



Bulletin of the North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists' Association

Number 145 : September 2026



Dates for Your Diary

Winter Lecture Programme 2026/7

Room WS0.06, William Smith Building, Keele University unless indicated otherwise.
Lectures start at 19:30 (with refreshments from 19:00) unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday 8th October

Lecture: *Dryland fluvial systems: From outcrop to reservoir models* – Dr Charlotte Priddy (University of Derby).

Thursday 12th November

26th Wolverson Cope Lecture: *How geology made the Potteries* - Dr Bernard Besly (Retired Independent Consultant, Keele, Staffordshire)

Weekend 7-8 November

Geology Rocks! at Biddulph Grange Garden:

NSGGA are joining Keele University at this event

Thursday 10th December @ 18:30 pm

XMAS Social: Festive buffet, convivial socialising, informal quiz. An opportunity for members to show their favourite geological specimens and/or photos obtained from within an approximate 25-mile radius of Keele.

Thursday 21st January

TBC

Thursday 18th February

TBC

Thursday 18th March @ 19:00 pm

Annual General Meeting and Chair's Address.

NSGGA are also joining Keele University at the Geology Rocks! event at Biddulph Grange Garden on the weekend of 7-8 November

Summer Field Programme 2027 Field Trips

Sunday May 16

Arden Sandstone Field Trip: Leader Stuart Burley (University of Keele)

Extract:

This cultural extravaganza in the former Forest of Arden will explore geological details of the Arden Sandstone, including on-going geoconservation work by WGCG, the historical fossil finds of the Rev. P. Brodie, recent fossil shark discoveries and amphibian footprints along with associated culture-history in west-central Warwickshire encompassing Norman churches, the Grand Union canal, the option of a pub lunch, the De Montfort hill fort (Beaunesert or the 'Mount') and a visit to the Henley Ice Cream shop.

Further details will be available on the NSGGA website.

Date TBC

(Rescheduled from 2026)

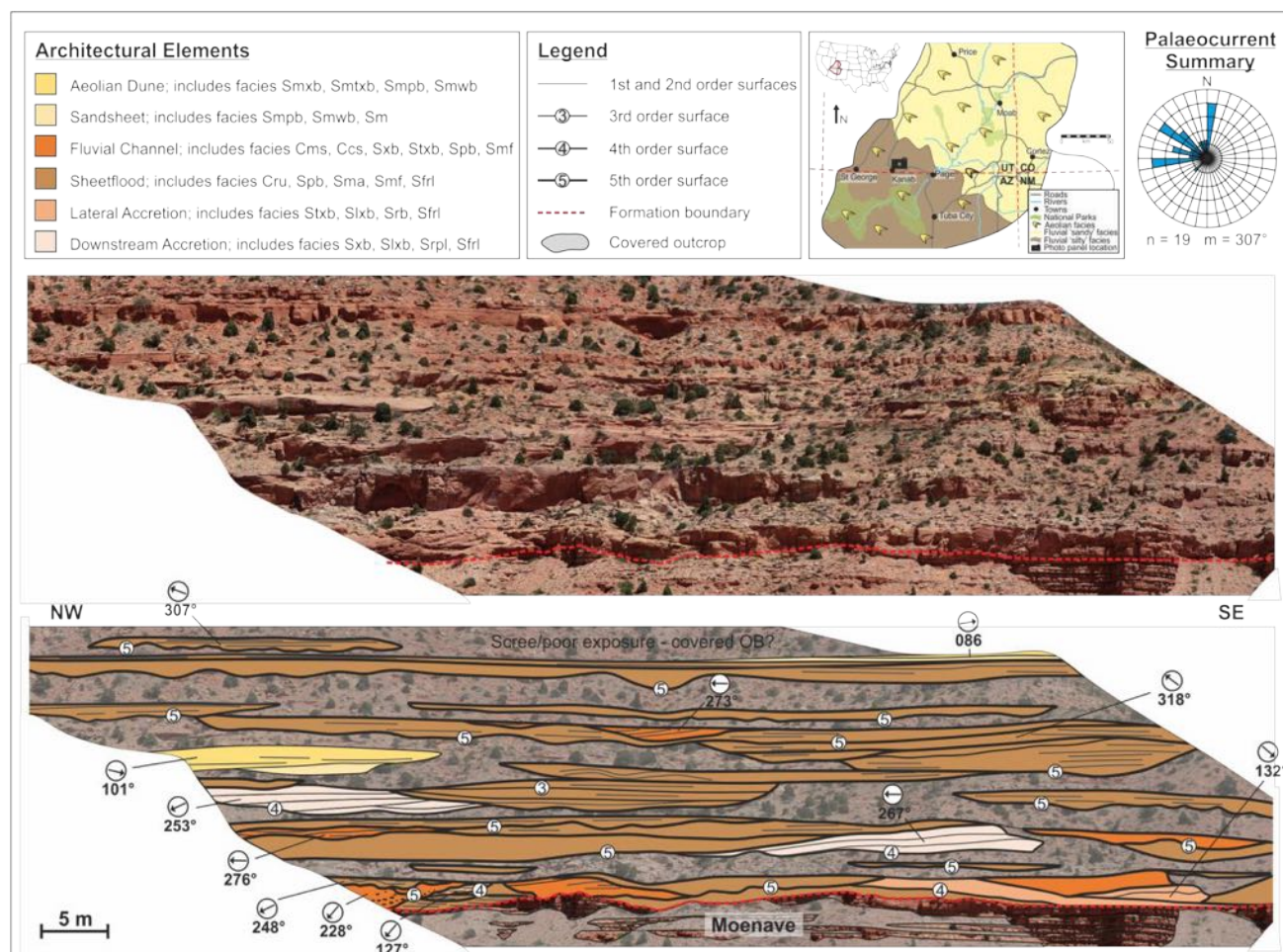
Bradgate Park (including Precambrian outcrops with Charnia fossils): Leader - Dr. J. Carney (BGS)

