

Geostudies

Summary guide to Geostudies Geology Courses and Field Trips 2015-2016

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

September 2015

Towards Understanding the Earth This 10 week course, starting on Thursday September 17th, comprising a mixture of geology, history, geography and philosophy, aims to show you how our present day ideas about the Earth and its history have developed since the time of the Greek and Roman philosophers, mediaeval and Arabic thinkers, later controversies between the Neptunists and Plutonists, Catastrophists and Uniformitarians, and, nearer home, in the Welsh Borders, between some of the pioneers of modern Geology; William Smith and Edward Greenough, Murchison and Sedgwick. How did the mid 20th century Plate Tectonic revolution in Geology come about? How has this affected our ideas and fundamental philosophy? 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 11th September to ensure that the course runs.

The Identification of Rocks Many people have tried, with varying degrees of success, to use identification books and manuals to find out what rocks they have collected or are standing upon. The idea of this course is to improve your skills and confidence in this most fundamental of geological techniques. The rationale behind the classification of rocks (a necessary prerequisite to identification) will be studied, as well as the practical side. Starts Mon 21st for 10 weeks (not 26th Oct or 2nd Nov), until 9th 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 2015

Field Course: 27th – 30th November (and possibly Monday 1st Dec too) **Geology of the South Shropshire area** £30 deposit by end of October or sooner

December 2015

21st (Monday) Annual Geological Reunion Dinner at Watersmeet, Hartpury 7.30 for 8.00pm

January 2016

The Geology of the South West Highlands An in-depth study of the geological development of this fascinating area, comprising the islands of Islay, Jura, the Garvellachs, and adjacent mainland area of Kintyre and Knapdale, with the islands of Seil, Gigha etc. Not only does the area expose the ancient metamorphic basement of this (Grampian Highland) slice of Britain, but also exposes the type area of most of the overlying late PreCambrian Dalradian Supergroup – now metamorphosed sedimentary and igneous rocks laid down as the Iapetus Ocean opened between Greenland and Scandinavia. It exposes some of the best evidence in Britain for the existence of “Snowball Earth”, and the incredible fold structure (the Tay Nappe) developed as our slice of continental crust collided with an island arc to the south. The course will include the study of geological maps of, and rocks from, the area. Monday 4th for 10 weeks (not 15th or 22nd Feb) until 21st March. Held at Wynstones School, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester from 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays. Cost £70

Sedimentary Rocks and the Interpretation of Past Environments. This 10 week course aims to study the ways in which past environments can be deduced, often in great detail, from the evidence contained within sediments (and volcanic igneous rocks). A rock's composition, texture, sedimentary structures, its place in the sequence of beds, its geometry, chemistry and its fossil content all contribute towards understanding of the conditions in which it was deposited. Where possible, local examples (using maps and specimens) will be used to illustrate the points made. Held at The Chantry, Thornbury. First meeting 7.30 – 9.30, Thurs 7th until March 17th (not Thurs 18th Feb) in the ? Room. Max. numbers 20, “first come, first served” due to size of room. Cost £75

February 2016

Field Course: The Geology of SE Sicily Dates will be for a week to 10 days trip around a period from Fri 12th to Monday 22nd. Apart from the obvious attraction of the huge, active volcano of Mt Etna, and much other (Pleistocene to Recent) volcanic activity to the south; this area contains a wide variety of geology: the south east corner of the island represents part of the African continent, now welded onto Europe by a collision zone represented by the Maghreb-Appennine fold and thrust belt. The Northeastern part of the island represents the northern, European margin of the Tethys Ocean. In addition, there is some of the most spectacular evidence for the Messinian Salinity Crisis (drying up of the Mediterranean). LET ME KNOW BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF YOU WANT TO COME to take advantage of cheaper air fares

April 2016

The Tertiary Period (which now should be termed the Palaeogene and Neogene periods of the Cenozoic!) During this 65 million year period, there were massive developments, such as the evolutionary rise of the mammals and flowering plants, and the cooling of the climate. British, European, and global changes in climate, geography, fauna and flora during this relatively recent phase of Earth history, and the evidence upon which these ideas are based. Monday 11th April, for 10 weeks, until 27th June (not 2nd or 30th May). Held at Wynstones School, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester from 7.30-9.30pm on Mondays. Cost £70.

May 2016

Field Course: Friday 27th – Tuesday 31st Geology of Islay, Jura and the Garvellachs Dates may be flexible, depending on mode of transport (it is possible to fly into Islay, otherwise a whole day needs to be set aside for the journeys). Excellent geology (some controversial), landscape and whiskey.

June 2016

Field Course: Tues 7th June - Tues 19th July Geology and Landscape in Gloucestershire (evening field course Tuesdays 7-9 First meeting point:- Cud Hill – roadside on unfenced land, where there are several parking places west of the turn to Spoonbed Farm on the minor road towards Edge from the B4073 from Painswick to Upton St Leonards (SO861125) at 7pm Tuesday 7th June. Further sessions on website, separate leaflet, and/or by contacting Dave Green.

Field Course: Saturday 27th Geology of the Tortworth Area A Saturday Dayschool

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