

SCIENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on **20 May 2008** at 2pm in Burlington House.

Present:	Apologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Watts (Chair) • Angharad Hills • Edmund Nickless • Eva Valsami-Jones • Georgina Worrall <p>And representatives from the following Specialist Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIGG: John Arthur • EG: Jim Griffiths • GCG: Mike Howe • HOGG: Alan Bowden • JAQR: Simon Carr • TSG: Richard Lisle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Cayley • Andy Gale • Rob Strachan • Rachel Wood <p>Apologies were also received from those Specialist Groups unable to send a representative.</p>

Item	Action
<p>Item 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>Item 2 MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>4.4. Geoscientist article on flagship meetings An article was included in the May issue of the <i>Geoscientist</i>.</p> <p>5.6. Fermor Meeting 2009 A representative from the Mineral Deposits Studies Group (MDSG) was unable to attend Committee meeting, but they sent an email regarding this item.</p> <p>The MDSG's stance is that having convened the last two they don't at present want to commit to organising another event. However, the MDSG would be keen to contribute to an interdisciplinary meeting and have discussed microbial processes in geology as a possibility (ranging from the origin of life to the role of microbes in weathering). The MDSG would be keen to support such a meeting if it included speakers on such topics as the role of hydrothermal processes and minerals in the origin of life, microbial processes in mineralisation and microbial controls on metal mobility.</p> <p>The MDSG have also discussed such a meeting with the Applied Mineralogy Group of Min</p>	

Soc yesterday and they thought this was an interesting topic but were concerned about the short lead-time left now to organise a meeting in 2009.

The Science Committee agreed that the MDSG was the best placed Specialist Group to organise a Fermor Meeting. However, Edmund suggested writing to Bruce Yardley to see whether he would be interested in convening a Fermor Meeting with a hydro theme in 2010.

TW

9.1. **Marine biogeochemistry conference**

Kym Jarvis was unable to attend the Committee meeting in person, but she did send an email regarding this item.

Kym has received a potentially positive email from Leon Clarke at Bangor regarding convening a meeting on this topic.

Leon wanted to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that there is a biennial Challenger Society UK Marine Sciences meeting, which is being held in Bangor this September.

The meeting is 4 days and marine biogeochemistry forms a large part of this meeting. Therefore, Leon wondered if it might be sensible for the Society to duplicate such an effort in the near future. Also, Marine Biogeochemistry is, he thought, too broad a topic and he is not sure that the meeting would be too well received by the community.

Leon does **not** think the clash of meetings is too critical as a date hasn't yet been suggested. The subject is quite broad as Leon points out but Kym thought that Leon would be able to focus this down. Kym's thoughts are that there is certainly scope for an involvement from Geochemistry, Marine Studies and Environment Groups and if Leon could co-ordinate the scientific programme that might provide a good package.

The Committee agreed that the best course of action would be to invite Leon to put together a conference proposal for consideration at the September Science Committee meeting.

TW

Library Bookshop

Edmund reported to the Committee that he has had discussions with Neal Marriot, the Director of the Publishing House, regarding utilising the space within the Reception area to promote book sales. Due to space and health & safety issues, the Society is rather restricted as to what it can do, however, the Publishing House are looking into putting together a marketing advert that can be displayed on the plasma screen outside the Lecture Theatre.

Geophysics Mail Database

Georgina reported to the Committee that she has been in contact with Sheila Peacock about advertising Society meetings to the members of this database. The owners of the list do not want constant bombarding emails about meetings and events, so it has been agreed that two emails a year (January & September) will be sent out advertising forthcoming meetings.

Lyell Meeting 2009

This will be addressed under Item 3c.

<p>William Smith 2009 This will be addressed under Item 3c.</p> <p>Earth Climate Regulation Tony will be following up on this item.</p> <p>Arthur Holmes Meeting This will be addressed under Item 3d.</p> <p>Shell London Lecture Series This will be addressed under Item 4.</p> <p>Specialist Group's editorial access to Society website Edmund informed the Committee that website guidance notes have now been written and will be distributed out shortly. Following the distribution of these guidance notes, the Society will be holding training days.</p>	
<p><u>Item 3</u> MEETINGS</p> <p>Calendar & Conference Office work programme The Calendar in the May <i>Geoscientist</i> and the Conference Office work programme were both noted by the Committee.</p> <p>Georgina brought to the Committee's attention the 'Founder's Day Dinner', which will be held on Thursday 13 November. The evening will comprise of a brief lecture given at the Society followed by a 3 course dinner at the Le Meridien on Piccadilly.</p> <p><u>Update on Flagship Meetings</u></p> <p>William Smith 2008 - 1-2 September Observations and Causes of Sea-Level Changes on Millennial to Decadal Timescales. A draft programme was included with the Committee papers.</p> <p>The William Smith Lecture will be given by Jerry Mitrovica, University of Toronto.</p> <p>Currently, there are 12 delegates registered for this conference.</p> <p>Lyell Meeting 2009 (date to be confirmed) Palaeobotany Alan Bowden reported on behalf of convenors of this meeting.</p> <p>Palass will take the lead on this conference, similar to previous years. The convenors have identified keynote speakers and are currently putting together a programme.</p> <p>The Committee asked Alan to contact the conference convenors requesting a conference programme to be provided for the September Science Committee meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p>

