

Several Words from the Editor . . .

Welcome to the first of the three planned newsletter issues for 2023. They all need the input of the Gallery amid the artwork of the 'Landscape Rebels' member groups to accurately and fully portray the endeavours of the voluntary/not for profit geoconservation sector. Hence, I'm most grateful to the several individuals who contributed, in a timely manner, their articles. Together with my gleanings from various newsletters and web-pages they provide some indication of the diversity and commitment of GCUK's member groups and supportive organisations. To contribute to the next issue, note the copy deadline on the last page and write me something!

It's good to see that GeoSuffolk celebrated St. Valentine's, as I and my wife did (also our ruby wedding anniversary!) over that weekend with the Bedfordshire Geology Group in a Greensand quarry followed by a restaurant meal, geologically. Several groups, such as the Black Country Geological Society, the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group and the Hull Geological Society are maintaining their excellent programmes of talks. Meanwhile, the Cambridgeshire Geological Society is doing the same and publishing yet more trail guides.

Advice on such and more practical matters has been revised and published by Natural England. Meanwhile, non-GCUK, but kindred, member groups such as the History of Geology Group and the Geological Curators' Group (GCUK members can join both) have useful meetings and resources. Then there's GeoWeek (in late May and June) and a big international ProGEO event in Charnwood (in October) to think about - and I haven't even mentioned the events of the Geologists' Association.

Anyway, please feel free to distribute this **GEONEWS** to your colleagues, friends and even families - they might actually enjoy the read and suggest you join (with them?!) the events. *Jam Hase*



Loving Nature on St. Valentine's Day.

On 14th February, the Ipswich Museum 'Love Nature' event saw the entrance hall and art gallery at Christchurch Mansion invaded by stands run by a variety of local environment groups. In line with the thinking of naturalists such as Richard Mabey, the Museum brought gem of the Woburn Sands 'nature' into Ipswich – to the people – whose enthusiasm Formation – then a lovely meal in was evidenced in the footfall of 600+ visitors that day.

For GeoSuffolk the location of our stand in the Wolsey

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exhibition was a real bonus - we (below) enjoyed being



'landscape rebels' for the day, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Turner, Monet and some of the Constable landscapes from the Museum collection.

Our aim for the day was to show (a small selection of) biodiversity through time using a display of fossils ranging in age from a 2¹/₄ billion year old stromatolite from Bolivia through the eons to the present day. One of the youngest fossils on display was the 2.7 million year old fossil mollusc Neptunea 'contraria' (the left-handed whelk) from our Suffolk Red Crag. We also had a replica skull of Australopithecus from Sterkfontein in South Africa, this early near-human was living at the same time as the Red Crag was deposited in the seas of Suffolk and Essex.

Our many visitors enjoyed handling many of these ancient animals - the Stegodon tooth, from Java being especially popular. Some visitors brought their own finds for us to see - there was, in particular, part of quite a large ammonite found at Hintlesham. This late Jurassic fossil found its way to Suffolk as a Pleistocene erratic. **Caroline Markham**

Bedfordshire GEOLOGY GROUP St. Valentine's Weekend 'Do'.

This year's social gathering, which we normally hold in December, was delayed due to booking issues and the month's inclement weather - remember the snow?! We tried something different this year, a Saturday (11th February) visit to Silsoe Quarry – a hidden a restaurant at Clophill was the order of the day. **Bev** Foulston





Cambridgeshire Geological Society Sites and All Things Peat.

Monthly talks run from September to June each year. They are held, starting at 7.30pm (with doors opening at 7.00pm) at St. Andrews Centre in Histon, near Cambridge. More info at www.cambsgeology.org. Non-members pay a £3.00 admission fee. The next talks are:

Monday, 17th April:- Living Fossils in the Cambridge University Botanic Garden (by Franziska Norman, CGS Committee & ex Chair):- This talk will introduce you



to plants *(lefi)* that have survived practically unchanged for many millions of years and so have become a living window into the time

of the dinosaurs. Fortunately, although none of them are native to the UK, you don't have to travel far to see them, as many of these can be found in Cambridge University Botanic Garden!

