

Rotunda Geology Group

Record 2023



Editor's note

Your group was unlucky last year, when a combination of bad weather and illness resulted in us being able to mount only one full field trip out of the planned four. As the field reports make up such a large part of the magazine, your committee decided the fixed costs of a colour magazine were not justifiable this year and we should roll over the content into an expanded edition next year. What follows is therefore a brief record of your society's activities in 2023.

Committee

There have been no changes to committee membership. Last year, John Hodgson's term as chair expired but, in the absence of another candidate, he agreed to extend this for a year. However John is now standing down after 6 years and I'd like to thank him for his effort and achievements, which have always been carried out with good humour and relaxed efficiency.

Indoor meetings (spring)

Thursday March 2nd:

Forge Valley & Wykeham

We heard about two connected parts of the River Derwent's remarkable glacial and post-glacial story. In part one, **Robert Peacock** and **Steve Parker** from Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise spoke about the latest news and plans for Forge Valley National Nature Reserve, and how geology, geomorphology, and archaeology are crucial to this project. In part two, our chair, **John Hodgson**, talked about the work he and **Dr Tony Kearsley** have been carrying out at Wykeham Water Park, with an aim to document, describe, and display some tell-tale erratics of the Wykeham Moraine.

Thursday April 6th

The North Pennine Orefield,

Dr Eddie Dempsey (University of Hull) spoke about mineralization and associated fluid migration events in the North Pennine Orefield. He discussed new evidence linking these to tectonic events as long ago as the early Permian, concluding that previously proposed models such as the influx of Mesozoic brines, can no longer be applied.

Thursday 4th May

Leaders' previews of summer field programme

Indoor Meetings (autumn)

Thursday October 5th

Lewis Hunton, biostratigraphy and the Alum Shale

Peter Appleton, of Skelton History Group and Land of Iron, discussed the life of pioneering biostratigrapher Lewis Hunton of Loftus, and the history of the alum shale industry of North-East Yorkshire.

Thursday November 2nd

James Hutton: The Founder of Modern Geology

Society member **Pete Edey** spoke about the life of James Hutton and the three sites in Arran, central Scotland, and Siccar point which were influential in Hutton's thinking on deep time.

Thursday December 7th

Members' Night

Society members gave a variety of short talks.

Dan Normandale gave a fascinating introduction to the diverse geology, spectacular landscapes and remarkable history of Svalbard.

Stuart Swann took us back to the early days of the dinosaur coast, and the fun he had being involved in the recovery of the Speeton plesiosaur.

Alan Staniforth regaled us with an imagined scene in which William Smith explained the importance of Yorkshire Coast geology to the uninitiated.

Dr Tim Burnhill introduced us to Charles Lyell's challenge of understanding the enormity of geological time, and how peering into the Val de Bove on Etna helped him to begin to make sense of it.

Field reports

Sunday 4th June

Commondale & Castleton, led by Dr Steve Livera

Twelve members met to walk around Castleton and Commondale. They saw evidence of the old extractive industries exploiting the Jurassic Ravenscar Group sediments and the Palaeogene Cleveland Dyke, and discussed the structural geology of the area.

(SL's full illustrated report will appear in the 2023/4 magazine)

Saturday 1st July

Flamborough Head, led by Dr Liam Herringshaw

The group met at North Landing to inspect the structural geology and stratigraphy of the Cretaceous cliffs with the three main chalk formations identified. A boat trip had been planned to inspect the cliffs and fault zones from the sea but this was cancelled due to high winds.

Saturday August 5th

Skinningrove & Hummersea, led by Steve Livera & Liam Herringshaw

The group met at the Land of Iron museum but did not get any further. We had an interesting morning in the social museum but biblical levels of flooding meant the mine section was inaccessible and the afternoon walk to Hummersea was called off.

Saturday September 2nd

Saltwick Bay, led by Liam Herringshaw

This event was cancelled due to illness. It was planned to look at the geology of the foreshore with particular reference to evidence of a Toarcian anoxic event, the subject of a recent paper by Herringshaw and Caswell (2023).

(The above three field events are likely to be re-scheduled in 2024)