



NORTH EASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter -September 2011

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Dear Member,

1. **NEGS FIELD TRIPS.**
2. **NEGS AUTUMN/WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME.**
3. **ADMIN. UPDATE.**
4. **OTHER NEWS.**

Yorkshire Rock Mineral & Fossil Day.

Foundations of the Northern Pennines: Rookhope – 50 years on.

1. FIELD TRIPS

The leader of the last field trip had the following to say:

“It says something for "the NEGS spirit" that eighteen people turned up in the heaviest rain that I can remember. The site of the party standing under a huge oak tree in the torrential rain, despite being told that they could go home with their honour intact, was marvellous. No - they were there to do geology and a few cats and dogs falling from the sky, was not going to put them off. In the end, we had to call it a day when the thunder and lightning began. Reports of the demise of NEGS are very wide of the mark.

I am not going to forget that trip!!”

Derek

FULL DETAILS NOW OF THE LAST OUTING FOR THIS YEAR

Sep. 17th. "Geology South of the Wear. "**SUNDERLAND'S SECRET GEOLOGY**" Leader **Andy Lane.** Andy writes: *This field excursion will take you to see some of the less well-known geological sights of the Sunderland area. That they are less well-known does not mean that they are not spectacular!*

Travel Arrangements. We need cars to get around but the fewer the better (parking is a bit tight at the first two localities), so please look into car sharing. If you do not have a car, then I can offer two places in mine (pick up at 10.00hrs at Sunderland Park Lane Metro station) and hopefully others will oblige in this way - please ask around!

All cars meet at 10.30hrs at the south-west-bound (left hand side) lay by on the A690, (NGR 347508), about 2kms southwest of the A19/A690 roundabout, and about 1 km after a BP filling station on your left and just before the road plunges down Houghton Cut. If you approach from the southwest (i.e. from Durham or the A1M)

you will have to go to the A690 intersection with the A 19 to turn round.

Locality 1 Field House Farm (NGR 355506). Now a part working, part landfill site. Displays perhaps the best section of the Lower Permian Yellow Sands in the region, and details of desert/dune structure, also patchy development of the Marl Slate followed by beds of the Raisby Formation (oldest of the Magnesian Limestones).

Locality 2 Houghton Hillside Cemetery. NGR 345505. Good exposure of the Raisby Formation and have a close look at bedding and texture. It was deposited as a shelf carbonate, converted to a dolomite probably soon after deposition. Partial replacement back to calcium carbonate can be seen giving the rock its distinctive appearance. We can also see the dramatic effects of faulting and post mining subsidence, and see how local stone was once used in building.

Locality 3 Hendon Promenade NGR 412549. On the coast. This little known site is a gem, as we have there a section of the Concretionary Limestone Formation (part of the Upper Magnesian Limestone) showing a vast range of alteration structures caused by early Tertiary(?) collapse and

2. NEGS AUTUMN/WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

21st October, 2011 Dr. Phil Manning, Univ. Manchester: Dinosaurs, space shuttles and synchrotrons

18th November, 2011 Dr. Rachel Wood, Univ. Edinburgh: The dawn of biomineralisation

16th December, 2011 Prof. Richard Davies, Univ. Durham: The Lusi mud volcano disaster, Indonesia: Why and what next?

20th January, 2012 Dr Lisa Baldini. Univ. Durham, *to be announced*

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](#).

3. ADMIN UPDATE.

Please note the secretary has a new email address negssecretary@btinternet.com

At the last committee meeting we were pleased to nominate Derek Teasdale as Vice Cairman

4. OTHER NEWS

Yorkshire Geological Society West Yorkshire Geology Trust

YORKSHIRE ROCK, MINERAL AND FOSSIL DAY

Saturday 24th September 11.00 – 5.00

National Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, Overton, WAKEFIELD WF4 4RH

Morning programme 11.00 – 1.30

1. Poster display from local and regional geological societies

We have space for more society displays.

2. Sales table for Yorkshire geology leaflets and booklets.

3. Displays of rocks, minerals on fossils from the Chalk of East Yorkshire, mineral ores from working mines worldwide and a microscopy demonstration. More displays from individuals or societies would be welcome.

4. Short talks by experts on exciting topics:

5. Short walks at 11.00, 12.00 and 1.00 in the National Coal Mining grounds to see the geological

landscape to the north of the site. There is an exposure of siltstone and mudstone about 300m from the main building, next to the Hope Mine buildings.

6. Mine visits – details about how to book will be available in due course.

Afternoon programme 2.00 – 5.00

Lectures on the theme of 'Geology and Industry - new frontiers'. Further details will be available on the Yorkshire Geological Society website during the summer.

Contact Alison Tymon at alison@wyorksgeologytrust.org for further details or to volunteer displays, books/leaflets or any other help.

Time Title Speaker

11.00 Coprolites: the polite geological name for fossil poo Patrick Boylan

11.30 Dinosaur footprints Martin Whyte
Mass extinctions Paul Wignall

FOUNDATIONS OF THE NORTHERN PENNINES: ROOKHOPE – 50 YEARS ON

'THE SIR KINGSLEY DUNHAM MEETING'*

Joint meeting of the Natural History Society of Northumbria, the Yorkshire Geological Society and Friends of Killhope

Saturday 28th January 2012.

2.00pm -5.00pm Great North Museum:Hancock

It is now fifty years since the Weardale Granite, the existence of which was first predicted in the 1930s by Kingsley Dunham, then a Durham University post-graduate student, was finally proved by drilling the Rookhope Borehole.

The varied lines of reasoning that first suggested that a granite may lie beneath the Northern Pennines, and the detailed results of the drilling, including the unexpected age of the granite, soon become established as one of the classical stories of British geology. The project was a geological adventure that radically changed perceptions, not just of northern England geology, but which led to major advances in the understanding of ore-forming and related processes worldwide.

Fifty years on, the scientific legacies of the borehole are as relevant as ever, underpinning research into new areas of understanding, some of which may have the potential for economic benefits undreamt of when the granite was first predicted.

To mark this significant anniversary, the **Natural History Society of Northumbria** has joined with the **Yorkshire Geological Society** and the **Friends of Killhope** to hold a joint meeting at the Great North Museum:Hancock on the afternoon of Saturday 28th January 2012.

In addition to reviewing the ongoing significance of the borehole, each of the afternoon's four talks will focus on an aspect of northern England geology which arises from insights provided by the borehole. Topics will include new interpretations and models for the origins of mineralisation, the possibilities for economically viable geothermal resources and a review of the potential for future mineral exploration and working.

Speakers will include Professor Martin Bott, Professor Jon Gluyas, Professor Joe Cann and others currently involved in research in this varied field.

More details, including details of the talks and speakers will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

[In recognition of Sir Kingsley Dunham's distinguished contributions to geological science, particularly in respect of his seminal work on Pennine ore deposits and his former Presidency of the Society, the Yorkshire Geological Society occasionally dedicates one of its scientific meetings as **The Sir Kingsley Dunham Meeting**. There can be no more fitting a topic for this dedication than the theme of this meeting](#)*

Best Wishes,

Judy Harrison, NEGS Secretary

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