Monday, 15th May:- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Eruption and Tsunami – learning from

recent events (by Prof. David Tappin, BGS):- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai tsunami on the 15th January 2022 was the first from a violent eruption for over 130 years, the last being Krakatau volcano eruption in Indonesia in 1883. The event was also the first dual eruption tsunami since Krakatau and the first recorded by modern technology. The resulting shockwave was the largest and most significant ever recorded, with the associated plume the highest on record. This talk covers the event and its ramifications in providing information critical to developing mitigation strategies from these events.

Meanwhile, three new Local Geology Sites have recently been designated in the county, two of which represent local industrial geology: Isleham Lime Kilns and Ramsey Heights Brick Kiln and Clay Pits. The first is a scheduled monument (that also contains an important bat roost) and the second is a Wildlife Trust nature reserve; both are examples of how natural heritage (both biodiversity and geodiversity) often share the same sites with cultural heritage.

In Cambridgeshire, not known for its mountains or igneous exposures - well, there are neither (see below) - a



unique and very valuable natural heritage is gradually becoming more recognised, that of the Quaternary geology of the Fens. The complexities of what is generally referred to as 'the peat' is being revealed, not only by more geological research but also through largescale archaeological investigations including those at Must Farm and Ouse Fen, both nationally, if not internationally, important sites where the environmental conditions over several millennia are shown by the geol-More information is available ogy. at www.cambsgeology.org/other-sites

As well as identifying potential fenland LGS, the Society is enabling people to discover the geology of their local fenland landscapes (far more interesting



than generally imagined!) by producing more Walk Guides on the Fen Edge Trail – five have recently been published. One of these has been done in partnership with the Word Garden and has an accompanying podcast that describes the 17thc. digging of the 100 Foot drain to create the Ouse Washes – again mixing human history (Cromwell's Scottish Prisoners) with geology and wildlife. Walk Guides can be downloaded from www.fenedgetrail.orgther-sites – enjoy! *Chris Donnelly*

Some Relevant Meetings?

HISTORY OF GROUP GROUP Some of HOGG's meetings are possibly of interest to the GCUK membership. Admission to the meetings for non-HOGG members is offered at a discounted registration fee. They, unless stated otherwise, are on-line events. Registration is via Eventbrite where an outline of each event can be found. For guest registration search on Eventbrite using the event titles given below:

Thursday, 16th February (lunchtime):- '*Arthur Young and the first geological maps of Norfolk and Suffolk*' with Dr. Peter Riches.

Thursday, 15th June (lunchtime):- '*The overlooked early investigations by Adam Sedgwick in northeast England 1821-22: the Magnesian Limestone and the Great Whin Sill'* with Dr. Doug Holliday.

Meanwhile, a HOGG member, David Bate, has published, in *Cartographiti* [Nos.99, summer 2022], the newsletter of the Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society, a brief summary history of the Geological Survey from Henry De la Beche to digital maps; the following link

https://www.cartography.org.uk/cartographiti

will take you to it. The article's early content is likely to be familiar to many GCUK members, but it's good because few articles beginning in the $19^{th}c$. continue into the $21^{st}c$. on the BGS



A Busy Spring and . . .

The Black Country Geological Society has offered a diverse spring events programme, and some summer ones are already planned, as summarised below:

Monday, 20th February (Indoor Meeting):- 'The early Anthropocene: our lifetimes'. Speaker: Ian Fairchild (Emeritus Professor, University of Birmingham and Chair, H&W EHT). Ian is a member of the Working Group on the Anthropocene, a sub-group of the Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy (part of the International Commission on Stratigraphy). We were grateful to Prof. Fairchild for stepping in at short notice to replace an unavailable speaker.

Saturday, 4th March:- 'Geoconservation Day' at Sedgley Beacon. Participants met at the Sedgley Beacon car-park entrance, off Beacon Lane for a variety of scrub clearance work over some four hours.

Monday, 20th March (Indoor Meeting):- AGM followed by 'Celebrating the Origins of Animal Life: Building a UNESCO Global Geopark in Charnwood Forest, UK'. Speaker: Jack Matthews (Geoheritage Conservation & Interpretation Officer for the Charnwood Forest Geopark). Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire is host to some of the oldest animal fossils in the world. This presentation outlined the internationally significant geodiversity of Charnwood Forest - including the outstanding ancient fossils - and the ways it has shaped the landscape, communities, and people of Britain's 'unexpected upland'.

