



BROADSHEET

TVGS has many activities under way and many plans for the future. The purpose of this broadsheet is to give a report to members and friends on all of these topics as of December 2015. If you feel inclined to take more interest in any of them, DO tell us!

MISSION

The mission of TVGS is the discovery and conservation of the geology of the Teme Valley, education in the science of geology and support for the local economy through these efforts.

REGULAR EVENTS

EVENING LECTURES

The regular evening meetings autumn thru spring are the main attraction for members and non-members alike and give a platform to inform attendees of forthcoming events, progress on ongoing projects and so on apart from listening to what have been invariably well-received lectures. The Rock of the Month slot is enthusiastically supported and allows those who are not always used to talking in public a chance in front of a friendly group. The well-stocked library has its main outings on these evenings and a good number of members make use of the facilities offered.



FIELD TRIPS

The Society believes that trips to sites of geological interest form a key part of the organisation and will promote these. We hope to organise overnight or even longer trips too.



ANNUAL DINNER

Initiated in 2014, the Xmas dinner proved popular. It was repeated with equal success in 2015 and should, we believe, be a permanent



fixture on our events calendar.

MEMBERS' EVENING

2015 saw the first 'Members' Evening' when several short presentations by members plus refreshments made for a most enjoyable and relaxing time. Another event to be repeated we feel.

THREE PUBS' CHALLENGE

A geologically themed walk from Martley (The Crown) via Berrow Green (the Admiral Rodney) to Knightwick (The Talbot) attracted around 30 participants in its first year and through its route and guidance notes promoted interest in the geology of the area. A repeat in 2016 is planned, possibly over the same route.



DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITIONS

TVGS maintains a stock of kit to use at displays and exhibitions, for example the GA festival in November in London, Martley Show in August, the Chantry School Applefest in October and others. In November 15 we exhibited and spoke at Buxton on the occasion of a conference on geo-tourism in the Peak District. We enjoy



the opportunities that these shows offer—meeting others (not always geologists) from all over the country, learning from them, sharing our ideas and publicising TVGS. This latter is very important indeed as it results in groups visiting the Teme valley sometimes for several days, thereby helping us achieve our aims of supporting the local economy and geology education.

ROCK CAKE COMPETITION

TVGS sponsored a competition to make the best cake showing geological features. This was a great success and will be repeated. Ideas were found on the Internet when searching for images of geological cakes.

SOCIETY VISITS

As a result of our publicity, mainly through our stand at the GA in November, we have welcomed a dozen societies to our area. Usually we are asked to lead them around our sites and this has been a most enjoyable experience. Two of us who live



locally, know the area and something of the geology have fulfilled this role but there is room for more members to help out as needs arise.

WALK LEADER TRAINING

As a result of society visits, we will organise formal walk leader training, most likely through Rights of Way at Worcestershire country Council. In addition, for our walk leaders, more in depth knowledge of local geology would be most useful so training here too is planned.

WORKING PARTIES

TVGS is committed to maintaining geological sites, these currently being all within Martley parish. These are Martley Rock with three interpretation boards and half a dozen supplementary boards, Lower House Quarry, the Nubbins and the Chasm, each with one interpretation board. A team of volunteers clears away undergrowth, rakes leaves, cleans signs and so on. Our Sites' Manager operates the timetable. We have leaflet dispensers at Chantry School, opposite Crown pub in central Martley and at Martley Rock. Stocks at these places are maintained by the secretary.

OTHER

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH

TVGS feels it is important to support and encourage appropriate academic pursuits that support its mission. To this end we have projects under way or planned. The first of these is the Knighton Mapping Project, managed by Dr Arthur Tingley with a team of 7 or 8 already active and being trained in field mapping techniques on a project that will last around 3 years, say until 2017. Locally educated Tom Jones, now studying for his PhD at Durham, with Dr Olver as mentor, will lead a project to study Haffield Breccia deposits around the region. This will involve visiting sites, collecting samples, sectioning and examining them under the microscope. Around a dozen members have expressed interest, with work due to start early 2016. Another idea is the collection of a representative sample of all the fossils from the Teme Valley and to display these in similar way to the formations' samples.