Winter Lecture Programme 2026

Date: Thursday 8th October 2026 at 19:30 (refreshments from 19:00).

Dryland fluvial systems: From outcrop to reservoir models

Dr Charlotte Priddy (University of Derby).



Abstract: Dryland fluvial systems exhibit interesting sedimentary facies and the spatial extents and downstream variations in sedimentary architecture can be quantified. However, reservoir models capturing the detail and variations of these depositional systems are limited. In this lecture we will travel (virtually) to the southwestern USA to examine the Lower Jurassic Kayenta Formation and investigate how the detailed sedimentary architecture of this dryland fluvial system can affect reservoir characterisation and fluid migration for CO₂ storage.

Date: Thursday 12th November 2026 at 19:30 (refreshments from 19:00).

26th Wolverson Cope Lecture

How geology made the Potteries

Dr Bernard Besly (Retired Independent Consultant, Keele, Staffordshire)



The importance of geology in the industrial and urban development of North Staffordshire is usually reduced to a truism. Workable clays occurring with hot burning, long-flame coal gave the early potters a unique set of resources, and – in consequence – the pottery towns developed along the line of their outcrop. But why did this happen in North Staffordshire rather than the many other coalfield areas that have ample clay and coal? This talk intends to address some of the questions that underlie this set of generalisations. What is so special about the clay? What is “long flame coal” and why was it important for the pottery industry? Did any other geological circumstances lead to dominance of the Stoke area rather than other British Coalfields that also would appear to contain the magical ingredients of coal and clay?

To answer these questions, we need investigate the wider geological history and context:

- the controls on Carboniferous basin evolution that led to the deposition of unusual Coal Measures facies associations of thick palaeosols and algal rich coals;
- the roles of late Carboniferous climate and Variscan deformation in generating kaolinite dominated clays and red-beds of ‘lateritic’ character;
- and finally the ways in which Tertiary and Quaternary uplift and erosion controlled the areas of outcrop that allowed the early industrialists to become established in specific areas of the present city of Stoke-on-Trent.

Potted biography

Bernard Besly moved to Keele University in 1976 to do his PhD on the sedimentology of the Etruria Formation. His career was largely spent working as a sedimentologist in the oil industry, initially with Shell and subsequently as a freelance. Throughout this period he has continued to study the Coal Measures and related Formations in the Midlands, occasionally for money but mainly as a hobby.

The first location (**Location A; GR: SK 01809 71571**) was very near to our meeting point. Gordon McKeown set the scene for the excursion. The visit was to be based around a modified itinerary from the field trip in the excellent 1991 GA Guide the Manchester Area (Eagar and Broadhurst, 1991). We would be looking at sedimentary rocks deposited during the lowest substage of the Westphalian, known as the Langsettian (approximately 315 Ma). Britain crossed the equator during the Carboniferous, migrating northwards and lying within the "ever wet" equatorial zone. This was the climatic basis for the great coal forests and the mires within a vast, flat, alluvial delta plain across much of NW Europe.

We were standing near the centre of the Goyt syncline in a small historical coalfield. Coal (poor quality, sulphurous) was mined from late 17th century until 1919 (Goyt's moss colliery closed earlier in 1893). Coal was used to fuel lime kilns near Buxton (owned by Duke of Devonshire), close proximity to limestone made extraction economical.

Lithologically, the sequence mainly consists of interbedded mudstone, siltstone and sandstone with occasional coal horizons which belong to the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation. The bedding has a shallow dip to the East, reflecting our location on the western limb of the Goyt syncline but very near to the fold axis (Figure 2).

