

NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP
OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2006



Welcome back after the Christmas break, we trust you enjoyed the festivities and the cold weather didn't disrupt you too much. The North West Regional Group wishes you a Happy New Year.

Our first session was successful with good attendances and finished off well with the Geology of Whisky presentation in December. It was not so much a presentation but a tasting session of five very individual malts. The elections to the Committee were undertaken at the AGM and the same members were re-elected.

Last year we compiled a list of representatives at various companies across the North West and we are emailing a Flyer with a synopsis for each presentation two weeks in advance for display on notice boards, providing a gentle reminder to members. The Committee really appreciates the advertising that the representatives are doing and if you feel you can provide any help, please email either Mark or myself.

Traditionally, the North West Group joins up with other branches of local institutions and this year we have linked with the NW Geotechnical Group of the ICE for the first meeting in this New Year's programme. Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter as this presentation has already taken place. The seminar on Waste Management Regulations - their application on construction sites was extremely topical and attracted great interest.

We have decided on introducing a new feature to our programme this year and we invite Young Geologists (less than 30 years old on 31 December 2005) to enter a North West Presentation Competition. The call for papers is enclosed and we would appreciate the support of employers/older colleagues in encouraging young geologists to enter this competition. This event will form a valuable part of the Professional Development of the entrants.

The rest of our programme includes presentations that continue our look at nuclear energy with a presentation on remediating Dounreay's Shaft. We focus on the legacy of coal mining and how rebounding groundwater will affect future development in the North West and investigate the benefits and applications of Dense Asphaltic Concrete as a landfill liner. These presentations are intended to keep you informed and up to date with current commercial projects as well as highlight current and future implications of legislation.

We finish our programme with a site visit to the Minosis Project which has been permitted to store hazardous wastes in salt mines at Winsford, Cheshire.

We trust you will find our Programme interesting,

Andy Moore (Secretary)

NW Regional Group

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NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2005 – 2006

2005 Lectures	Speaker	Title	Comment
28 September 2005	N/A	Field visit to Parys Mountain	All places taken and excellent feedback received. This trip may be run again later in 2006 if further interest is expressed.
13 October 2005	Dr Bob Chaplow Independent Consultant to NIREX	'Has the Geologist a role to play in Radioactive Waste Disposal?'	Good attendance and provided an insight as to the revived interest in nuclear energy.
24 October 2005	Bill McGuire	Devastating Tsunami: past, present and future (Joint meeting with the Royal Geographical Society)	This is proving a major attraction and attracted over 200 attendees including many NW members.
22 November 2005	Mike Wilson of Pelorus	Geophysical surveys in Marine and Fluvial Environments	Limited attendance despite many enquiries by email prior to the event. Excellent summary of current techniques with examples of significant off shore projects.
7 December 2005	Dr Steve Cribb	AGM & Geology of Whiskey	Good attendance although not as many as expected given the one off opportunity for seeing such an entertaining speaker in our Region.
Date/Time	Speaker	Title	Venue
11 January 2006 6.00 for 6.30pm	Sarah Claxton of Mouchel Parkman	Waste Management Regulations - their application on construction sites. (Joint meeting with the NW Geotechnical Group of the ICE)	Preston County Hall
Thursday, 6.30 pm 9 February 2006	Paul Robinson	Remediating Dounreay's shaft	The Swan, Winwick
Tuesday, 6.30 pm 14 March 2006	Mark Thewsey of the Environment Agency	Groundwater Rebound in Coal Measures and its effects on planned development	Haydock Thistle Hotel
Tuesday, 6.30 pm 11 April 2006	Ray Keal of Walo	Dense Asphaltic Concrete Lining of Landfills	Williamson Lecture Theatre Manchester University
Thursday, 6.30 pm 11 May 2006	N/A	NORTH WEST YOUNG GEOLOGIST PAPER COMPETITION	Williamson Lecture Theatre Manchester University
7 June 2006	N/A	Site Visit to the Minosis underground hazardous waste repository in a salt mine. This visit is limited to 20 people	Northwich Please note that you can register for the trip with Carol Westhead before Friday 2 June 2006. CWesthead@terraconsult.co.uk Tel. : 01925 291111.

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FURTHER LINKS AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON ALL MEETINGS IS LOCATED ON THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WEB SITE
www.geolsoc.org.uk