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The Boat Trip Page 4



AGA Committee 1999 - 2000

Honorary President	J.T.C. Hay
Chairman	Bruce Mair
Vice Chairman	Roger Hinton
Treasurer	George Downie
Membership Secretary	Rachel Charnock
Newsletter Editor	John Sands
Departmental Rep.	Alan Crane
Student Rep.	Mark Douglas
Members	Frank Barker
	Wendy Burfoot
	Gordon Holm
	Andrew Hurst
	Nicky Tessen
	Angela Holland
	Pamela Kearney

Aberdeen Geological Alumni Annual General Meeting

The AGA has come through its second year and has sustained its success in raising funds to help second and third year students with the purchase of geological equipment. £1150 has been given this year.

A constitution has been drawn up, and we now have an excellent logo, and a website to enhance communication with the geological fraternity. The success of our fund-raising events indicates the enthusiasm of alumni and students in supporting AGA.

Our main drive this coming year is to provide opportunities for graduates to meet, and benefit from the experience of the alumni and to consolidate these links through academic activities.

Our committee membership has stabilised this year. Although we lost Amanda Cowley (congratulations on the wedding) and Rachel O'Brien (work commitments), Nicola Tessen, Wendy Burfoot, Angie Holland and Pamela Kearney joined to maintain the gender balance, and keep the "old boys" under control. On the "old boys" side, Jim Ritchie "retired" due to family and work commitments, and Cameron Hercus took a sabbatical in the USA (will he come back?). The committee welcomed Mark Douglas and Alan Crane as our student and staff representatives respectively, and also Frank Barker who joined this year. Our

present committee includes Alan Crane, Mark Douglas, George Downie, Roger Hinton, Angela Holland, Gordon Holm, Pamela Kearney, Bruce Mair, John Sands, Frank Barker, Wendy Burfoot, Rachel Charnock, Cameron Hercus, Andrew Hurst and Nicola Tessen.

The 2000 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th November in the Geology Department of the University. All alumni and students are invited to attend and provide their support to the AGA committee for the coming year.

The agenda will include the Chairman's, Treasurer's, and Membership Secretary's reports (they will be brief), and the election of members for the positions of Chairman or Chairwoman, Vice- Chairman or Chairwoman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Nominations for these positions and items for the agenda should be sent in advance to the present Chairman.

Cheese and wine will follow the AGM. Do attend and give your support to the committee and help them to maintain the success of the Aberdeen Geological Alumni in the coming year.

Dr. Bruce F. Mair
Chairman

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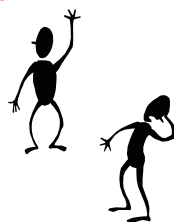
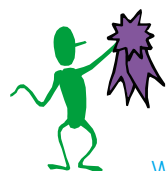


Future Events



QUIZ EVENING

- ★ Wednesday 21st February 2001
- ★ Crombie Hall, Old Aberdeen
- ★ 7.15 for 7.30pm start
- ★ Raffle & Bar
- ★ Ticket entry -
- ★ £3 per person
- ★ teams of 3 to 5 people



Contact

R.hinton@rml.co.uk

Phone: 01224 323314

Or view

www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/AGA



'Cat in a Doocot'

Callers, Stovies, Raffle, Bar.

Elphinstone Hall

Old Aberdeen

Fri. 10th Nov. 2000

8.00 'till Midnight

Ticket Entry:

Members £10

Students £10

Non-Members £12

Contact:

Bruce Mair - 630968 - bfmair@aol.com

Roger Hinton - 323314 - roger.hinton@abdn.demon.co.uk

Mark Douglas - 273436 - m.g.douglas@abdn.ac.uk

or any AGA committee member

The following events are in the planning stage for 2001

Boat Trip - summer 2001

Hike & Distillery Vist - summer 2001

Edinburgh - Dynamic Earth & Scottish Museum - 2001

Old Aberdeen Architectural Tour - 2001

For details of these events please contact any member of the committee

Details of these events will be posted to you when they are finalised. If you wish to organise an event please contact the committee.

Please check the web site WWW.abdn.ac.uk/geology/AGA



Beaujolais - From the Roots Up

On the evening of the 11th of October, 2000, ninety alumni and guests attended a lecture and practical on the discipline of wine tasting. The practical materials were 6 red wines and , to make it simple, all were made from the Gamay grape variety. The wine from the Loire is produced from grapes growing on soils derived from a variety of rock types.