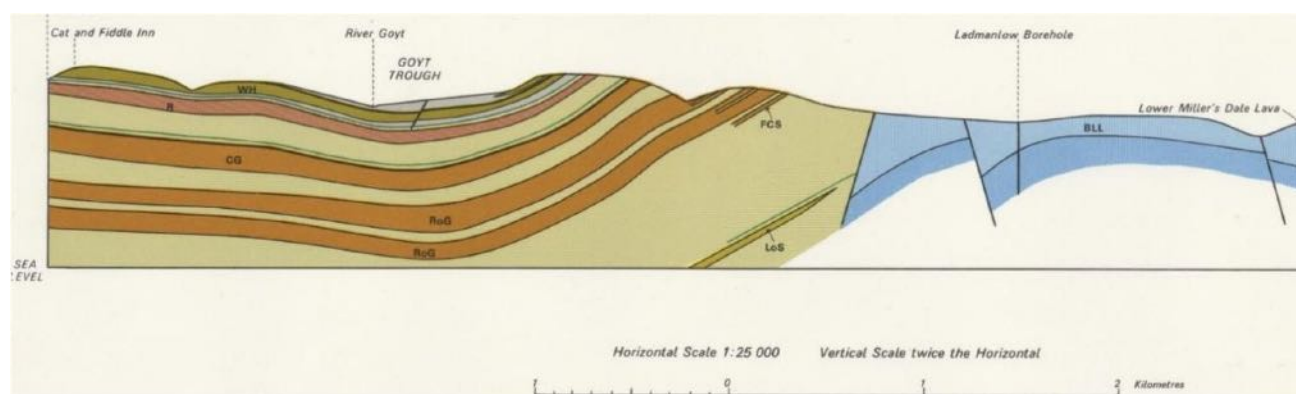


Figure 2: Cross-section showing the Goyt Trough, a syncline structure generated by compressional deformation due to the Variscan Orogeny. Note the location visited (see label 'River Goyt') is very near to the axis of the fold. (Cross-section BGS © UKRI)

Exposures close to the stream at the southern boundary car park were viewed. They consisted of friable shales / mudstones containing dark organic material with more resistant layers in the stream bed and forming a cap at the top of the exposure. A fragmentary Calamities fossil from a loose rock probably from the stream bed was examined. Calamites, a giant horsetail, is one of the characteristic coal swamp fossils.

Locations B (GR: SK 01670 71542) and C (GR: SK 01616 71442) were a short walk to the west from the car park, where it was possible to see evidence of mining in the lower part of the sequence (Figure 3) where Yard or Goyt's Coal was extracted. Gordon also pointed out layering representing minor changes in deposition.

There are cycles within the Westphalian sediments which are thought to be related to cyclic changes in climate and sea level linked to the extent of ice caps and caused by variations of the Earth's orbit around the Sun. These orbital variations, referred to as Milankovitch Cycles, cause changes within Earth's climate over 10s of thousands of years which causes sea level variation that, in turn, influences the sedimentary depositional environment. Three sedimentary cycles (divisions) have been identified within the Lower Westphalian of the Southern Pennines. Upwardly coarsening fluvial and lacustrine sedimentary layers within each cycle are terminated by a marine incursion. Location B shows the lower division. Only the lower and middle divisions are present at Goyt's Moss.



Figure 3: Photo of the outcrop at Location B looking towards the North-East. Note the coal-rich layer at the base of the lower division sequence (photo taken by John Reynolds).

Nearby location C consists of exposures in a small valley carved by a tributary stream. It was selected to afford an opportunity to get up close and “hands on” but rapid vegetation growth since reconnoitring for the trip a few months earlier made this impossible. From a distance, thin laminations in the shales/mudstones and strong iron staining were visible. High iron content in shale typically results from anoxic (oxygen-poor) water conditions that allow dissolved iron to accumulate. Subsequent oxidation during weathering of pyrite results in staining.

Location D (GR: SK 01732 71671) is located on the eastern side of Goyt Valley road and represents the eastern face of the Goyt valley at this point. The strata show a shallow dip to the east because the course of the river Goyt is not strictly central to the syncline. The north south syncline axis lies a few hundred metres further east. The sequence at location D consists of upper sandstone layers lying above shale. It has been suggested (Eagar and Broadhurst, 1991) that a minor unconformity lies at the shale sandstone contact where the sequence at location B has been partly eroded.



Figure 4: Location D by the eastern side of the road descending into the Goyt valley. The controversial normal fault is located to the extreme left of the photograph, further down the road (photo taken by John Reynolds).

A few yards further on a normal fault is visible although partly obscured by scree. It has an east west strike (so perpendicular to the syncline axis, river and road). The group were asked to suggest whether the downthrow is to the north or south. Eagar and Broadhurst (1991) and Cope (1999) describe a southern downthrow but on the BGS 1:25000 map (Geological sheet SK 07, Buxton) it is marked as being on the north side. Gordon supported the BGS view based on sandstone on the left of the fault at least superficially looking like sandstone lying several metres higher to the south and a lower exposure height measured from road level on the north. Not conclusive though...

Our last location (**Location E; GR: SK 01690 71872**) was near to Derbyshire Bridge which spans the River Goyt that marked the boundary between Derbyshire and Cheshire. The location enabled close inspection of the thin coal layers underlain by seatearths showing clear evidence of fossil root systems (Figure 5).



Figure 5a: NSGGA members observing the outcrop at Location E (photo taken by Gordon McKeown). b) Close-up of seatearth with fossil roots (photo taken by Stuart Egan)

Two fossils from location E collected during an earlier visit were inspected. Both are parts of *cordiates* - a leaf impression and *Artisia* the pith cast of the plant stem. *Cordiates* are primitive conifer relatives.



