

**LGS Newsletter 161.2 12th October 2019**

**A warning about pedestrian access to Byrom Street**

Vehicle access to Byrom Street should be as normal but now that the pedestrian walkway is closed off with a view to demolition, it is impossible to get to Byrom Street from the city centre without walking a very long way. If you are walking to Byrom Street, please allow extra time to get to the LGS meetings.

The easiest way to Byrom Street is to get off a train at Moorfields Station and walk down Tithebarn Street and Great Crosshall Street.

From Lime Street Station you will have to cross Hunter Street at the traffic lights near the Unite Union building then walk down the hill towards Byrom Street.

From Roe Street bus stops, walk to Dale Street, then Hatton Garden, Great Crosshall Street.

Details about work on the Churchill Way flyovers can be seen at:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/media/1358209/churchill-way-a3-map-1.jpg>

**20th October**

**Field excursion to Bidston Hill, Wirral, Leader: Dr Maggie Williams**

**Start time: 2.00pm.**

The **aim** of the day is to observe the rock exposed on Bidston Hill, identify rocks types and structures, practise field sketching and explore the influence of these rocks on the landscape and land use in this part of Wirral.

**Background information:** Bidston Hill is an important recreation on the Wirral. It has been locally designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) and there are two Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) here that have been designated by the Cheshire RIGS Group.

You need to wear normal walking clothes and sturdy walking boots with good ankle support. You are advised to bring waterproofs, a helmet and high visibility jacket.

You may find it useful to have the OS Map: Landranger Sheet 108. The total walking distance is about 2km. Paths are public paths. Most are well-maintained, but the paths are uneven and grassed areas may be slippery in wet weather. Care must be taken when walking across on the hill to avoid the slightly steeper rock faces. Although most of these faces are no more than up to 1.5m high, parts of the site are partly overgrown with gorse, broom, ivy brambles and trees.

**Meeting place:** Meet at the car park for the Tam O’Shanter Urban Farm on Boundary Road, Bidston, Wirral, CH43 7PD (Grid Reference SJ292894). There is parking for several cars here and a café and toilets are available at the Tam O’Shanter. The estimated time in the field will be 2 hours.

**Getting there:** If you are travelling by train, the nearest train station is Birkenhead North. If you are travelling by bus, there is a bus stop on Upton Road just around the corner from the farm. The 437 passes by every 15 mins and goes between Liverpool and West Kirby (via Birkenhead Bus Station).

**To confirm that you would like to take part, please contact Geoff Gilchrist.**

**Email: gilchristge@gmail.com Mobile: 07896 837354**

**22nd October**

**Lecture by Dr Peter Falkingham (Senior Lecturer in Vertebrate Biology, LJMU)**

**Title: Motion in the fossil record: Using computer simulation and X-ray video to understand dinosaur track formation.**

Fossil footprints provide direct evidence about the lives of extinct animals, recording limb movements, soft-tissue anatomy, and environmental conditions. But interpreting tracks fraught with difficulty, not least because the track formation process is poorly understood. By combining bi-planar X-ray video with computer simulation, we can create virtual tracks that provide new insight. I’ll describe how I’ve used these methods to reconstruct foot motions of dinosaurs living over 200 million years ago.

**29th October**

**Lecture by Laura Roberts (Geology for Global Development - GfGD)**

**Title: Demystifying science communication: how talking plainly can help geoscientists apply their skills where they are needed most.**

At Geology for Global Development (GfGD) the team works toward empowering the global geology community to help deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How we communicate the importance, value, and applications of our science are key to ensuring the geoscience community can effectively contribute to the SDGs. In this talk, Laura will explore effective (science) communication techniques and ask the question: is it time for geoscience to rebrand?

**Advance Notice of tickets sales for the Joint meeting with the Herdman Geological Society on 19th November**

Admission tickets for Dr Stephen Cribb’s lecture: ‘Geology of Whisky’ are available for LGS members at LGS meetings from Maggie Williams (LGS Hon. Secretary). The ticket price is £3. (This lecture will be held in the Jane Herdman Building at the University of Liverpool)

**Advance Notice: LGS Members’ Evening**

There will be a ‘Members’ Evening’ on Tuesday 7th January 2020. This evening is your chance to talk to other LGS members about geology. You could:

* give a short presentation or talk about a geological topic
* share a poster you’ve produced
* show some interesting geological photographs you’ve taken
* display an unusual rock, fossil or mineral that you’ve collected.