**William Smith 2009 – 21-23 September
Environment, Pollution and Human Health**

Eva reported to the Committee, that she now has a basic programme outline, which she has emailed out to the relevant Specialist Groups for their input.

She noted that the programme was rather industry weak. Jim Griffiths suggested Eva contacts Paul Nathaniel who started up the Engineering Group, as he has a number of industry contacts.

John Arthur said he might be able to assist with getting the Environment Agency involved in the conference.

The Committee also suggested that talks on geophysics and Pathways/Conceptual Models should be included in the programme.

Eva reported to the Committee that she should have a provisional programme ready for the September Science Committee meeting.

Potential new meetings

Arthur Holmes field trip

The Committee agreed that a field trip that utilized remote sensing techniques would be very interesting, so it was suggested that Tony writes to Dan Taranik, Chair of Geological Remote Sensing Group, to ask whether the Group would be interested in submitting a field trip proposal for the next Committee meeting.

Darwin conference

Alan Bowden drew the Committee's attention to the fact that there will be a major 4 day (5-10 July) Darwin conference in Cambridge next year, which will attract a lot of attention and cover many potential Darwin topics.

Alan informed the Committee that HOGG has endorsed a field trip to Glenroy, which will happen before or after the Cambridge conference, so the Society might wish to endorse this field trip as well?

The Committee agreed that it would be good to see if there is any scope for a one day conference based on the geological legacy of Darwin.

Alan volunteered to find out more information about the topics that will be covered at the Cambridge meeting.

It was also suggested that if the Society decides against hosting a Darwin conference, that a lecture on Darwin should be incorporated into next year's London Shell Lecture Series.

EVJ

JA

EVJ

TW

AB

Item 4
SHELL LONDON LECTURE SERIES

The Committee agreed that the President of the Society should give the first lecture of the year.

Shell has agreed to give the April and November lectures, leaving 7 slots to be filled.

The following topics were suggested:-

Dinosaurs

Angharad informed that Committee that she went to a very interesting talk given by Dr Tim Ewin from Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery entitled 'The Finest Dinosaur Ever Found in Britain', which was about the finest dinosaur specimen ever found in Britain. Angharad believes Tim has now moved to the Natural History Museum.

Ocean Floor

Angharad commented that the Editor of JGS is based at Southampton, and that he might have suggestions of a suitable speaker from the National Oceanography Centre at Southampton.

Jane Francis

Jane Francis' lecture in March was very popular, with people standing at the back. Jane has said she is happy to give another talk, and the Committee agreed that she was an engaging speaker.

Darwin

The Committee agreed that if the Society decides against hosting a Darwin conference, than a Darwin lecture should be incorporated into the Lecture Series.

Georgina informed the Committee that the first 3 lectures needed to be decided on quickly, so the speakers can be invited and given as much notice as possible.

AH

Item 5
JANET WATSON MEETING

A brief outline of the proposed conference was included in the Committee papers.

The event will comprise of a 2 day meeting, with the Lecture Theatre being dedicated to Janet Watson at the end of day 1.

Below is a list of proposed speakers and themes

Lead speaker	Theme
Ric Sibson, Otago (keynote)	Structure, Janet Watson and the Lewisian

Martin Whitehouse, Stockholm	Lewisian and North Atlantic geochronology
Randy Parrish, NIGL	Geochronology and crustal evolution
Simon Harley, Edinburgh	Secular change in metamorphism, including Ultra High Temperature regions (includes Outer Hebrides and elsewhere)
	Changing nature of ore deposits through time
David Fountain,	Deep crustal structure from geophysics
	Isotopic fingerprints of crustal evolution
Bill Griffin / Suzanne O'Reilly, Macquarie	Continental lithospheric mantle - nature and evolution
Roberta Rudnick, Maryland (keynote)	Island arcs, subduction zones and magmatism - the physics and chemistry of crustal accretion
Ken Condie, New Mexico (keynote)	Plate tectonics and crustal evolution through time

The Committee agreed that the proposed programme was very good, but that it was important to ensure that the conference had a 'field geology' focus.

