

Geostudies

Summary guide to Geostudies Geology Courses and Field Trips 2016-2017

For full details see the Geostudies Website (<http://www.geostudies.co.uk>), or contact Dave Green.

September 2016

Geology of the Wye Valley and its tributaries This 10 week course, starting on Thursday September 22nd, aims to familiarise you with the geology of this part of western Britain. A 10 week, class-based course (with the possibility of day or residential field trip(s)). The course will examine the geology of the Wye and its tributaries (including the Ithon, Lugg, Arrow, Frome, Honddu, Dore, Garron, Monnow and Troddi) from its source on Plynlimon to the sea; including places such as Rhyader, Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, Leominster, Kington, Presteigne, Hay, Hereford, Ross and Chepstow. The geology covers a vast range of geological time – from the late Pre Cambrian (the oldest rocks in southern Britain, dated at 715 million years), through Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous to the Triassic (200 million years), a journey which took us from near the South Pole, across the Equator to 30° North. Held at 6th form and adult education centre John Kyrle High School, Ross on Wye. Cost £45. Contact Paul Mason on 01989 760399. Enrol before 15th September to ensure that the course runs.

Palaeontology and Evolution. This will be a mainly practical class, focussing on the preservation, identification and classification of fossils, and an account of the evolution of life on Earth. Starts Mon 19th September for 10 weeks (not 17th or 24th Oct), until 5th December. Held at Wynstones School, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester from 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays. Cost £70 (including tea, coffee etc at breaktime!).

November 2016

Field Course: 25th – 27th November (and possibly Monday 28th too) **Geology of the Charnwood Forest area** £30 deposit by end of October or sooner. Charnwood Forest was for long known as the “nearest hard rocks to London” – an inlier of ancient, and much-quarried, PreCambrian igneous rocks protruding through the younger sedimentary rocks much more typical of the East Midlands. Known also for the first discovery of PreCambrian fossils by a schoolboy in the 1950s – or was it his sister? – and for the origin of the term “Charnian” to describe a NW to SE trend of folding found in the area.

December 2016

19th (Monday) Annual Geological Reunion Dinner at Watersmeet, Hartpury 7.30 for 8.00pm

January 2017

The Geology of Northumberland and SE Scotland An in-depth study of the geological development of this fascinating area, famous for Hutton's unconformities, the Whin Sill and the Cheviot volcano, but including the NE section of the S Uplands accretionary prism, the type area for the Carboniferous Yoredale sequences, classic Old Red Sandstone, and igneous rocks of Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian and Tertiary ages. The course will include the study of geological maps of, and rocks from, the area. Monday 9th for 10 weeks (not 13th or 20th Feb) until 27th March. Held at Wynstones School, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester from 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays. Cost £70

Rocks and Minerals under the Microscope. This 10 week course aims to introduce you to the identification and description of rocks and their component minerals under the petrological microscope. This is a practical course, each participant will be provided with a microscope and a set of thin sections of rocks, and will work through a course at their own pace. Held at The Chantry, Thornbury. First meeting 7.30 – 9.30, Thurs 12th January until March 23rd (not Thurs 16th Feb) in the Buckingham Room. Max. numbers 20, “first come, first served” due to number of slide sets. Cost £75

February 2017

Field Course: The Geology of Northern Sardinia Dates will be for a week to 10 days trip around a period from Fri 10th to Monday 20th. The two terranes making up Sardinia were separate parts of Gondwana during most of the Palaeozoic. They participated in the continental collisions at the start and end of the Carboniferous to produce the Variscan Orogenic Belt, across which it provides a classic cross-section showing different styles of folding and faulting, and different grades of metamorphism, together with the intrusion of vast volumes of granite. Following a long period of erosion it became a carbonate shelf environment during the Jurassic and Cretaceous. During the Tertiary and Quaternary, subduction of Tethys oceanic crust produced extensive volcanic activity. LET ME KNOW BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF YOU WANT TO COME to take advantage of cheaper air fares

April 2017

The Geology of the Oceans past and present (including plate tectonics, environments, and current/developing ideas on oceanography and marine geology). Often termed the last frontier to be explored on Earth, there have been great advances in our understanding of the oceanic realm over the past half century. This course aims to study the main developments and what we might expect in the future, based on current research. Monday 24th April, for 10 weeks, until 10th July (not 1st nor 29th May). Held at Wynstones School, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester from 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays. Cost £70.

June 2017

Field Course: Tues 6th June - Tues 18th July **Geology and Landscape in Gloucestershire** (evening field course Tuesdays 7-9 First meeting point: Haresfield Beacon: Meet at the roadside pull-in just before the steep descent towards Haresfield village GR SO 824 090. Further sessions on website, separate leaflet, and/or by contacting Dave Green.

Field Course: Thursday 15th to Tuesday 20th June **Geology of Northumberland and SE Scotland** To accompany the previously run classroom course (though others are welcome). 4 full days in the field, travelling up on Thursday afternoon, returning on Tuesday, probably staying in two centres.