We have two volunteers for this evening so far, but If you would like to share something with LGS members, please let Phil Firth know by emailing: philip\_firth@yahoo.com

**Remember:** You don’t have to have done a trip to the Himalayas to have something to talk about. Geology is everywhere!

**Expressions of interest for a Lanzarote geology and cultural field trip.**

There is a possibility of Prof Cynthia Burek and colleagues running a 6-day trip for LGS members in either September 2020 or 2021 based around the equivalent trip they organised for the Open University Geology Tutors Group in September 2018. (They ran the previous trip for a total of 28 people including the leaders and could do the same again if there is enough interest)

The proposal is to base the trip out of the Las Brisas resort in the town of Playa Blanca on the SW coast of Lanzarote. The resort details can be found at:<http://www.wimpen.com/en/las-brisas/resort.htm>but, for information, consists of pleasant mostly two-bedroomed/ 2-bathroom villas with air conditioning/heating adjoining, via a 10-minute walk, the picturesque fishing village of Playa Blanca. There is also the possibility that some one- and three-bedroomed villas may be available. Built in traditional Moorish style with white walls and natural woodwork, the villas are set in landscaped gardens, with the resort centred around a large, heated swimming pool and bar/restaurant/shop complex. The villas are all self-catering with a full kitchen.

As for costs, it is estimated that the rental of the villas (with 4 sharing a 2 bedroomed villa), plus hire of the mini-bus vehicles, petrol, utilities at Las Brisas, entrance fees to the National Park and various cultural sites etc. plus a last night dinner will be around £300-350pp. The only thing that will not be covered will be flights to and from Lanzarote (ideally should arrive and depart on a Thursday) and food and drink for the participants whilst they are in Las Brisas (except the final night when that will be covered).

For further details, or to express interest in joining this excursion please see Geoff Gilchrist at a meeting or contact him by email: gilchristge@gmail.com or mobile: 07896 837354.

**From the Treasurer**

Subscriptions for the 2019 - 2020 session are due on the 1st October 2019. ALL enquires regarding membership of the Society to the Honorary Treasurer at g.t.b\_lgs@hotmail.co.uk

*(Please note that Gary’s email address has an underscore between b and lgs)*

Those wishing to take advantage of a Standing Order Mandate to pay their subscriptions and save worrying each year about paying their subscriptions please contact me (Honorary Treasurer) and I will supply you our bank details, this can be completed online or by going to your bank in person.

Subscription rates are: £15 for full members and £5 for student members (full time students).

Those members who subscribe to the Geological Journal, the yearly subscription price is £64.00

Mr Gary T Billington, Honorary Treasurer, Liverpool Geological Society, 4 Lewisham Road, Liverpool L11 1EF

**Reminder about Gift Aid - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!**

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Liverpool Geological Society from the tax you pay for the current tax

year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. Form, available at LGS meetings, need to be completed and returned to The Honorary Treasurer Gary T. Billington.

Address: Mr Gary T Billington, Honorary Treasurer, Liverpool Geological Society, 4 Lewisham Road, Liverpool L11 1EF

Email: g.t.b\_lgs@hotmail.co.uk

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**Charles Lyell’s Notebooks Saved**

A message from the University of Edinburgh’s ‘Save Charles Lyell’s Notebooks’ campai reads as follows:

“Thank you! Together, we did it. Charles Lyell’s 294 notebooks were due to be sold abroad. However, a temporary export bar was imposed, giving the University of Edinburgh and supporters the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to purchase them. Over 1,100 supporters pledged to save the historic notebooks. The purchase price was originally set at £1,444,000 but reduced to £966,000 thanks to a restructuring of tax liability.”

With the full funds now pledged, the University of Edinburgh is now in the process of gathering in these generous gifts to allow the purchase to go ahead.

**25 October - 15 November: Museum of the Moon**

Prepare to be awe-struck as the moon comes to Birkenhead Town Hall’s magnificent Assembly Room for October half-term. Museum of the Moon by UK artist Luke Jerram brings the moon almost close enough to touch, in breath-taking detail. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the mesmerising installation features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Each centimetre of the internally lit sculpture represents 5km of the moon’s surface. Details at: <https://www.imaginewirral.com/wirral-2019/museum-of-the-moon>