Figure 6: Field trip leader, Gordon McKeown making sure that everyone was paying close attention to the rocks! (photo taken by John Reynolds).

All those attending the excursion had a very enjoyable evening and expressed thanks to Gordon McKeown for leading the trip and to Steve Alcock (NSGGA Field Secretary) for organising.

Reading suggestions and references:

- Aitkenhead, N., Chisholm, J.I. and Stevenson, I.P., 1985. Geology of the country around Buxton, Leek, and Bakewell: memoir for 1: 50000 geological sheet 111 (England and Wales). BGS.
- Cleal, C.J. and Thomas, B.A., 2013. British Upper Carboniferous Stratigraphy. Springer Science & Business Media.
- Cope, F.W., 1999. The Peak District (No. 26). Geologists' Association.
- Cope, F.W., 1998. Geology explained in the Peak District. Scarthin Books, Cromford, Derbyshire.
- Eagar, R.M.C. and Broadhurst, F.M., 1991. Geology of the Manchester area. Geologist's Association Guide Number 7.
- Goyt's Moss GeoGuide, Scottish Geology Trust:
https://geoguide.scottishgeologytrust.org/p/gcr11/gcr11_goyt

Regional geological background:

- Collinson, J. and Rosen, B.R., 2024. The Southern Pennines. Liverpool University Press.
- Waters, C.N. and Davies, S.J., 2006. Carboniferous: extensional basins, advancing deltas and coal swamps. In: The geology of England and Wales/edited by PJ Brenchley and PF Rawson. Geological Society of London, 2006, pp.173-223.

Report written by Gordon McKeown and Stuart Egan (NSGGA)

Lathkill Dale

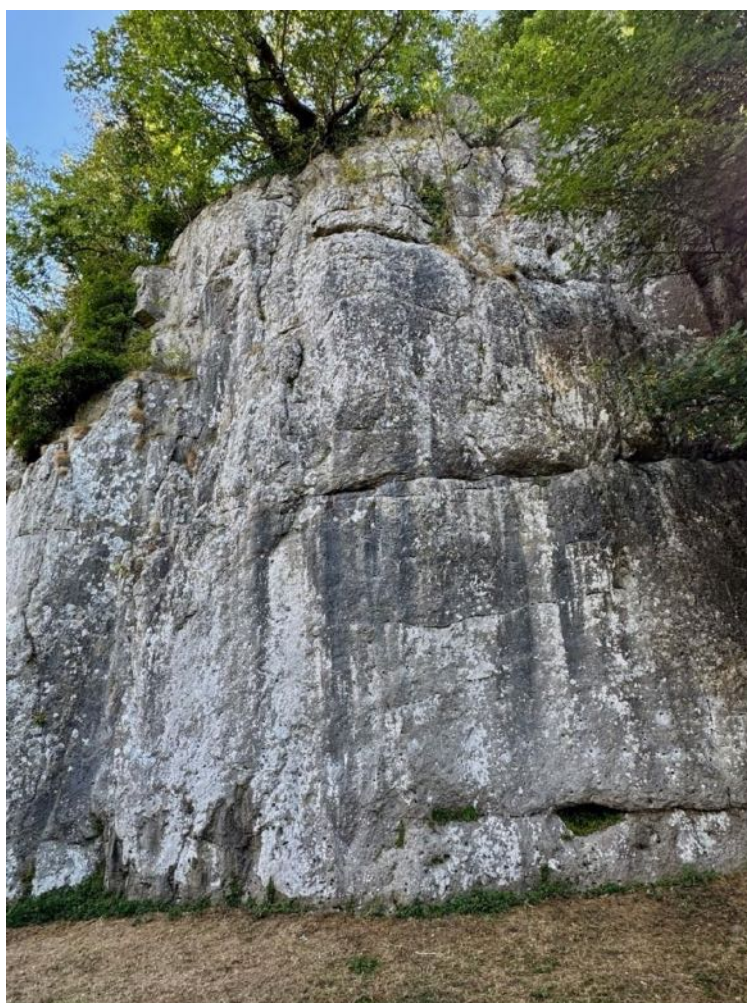
Thursday 12th August 2026 @ 10:00

Leader: Dr. Vanessa Banks (BGS)

This field excursion was attended by 12 participants from the EMGS and NSGGA with the temperature reaching 30°C!

Vanessa 'kicked off' the day with a brief introduction and then a quick communication exercise, where each attendee was asked to introduce themselves, outline their reason for coming on the field trip and highlight any geological/geographical expertise/experience.

Our first 'port of call' was a short walk along the River Bradford just south-west of our starting point (where the River Bradford crosses the Youlgrave Rd, at Alport). This was a large exposure of Eyam Limestone (Figure 1) of Brigantian age (Upper Visean) that has been interpreted to be made up of mud mounds. Vanessa didn't



tell us what it was to begin with but asked us to inspect it and try to come up with an identification. It is massively bedded and extremely vuggy in appearance, almost lava-like in places. Apparently the vugs are caused by fossils being weathered out of the mud mound. The majority of fossils found in these mud mounds are brachiopods with some corals and crinoids. Indeed, where they hadn't been weathered out, several attendees saw evidence of brachiopods.