Of the five wines from Beaujolais, the wines for 3 crus, Saint Amour, Moulin - a-Vent and Fleurie, come from grapes grown on soils derived from disintegrated granite. The grapes for the Margon grow on "rotted" schists and those for the Cotes de Brouilly grow around a basalt plug that intruded the lava and ash that covers the granite in the South of the area.

No one claimed to be able to taste the bedrock in any of the wines. This most enjoyable evening added £407.52 to the student support fund. The lecturer was Carol Whitehead of Marstone Wines.

George Downie

ForthComing Events

As most of the events organised by the Alumni are selling out very fast our intention is to notify you of events that are happening further ahead than we have done in the past. Page 2 contains just some of the events organised. If you wish to obtain any further details do not hesitate to contact any member of the alumni committee. They should know what is happening.

Mark Douglas

Correspondence to:
Rachel Charnock
Alumnus Officer
University Office
Aberdeen
AB24 3FX

r.chnock@abdn.ac.uk

□



No eating or drinking in this class room!



Wine 1. Nice and simple two hands one glass



Someone's stolen my microscope!



Walking with Dinosaurs Lectures

Professor Michael Benton - Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University of Bristol will be presenting a public lecture entitled " Walking with Dinosaurs : Fact or Fiction?"

at 7.00pm on the 3rd of November in the Arts Lecture Theatre, William Guild Building at the University of Aberdeen. The lecture is free by ticket and open to the public. For a ticket to this event simply contact the public relations office at the University. Tel 01224 272014. Professor Michael Benton is an Aberdeen graduate and scientific advisor to the blockbuster BBC series Walking with Dinosaurs. He will be discussing the realism of and the research behind the series. He will also discuss the science of the animation. He is author of about 30 books about dinosaurs and other fossil groups.

Boat Trip - 14th June 2000

"Flaming June"! Tuesday the 13th dawned with a howling northeasterly gale, torrential rain and a thermometer that struggled to reach 12° celsius. Did I really want to sail, the next day, out of Stonehaven harbour? It wasn't even going to be possible to view the rocks closely, let alone touch or hammer them!

Wednesday June 14th, however, turned out to be a much better day. At 6.30.pm, along with 15 geological alumni, I boarded one of the two small fishing boats that AGA had hired for our evening cruise.

We sailed south out of Stonehaven harbour, close to the cliffs, along a continuously exposed section of Old Red Sandstone sediments and lavas, well described by Nigel Trewin (remember him?) in the Stonehaven and Crawton itineraries of the Aberdeen Geological Society's guide to the Geology of the Aberdeen Area.

The stark, apparently impregnable mass of Dunnottar castle, dramatically lit by cloud piercing shafts of evening sun, withdrew attention from the geology and spawned a hail of clicking camera shutters.

Suddenly, our boat changed speed and course. Dolphins had been spotted. We were in close contact with about 20 dolphins distributed between 3 small groups. The detour lasted until the onboard photographers were convinced of their inability to synchronise camera shutters with the airborne phase of a dolphin's leap.

We turned southwards again, back towards the highest cliffs on the section, ostensibly to view the geology. Reality provided one of the finest displays of nesting sea-birds to be seen anywhere on the British mainland. The air, the cliffs and the sea were alive, teeming with puffins, razor-

bills, guillemots and gulls. The noise!... the smell!... "does anyone have an umbrella?". Further south, a few seals lazed on rocky ledges at the water's edge.

Then, near Crawton and the cliffs of basalt that loom above the Trollochy, we headed out to sea and steered a northerly course about 1 mile offshore, towards the Highland Boundary Fault. Our route intercepted that of feeding gannets from the Isle of May population, but the view southwest towards the cliffs offered about the only profile view of the Strathmore syncline that can be obtained. As this is one of the largest folds in Britain, it's an impressive sight.

Viewing conditions were not ideal, but we gained an excellent impression and unfamiliar view of the huge reverse sense of dip displacement on the HBF.

We were hungry, we were thirsty. It took only a few minutes for the boats to return us to Stonehaven harbour, even less for everyone to walk to a quayside bar. Over a few drinks and a good meal, it was enjoyable to chat, to laugh and to reminisce. It had been a really good evening, everyone said so.

Dr Alan Crane

Granite City Geology Ball Donates £10,000 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute

The 10th annual Granite City Geology Ball, held on the 18th of March 2000, raised another £1000 for the R.N.L.I. bringing the total contributions to this worthy cause from the ball to £10,239 in ten years. The Cheque hand over was at 11am on the 20th of October. The Press & Journal amazingly featured the hand over on the 5th of October an amazing piece of time travel by the P&J. The Granite City Geology Ball uniquely mixes many of the regions oil companies with students and graduates. It is run by staff & students in the Department of Geology & Petroleum Geology, University of Aberdeen in association with Aberdeen Geological Alumni.

