



Manchester Geological Association

President: Dr Margaret Hartley

December 2021

www.mangeolassoc.org.uk

Founded 1925



*Wishing all
MGA
Members a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year*

Quick Diary

Indoor Meetings

15 January 2022
9 February 2022
16 March 2022

Geological Skills
AGM and Presidential Lecture
Mires, meteors and mass extinctions:

Who's Who in the MGA

Officers

President: Dr Margaret Hartley

Vice-President: Vacant

General Secretary: Sue Plumb BSc

Membership Secretary: Ken Jacobs BSc

Treasurer: Jennifer Rhodes BA

Indoor Meetings Secretary: Vacant

Field Excursions Secretary: Peter del Strother MBE Mphil

Newsletter Editor: Lyn Relph BSc (Hons)

Webmaster: Peter Giles MSc

Other elected members of Council

Prof. Ray Burgess

Nicola Fowler BSc (Hons)

Peter Gavagan BSc (Hons)

Penny Heyworth Mphil

Dr Steve Donovan

Ex officio members of Council

The Immediate Past President, Manchester Geological Association: Niall Clarke MSc

RIGS Representative: Dr Chris Arkwright

The Association's representative on the North West Geologist's editorial team: Peter del Strother MBE Mphil

President of the Student Geological Societies of the University of Manchester

MGA Archivist: Dr Derek Brumhead MBE

MGA email addresses

To contact our President: president@mangeolassoc.org.uk

To contact our Vice-President: vicepresident@mangeolassoc.org.uk

To contact our General Secretary: secretary@mangeolassoc.org.uk

For membership enquiries: membership@mangeolassoc.org.uk

For field visit enquiries: outdoors@mangeolassoc.org.uk

For indoor meeting enquiries: lectures@mangeolassoc.org.uk

For newsletter correspondence: newsletter@mangeolassoc.org.uk

For other enquiries: info@mangeolassoc.org.uk

Membership subscription renewals

Membership fees are now due.

If you pay by cheque or cash please send the appropriate subscription to Ken Jacobs, 1 Godmond Hall Drive, Worsley, M28 1YF.

If you pay by SO your subs will be collected automatically.

If you would like to switch to paying by SO, please contact Ken

Could **all Members please confirm their contact details**, mobile number, postal address and email address to Ken at ken.jacobs.2011@gmail.com.

Current membership fees are:

Full member, correspondence by email £16.00

Full member, correspondence by post £18.00

Full member and an associate member, correspondence by email £18.00

Full member and an associate member, correspondence by post £20.00

An associate member is an adult residing at the same address as a full member.

September Newsletter Error

Some Members have found that the pages in the printed copy of the September edition of the Newsletter were not in the correct order. This was due to a technical problem for which I apologise and hope that it did not cause too many problems. The email version was not affected.

Volcanic Experiences

Escorted small group tours to volcanic areas of the world

Tel: 01527-832578 mobile 077-9000-9098

We are offering the following next year:

- 1) Santorini (May) ~ the island whose eruption gave rise to the legend of Atlantis.
- 2) Sicily & the Aeolians (June) ~ with visits to Vulcano, Stromboli and Etna.
- 3) Iceland (September) ~ all the usual sites in the south, but now including a trip to the location of the recent Fagradalsfjall eruption.

Full details of all our tours can be found on the website at www.volcanic-experiences.co.uk.

The MGA does not endorse other organisations events and are listed for Members information only.

***Geology of the Manchester Area* (3rd edition) – proposal approved by the Geologists' Association**

By Stephen K. Donovan (SKennethDono@gmail.com) and Margaret E. Hartley (margaret.hartley@manchester.ac.uk)

The good news is, indeed, nothing but good – the Geologists' Association (GA) has accepted the MGA proposal for a third edition of the guidebook, *Geology of the Manchester Area* (GMA). The second edition is 30 years old, so it is not difficult to speculate that a new edition may be welcomed by many.

We are writing this proposal as members of the Council of the Manchester Geological Association, which, as we all know, celebrates its centenary in 2025. The third edition has a target publication date of 2025 at the latest. It will largely be a new publication, rather than a rehash of the first two editions. There are new itineraries to be included from a range of contributors, including the amateur, professional and retired.

The proposal is to publish a volume of 16 (or more) field itineraries covering a range of field areas, geological ages and rock types. In fact, the aim is something for everyone. Each itinerary will be of a standard length (about 1500-3000 words, equivalent to 6-10 published pages) on aspects of geology of relevance and interest to all, from the beginner to the academic. We anticipate that most contributions will be written by members of the MGA.

We anticipate a volume that will be accessible to all potential readers, from amateurs and students to experts and professionals. Our aim is to create a comprehensive and comprehensible reference that can be read from cover to cover if desired, but also as both a 'dipper' and an authoritative source for anyone wanting to follow an itinerary – simply, people will be encouraged to get into the field. As was the case with the first two editions, the concept of 'Manchester' for this guide is broad, including both the Greater Manchester area and geologically interesting areas slightly further afield, such as Clitheroe.

Once finished, the guide will be 30,000-45,000 words long, with 60 or so illustrations, mainly line drawings and maps, and photographs.

The following summarizes the above and eventually might be an effective 'blurb' for the dust jacket of such a guide book.

The field guide is perhaps the most important form of introduction to the geology of an area, for the amateur, student and professional alike. This new edition of *Geology of the Manchester Area* has been over 30 years in gestation and celebrates the centenary of the Manchester Geological Association (MGA), founded in 1925. The sixteen new itineraries, contributed by MGA members and local academics, explore the diverse stratigraphy and geomorphology of the Greater Manchester area.

The GMA will, we trust, take no more than 18-24 months to write and compile from now.