Saturday, 1st April (Field Visit):- Wroxeter Roman City. Led by David Pannett (Shropshire Geological Society). This started at the car park at Wroxeter Roman City, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6PJ, (GR: SJ 565087) and looked at the building stones used within the city, where they came from and what happened to them after the city was abandoned. The lunch break was in Atcham, followed by afternoon visits to local churches and Acton Burnell.

Monday, 17th April (Indoor Meeting):- 'The origins of starfish and their relatives'. Speaker: Dr Aaron Hunter.

Saturday, 20th May (Field Visit):- Little Doward and Arthur's Cave. Led by Jim Handley (EHT Champion for the Dowards and Arthur's Cave). Details to be confirmed.

Let's Face Book It.

It's worth noting that as well as GCUK, several member and other kindred geology groups and organisations have excellent Face Book pages. I'm always pleased because it has some DIGS members, to get notifications from the Dorset Geologists' Association Local Group; its recent posts have focused on several coastal landslips - even with embedded videos. The Bedfordshire Geology Group's pages usually cover interesting events, such as the trip (I went on!) to a Greensand guarry at Clophill, off the A6 and to the RSPB headquarters and the nearby quarry. Meanwhile, my nearby village's Face Book illustrated postings are sometimes on local pits and quarries, if only as social history. **Tom Hose**



Evening Talks Summarised.

This year the Group has continued its programme of in-person (and also Zoom) illustrated talks with:

Thursday, 16th February:- 'Birmingham's Erratic Boulders Project' presented by Zoe Jackson (H&W Earth Heritage Trust). Zoe discussed the Birmingham's Erratic Boulders Project - a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project which aims to document, promote and

preserve the predominantly Arenig glacial erratics (see right) of southwest Birmingham. The geology of the boulders was described, including the most recent work carried out by X-Ray diffraction analysis and cosmogenic exposure dating. The



fascinating social history of some of the boulders was also explored, along with the pivotal characters involved in their late-19thc. discovery, and the intriguing evolution of our understanding of the role of glaciers in the transport of the erratics. Public engagement, project outputs and work to preserve the boulders in the future was also summarised.

Thursday, 16th March:- 'Charles Darwin as a geologist & the Voyage of the Beagle' presented by Peter Worsley (Emeritus Professor, School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading). Peter noted that in his time, Charles Darwin

became one of the world's leading geologists. The background to his geological training prior to embarkation on the HMS Beagle (right) was outlined. Some of the geological highlights which occurred during the long voyage were 'visited'



and discussed along with an assessment of Darwin's geological publications. All this was helped by Peter's research and publication on the Darwin family; his book The Darwin Farms: the Lincolnshire estates of Charles and Erasmus Darwin and their family was published in 2018.



Thursday, 20th April:- 'The Geology of the Chilterns and the Potential Impact of HS2' presented by Dr. Haydon Bailey. HS2's route passes straight through the Chilterns impacting the underground Chalk geology and also raising some issues about the railway's tunnels, especially on the local aquifer.

"The infertility of certain soils has its own powerful effect on the landscape, too, and who chooses to live there. So, the Licky Hills ... have remained the city's wild playground because of the poor soil. It's not good for cultivation; and it's just far enough from the city centre to escape development" Harry Mount (2012, p. 65)



The Geological Curators' Group - Some Helpful Resources.

The website of the Geological Curators' Group (GCG) has some resources that might be of interest to anyone, but particularly volunteers from GCUK member groups, helping out at their local museum, consulting or working with old geological collections. It's worth noting that specimen labels can provide information on old localities and the collectors who visited them useful for geoconservation benchmarking. There is a small database of label styles and handwriting which can be found at: Collector, Dealer and Institution labels - The Geological Curators' Group (geocurator.org) This leads on from a series of information sheets that were published in the GCG journal during the 1980s and links to these are also included there. The Group would welcome additions, especially biographies, of collectors with samples of their handwriting and labels, as these sorts of databases are only as good as the entries within them.

