of the dates below.

More information can be found on the web site <http://www.northeast-geolsoc.50megs.com/pages/page3fieldvisits.htm>

12th. May: Ryhope Dene, Seaham and Blast Beach. Durham Permian. Leader: Andy Lane, Univ. of Sunderland. (More details later).

23rd June Derek Teasdale & Gordon Liddle -

July - tba.

4th. August: One of the tributary valleys of Swaledale or Wensleydale. Leader: Jon Barber, Univ. of Leeds. (More details later).

September – Brian Young -

3. OTHER NEWS

Herdman Symposium Liverpool, Saturday 18th February 2012
University of Liverpool

Please see web link for latest details

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/environmental-sciences/HerdmanSymposium2012/HerdSymp2012.htm>

(Please copy and paste address into browser)

A free online version of Earth Heritage, the geological and landscape conservation magazine.

You can now view and download the new issue of Earth Heritage, number 36, as a .pdf file at www.earthheritage.org.uk

3. ADMINISTRATION

If you receive this newsletter by post and have an email address, then please let me have it. negssecretary@btinternet.com

For those without a computer if you require any further information please ring me on 0191 261 1494.

Best Wishes,

Judy Harrison
NEGS Secretary