

Earth Science 2000

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2000

Forthcoming events

Please come if you can! All events are free but the Societies running them do welcome new members. Not every talk will be brilliant but some will! If you want to ask questions or meet the speaker you usually can. The Belfast Geologist's Society has refreshments available from 7.00 p.m. before meetings.

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 22nd November. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Title: Stratigraphy without fossils in Oman. Speaker: Dr Gretta McCarron.

Even if you cannot feel the sun at this time of year at least you can imagine it at this talk. The title might seem a little off-putting to a beginner in the study of rocks. Don't be put off! It is likely to be a fascinating insight into work and the landscape in a really remarkable part of the world.

7.30 p.m. Thursday 23rd November. Irish Geologist's Association.

Venue: Room 302, Peter Froggatt Centre, Queens University Belfast.

Title: The Monserrat Eruption. Speaker: Dr Kate Moore (NUI Galway).

Volcanic eruptions are always interesting. Especially when they are happening now! And influencing people's lives now! Sparks will be seen flying at this talk. A number of scientists from the UK and Ireland have been involved in the study of this event. It made headlines not long ago and probably will again. A serious top level talk about ash-fall and health issues. Should be good!

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 5th December. Irish Geologist's Association.

Venue: Room 309, Peter Froggatt Centre, Queens University Belfast.

Title: Continents in Collision: the origin of the Himalayan Granites. Speaker: Dr Nigel Harris (Open Univ.).

This looks like a talk for the connoisseur. Aimed at the undergraduate it is given by an expert who will be used to making the complicated seem simple. A subject that gives the chance to show spectacular scenery and consider how rocks like those of Donegal and the Mourne were formed.

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Forthcoming events - continued.

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 13th December. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Title: Geology and Health. Speaker: Dr Dee Flight (Geological Survey NI).

Do you know what you are eating naturally? What chemicals are coming to you from the rocks and then the soils on which the plants grow? Why do people in Fermanagh have better teeth than those in Tyrone, is it the natural fluoride? Come and hear about the local research. A good speaker and a talk for all.

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 9th January 2001. Belfast Naturalists Field Club.

Venue: The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Title: The Gobbins Cliff Path. Speaker: with film, John Lennon.

This is not really geological but it is a path that has attracted many geologists in the past, including parties from the Belfast Geologists' Society. Interesting rocks and a rather uniquely engineered path that should make an extremely interesting evening. Be ready to feel nostalgic over by-gone times?

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 16th January. Belfast Geologists' Society and Irish Geologists Association.

Venue: The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Title: Walking with Dinosaurs: The truth. Speaker: Professor Mike Benton (Bristol University).

A talk not to be missed, young or old! Mike was a key scientific consultant on the BBC's controversial Television series. Also once a lecturer in the Geology Department at Queens. There is a chance of some insights into the discussions that went into the series. Did the Dinosaurs really walk and talk like that?

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 21st February. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Title: Some aspects of the geology of the Deccan Basalts. Speaker: Dr Paul Lyle (Univ. of Ulster).

Paul wrote the most recent booklet on the Giant's Causeway. Expert on the volcanics of the Antrim Plateau he will talk about his studies of similar rocks in India. There will be superb photographs and he will explain the rocks in a simple way. Was it these volcanic explosions rather than a meteorite that killed off the Dinosaurs?

23rd to 25th February. If interested contact Dr John McClosky 028 70 323179.

Venue: University of Ulster at Coleraine.

Irish Geologists Research meeting.

This is where new research, completed or on-going, is presented by geologists from all over Ireland to their colleagues. From Cork to Killarney, Athlone to Galway, most research centres will be represented. It is pretty serious stuff! There is a poster display as well as talks. Some young scientists will be lecturing for the first time, and prizes are awarded! Anyone could drop in?

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 7th March. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: To be arranged (contact Honorary Secretary).

Title: Travels with my donkeys in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland. Speaker: Dr Bernard Anderson.

A special lecture by the Head of Geology at Queen's University. It celebrates the Department's field teaching programme over many decades. It has inspired many young geologists who have gone on to leading positions all over the world. We do not think

the 'donkeys' were students but if you were a Queens student you must come! Even if you were not, this talk will be worth hearing. Bernard is sure to make it interesting for everyone, however little geology you know. The illustrations will be spectacular.

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 21st March. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: The Ulster Museum.

Title: A field trip with Herbert Black. Presenter: Dr Jack Preston.

If not a member of the Society perhaps arrive half an hour late. You can come in but the Annual General Meeting comes first! Thereafter it is an evening of nostalgia as some of the Herbert Black photographic collection, now housed at the Museum, is projected. The commentary is sure to be both expert and amusing.

1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Saturday 24th March and

2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Sunday 25th March. The National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland.

Venue: The Ulster Museum.

Title: The Rocky Road Show.

Now an annual event at the Museum that always has crowds of children thoroughly enjoying themselves. Plenty to do, such as gold panning. Fine mineral specimens, fossils, dinosaurs and much more. Parents and grandparents also have fun. If this had been on at the Dome maybe it wouldn't have lost money! Do bring the family. It is a really good way to spend an afternoon.

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 25th April. Belfast Geologists' Society.

Venue: The Ulster Museum.

Title: Slope failures at the Giant's Causeway. Speaker: Dr Bridget MacDonnell (Queens University).

The lower path along the Causeway has now been closed for... Well, too long in the opinion of some people! This talk might give some of the answers to questions of why and what is to be done. Sure to be an interesting evening for anyone who has ever visited the Causeway. It might even attract the media because it tackles a topical and controversial subject.

Please note. If you want more information about Belfast Geologists' Society events contact Peter Millar (Hon. Secretary) Phone: 028 90 642886. For geological events of the BNFC contact Barbara Watson Russell Phone: 028 93 378124.

Advance Notice.

June 13th to 18th 2001. A major International Conference and Field Meeting at the University of Ulster at Coleraine.
Topic - Millennial-scale events in the North Atlantic Region during Termination 1.

If you don't understand the title you probably shouldn't attend. It actually is about sea level and climate change. Ice sheet activity in Canada and nearer to home many thousands of years ago will be related to deposits in the north of Ireland. Do the events of the past tell us anything about climatic events in the future? These questions are sure to bring serious media interest. Congratulations to Ulster University on hosting the event.

By the way, it is by no means free to attend. Contact Jasper Knight if you are interested 028 70 323179 or j.knight@ulst.ac.uk.

What else is on in the north of Ireland?

If you know of anything please let us know. We haven't found anything but surely something must be happening rock-wise outside Belfast and Coleraine?

One place that is closed is the **Armagh Planetarium**. The major renovations are not likely to be complete until well into next year. Instead the staff is very active on outreach activities and is willing to respond to requests. They have a brilliant scheme to

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