

BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL, BIRMINGHAM 2010

GEOLOGY SECTION EVENTS

Halstead Lecture—Fire from the Sky!

Wednesday 15th September, 10.00–11.00 am

Meteorites are rocks from space and the building blocks of planets. They have bombarded Earth throughout time, shaping the surface of the planet and lives of its inhabitants. Impacts are implicated in extinction (demise of the dinosaurs) and evolution of life. Explore the processes and products of impact events with meteorite samples from the Natural History Museum.

Supported by the Halstead Committee.

Earthquakes: Perception, protection and prediction

Thursday 16th September, 10.00 am–12.00 pm

The earthquakes that caused devastation in Haiti on 12th January 2010 and in Chile on 27th February 2010 have reminded us once more of the tremendous destructive power of nature. What are scientists doing about it? How has our understanding of earthquakes changed through time? Can we predict them and how do we deal with the consequences?

Organised in collaboration with the British Geological Survey.

Volcanic Ash—the full story

Friday 17th September, 6.00–8.00 pm

In April the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland erupted spreading ash clouds across Europe that disrupted flights for weeks, costing the airline industry hundreds of millions of pounds. Find out about the geological and meteorological aspects of the situation, the results of research into the impact of ash on jet engines, and the challenges to regulators facing scientific uncertainty.

Organised in collaboration with the General Section.

From the Darkness to the Light (field excursion)

Saturday 18th September, 10.00 am–4.00 pm

This excursion involves a spectacular boat trip into the limestone mines below Dudley's Castle Hill to witness the impressive workings at the heart of the Industrial Revolution and to hear about the geology and history of this spectacular site. It will also visit the Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve, one of the UK's finest geological sites for fossils.

Organised in collaboration with the Dudley Museum & Art Gallery.

Unpoisoning the Land

Sunday 19th September, 11.00 am–1.00 pm

The city of Birmingham has long been a focal point for scientific and industrial development. But Birmingham's industrial past has left a legacy of land contamination that presents an ongoing challenge to scientists, local government and members of the public. This event is an opportunity for these sectors to engage in discussion and debate about improving quality of life by 'unpoisoning the land'.

Organised in collaboration with and supported by the Geological Society of London.

For further information on this year's British Science Festival including details on how to book tickets, please visit the following website:

www.britishecienceassociation.org/web/britisheciencefestival/



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