

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be held on Saturday 23rd June at Ogden Water Countryside Centre from 11.00 to 1.00. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a guided walk around the Ogden Water quarries in the afternoon. All welcome.

The business meeting will be short, as the Trust is in a healthy financial state and the committee is well-organised. The main business of the meeting will be to discuss how to continue the work of the Trust most effectively with a limited number of volunteers, particularly to think about how district groups for Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield could develop. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



View of Todmorden Moor from the east A guided walk group heading for a shale gully

FOCUS ON TODMORDEN MOOR LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE

Todmorden Moor has been exploited for its geological resources for centuries. The moor has several large sandstone quarries, now disused, which produced flagstones, roofing slates and gravel for farm tracks. The five productive coal seams which outcrop in the area have been mined from tunnels and shafts in Dulesgate and from several mines on the moor. Old shafts and tunnels have collapsed leaving dangerous holes. Fireclay is the name given to the leached clay soils in which Carboniferous vegetation grew and it was used for making bricks and tiles for furnaces and domestic hearths.

All these activities provided plenty of jobs for local workers, though working on the moor and living in the upland valleys was tough. There are plenty of local people who remember those times. Some of their stories are being recorded by the Todmorden Moor Restoration Trust, to make sure that past times are not forgotten.

For more information about the geology of Todmorden Moor, visit: <http://todmordenmoor.org.uk/geology.html>

WEST YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY TRUST

NEWSLETTER 12

Summer 2012



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We have plenty of guided walks on the summer programme for you to choose from and I hope that they cover places that you would like to visit. Please let us know if there are other geological sites that you would like to know more about. The list of Local Geological Sites on the website should give you some ideas.

The Trust is very busy, with Watershed Landscapes project work on seven sites in the Pennines getting off the ground. Some sites will have geological interpretation boards and we hope that leaflets and podcasts will be available for other areas. Two geological trails are in the planning stage. The Watersheds Landscape work will be completed in March 2013 and the newsletter will keep you informed about progress.

However, we need more active helpers on the committee to take guided walks, help to run events for children and keep an eye on local geological sites. At the moment, only three or four of us keep the Trust going, so we have had to cut down on some of our activities. Please volunteer, if you want to keep the Trust alive. The plan is to set up groups in each of the five local authority districts, each with some keen people who could get to know their area and take responsibility for looking after its geology. Some knowledge of geology will help, but enthusiasm is the main requirement. Many members of the general public are keen to know more about their local rocks and landscapes and it would be good to be able to meet the demand more effectively.

Please get in touch with the committee through the contacts below, or attend the AGM in June. Details are on the back page of the newsletter.

Alison Tymon

CONTACT DETAILS

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PROJECTS

There are plans for geological interpretation on Penistone Hill, Haworth. Dimples Quarry is an important Local Geological Site on Penistone Hill, as it contains a quarry face of mudstones, sandstones and small coal seam. There are several interesting geological features including evidence of a fault. Quarrying and coal mining has taken place on Penistone Hill and would have provided stone and power for industries and buildings in the Upper Worth Valley for many centuries.

The Watersheds Project has commissioned four carvings in local stone from Stevan Tica of Baildon, using stone supplied by Bingley Stone. Two of these are shown on the photos to the right. One shows a Carboniferous plant stem and roots and the other is a carving of

stone masons at work. It is hoped that a leaflet illustrating a guided walk from Haworth village will be published in the next year.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Building Stones in the centre of Halifax

Sunday 29th April 2.00 – 4.00

Halifax Parish Church (Minster), Kirkgate by the main porch (SE 097 252) finishing at the Piece Hall
Meet Alison Tymon for a gentle walk of less than 1 mile around the centre of Halifax to see the variety of local and imported decorative rocks used in the buildings. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.

Calderdale Council

Roundhay Park, Leeds

Saturday 12th May 1.15 – 4.00

Leeds Geological Association/Friends of Roundhay Park
Meet Bill Fraser outside Mansion House Visitors Centre, LS8 2JL (SE 330 383) in Roundhay Park. A guided walk of approximately 2.5 miles around a marked Geological Trail taking about 3 hours, with stops for discussion. Features seen are shales and several different types of sandstone (some of which contain fossils), as well as sedimentary and tectonic structures. Footpaths are graded for easy walking but can be muddy in wet weather.

Building Stones of the Centre of Bradford

Sunday 13th May 2.00 – 4.00

Meet Richard Butcher at Centenary Square (SE 163 329) by the pond on the side of the shops. The walk of about 1 mile will explore the building stones used in Bradford, including the excellent local sandstones and the decorative stones used on shop fronts and open spaces. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.

Otley Chevin Geology Trail

Sunday 24th June 2.00 – 4.30

Part of Otley Walking Festival
Meet Alison Tymon at East Chevin Quarry car park, 1 mile south of Otley (SE 212 445). The walk of about 2 miles will include some steep steps and narrow paths, so walking boots or good trainers should be worn. We will see sandstones, mudstones and a thin coal seam, as well as plant fossils, many sedimentary features and landslips. We hope there will be excellent views of the surrounding landscapes from the top of the Chevin. Bring a drink and a snack to keep you going. Free leaflet on the geology of the area will be available.

Quarries and landscapes on Penistone Hill, Haworth, Bradford

Wednesday 27th June 10.00 – 1.00

Bradford Council
Meet Alison Tymon at Dimples Quarry, Haworth (SE 025 369) for a walk of about 2 miles around Penistone Hill. The footpaths are fairly level, but uneven in places. We will see quarries with excellent features of sandstones, mudstones and a small coal seam, as well as find out more about the quarrying history of Penistone Hill. If the weather is good, views across the Upper Worth Valley and the Pennine Moors will be excellent. Bring a snack and a drink. Wear a windproof jacket as there is usually a brisk breeze across the Haworth moors.

Roundhay Park, Leeds

Saturday 14th July 1.15 – 4.00

Leeds Geological Association/Friends of Roundhay Park
Meet Bill Fraser outside the Mansion House Visitors Centre, LS8 2JL (SE 330 383) in Roundhay Park. A guided walk of approximately 2.5 miles around a marked Geological Trail taking about 3 hours, with stops for discussion. Features seen are shales and several different types of sandstone (some of which contain fossils), as well as sedimentary and tectonic structures. Footpaths are graded for easy walking but can be muddy in wet weather.

WILDSITE FAMILY EVENT IN CALDERDALE

North Dean Wood and Greetland Quarry, Halifax

Thursday 26th July

Two similar sessions starting at **10.00 and 13.00**
Calderdale Council
Meet at the front of Clay House, West Vale, Greetland HX4 8AN (SE 097 214). A short walk and family activities about the rocks and fossils of the local area. Bring your own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for identification. Free admission

GEODAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

Anglers Country Park, Winterset, Wakefield

Waterton Countryside Discovery Centre WF4 2EB (SE 375 153)

Sunday 5th August 11.00 – 4.00

Wakefield Council
Exhibitions of rocks, minerals and fossils and photographs showing the geology of West Yorkshire. Bring along your own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for identification. Many learning and play activities for children with an interest in dinosaurs

Building Stones of the Centre of Bradford

Sunday 5th August 2.00 – 4.00

Bradford Council
Meet Richard Butcher at Centenary Square (SE 163 329) by the pond on the side of the shops. The walk of about 1 mile will explore the building stones used in Bradford, including the excellent local sandstones and the decorative stones used on shop fronts and open spaces. Bring a lens if you have one, so that you can look closely at some of the rocks we will see.