As the Committee was happy with the proposed programme, Tony agreed to liaise with John Wheeler regarding putting together a more detailed programme outline for the next Committee meeting.

Angharad informed the Committee, that there was definitely scope for a Special Publication from this conference.

TW

Item 6
SOCIETY BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee reviewed the Business Plan actions that directly affect the Science Committee and the areas of lap-over with other Committees.

One item assigned to the ERC is 'To be respected public voice of geoscience in the UK'. It was agreed that the Science Committee is probably best placed in assisting to identify people who could represent the Society on a specific topic.

The Committee agreed that it would be useful to have a representative from the ERC Committee sitting on the Science Committee and vice a versa. Edmund suggested seeing if there was any scope for putting on 'back to back' meetings.

Georgina informed the Committee that a number of Science Committee members will be stepping down from Council from 4 June, and whether the Committee felt it should seek new Committee members from the new incoming Council members?

The Committee thought this as a good idea, and proposed inviting Jonathan Turner and Phil Manning to sit on the Science Committee. Edmund informed the Committee, that they would probably only be able to get one new Council member onto the Committee, but he would see what could be done.

EN/GW

EN/TW

The Committee also agreed to look at student scholarships at the next Committee meeting.

Item 7

PUBLICATIONS

A report on 'Books accepted since the February 2008 Science Committee Meeting' was included in the Committee papers.

Angharad drew the Committee's attention that only one of the books accepted was from a Society event, which shows that other organisations are looking to get the Society to publish its material, rather than other rival publishing companies.

Item 8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Environment Group

Eva reported to the Committee that she and Georgina attended a recent Environment Group Working Group Party meeting, where the discussion was focused on how to revive the Environment Group.

The Working Party agreed that it was important that the Society had an Environment Specialist Group, even though there is lap-over with other Groups like the Engineering and Hydrogeology Group.

The Working Party discussed the factors that attributed to the decline of the Environment Group, and the how best to get the Group up and running again.

The following action items were agreed by the Working Party:-

- Get minutes from Engineering & Hydrogeological Groups

The Working Party agreed that this would help assist them in identifying what both Groups are currently doing, and whether there are any areas being missed that the Environment Group could target.

- Put together Environment Group Remit/Terms of Reference

The Environment Group has a Terms of Reference, but it was agreed that these would need to be updated.

- Solicit new committee members

The Working Party agreed that a large factor due to the demise of the Environment Group was a lack of pro-active Committee members, so a list of potential members and organisations was drafted up.

- Put together an organising committee for the April/May 2009 meeting

The Working Party agreed that the William Smith 2009 conference could be run jointly with the Environment Group, but that an earlier conference should be organised as a 'soft re-

launch' of the Environment Group, and the Working Party are looking into getting something organised.

Nuclear Waste Disposal Meeting - 24 October

Edmund informed the Committee that the above conference is currently being put together, and that Bruce Yardley is the lead convenor. The conference will be a briefing meeting involving NDA, Environment Agency, DEFRA & BERR. Due to the topic, only general issues will be addressed.

ACTIONS	ACTIONEE
<p>Fermor Meeting Talk with Bruce Yardley about putting together a Fermor Meeting.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>Marine Biogeochemistry Invite Leon Clarke to submit a conference proposal.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>Lyell Meeting 2009 Provide full conference programme for next Committee meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p>William Smith 2009 Contact Paul Nathanail for industry contacts.</p> <p>Look into potential Environment Agency involvement with conference.</p> <p>Produce provisional programme for next Committee meeting.</p>	<p>EVJ</p> <p>JA</p> <p>EVJ</p>
<p>Arthur Holmes Meeting Invite Geological Remote Sensing Group to submit field trip proposal.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>Darwin Conference Provide Darwin Cambridge conference programme at next Committee meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p>Shell London Lecture Series Identify potential National Oceanographic Centre speaker for ocean floor talk.</p>	<p>AH</p>
<p>Janet Watson Liaise with John Wheeler to provide provisional programme for next Committee meeting.</p>	<p>TW</p>

Society Business Plan Look into have ERC & Science Committee meetings back to back.	EN/GW
Invite new Council members to sit on the Science Committee.	EN/TW