Figure 1: Eyam Limestone showing massive bedding (Photograph by Stuart Egan)

We then walked on a little further to observe interbedded dark black chert bands in the Eyam Limestone (Figure 2). There was much debate about how it had formed. Chert is composed primarily of crystalline quartz and can be of either biological or chemical origin. At Alport, it is thought to be primarily of biological origin, formed from the remains of siliceous organisms.



Figure 2: Eyam Limestone showing dark black chert bands (Photograph by Stuart Egan)

The first part of the excursion concluded with evidence of historical lead mining in the Alport area, including old waste dumps now fortunately grassed over. The mineralisation is primarily controlled by faulting. Vanessa talked at some length about the water issues that the miners had faced and the measures they took to keep the mines dry which included the use of soughs (underground drainage channels/adits). Even in recent times, these soughs can become blocked and result in stability issues due to extreme porewater pressure (e.g. Hillcarr Sough).

We now retraced our steps to our start point and headed up the Lathkill valley towards Over Haddon. Vanessa had already outlined in her field trip abstract that we would be looking at the Eyam Limestone Formation, Monsal Dale Limestone Formation, basaltic lavas and tufa deposits. In addition, Vanessa provided us with insight into the stream hydrology, water resources and landscape history.

Our next stop was to take time to look at the landscape and in particular the topography, trying to identify the geological processes that had shaped the area and looking to see what features could be identified. Examples included dolines/sinkholes, buried channels, dry valleys and evidence for historical quarrying, etc. At the next stop we identified a number of tufa blocks, Vanessa led a lively discussion on possible mechanisms that had caused the formation of this tufa deposit. Opinions included glaciation and subsequent periglacial activity, regional stress changes, hydrological changes as a result of climate change, etc.



*Figure 3: Photo of the River Lathkill with water still present despite the summer heat wave!
(Photograph by Stuart Egan)*

We pushed on via the Haddon Estate and the medieval village of Conksbury, recorded as Cranchesberie in the Domesday Book (1086) as part of William the Conqueror's lands. We stopped to look at an outcrop of basaltic lavas which were exposed in the upper reaches of the valley showing a vesicular texture as well as evidence of crude columnar jointing. Evidence of volcanic activity in the Carboniferous dates to circa 330 Ma.

From here we went onto Bubble Springs where there was considerable evidence of tufa deposits. Bubble Springs is a limestone resurgence and cave site in Lathkill Dale. It is known for water bubbling up through a tufa deposit and is associated with the historic Lathkill Sough, a 1740s lead-mining drainage tunnel. Given the current drought conditions, it was not unsurprising that there was no water bubbling up today.

Further on, we reached the junction between the Lower Lathkill and Upper Lathkill and saw no water at all, evidence that underground mining and karstic development of caverns upstream has enabled any water to disappear below ground.

In the limestone blocks making up a pathway across the Lathkill Dale, there was a significant presence of *Gigantoproductus*. This species was the largest of the Carboniferous brachiopods. Such huge invertebrates appeared in the Mississippian as the proportion of oxygen in the atmosphere began to rise. The earliest members of the Productida date back to the Silurian period, and *Gigantoproductus* is known to have existed between 339.4 and 318.1 Ma, during the Carboniferous period. We now faced a quite arduous climb from the valley floor to the village of Over Haddon for a well-earned lunch break at the Lathkil Hotel where a ham baguette

and cold lager were thoroughly enjoyed whilst looking at the breathtaking scenery of this part of the Peak District (Figure 4).



Figure 4: View towards the South from Over Haddon (Photograph by Stuart Egan)

After a well-earned rest, we proceeded along the head of the valley on the eastern side towards Alport. Here we could see the extent of valley incision and river capture, allowing us to imagine how the lower Lathkill had captured the upper Lathkill. It was also easy to see from our viewpoint that whilst the lower Lathkill still has water, albeit lower than usual, the upper Lathkill was dry.

Walking back towards Alport along Dark Lane we observed black fissile shales / mudstones of the Bowland Shale Formation (Asbian to Yeadonian in age), previously known as the Edale Shales. These are said to contain fossils in discrete bands, sadly we didn't find any.

Finally, as we approached the outskirts of Alport, we were treated to a huge exposure of barrage tufa (Figure 5), probably around 125,000 years old (Ipswichian). This is a young, spring- or stream-deposited limestone, formed when calcium-carbonate-rich groundwater emerges and loses carbon dioxide. Calcite then precipitates around moss, grass, twigs and other vegetation, producing a porous, often irregular deposit. Here the deposit is laterally extensive and at least 10m thick, probably more but we couldn't determine how much was underground at this point.



Figure 5: Tufa deposits at Alport. (Photograph by Stuart Egan)

We had now reached our final destination. We thanked Vanessa for a very enjoyable day and set off for home, a cold shower and a refreshing drink.