There is also a 'Lost, Stolen and Strayed' area on the website. This is a continuation of our incredibly popular, and useful, 'Lost and Found' pages which featured in the GCG newsletter and journal for many years. It was, and is, a way of advertising for the whereabouts of missing specimens or collections that might have been transferred across museums, or between curators and collectors over the years. Obviously, these sorts of data-bases are only effective when they are known about and used, so it's been populated with a new 'Lost, Stolen and Strayed' page with all the previous entries from the last 48 years. Clicking on the links takes users into a PDF of the appropriate journal. All curators and volunteers are encouraged to have a look at the current list just in case something on there rings a bell, and also to create their entries should they find appropriate lost or found material. All the instructions

can be found at: Welcome to Lost, Stolen, and Strayed - The Geological Curators' Group (geocurator.org)

It's worth noting that all of the older journals (*right*) are free to access on the GCG website – only the most recent couple of years are membersonly restricted. GCG, a specialist group of The Geological Society of London, isn't just for museum curators, but also aims to embrace the



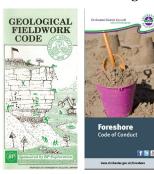
wider community of all those interested in geology collections, conservation, documentation, preparation, exhibitions, photography, geoconservation, history of geology, geotourism, volunteers, students, teachers and many, many more – both in the UK and around the world. Basically it's interested in the care of geological specimens both in and outside of museums.

Tom Hose

[This article is based on something that Cindy Howells emailed to HOGG members late last year. As a former, and early member, of the Geological Curator's Group and museum naturalist I'm familiar with its content but thought that the GCUK membership, even perhaps those volunteering at local museums, might be unaware with it]

Some Relevant Geologists' Association Events.

The Geologists' Association (GA) website has some useful, and free, resources such as access to the GA's *Geological Fieldwork Code* (far left) and



Chichester District Council's *Foreshore Code of Conduct* (*near left*) – both with guidelines on fossil collecting – together with back issues of the GA Magazine; the latter contain interesting topical articles and reports on field meetings. Thinking of the latter, the following are currently planned:

Saturday, 15th April - Milton Keynes (led by Dr. Tom



Hose):- Looking at Jurassic geology, a quarry *(left)*, building stones and engineering geology along an old railway line in the New Bradwell and Great Linford areas of one of the UK's newest cities.

Saturday, 22nd July - Hunstanton (led by Julian Andrews of the Norfolk Geological Society & Dr. Tom Hose):- Looking at



the Chalk *(left)*, coastal management and historical GA excursions to the area. It's a chance to record and collect fossils from beach material and it's 70 years since the deadly east coast floods, and ongoing

coastal defence issues, memorialised in the town's Esplanade Gardens.

Sunday, 10th September - Charnwood Forest (led by Dr. Michael Howe of the BGS):- Whilst much attention righfully focuses on the area's ancient fossils this meeting will also examine local guarries, building stones and ancient landscapes.

All meetings are bookable (for a modest fee of \pounds 5-00 for GA members and \pounds 10-00 for non-GA members) on-line at fieldmeetings@geologistsassociation.org.uk or telephone (020 7434 9298) the GA office. By the way, you can join the GA for as little as \pounds 35 (e-journal subscription) and enjoy all of its benefits.







A Packed Programme for Hull Geological Society.

The Society's programme for the year has been published and is shown in summary below:

Wednesday, 8th February:- Zoom Workshop on curating and caring for your geological collection.

Thursday, 23rd February:- Club Night at the University of Hull. The topic will be 'Sedimentary Rocks'.

Saturday, 25th February:- Field trip and picnic on the Holderness Coast.

Thursday, 9th March:- Club Night on Facebook (members only).

Wednesday, 15th March:- Zoom talk by John Connor on "The Geology & History of Point Reyes, California".

Thursday, 16th March 2023:- AGM at the University of Hull, followed by a talk by Graham Kings about the Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark in northern Portugal.

Saturday, 15th April:- Field trip to Middlegate Quarry, South Ferriby.

Thursday, 20th April:- Lecture by Paul Hildreth on the birds and rocks of Flamborough Head.

Sunday, 30th April:- Urban geology walk as part of Yorkshire Geology Month.

Wednesday, 3rd May:- Zoom talk by Tony Felski about Coal.

Thursday, 4th May:- Cemetery geology walk as part of Yorkshire Geology Month.

Sunday, 7th May:- Rifle Butts SSSI conservation visit (members only).

Wednesday, 17th May:- Zoom talk by Paul Hildreth about the Hyenas of Kirkdale Cave.

