



The
Geological
Society

North West Regional Group

Newsletter

Autumn 2020



Your guide to Geological Society events in the North West - 2020/21

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COMMITTEE NEWS

We welcome you back to the regional group for a new season of lectures, in a somewhat different format. We welcome our new committee member Sarah Hey. The current status of the committee is:

Chair:	Nik Reynolds
Secretary:	Catherine Kenny
Treasurer:	Rob Hunt
Outreach Officer:	Katherine Harrison
Early Careers Officer:	Molly Brown
Chartership and Mentoring Contact:	Marie Convery

Committee members:

Martin Lucass	
Andrew Moore	Chris Oates
Mark Parkin	Sarah Hey

The AGM will be held in January just before our January lecture, so if you would like to join the committee or have any ideas for events, trips and lectures then please email the secretary!

The photograph used on the cover of this year's newsletter is from the trip to the Manchester Museum.

LOOKING BACK AT 2019/20

We hope you all enjoyed our previous season of activities. Although many of them were cancelled, we did manage the following highlights:

- School's Challenge Regional Heats
- Joint Lectures with the ICE NW Geotechnical Group, Manchester Geological Association, Liverpool Geological Society
- The NWRG presented at the Geological Association Conference in Manchester in October
- Family Event at Manchester Museum with Professor Phil Manning
- Our first online lecture !

School's Challenge

Last Year's NW Regional Heat of the School's Challenge was won by Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, and the same team went on to win the National Competition at Burlington House! The school also won the prize of hosting the 2020 Regional Heat, which took place on 25th February 2020.

There was amazing effort from both teams. Aquinas presented on "Accurate Representation of Dinosaurs in the Media: Why Jurassic Park is Incorrect" and Altrincham Grammar School For Boys presented on "Bowland Shale Hydrocarbons". Both were excellent presentations - I am continually amazed by how professional the students of this age (lower sixth form) are!!

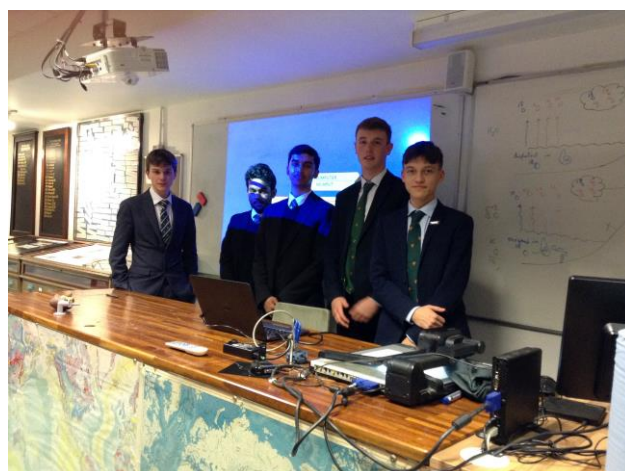
Aquinas won the poster and presentation rounds but were narrowly defeated overall by the quiz round !!



Schools Challenge Trophies: Blue John Fluorite and Fluorite from Weardale Mine, donated by the Weardale Mining Project.



Aquinas College



Altrincham Grammar School For Boys

Many thanks to our volunteer judges Catherine Kenny, Sarah Hey and Katie McInnes and to Chris Oates for sorting out the all-important pizzas!

Congratulations to Altrincham Grammar School For Boys who went through to the National finals at Burlington House. Unfortunately, the final had to be cancelled and moved online. Students submitted a copy of their posters and a recording of their Heats presentation. They also took part in the quiz as a livestream on the day the final was meant to take place. Of 10 schools who made it to the Final, 8 managed to submit.

Altrincham GSB have the following report *"The final was held but remotely. We were sent the quiz and then had to complete it in a 1 hour time slot. We recorded our presentation and then put it on youtube and sent the link to GeolSoc. We also made our poster and sent this to the GeolSoc. Unfortunately, we got nowhere and won none of the prizes"*.