Further reading:

- Aitkenhead, N., Chisholm, J.I. and Stevenson, I.P. 1985. [Geology of the country around Buxton, Leek and Bakewell Memoir for 1:50 000 geological sheet 111 \(England and Wales\)](#). HMSO. 168pp.
- Carniti, A.P., Della Porta, G., Banks, V.J. Revisiting the upper Visian mud mounds from Derbyshire (UK): the role of brachiopods in their growth. *Facies* 69, 9 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10347-023-00663-w>
- Gutteridge, P. (1995). Late Dinantian (Brigantian) Carbonate Mud-Mounds of the Derbyshire Carbonate Platform. In *Carbonate Mud-Mounds* (eds C.L.V. Monty, D.W.J. Bosence, P.H. Bridges and B.R. Pratt). <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781444304114.ch9>
- Nolan, L.S.P., Angiolini, L., Jadoul, F., Della Porta, G., Davies, S.J., Banks, V.J., Stephenson, M.H. and Leng, M.J. 2017. Sedimentary context and palaeoecology of *Gigantoproductus* shell beds in the Mississippian Eyam Limestone Formation, Derbyshire carbonate platform, central England. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society* (2017) 61 (4): 239–257. <https://doi.org/10.1144/pygs2017-393>
- Pedley, H.M., Hill, I., Denton, P. and Brasington, J. 2000. Three-dimensional modelling of a Holocene tufa system in the Lathkill Valley, north Derbyshire, using ground-penetrating radar. *Sedimentology*, 47: 721–737. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-3091.2000.00324.x>

Report written by Stephen Addison (NSGGA)

NSGGA News

John Myers Award 2026



The John Myers Medal

The prize is awarded to the best dissertation completed by a final year BSc Geology student at Keele University based on the recommendation of a panel consisting of members of the NSGGA.

This prize is administered by the NSGGA in honour of the distinguished geoscientist and teacher John Myers BSc FRGS FGS who gave a 60-year contribution to the understanding of Geology in North Staffordshire and beyond. From 1927 he taught at Wolstanton Grammar School for 40 years and began evening classes at "Stoke Tech" (now Staffordshire University), encouraging members to join the Geologists' Association and thus was born the NSGGA in 1948. In the 1950s and 60s he helped Keele University Postgraduate Certificate of Education students with a teaching methods course, joining the staff of the Education Department in 1967 on his retirement from teaching. Also, in 1967, he was a Founding Father of the Association of Teachers of Geology that had its inaugural meeting at Keele, at which he was elected Treasurer, a post he held for 10 years. His daughter, Ann Myatt, has generously funded the John Myers Award in his memory.

This year the panel decided that the award should go to two joint winners, **Thomas Creaser and Robert Staniford**. Both students worked on projects investigating cyclicity within the Carboniferous limestones at Llangollen, Wales using drone-based photogrammetry.



Chair of NSGGA, Stuart Egan, presenting the John Myers' Award 2026 to Thomas Creaser (left) and Robert Staniford (right)

Colin Prosser MBE

We are pleased to report to Members of NSGGA and GeoConservation Staffs that Colin Prosser, Natural England's recently retired Head of Geological Conservation, has been awarded an MBE in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours list for his services to geoconservation.

A summary of his work is reported in the current edition (no 65) of Earth Heritage magazine (see next item) and a similar one will likely be included in the next GA Magazine.

Colin is a long-term member of the Geologists' Association Council, being President (2016-2018) and currently Chair of Geoconservation. His work has involved pressing governments to include geological conservation in all areas of legislation involving the environment. These have included:

- Work on designating SSSIs and defending them at Public Inquiries;
- Getting geoheritage included in the 2002 Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, enabling many Groups to obtain funding for geology trails, including our Hamps and Manifold, Churnet Valley and Cannock Chase Geotrails, and educational activities, including Earth Science On-Site, with teaching activities for Park Hall [Hulme Quarries], Apes Tor & Ecton Hill, The National Stone Centre, Ercall Quarries and eleven other sites.
- Ensuring that geoconservation was included in the 2005 version of the Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. This opened the door for UKRIGS to get RIGS [geological sites] into the 2006 version of DEFRA's Local Sites Guidance;
- Serving on the UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks, contributing to the establishment of the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Much research and support for all aspects of geoconservation over many years

Report written by John Reynolds (NSGGA)

Earth Heritage Magazine

NSGGA Members may be interested in this FREE magazine:

Earth Heritage is produced twice-yearly by the Geologists' Association, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Quaternary Research Association.

It can be downloaded free as a pdf file from www.earthheritage.org.uk.

You can also purchase a hard copy of any issue

via: www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/earthheritage.

Subscribe to notifications of new issues at www.earthheritage.org.uk/subscribe.

Membership Renewal

NSGGA Membership runs from October to October so you should consider renewing your membership for 2026/2027. Full membership remains £13; family membership £15; retired/unwaged £10. Student membership is free.

The simplest way to renew is by electronic money transfer to the NSGGA Account, using the reference part to indicate what you are paying for.

- Sort Code: 20-59-23
- A/C Number: 60494704
- Account Name: North Staffs Group of the Geologists Association

Reference: What you are paying for, e.g. "1xFull Member"

If you wish to pay by cheque, or indeed join the NSGGA, please complete the form at the end of the Bulletin.