Thursday, 8th June:- Club Night on Facebook (members only).

Wednesday, 21st June:- Zoom talk by Niall Clarke about the Galway Granite.

Saturday, 14th October:- Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society and University of Hull about *"the role of geology in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals"*. *Mike Horne*

Geoconservation: Principles and practice.



Geoconservation: principles and practice

Natural England has recently published *Geoconservation: Principles and practice*. This handbook *(left)* revises and updates the previous publication *Geoconservation a guide to good practice*. Much of the contents will be familiar with the publication divided into sections by type of site as previously but with revised text and diagrams *(right)* and both new and updated case studies.

This publication explores the principles and practice of geoconservation, drawing on the practical



experience gained by Natural England, its predecessor bodies and many of its partners and stakeholders. It sets out why geoconservation matters, who benefits, and how sites are selected and monitored. Its focus is the principles and practice of delivering geoconservation on the ground. It explores the threats which arise, approaches to site management, and the positive opportunities to deliver geoconservation which sometimes occur through development proposals or land use change.

Supporting practical geoconservation is at the heart of this publication and a wide range of real case studies are used to illustrate interventions which have been successful in conserving, enhancing and promoting geoheritage sites and some which have not.

One new case study discusses how geodiversity and biodiversity can be managed together, using Swaddy-well Nature Reserve *(below)* near Peterborough as an



example. Here several locations around the site are actively managed to show different aspects of the Lincolnshire Lime-

stone as part of a geological trail. Keeping these faces free of vegetation also provides important habitat for mining insects. Other areas towards the centre of the pit are more actively managed for the habitats and species they support.

Although primarily aimed at supporting geoconservation and nature recovery in England, the principles, practice and case studies set out here should also be of relevance to anyone anywhere interested in or involved with conserving, recovering or enhancing geodiversity and geoheritage. It is available to download at Geoconservation: Principles and practice - NE802 (nepubprod. appspot.com) as the full publication (100Mb) or in three (30Mb-70Mb) parts from the access to evidence catalogue.

Hannah Townley (Natural England)







Celebrating Geoheritage - Promoting Geoconservation

www.progeo2023.com #Progco2023

YOU'RE INVITED TO CHARNWOOD FOREST

On behalf of the Organising Committee, and the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Hentage (ProGEO), we are pleased to invite you to take part in the XIth International ProCEO Symposium. The meeting is being organised by the Charnwood Forest Geopark, and will take place in Loughborough, UK from 9th to 11th October 2023. Time to put it in your diary!

Charnwood Forest is an Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, and is home to some of the oldest animal fossils in the world. Among our crag-topped hills and forest-filled valleys, you can find communities shaped by their geology, and geology shaped by two thousand years of industry.

A SYMPOSIUM FOR EVERYONE

As always, the symposium is an international event open to scientists, students, educators, professionals, decision makers, and anyone involved in geoheritage and geoconservation. The meeting will promote communication and collaboration amongst attendees from all over the world, and provide a space to discuss new challenges and threats in geological conservation. The symposium will feature a special session on the Conservation of Palaeontology, including a keynote on this topic, but we encourage attendance and presentations by all those interested in the varied topics of geoheritage, geoconservation, and geodiversity.





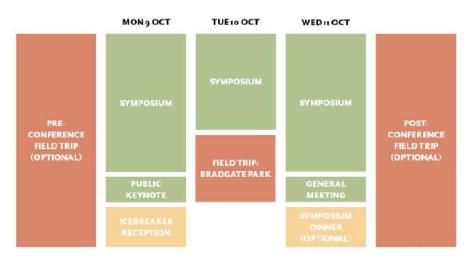






THE MEETING

A simple outline of the meeting, including the three full days of Symposium events, can be found below. We recommend delegates arrive in Loughborough on Sunday 8th October, as we expect to begin the meeting at around 9am on Monday 9th October.



The Symposium includes an intra-meeting field trip to Bradgate Park that is included in the registration of all delegates. The field trip is an opportunity to see a selection of the many lithologies within the Geopark, and the complex challenges for geoconservation these present. The field trip will include discussion on new innovative conservation management strategies, and also interpretation. We recommend delegates bring sturdy footwear, waterproof coats, and warm clothes as the weather can be unpredictable.

