

WEST YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY TRUST NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We have held 23 public events this spring and summer and they have attracted more than 800 people in total. Thanks to all those who have helped at the Geodays for children and young people and I hope some of you can volunteer next year, too. Sheila and Harold Dyson have been organising these events for the last four years and will be happy to step down to allow others to get involved. The Geodays are great fun and we often have brilliant conversations with young people, many of whom are far better informed about dinosaurs than we are!

Many of the guided geological walkswere very well attended when the weather was pleasant. Most of them are publicised by the local authorities in West Yorkshire, as part of their guided walks programmes. There is some doubt about whether some of the authorities will continue to provide guided walks so we wait to see what happens next spring.

The Pennine Watershed Landscapes project is still continuing and work is going ahead on six geological sites around West Yorkshire. We have also been asked to work with Wakefield Countryside Services to produce an interpretation board for Frickley Country Park, Wakefield. The site of Frickley Colliery, which closed in the 1990s, has been landscaped in the last few years and features of geological interest have been included. The board will tell the story of the Upper Carboniferous and Permian rocks in the area. There are many blocks of local sandstones, mudstones and limestones on the site, so this is a good place to inform the general public about rocks and fossils.

Alison Tymon

CONTACT DETAILS

Geological Records Office,
Thewlis Lane
Crosland Hill,
HUDDERSFIELD HD4 7FL
01484 608004
www.wyorksgeologytrust.org
alison@wyorksgeologytrust.org.uk



A group at Frickley Country Park

Geology Study Day at Shipley

We held a successful Study Day in late October as part of the Watershed Landscapes Project. Countryside Volunteers for Bradford Council and many people involved in projects on Baildon Hill and Ilkley Moor were keen to attend, so we had about 35 participants for the event at Hughes Bakery Conference Centre, Shipley.

A talk was given by Alison Tymon on the 'Geology of the Bradford area', which was followed in the afternoon by a walk to Shipley Glen to see the landscapes of the Shipley/Baildon Hill area and the well-known sandstone crags of Shipley Glen. Cynthia Burek and Veronica Cubitt Caddy from the Cheshire geodiversity group also contributed talks. Cynthia works with national organisations to promote geodiversity and Veronica runs a company which gives advice on maintaining geological interest when important sites are threatened by development.



A group of enthusiasts from the Baildon and Ilkley areas at Shipley Glen crags, finding out about Upper Carboniferous Rough Rock and its features as part of the Study Day at Shipley.



Surveying in Ackworth Moor Top quarry

Surveying for geological sites in the Wakefield area

When the early surveying for geological sites took place in the 1990s, the Wakefield area was surveyed in less detail than other parts of the county. This was largely because the east of West Yorkshire is less hilly and hence there are fewer places where exposed rock can be seen. However a group of about ten surveyors are looking for sites which might be interesting, using past documents and geological records, as well as their own local knowledge.

We met at Ackworth recently, after one member of the group reported a good exposure of a sandstone called Ackworth Rock in a disused quarry next to an old mineral line, now a public footpath and cycleway. The rocks show many interesting features so it is likely that this place will be the first Local Geological Site featuring Ackworth Rock, if it is accepted for designation in due course.

The surveying is continuing into spring and summer and we hope to find many more interesting sites in the area.