NSGGA Committee

We have almost a complete contingent of executive officers but **we still do not have a Vice-Chair.**

Chair: Stuart Egan (e-mail: nsgga.cha@gmail.com)

Vice-Chair: Vacant position

General Secretary: Stephen Addison (email: nsgga.sec@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Tony Marks (4 Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook, Stoke-on-Trent, ST11 9AN; email: welsh_tony@tiscali.co.uk)

Membership Secretary: Janet Osborn (Stretton, 2 Croyde Place, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7XD; email: janetmosborn@googlemail.com)

Speakers Secretary: Peter Jones (e-mail: p.f.jones@derby.ac.uk)

Field Secretary: Steve Alcock (Longfields, Park Lane, Cheddleton, near Leek ST13 7J; e-mail: steves261@aol.com)

GeoConservation Staffordshire Liaison Officer: Dr Ian Stimpson (e-mail: igs@nsgga.org)

Bulletin Secretary: Adrienne Noble (e-mail: nsgga.bul@gmail.com)

Social Media Secretary: Will Shaw (e-mail: nsgga.soc@gmail.com)

Executive Committee (elected): Bernard Besly, John Reynolds, Miranda Goodby

Honorary Life Member: Ann Myatt

We are always on the look-out for "new blood" to join the executive committee. If you would like to stand for a particular position, just join the committee in an ex-officio role to see it in action first, or are just curious as to what it might involve, please contact the Chair, Stuart Egan (nsgga.cha@gmail.com)

Peter Jones and Steven Alcock have confirmed that they wish to retire from their respective roles in 2027 and Stuart Egan and Stephen Addison have offered to take over their roles.

This still leaves the Vice-Chair role unfilled and as from March 2027, the Chair role will become vacant.

NSGGA web pages: www.nsgga.org

NSGGA - Next Committee Meeting:

Thursday 5^h November, 2026 @ 7pm via Zoom.

Events of Other Societies

Geologists' Association

Meetings at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1V 0JU. Hybrid lectures commence at 18.00

Friday 2 October

Hybrid: *Thirty years of discovery at the UK's largest dinosaur track site in north Oxfordshire* – Prof Kirsty Edgar

Friday 4 December

Hybrid: *Title TBC* - Dr Holly Elliott

More details at www.geologistsassociation.org.uk

Black Country Geological Society

Indoor meetings at Lamp Tavern at 116 High Street, Dudley, DY1 1QT. Lectures commence at 20.00.

Monday 21 September

Lecture: *Scanning, HBIM and AI adoption : An opportunity for the Black Country Global Geopark* - Andrew Stott (Head of Knowledge Transfer at the University of Wolverhampton).

Sunday 27 September

Field Event: *Wren's Nest 70th Anniversary Walk* - Andy Harrison

Sunday 11 October

Field Event: *Smestow Valley and Erratics at Wightwick Manor and the Mount Hotel* - Andy Harrison and Julie Schroder

Monday 19 October

Lecture: *The Ediacaran Biota of Charnwood Forest: the behind the scenes story* - Dr. Mike Howe (Chief Curator and Head of the National Geological Repository at the British Geological Survey)

Monday 16 November

Lecture: *Bringing Forward the Past: Black Country Geology, Past, Present and Future : Part 2.* - Graham Worton (BCGS Chair and Keeper of Geology for Dudley).

More details at www.bcgs.info

Cumberland Geological Society.

For further information please visit the website: <https://www.cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk/>
No Events.

East Midlands Geological Society

Indoor meetings at the Clive Granger Building, University of Nottingham. NG7 2RD and in the 2026/27 season will start at the slightly later time of 18:15.

Saturday October 31

Lecture: *Polygons, palsas and pingos in the periglacial landscape of the East Midlands* - Dr Colin Baker

Saturday November 14

Lecture: *From the bog to the sea: the Mull Dyke Swarm* - Professor Joe Cartwright

Saturday December 12

Lecture: *TBC* - Dr Karen Hanghøj

More details at www.emgs.org.uk

East Midlands Regional Group of the Geological Society

De La Beche Conference Suite, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham

More details at www.geolsoc.org.uk/emrg

See entry below for **North West Regional Group of the Geological Society**

Liverpool Geological Society

September 2026

Meetings at the Central Teaching Hub, University of Liverpool on Tuesdays starting at 19:30.

October 6

Lecture: *Presidential Address – Colonel Martin Amlôt*

October 20

Lecture: *Pediment Surfaces - Dr. Janet Richardson (Edge Hill University)*

October 27

Lecture: *Huge hot blobs may have made Earth's magnetic field wonky - Professor Andy Biggin (University of Liverpool)*

November 17

Lecture: *Kefalonia – a new plate boundary and perhaps the site of Homer's Ithaca - Professor Peter Styles (Keele University)*

December 1

Lecture: *Geohazards in the Peak District - Dr. Vanessa Banks (BGS)*

More details at liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org

Manchester Geological Association

Indoor meetings at the Williamson Building, University of Manchester.