ACCESSIBILITY

TVGS recognises the importance of accessible routes. Whilst Martley Rock IS reasonably accessible, and has its own car park, most local walks are not. Some of the

routes have been trialled by a mobility scooter. Working in partnership with the Path-or-Nones, a group that maintains Martley's rights of way, it is hoped that certain pathways may be made more easily negotiable through the removal of stiles to be replaced by self-closing gates.

BUILDING STONES PROJECT

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust received major funding to identify buildings made wholly or partly from stone, and matching the stone to source quarries. This project has around a year left. TVGS has contributed to the study but some surveying and data entry work remains to be done. This will re-commence in early 2016.

CAREERS

TVGS is keen to encourage and support those studying geology and who either have attend local educational establishments or live locally. There are many ways we can do this, finance being only one of them, opportunities such as leading or part leading academic projects, another.

MEMBERS

TVGS membership runs from AGM to AGM, i.e. November to November. At this time membership is £8 or free to those in full time education, there are no concessions or discounts for couples or families. This keeps it simple and

well worth the amount, given that non-members pay £3 for each evening lecture whereas members pay £1.

COUNTRY MEMBERS

TVGS offers Country Membership at half the annual full members rate for those living 50 or more miles away.

EDUCATION

Apart from the society's ambitions relating to school and university students, regular courses in relevant topics of geology for adults and for school children will form a major plank of the Society's aims. Working with school children from the eleven primary schools in the valley is seen as vital for the future of the science and the society.

The methods and practice of 'logging' a rock exposure is a topic we wish to provide learning in, too.

FUNDS



LEADER (European) funding was behind the creation of TVGS. To secure the funding a formal society with bank account was a pre-requisite. Further funding IS available and we have a wish list of projects that might qualify. This type of funding does not support the day to day operations of the Society. Expenses are incurred e.g. when re-printing leaflets (we give these away freely but they cost around 25p each, so whether we should charge is a good question, but would a charge restrict their use and limit visitors?). Money is also needed to purchase library books, to finance visiting speakers if the takings in an evening do not cover these, to buy refreshments, for hall hire, printing of posters and pictures, web site hosting, domain name registration and so on. Many expenses are not claimed, for example travel costs by our team to London for the GA display, for local deliveries and collections, miscellaneous purchases such as items for displays and other where it would seem churlish to bill.

The Geologists Association (GA) gives us access to a number of funds often specific to a purpose, for example there is a JCB fund! We are mindful that money is there and all we have to do is frame a case for it to come our way. The Knighton mapping project received a small grant from the GA and our recent symposium received considerable funding from the same source.

GEO-VILLAGES PROJECT

A Geo-Village is a community that has distinctive geology within its bounds, has a policy of locally managed geological discovery and conservation, has developed a viable educational offer for both school pupils and adults and is using its geological assets in support of the local economy.

Martley is a leading light in this movement, probably *the* leading light. We see geology *in the community* as the key attractor with other layers added to it such as local food producers, artists, crafts persons, farmers and so on, all of whom can offer something to entice the visitor. This offering may be visits, hands-on trials (pottery, art, baking), classes, farm meals, purchase of local products (Honey, biscuits, woollen goods and so on). TVGS is equipped to mentor other communities wishing to use their geology to assist in support and rejuvenation of their local economy. There are many, many habitations in this country and abroad with fantastic local geology untapped as a resource. The GeoVillage movement aims to address this.

At the time of writing we are editing a paper prepared by Polish Professor Mazurski, expert in Geo-Tourism, who came to our symposium. He has used our materials for a forthcoming internationally distributed paper on Geo-Villages.