Field guides in the 21st Century

Slipping a field guide into a pocket should be second nature to the serious field geologist. The field guide may be the most important form of geological publication for the amateur and student; apart from the geological map, it is the field guide that is the most geological of publications. Field guides are of use to the novice and the experienced geologist alike. They have a different purpose to the research paper.

Does a hard copy guide have a place in the field in the 21st Century? Yes, of course it does. These days, any book can appear in multiple forms – hardback, paperback, pdf, e-book – and the eventual mix of the new *GMA* will be determined by the publisher, that is, the GA. The basic publication for *GA Guides* series has always been a paperback, so we have not even asked what format to expect. Over the years there have been several efforts to develop online-only field guides, but these are still the exception rather than the norm. And, to be blunt, we have never known the batteries to die on a hardcopy guide! We are looking for such rigidity for the new *GMA*; digital formats are welcome as well as, but not instead of, a paperback guide.

Your contribution

As editors, we are eager to hear from you in the near future with your offers of and suggestions for contributions to the new field guide. We already have offers for about eight guides and obviously need more. This is a chance for you to publish your own guide to your favourite local corner of the field. What should you do with your unique knowledge of your field area? You could just keep it to yourself, but please don't! We want you to get your ideas and observations out in the open. Our e-mail addresses appear above. At this stage we only want to hear a draft title from you. Once we have all possible titles to hand, the next phase will be for your editors to provide that relentless encouragement – and any other help that we can – to nurture your contribution from title alone to completion and in press.

Helvellyn in Winter



Striding Edge and Red Tarn taken from the top of Helvellyn. It is a classic glacial landscape with Ullswater in the background. Rocks underfoot and on Striding Edge are Ordovician volcanics.

Photograph by Peter del Strother

Ripples in the Rocks



Looking along large wave generated ripples (about 300 mm between wave crests). View from Cwm Graianog to Nant Ffrancon. The road at the bottom is the old A5. More information here http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Merioneth_Series,_Cambrian,_Wales



Looks like more ripples, but perhaps not! These 'ripples' are in an Ordovician mudstone which is very hard. The bedding dips steeply away to the top left of the picture. The rocks are pounded by the prevailing weather. Notice the very tight V shaped bottom of the 'ripples' which appear to be erosional structures. West End Beach, Trefor, Gwynedd.

OTHER SOCIETY EVENTS

BCGS <http://bcgs.info/pub/>

17 January	West Midlands National Park. Indoor Meeting
5 February	Geoconservation Day at the Wren's Nest
21 February	Zoom Meeting: The Rocks That Don't Belong

Yorkshire Geological Society <http://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/>

No events listed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please check their web site for updates.

Leeds Geological Society <http://www.leedsga.org.uk/>

No events listed for 2022. Please check their web site for updates

GeoLancashire <https://geolancashire.org.uk/lectures-and-excursions/>

14th Jan.	Lidar. Dave Ratledge (Zoom)
11th Feb.	AGM

Liverpool Geological Society <https://liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/>

4 th Jan	Members Evening
11 th Jan	My favourite outcrops. Professor Peter Burgess
25 th Jan	Reconstructing barrier beach and lagoon response to El Nino using particle size data. Professor Andy Plater
8th Feb	The magnetic personality of bacteria. Dr.Greig Paterson
22nd Feb	Karstic landscapes of England and Wales: The Good, the (not so) Bad and the Ugly. Dr. Alan Thompson
8th March	Shenidar Neanderthals. Professor Chris Hunt

Herdman Society

Saturday 12th February 2022 Herdman Symposium

The theme will be Impacts of Geoscience and the event will run in a hybrid online and in-person format.

OUGS North West Branch <https://ougs.org/northwest/>

10 th January	Mapping the geology of Mercury. Annie Lennox, OU. Zoom lecture
5 th February	North West Branch AGM. Zoom
14 th March	The future of sequence stratigraphy. Prof Peter Burgess, Liverpool University. Zoom

Manchester Geological Association

Indoor Lectures 2022

15 January	Geological Skills
9 February	AGM and Presidential Lecture
16 March	Mires, meteors and mass extinctions: what does coal tell us about deep time climates? Dr Rhodri Jerrett, University of Manchester

At the present time all the lectures are likely to take place via Zoom, but please check the website

For more information please visit www.mangeolassoc.org.uk or contact lectures@mangeolassoc.org.uk

Outdoor Meetings

A series of field trips are being planned for next year; details will be published in the March Newsletter.

The **FRED BROADHURST/TONY ADAMS LECTURES** were well attended and enjoyed by all. The MGA Council would like to thank Cathy Hollis and her team for organising the event. Comments received by Cathy Hollis from speakers and attendees afterwards included:

Many thanks for the invite. Really enjoyed the day.

Just reflecting over the weekend on the excellent job that both Merren and Andy (Horbury) did with their presentations.

I think that their words will have meant so much to the family and were really captured well the Tony we all knew!

Agreed, I thought both were judged perfectly.

I liked the story of Andy nearly being sacked for lack of cricketing prowess!

It was really nice to have the challenge of giving a proper 'talk' and not a 'lecture', equally I enjoyed very much Merren's renaissance with the OHP (Note: apparently Tony hated PowerPoint and used OHPs for as long as possible, so Merren had brought one along!)

Just a short note to say thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of Saturday's meeting.

I thought the programme was put together very well and provided a fitting tribute to Tony's career.

Bring Your Own Reusable Mugs

Would Members please bring a cup to use for tea/coffee when attending lectures, where refreshments are provided. It would be much appreciated. The MGA will be using biodegradable cups when our supply of polystyrene ones runs out, but these do cost more.