Saturday October 17

Annual Broadhurst Lectures (3):

- The Geology of Hadrian's Wall and how it influenced those who lived there - Ian Jackson (author and podcaster)
- Mapping glacial erratics across the country - Les Knight
- Forensic Geophysics - Dr Jamie Pringle (Keele University)

Saturday November 21

Lectures (3):

- Sub-ice surface in Antarctica - Dr Guy Paxman
- Hydrothermal alteration of mid oceanic ridge basalts and insights into CO₂ storage and ocean floor tectonics - Dr David McNamara (Liverpool University)
- Yorkshire: land of ice and water - Professor Mark Bateman

Saturday December 12

Lectures (2):

- Future prospects for hydrocarbons in UK waters - Professor Jonathan Redfern
- Fossil footprints of the North Yorkshire coast - John Hodgson

More Details at www.manchestergeology.org.uk

North West Regional Group of the Geological Society

More details at www.geolsoc.org.uk/Groups-and-Networks/Regional-Groups/North-West

Lectures available for public access at Burlington House, W1J 0BG, or via Zoom.

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/>

Shropshire Geological Society

Meetings are at 7:15pm, lived streamed on Zoom and held in person at The Methodist Centre, Lansdowne Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0HZ

October 14

Hybrid: *The Chengjiang Lagerstatte - Prof David Siveter (University of Leicester)*

November 11

Hybrid: *Geology of the Himalayas - Prof Peter Treloar (Kingston University)*

December 9

Hybrid: *Quaternary Geology of Shropshire - Mike Streetly (Shropshire Geological Society)*

More details at www.shropshiregeology.org.uk/SGS/SGSintro.html

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Indoor meetings at Kenilworth St Francis of Assisi Church, Kenilworth CV8 1LQ and via Zoom.

Sunday 11 October

Field Event: *Smestow Valley and Erratics at Wightwick Manor and the Mount Hotel* - Andy Harrison and Julie Schroder (In conjunction with BCGS)

Thursday October 15 @ 19:15

Hybrid: *Geology & Industrial Archaeology of Harlech* – Allison Barraclough (President, GA)

Register in advance to attend virtually:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WNDsw2L8Q1CYSg_AUxmBxQ

More details at www.wgcs.co.uk

West Midlands Regional Group of the Geological Society

More details at www.geolsoc.org.uk/Groups-and-Networks/Regional-Groups/West-Midlands

See entry above for **North West Regional Group of the Geological Society**

Western Institute of Mining and Minerals

Indoor meetings are held at the William Smith Building, Keele University, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, and via Zoom.

www.iom3.org/group/western-institute-of-mining-and-minerals-wimm/meetings.html

Bulletin produced for the NSGGA by Adrienne Noble, NSGGA Bulletin Secretary

NSGGA MEMBERSHIP 2026/2027. Subscriptions due from October 1st

Membership Rates

Ordinary (Full)	£13.00
Family	£15.00
Retired/Unemployed	£10.00
Student	£ 0.00

Voluntary Contribution to Myers Award:

The John Myers Award is presented annually to a student at Keele University. John Myers gave a 60-year contribution to the understanding of Geology in North Staffordshire and beyond. From 1927 he taught at Wolstanton Grammar School for 40 years and began evening classes at "Stoke Tech" [now Staffordshire University], encouraging members to join the Geologists' Association of London. Thus was born the NSGGA in 1948. In the 1950s and 60s he helped Keele University Postgraduate Certificate of Education students with a teaching methods course, joining the staff of the Education Department in 1967 on his retirement from teaching. Also, in 1967, he was a Founding Father of the Association of Teachers of Geology that had its inaugural meeting at Keele, at which he was elected Treasurer, a post he held for 10 years. His daughter Ann has generously funded the John Myers Awards in his memory.

Continuing Members (New Members please see below)

The simplest way to renew is by electronic money transfer to the NSGGA Account, using the reference part to indicate what you are paying for.

- Sort Code: 20-59-23
- A/C Number: 60494704
- Account Name: North Staffs Group of the Geologists Association

Reference: What you are paying for, e.g. "1xFull Member"

If you wish to pay by cheque, or indeed join the NSGGA, please complete the form at the end of the Bulletin.

NSGGA Membership Application

Membership Type and cost:

Ordinary (Full) £13.00

Family * £15.00

Retired/Unemployed £10.00

Student ** £ 0.00

Voluntary Contribution to Myers Award (see previous information).

Please complete the form below for membership type and details and for UK GDPR communication purposes and return to the Membership Secretary

For our records, are you currently a member of the national GA? yes ☐ no ☐

Membership Type	Ordinary / Family / Retired / Student/ Unemployed
Course (Student only)	
Name(s)	
Payment	
Donation to Myers Award (optional)	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email	
Contact Consent (delete if not applicable)	Post Email Text

* For insurance purposes, please list the names of all members of the household to be included for family membership

** Students please name your **full-time** course

You can pay either directly using internet banking (details as for membership renewal above) or by cheque (details below)

Cheques should be made payable to the: **North Staffs Group of the Geologists Association** and sent to:

Janet Osborn (NSGGA Membership Secretary),

Stretton, 2 Croyde Place, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7XD.

e-mail: janetmosborn@googlemail.com