



22nd September 2022

LGS Newsletter 164.1

Welcome to the 164th Session of the Liverpool Geological Society

The programme of meetings for the 164th session is available on the LGS website at:

<https://liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/indoor-meetings>

All talks for 2022-23 will start at 7.30pm and take place at the Central Teaching Hub of the University of Liverpool in Lecture Theatre D. Entrance will be via the main door. Selected talks may also be seen using Zoom.

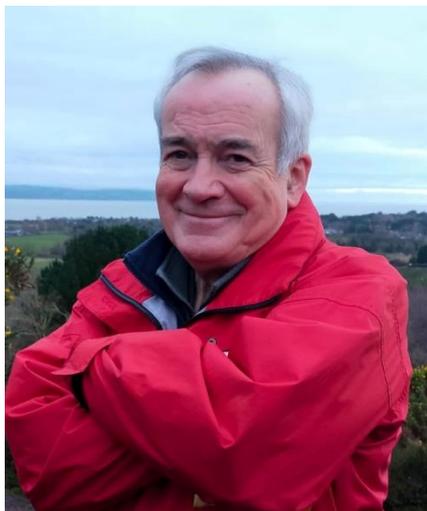
Sad news

It is with great sadness that we report the unexpected death of **Jennifer Rhodes** in the first week of September. Jennifer Rhodes was editor of *The North West Geologist* and a leading member of GeoLancashire where she was secretary for many years and responsible for arranging speakers and field excursions. Jennifer was also treasurer of the Manchester Geological Association and helped to produce seven Geotrails, mostly in the Ribble valley, and a radically new edition of the *Building Stones Guide to Central Manchester*, for which Jennifer designed the layout and arranged the printing.

Liverpool Geological Society events

Tuesday 4th October

Presidential address by Colonel Martin Amlôt



Martin on Thurstaston Hill

Title: **Geology in Conflict**

Summary: A personal view by the Society President of the impact of geological factors in warfare and other lower-level conflicts. As a former professional soldier Martin Amlôt has some thirty years of experience of military operations both active and potential. As he served in Northern Ireland, Norway, Africa, Cyprus, Hong Kong, the Falklands garrison and most of all, Germany during the Cold War, he became increasingly aware of the importance of taking the impact of geology into account. As a student of past conflicts, he realised even more that all armies throughout history have had to be aware of the constraints placed on them by the geology of the landscape over which they fight or might have to fight. His talk will describe some of the evidence which still exists today of the geology of campaigns throughout history.

Down to Earth Magazine (DTE)

Hard copies of this publication are not being produced, but electronic copies are available, which we have permission to email to LGS members. If you would like a pdf copy of the most recent publications (DTE number 120 and DTE Extra numbers 116, 117 & 118), please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at lgssecretary19@gmail.com and it will be sent to you.

LGS Members' Evening

There will be a 'Members' Evening' on **Tuesday 10th January 2023**.

This evening is your chance to have your "Five (or ten) minutes of fame" and give a short presentation or talk about a geological topic to other LGS members.

If you are stuck for ideas, why not share one of the following:

- details of the most exciting geology field excursion you have undertaken (or would like to do)
- information about a new field guidebook, geology book or map you have read or used
- photographs of geological features you have seen on your holiday, on a recent LGS field excursion (or found in your back garden)
- unusual geological specimens you have found or seen (if they are not too big or heavy, you could bring these along to show/ amaze members)
- an outline of the best geological exhibit you have seen.

If you would like to offer a talk or presentation, please let Chris Hunt know by emailing:

chris1972scfc@outlook.com

Liverpool Geological Society Prizes 2022

The Society awarded six prizes for the academic year 2021-2022. The prize winners are listed below:

Liverpool John Moores University

Overall excellence in Geography: Emma Wood

University of Liverpool nominations

Overall excellence Geology: Samuel Jones

Overall excellence Geophysics: Laura Nicholls

Overall excellence GPG: Anna Palmer*

**Anna is a Year 3 MEdSci Geology & Physical Geography student*

Liverpool Hope University

Overall excellence Geography: Sebastian Parks

Edge Hill University

Overall excellence Geology with Physical Geography: Paris Vlachos

Two gentle reminders from the Treasurer

1.Subscriptions for the 2022 - 2023 session

Subscriptions are due on the 1st of October 2022.