The 2021 competition is currently on hold because the majority of the Burlington House education team is on furlough. For further information, see <https://www.geolSoc.org.uk/geochallenge>

Family Event: Dinosaurs with Professor Phil Manning

Following our successful family friendly Earth Science Week trip last year, we organised another one!

Professor Phil Manning gave a brilliant short lecture on hunting dinosaurs in the 21st Century to 32 of us, followed by pizza and a trip to the Manchester Museum. We are booked in for an adult version of this lecture for our 2020/21 programme!!

<see photo on front cover>

Lecture Series 2019/20

Our first lecture was in September from Professor Cynthia Burek and Dr Rosalind Todhunter on "Geoconservation and Cheshire's Geodiversity Sites" at the University of Chester (Attendance: 20).

Professor Jonathan Chambers presented our November lecture at Birchwood as a joint meeting with the ICE NW Group on "Priming The Industry: An Innovation in Earthworks Monitoring" (Attendance 40).

Our next lecture was "Geology and Geodynamics of the Betic Cordilleras, South East Spain" at Manchester University, a joint meeting with the Manchester Geological Association (Attendance 43).

We attended a second joint meeting in Birchwood with the ICE NW Group on "Reclaiming the Emerson's Green

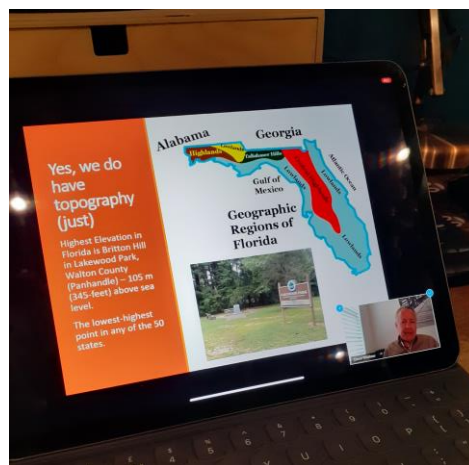
Landfill to Enable Residential Development" by Duncan Scott of Vertase FLI Ltd (Attendance 49).

In January, Paul Colbeck, of Geoshield, spoke on "Ground Gas Membranes " at Manchester University (Attendance 61).

In what was to be our final face to face lecture for 2020, Iain Henrys delivered a lecture on "Exploration for a sub-sea coal deposit and the impacts of the 2010 M8.8 Earthquake, Chile", on the anniversary of the event, 27th February, at Liverpool University, a joint event with the Liverpool Geological Association Group (Attendance 24).

Our lectures and fieldtrips for the rest of the year were subsequently cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but in April, David Wilshaw was the first to take the plunge and present online with his lecture "The Engineering Geology of Florida: A Guide to Managing Ground Risk in the Sunshine State" (Attendance 90). If you missed the lecture and would like to hear it, it is available on the Geological Society's You Tube Channel, Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmsYPvHjJfE&t=6s>



First NWRG Online Lecture





Our second ever Zoom lecture was from Dr Trevor Jones who kindly presented "Occurrence and Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) in June via the Zoom app (Attendance 153). At the time of typing this, the lecture is still not on the You Tube Channel, but it should be soon!

We hope you all enjoyed these lectures! Huge thanks to our lecturers and to our venue hosts for supporting the Regional Group, and to Kate Kwiatek at Burlington House for setting up the Zoom Room!

We're always open to ideas for fieldtrip and lectures so if you have a topic you are keen to hear something on, or have a lecture you would like to deliver, or a field trip, please contact the secretary!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2020/21

Lectures 2020



The events for the remainder of 2020 will all be via the "Zoom" app and will be posted here: <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events?pg=2> and emailed to our mailing list.

Download the Zoom app here - its free: <https://zoom.us/download>

The Regional Groups are "pooling" their virtual lectures and the GSL have the ability to livestream the lecture on YouTube or Facebook if demand is sufficient. The "zoom room" has a capacity of 100 at the moment. Where possible and with appropriate permissions, we will upload lectures to the YouTube channel so that they can be watched later.

You need to **register** for the events in order to receive a Zoom Link. This will also enable us to record attendance for CPD.