LIBRARY

Our library is an asset of growing importance and reputation and we are very lucky to have a professional librarian and geological enthusiast as our librarian. TVGS adds to the library in accordance with members' wishes and as opportunities arise to secure historical documents relevant to the area. Library contents are found in detail on the Society web site.

We have recently taken delivery of a large collection of 'proceedings', to be catalogued, listed on the web site and stored, available for research.

YOUNG PERSONS

The Society sees working with young persons, especially those of primary school age as critical to its future and to the future of the science. Several courses in geology have been completed for primary schoolchildren and we plan for these to continue. The key is personal contact with teaching staff at each of the eleven valley primary schools. A member of the committee has volunteered for this role.



We have also observed (in our visit to Sentheim in France) the impact that a professional story teller has when asked to teach geology to children. We hope to introduce this to schools and for it to become established on our calendar. To date though we have had some discussion with professional this has not progressed. Help or suggestions from those who read this would be most useful.

Rockwatch is the junior national geological society run by the Geologists Association, similar to Junior RSPB (Royal

Society for the Protection of Birds). Among the other activities that we hope to bring to young persons, this is one that we would encourage them to join. Children attending Rockwatch events have to be accompanied by their parents.

H&W Earth Heritage Trust does a marvellous job at shows, with plenty of activities for children. We have a catalogue of these but to date, in the absence of volunteers, have not been able to action them.

SYMPOSIUM

Most will be aware that we ran a successful symposium in Ludlow in October 15. We are already discussing another in a couple of years' time.



PUBLICITY

Apart from the web site and regular but hopefully not too often, email updates, we usually produce a few posters for our evening talks, and one of our volunteers writes a note for local parish magazines. We considered Facebook some time ago but it did not really gain traction. The writer is of the opinion that FB DOES need to be activated—anyone keen to help? Twitter one of our committee members uses on occasion and have developed through its use some useful contacts. However reluctant some of us might feel about using social media, it is a powerful tool for publicity and communication and cannot be ignored.

MERCHANDISE

We had initial thoughts on developing items to sell at the displays we attend. So far this has been restricted to copies of the excellent Audit of Martley Geology and prints of a local geological map. Whether we wish to extend this further (mugs, tea shirts, provender etc) is up for discussion.

PHOTO GALLERIES

We plan to uplift to the website sets of a few photos from each of our activities, field trips and so on

WEB SITE

TVGS maintains a website—www.geo-village.eu. The object of the website is as a platform and repository for all that happens in the society—events past and future with additional information as appropriate, blogs on society activities, library lists and much more. The site is written so that others are able to contribute and to some extent this has started. The design is simple; at this stage no videos, clever graphics etc as some sites have. That is partly because the webmaster does not see the need, have the time or even the expertise! If others feel we need to raise the stakes then let's do it.

Someone recently suggested a TVGS newsletter. Black Country GS produce a very successful example, distributed by email. In the writer's opinion the creation of a regular updated newsletter, properly laid out with sufficient copy is an onerous and never ending task, much more than the maintenance of a web site. What do others think?

TRAILS

There are three geological trails in Martley Parish along with 8 or 9 country walks and the GeoParkWay, length 109 miles from Bridgenorth to Gloucester passes through the centre of the village. Geology Trail 1 entitled Martley Loop, is 6.6 miles long, Geology Trail 2 entitled Martley Village, Traversing the Divide, is 2.3 miles long, Geology Trail 3, Martley Parish the Highs and Lows, length 5.6 miles. An attractively maintained map display and leaflet dispenser, with picnic table is found in the centre of the village. All local trails have free, fully illustrated leaflets, originally

financed via LEADER. If further funding becomes available, plans are mooted for additional geology trails



probably extending into the Teme Valley. Interpretation boards will help to explain key localities.

At this time two of the leaflets that we have require editing then re-printing as stocks are down to near zero.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

There are plans afoot to work with for example H&W Earth Heritage Trust, the University and maybe others on a number of partnership projects.