REGISTRATION

The Organising Group have been working hard to deliver a meeting of high quality that provides value for money. For ProGEO members the cost will be as low as £85. This low price has been possible due to the direct financial assistance of ProGEO. Registration includes:

- Icebreaker reception
- Three days of scientific sessions, including talks and poster sessions
- Keynote Lecturer
- An afternoon mid-Symposium field trip to Bradgate Park
- Lunch for the three days of the Symposium
- Tea & Coffee refreshments throughout the Symposium
- Special delegate discounts at selected local businesses

The registration rate for non-ProGEO members is higher. It is always cheaper to join ProGEO and secure the discount rate, than pay the non-member rate. Students can join ProGEO for as little as 10 EUR. You can join ProGEO here: <u>http://www.progeo.ngo/get-involved.html</u>

ProGEO members will be issued a discount code via email enabling them to secure the membership registration rate.

Registration is via the website at <u>www.progeo2023.com</u>. Payments are via the Paypal system, though a Paypal account is not required, and all major credit and debit cards are accepted.



Late Registration (June 9th to Sept 18th)	£150	£195
Early Bird (until June 9th)	£85	£130
	ProGEO Member	Non-Member



HADS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We welcome submissions on topics from all areas of geoheritage and geoconservation, including methodologies, site management, interpretation, education, legislation, geodiversity, and Geoparks. The meeting will feature a special session on the Conservation of Palaeontological Heritage - we particularly encourage submissions on this topic, though all abstracts associated with the broad themes of geoheritage and geoconservation are welcome.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: 23:59 BST (GMT+1) June 9th, 2023

Each registered delegate can submit two abstracts as the presenting author: one to be presented as a talk, and one to be presented as a poster. Talks will be 12 minutes in length, with 3 minutes for questions. Posters should be presented in A0 portrait format.

Abstract submission is via the website: www.progeo2023.com.

The abstract guidelines are as follows:

1. All information, including the title and abstract text, should be submitted in English, and using sentence case, e.g. not All-Caps

2. The title is limited to 300 characters, including punctuation and spaces. 3. Use the full name of institutions, e.g. write out "Natural History Museum", rather than "NHM".

4. Full postal address is not required, just the institution name and the country

5. Abstract length is limited to 2500 characters, including punctuation Celebrating Celebrating



Bedfordshire GEOLOGY GROUP Kensworth Quarry Clean Up.

A mild January morning saw our intrepid volunteers

(right) at Kensworth Quarry on the Dunstable Downs. However, just as we started, the heavens opened and we were drenched. This didn't deter us as we all endeavoured to reveal



some key features, with the gang split into three teams.

Team one cleared the overgrowing vegetation and small saplings. Team two began to uncover the fault situated in the centre of the exposure. Team three worked on cleaning the face around a solution pipe and digging down to the Caburn Marl which is at the outcrop's base. The day was very successful in revealing much of this exposure but further work will be required to uncover the Caburn Marl, which we didn't quite get down to; maybe a small digger will be required next time we schedule this site's maintenance. Thanks to all our volunteers for their hard work. **Bev** Foulston

#Progeo2023 for the next issue!

www.progeo2023.com

9-11th October 2023 Charnwood Forest, UK Promoting Geoco

#Progeo2023

"Chalk has determined the character of the landscape. It shows beneath the pale XI" INTERNATIONAL grass and the growing barley and on the **PROGEO SYMPOSIUM** newly ploughed earth and the tracks of tractors and through the cattle-tramped mud beside the gates. It is the chalk that www.progeo2023.com bestows on the streams their dazzling clarity ... " Jom Fort (2012, p. 226)

Your COPY

GEONEWS



With GCUK as a partner we are urging member groups to actively support this year's GeoWeek. It's an established initiative that seeks to introduce geoscience to as many members of the public as possible. This year it's running between 27th May and 4th June. For background information and details visit the website:

https://earth-science.org.uk.geoweek/

There you'll find the webform to register your event and a pin to stick on the event's on-line map. There's also a useful toolkit with advice on organising and publicising events, GeoWeek logos, leaflets, social media images and press release template.

Copy for the next, Summer, issue of GEONEWS, must be with by Friday, 14th July, 2023 at the very latest. the



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