Zoom Room FAQs

1. *How do I get a link?*
Sign up by following the instructions on the flier or on the meeting's page on the geol soc website. There will be a registration link to click on. You will be sent an email after you have registered with a link to join the meeting.
2. *Can I give my link to all my mates?*
We will be able to see who has shared their link. We will record your CPD using your registration details, so if you have shared the link then this isn't possible.

3. *What happens if the registration is full?*
We will try to arrange a livestream if demand is sufficient. Contact the secretary if you have problems with registration.

I strongly encourage you to have a look at the events page and sign up for any lectures that take your fancy!!

Highlights on the page so far:

8 September 2020: [West Midlands Regional Group: September meeting - The Low Level Waste Repository, west Cumbria: long-term coastal change and glacial geology](#)

13 October 2020: [VIRTUAL EVENT - West Midlands Regional Group: October meeting - Understanding the Triassic and Jurassic geology at Hinkley Point C](#)

09 November 2020: [VIRTUAL EVENT - GSL Public Lecture: Engaging geoscience for diplomacy - understanding Paektu volcano in North Korea](#)

Look out for NWRG events coming up soon:

- Dave Petley, University of Sheffield, on Landslides
- Jane MacArthur, Manchester University, on Antarctica
- **03 December 6.30pm:** Phil Manning, Manchester University, "The Last Day of the Dinosaurs" - dinosaur hunting in the 21st century and life at the K/T boundary

Chartership and Mentoring

Sean Richardson, Chartership Officer, is doing a talk on Chartership for the NWRG **on 6th October 6.30pm** and you will be able to ask him specific questions etc on your application. If you can't make this talk and are going for chartership take a look at the "Events" page on the Geological Society webpage as Sean is doing several chartership talks with the other Regional Groups and you may be able to join one of those instead!!

There is also a new group on LinkedIn for **Mentoring**. If anyone is looking for a mentor, or would like to volunteer to be a mentor, please check it out!
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8777938/>

For Chartership and Mentoring queries, please contact Marie Convery from our committee! You can email the secretary and I will pass the message on.

Thanks

We wish to extend our thanks once again to all the venues, and to all the speakers who delivered our programme last year and we hope you enjoy the programme for the up and coming year.

Best regards to you all on behalf of the Committee,

Catherine Kenny
Secretary, North West Regional Group of
the Geological Society of London



The North West Regional Group is YOUR society - If you have any comments or questions, or you have a brilliant idea for a lecture or field trip that you would like us to organise, or if you could offer to lead a field trip, then please feel free to make contact using geologicalsociety.northwest@gmail.com

Social Media

We have an active Facebook webpage which we encourage you to visit. We try and keep these sites up to date with information regarding meetings and other relevant interesting geological bits and bobs we find!!!



Our Friends in the North West

LGS: Liverpool Geological Society
<http://www.liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/>

MGA: Manchester Geological Association
<http://www.mangeolassoc.org.uk/indoormeetings.php>

ICE: Institution of Civil Engineers North West
<https://www.ice.org.uk>

CLA: Geological Society Contaminated Land Group
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/contamland>

Geological Society Code of Conduct for Meetings and other Events (inc Online)

- *The Geological Society of London is a professional and learned society, which, through its members, has a duty in the public interest to provide a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all participants and attendees of our meetings, workshops, and events regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, or career level.*
- *This Code of Conduct applies to all participants in Society related activities, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, service providers, representatives to outside bodies, and applies in all GSL activities, including ancillary meetings, events and social gatherings.*
- *Breach of the Code of Conduct*
- *If an incident of proscribed conduct occurs either within or outside the Society's premises during an event, then the aggrieved person or witness to the proscribed conduct is encouraged to report it promptly to a member of staff or the event's principal organiser.*
- *Once the Society is notified, a member of staff or a senior organiser of the meeting will discuss the details with the individual making the complaint. Any witnesses who have been identified, and then the alleged offender will be consulted before determining an appropriate course of action.*
- *Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that it does not compromise the rights of others.*