

NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2000

Welcome back after the summer recess (not that everyone has been able to take time out yet – namely me!!). There has been a number of developments over the summer which will affect the North West Regional Group and this season's programme of meetings.

Firstly, our NW Regional Group Chairman, Dr David Manning, has reluctantly stepped down from the Chair because he is moving away from the North West to take up the Chair in Soil Science at Newcastle University. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing David well in his new post and thank him for his commitment to the NW Regional Group as Chairman over the last three years.

Secondly, the position of Acting Chairman for the NW Regional Group is to be taken up by myself from now until our AGM in December when a new Chairman will be appointed; therefore nominations are requested for the position of Chairman who will be duly elected at the AGM. Also I intend to step down as Secretary at the AGM in December and so nominations are also requested for the position of Secretary.

The North West Regional Group has a budget to manage each year from which to finance all meetings and costs therein. In recent years it has become apparent that some conference venues have become expensive and therefore it has become necessary to find alternatives, therefore you will notice that the programme of meetings for 2000 – 2001 has some new venues. I am sure that these will prove to be as popular as our previous venues with facilities of an equal standard.

To start this season's programme of meetings we have a very topical presentation from Dr James Whitby of Manchester University who will enlighten the audience, I am sure, as to the question "Is there life on Mars?". The second meeting is a joint meeting with the North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists Association. Each year the NW Group of the Geological Society are invited to Keele University for a buffet meal followed by an excellent presentation, billed as the distinguished visitors address. I am sure this year will be no different as the presentation is yet again another topical issue, that of global climate change. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking NSGGA for their continued effort and hospitality in organising this event each year, especially their Hon Sec Dorothy Wright.

The third meeting in our 2000/2001 programme is our AGM and quiz evening. This year our AGM will be more important than is usually the case because the position of Chairman and Secretary will be vacant and nominations are awaited for these positions. Voting will take place at the AGM.

Regards

Mark

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Tuesday 3 October

Is There Life on Mars?

Speaker: Dr James Whitby, University of Manchester

Venue: Department of Earth Sciences, University of Manchester @ 7.00pm

Synopsis: The talk will address the possibility of "life" having existed upon Mars at any time in the planet's history. In particular, given our current knowledge of the environmental requirements of organisms, does our knowledge of Martian geology and geochemistry place any constraints upon their possible past or present existence? Questions about what is meant by "life", and whether it could have evolved on Mars were thrown into sharp relief in 1996 by NASA's announcement of "possible relic biogenic activity" in one of the sixteen or so meteorites thought to have originated on Mars. This proposal has been fiercely controversial, but an attempt will be made to summarise the arguments for and against.

Thursday 9 November

The Challenge of Global Climate Change,

Understanding its past and forecasting its future

Speaker: Professor Geoffrey Boulton, Edinburgh University

Venue: Department of Earth Sciences, Keele University @ 8.00pm

(Joint Meeting with NSGGA)

Sorry, no synopsis available.

This talk will be preceded by a buffet meal. Members are welcome to attend (sherry reception at 6.00pm, buffet at 6.30pm) but places must be pre-booked either by email (m.j.wright@keele.ac.uk.) or by telephone (Dorothy Wright, 01782 721576). Directions to the meeting can be obtained from the Secretary upon request.

Tuesday 5 December

AGM and Quiz Evening

Venue: Orrell Suite and Priory Room

Travel Inn, Orrell, Wigan @ 7.00pm

The AGM will commence at 7.00pm promptly and will take up to thirty minutes as there are a number of issues to address, not least of which will be to elect a new Chairman and Secretary. Nominations for these positions should be sent to the Acting Chairman by the person willing to propose a candidate and seconded by another member. Written nominations with signatures of candidate, and the persons proposing and seconding the nomination must be received by Friday 1 December.

Once the official AGM matters are out of the way the quiz evening can commence and as usual there is expected to be friendly competition and rivalry between competing teams. The quiz includes rounds on history, geography, general knowledge, TV, current affairs and geology (questions set by yourselves). Team captains should contact the Secretary by Friday 1 December to enter their team in the quiz. Alternatively individuals are welcome to make up ad hoc teams.

Our new venue for the quiz is the Travel Inn in Orrell, Wigan, just off junction 26 of the M6. On leaving the motorway exit up the slip road to the traffic light, turn left over the motorway bridge and then turn right 50 metres after that into the Travel Inn car park. It is proposed that a finger buffet is laid on for the evening at an approximate cost of £5 per head and which will include a variety of food for all tastes/requirements.

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REPLY FORM FOR ANNUAL QUIZ COMPETITION

To be returned by Friday, 1 December 2000

Return to: SECRETARY

Please enter a team in the Geological Society Annual Quiz Competition

Team

Contact Telephone Number

Firm/Company

Address

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2000-2001

Date	Title	Speaker	Venue
Tuesday 3 October @ 7.00pm	Is There Life on Mars?	Dr James Whitby University of Manchester	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Manchester
Thursday 9 November @ 8.00pm	The Challenge of Global Climate Change : Understanding its past and forecasting its future	Professor Geoffrey Boulton (Edinburgh University)	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Keele. (Joint meeting with NSGGA)
Tuesday 5 December @ 7.00pm	AGM and Quiz Evening	N/A	Travel Inn, Orrell, Wigan
Thursday 25 January @ 7.30pm	Bioremediation – recent developments	Tim Brooks Celtic Technologies	Holiday Inn, Garden Court, Northop Hall, Mold
Tuesday 13 February @ 6.00pm	Careers Evening	Details nearer the time	Owens Park, University of Manchester
Wednesday 14 March @ 7.30pm	Degradable geotextiles for soil reinforcement	Dr R Sarsby, Bolton Institute	Racecourse Suite, Thistle Hotel, Haydock (Joint meeting with International Geosynthetics Society)
Thursday 12 April @ 7.00pm	Novel Aggregates	Dr Nizar Ghazireh Tarmac Group	Travel Inn, Orrell, Wigan
Thursday 17 May @ 7.00pm	Boddingtons Brewery Visit	N/A	Boddingtons Brewery, Manchester