The 11th annual Granite City Geology Ball will be held at the Hilton Tree Tops Hotel, Aberdeen on the 17th of March 2001. Tickets can be obtained from room 127 in the department at a cost of £35 for non students and £30 for students.

Bruce Chalton



Allan Crane on board the Lady Gail discussing the complexities of the highland boundry fault



Department News

Two new staff members who have recently joined the department - Dr. Chris Morley & Anne Schwab.



Chris is the Exxon-Mobil Lecturer in Structural Geology and joins us from the Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He has a variety of interests in structural geology including the East African Rift System and mud diapir-related tectonics.

Anne joins the Department from Total Fina Elf where she has been working as a senior geophysicist. Her interests lie in the geological interpretation of geophysical data.

Various post-doctoral student appointments have been made in the "Injected Sands", "ASTARE" and "Geofluids" projects. Geologists from the Denmark & Greenland Geological Survey (GEUS) recently visited the department to promote co-operation between the two institutions.

Dr. Paul Glover has been appointed to the chairmanship of the new European Geophysical Society Interdisciplinary Working Group "Energy, Resources and Environment"

Recently Prof. Carl Schuster (Adjunct Prof. of Marine Science, Virginia Institute, North Arlington, Virginia, USA) visited the department to meet with Dr. Lyall Anderson. Lyall and Prof. Schuster are joint authors of a forthcoming book on the North American horseshoe crab *Limulus polyphemus*. Prof. Schuster, though now retired, has an active research record in this field dating back to the early 1950's.

Student/ Staff Numbers

The department has the following student and staff numbers

2 Professors

17 Lecturers

6 Post-Doctoral Research Fellows

1 Research Assistant 7 Technicians

3 Secretarial Staff

1 Computing Staff

25 Phd Students

14 Msc Students

29 Honours Students

33 Junior Honours

77 2nd Year

72 1st Year

In general terms the department is in good health but is always looking for extra support of all kinds. The departments research interests are again taking on a new diversity which can only be good for the long term survival of the department.

The Msc course continues to lead the world in preparing graduates for the challenges of the Oil Industry. The undergraduate course is continually evolving to meet the training needs of the modern geologist. The undergraduate course is providing a platform for both further education and employment at which the last Honours class to graduate has been particularly successful.

The departments multi national standing is reflected in the students at all levels and results in the department being a place of delightfully contrasting experiences adding to the depth of education available and making the department a very vibrant community.

Mark Douglas

Research Seminars

The Departmental Research Seminar series will be held on Tuesday Lunch Times in the department. A list of upcoming seminars can be obtained from the department.

Everyone is welcome to these talks.

All offers of talks for future slots will be welcome.

Professor David Macdonald

Department of Geology & Petroleum Geology Tel: 01224-273458

E-mail: d.macdonald@abdn.ac.uk

AGA Membership drive

We are always looking for new members amongst the alumni of the geology department. To help us with this we are looking for each current

member to ask one of their peers to join. If each member can get one other to join this would boost the membership tremendously. Membership is easily arranged through the web site

www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/AGA

or by contacting Rachael Charnock who's address can be found on page three.

Wanlockhead

The Museum of Lead Mining - Underfunding leads to risk of Closure

Although receiving support from the local councils this Museum of major heritage and Geological importance is under increasing financial pressure and may be closed.

They are requesting that the Government provide some financial assistance to stop the closure. They also suggest that interested AGA members petition Ms. Rhona Brankin, MSP, Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport, in writing in support of the museum's case.

For further information please contact Robert J. Reekie, Chairman Wanlockhead Museum Trust, The Museum of Lead Mining, 16 Plewlands Terrace Edinburgh EH10 5JZ or Tel 0131 - 447 7427

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CONSTITUTION OF THE ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name.

The name of the Association shall be the "Aberdeen Geological Alumni" (A.G.A.). Hereinafter referred to as "the Association".

Section 2. The main objectives of the Association shall be:

- To establish, encourage and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship between graduates and the staff and students of the Department of Geology and Petroleum Geology of the University of Aberdeen, hereinafter referred to as "the Department".
- To further the welfare of the Department and its staff and students by any means in the Association's power.
- To diffuse information about the Department's needs and to encourage alumni to support the Department.
- To promote goodwill links between the Department and industry, government and other universities through graduate contacts.