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

All enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent 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 should also contact the Honorary Treasurer, who will provide you with our bank details. You can complete the Standing Order Mandate online or by visiting your bank.

2.Gift Aid - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

Liverpool Geological Society reclaims **Gift Aid** from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. A Gift Aid Form is available from the Honorary Treasurer and at LGS meetings. Completed Gift Aid forms should be returned to The Honorary Treasurer.

Contact details for The Honorary Treasurer:

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

Email: g.t.b_lgs@hotmail.co.uk

Geological Society of London

Wednesday 5th October 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Virtual lecture by William B. F. Ryan - Lyell Medallist Winner

Title: From catastrophism back to uniformitarianism

Abstract: When penetrating hundreds of metres into the soft sediment carpet of the three-kilometres-deep Mediterranean in the summer of 1970 a hard formation was suddenly encountered too early to be bedrock. The drillship Glomar Challenger shook violently as the drill bit bounced and then became stuck. Only after hours of effort was the pipe freed. In its bit were gypsum that had precipitated on evaporating salt pans under temperatures exceeding 50°C and shells of molluscs that had lived in shallow freshwater lakes. We were astonished. The overlying sediments in previous cores had accumulated in ultra-deep water of normal ocean salinity. Nevertheless, subsequent drill sites provided additional evidence of fossilized algal mats and plant-adhering diatoms requiring sunlight. For the shipboard scientists it became abundantly clear: five and a half million years ago the Mediterranean Sea had dried out and then was flooded with saltwater pouring in from a cataclysmic opening of the Gibraltar Strait. Charles Lyell's paradigm of "natural processes still in operation today" was under assault by catastrophism. The publication of our observations in the journal Nature created much initial controversy. Our desiccation hypothesis achieved a broader acceptance only after subsequent drilling expeditions and lots of attention to strata of the same age accessible in terrestrial outcrops and in the walls of deep mines. Today's lecture will take us through this five-decade journey of research that in just the last few years rehabilitates Charles Lyell. We will uncover evidence of desiccation and flooding "in operation today" elsewhere in the Dead Sea.

Register for this event through Eventbrite. Details below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/october-public-lecture-from-catastrophism-back-to-uniformitarianism-tickets-276739835297>

Manchester Geological Association

Saturday 8 October 2022 - an all-day event

Joint event with the British Cave Research Association

The British Cave Research Association and Manchester Geological Association are pleased to announce details of the 33rd Annual Cave Science Symposium and associated fieldtrip. The Symposium, hosted by Professor Cathy Hollis, will be at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester, on Saturday 8 October 2022. There will be a programme of presentations that will be of interest to anyone wishing to know more about the underground environment.

Further details will follow on the MGA website: <http://www.mangeolassoc.org.uk/indoormeetings.php>

Yorkshire Geological Society (YGS)

Thursday, 29 September 2022 16:00 -17:00

Webinar by Dr Bryony Caswell, University of Hull.

Title: Muddy bottoms: response of Jurassic seafloors to palaeoenvironmental changes

Abstract: This talk will consider changes on Jurassic seafloors, during the Toarcian and Kimmeridgian stages. In this talk, Dr Bryony Caswell will present on her previous and new work asking how macrofaunal communities responded to palaeoenvironmental changes, including warming and deoxygenation, in the Cleveland and Wessex basins. These changes will be compared to the changes occurring in the present-day and what it can teach us about how marine communities and ecosystems might respond in the future ocean.

More information about this event is available at:

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/muddy-bottoms-jurassic-seafloor>

Note: This webinar will be hosted using Zoom and broadcast on YouTube where it will be available to view for a period of time afterwards.