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ARTICLE II: Membership

The Association shall have four categories of members:

Section 1. Ordinary Member

Ordinary Membership shall be available to graduates, former students, holders of honorary degrees and staff members of the Department.

Section 2. Student Member

Student Membership shall be available to current undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Department. Students from other departments may be admitted at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Section 3. Associate Member

- Associate Membership shall be available to any individual or organisation sharing the objectives of the Association.
- Associate Members shall have all the privileges of regular membership except those of voting and holding office in the Association.

Section 4. Honorary Member

Honorary membership may be awarded at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Candidates for Honorary membership must be recommended to and approved by the Management Committee.

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ARTICLE III: Management Committee

Section 1. Structure.

There shall be a Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") normally consisting eight members selected from the Ordinary, Student or Honorary Membership.

Section 2. Office-bearers.

The officers of the Association, whose positions shall be honorary, shall be the President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

- Except where other provision is made, the officers shall be members of the Association and shall be elected at the AGM.
- The President of the Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee with full voting rights and privileges for the duration of his/her term.
He/She shall be nominated by the Committee, in consultation with the Department.
- The Head of Department or his/her designee shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee with full voting rights and privileges.
- The Alumni Officer of the University shall be an Honorary Member of the Association and shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee with full voting rights and privileges for the duration of his/her term.

Section 3. Committee Membership

- At least one Committee Member shall be selected to represent the current Student Membership and at least one other to represent the staff of the Department.
- The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members at any time. Any member so co-opted shall serve out the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee.
- If the post of any Officer or Ordinary Committee Member should fall vacant after an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy.

Section 4. Nomination.

Nomination to the Committee is open to any Ordinary or Student Member of the Association. Any Member may make nominations to the Committee. All nominations will be considered at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 5. Terms.

- Committee members shall be elected for one-year terms.
- An officer shall hold only one position at a time.
- All Committee members will stand down at the end of each year but may be nominated for re-election in any subsequent year.
- Office bearers may serve successive terms.

Section 6. Organisation and Meetings.

- The Committee shall have the power to manage the whole business of the Association competent in the terms of this Constitution and to allocate funds in keeping with the aims of the Association.
- The Committee shall meet at such times as it shall itself determine, but not less than twice in each year.
- At all meetings the Chairman, whom failing the Secretary, whom failing any Committee Member elected by the Meeting shall take the chair.
- The Committee may, at its discretion, invite any member of the Association or other person to attend a Committee meeting, but such members or persons shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings.
- The Committee shall have the power to set up sub-committees as shall be necessary to consider and report back on any matter within the responsibility of the Committee. At least two members a sub-committee shall be members of the Committee and one or the other of these shall act as Chairman at their meetings.
- The Secretary or his alternate shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all proceedings of the Association and the Management Committee. All minutes are to be distributed to the members of the Committee within 30 days following any Committee meeting.

Section 7. Quorum.

A quorum for business at Association meetings shall consist of those members present at the time the meeting is called to order. The Association shall act at any meeting by a majority vote of those members present and voting. In an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

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ARTICLE IV: Finance

Section 1. Financial Year.

The financial year of the Association shall be from 1st October to 30th September. *Section 2. Subscriptions.*

- There shall be an annual subscription fee, the rates of which will be fixed by the Committee and which will fall

due on the 1st October.

- Any changes to the level of subscription shall be notified to members one month prior to the due date.
- Any member whose subscription is not paid by January 31st shall, at the discretion of the Committee, cease to be a member.
- Members shall be entitled to a free copy of all communications and newsletters issued by the Committee. These may be in hard copy or electronic form.
- Where two payments are made by husband and wife, each shall have the full privileges of membership except that, where applicable, only one copy of all communications and publications shall be sent to the same membership address.

Section 3. Treasurer

- The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the Association's monies as directed by the Committee, and other members of the Committee receiving or paying out money on its behalf shall be accountable to him.

- The Treasurer shall arrange for the keeping of proper accounts and for these to be inspected by the Auditor(s) appointed and laid before the Annual General Meeting for approval.

Section 4. Signatories.

Cheques shall bear the signature of two Committee members, one of which shall be an officer of the Association.

Section 5. Liability.

The Association's officers shall not be held responsible for any payments received from members in the form of cash or coin sent through the post.

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ARTICLE V: Association Meetings

Section 1. Annual General Meeting

- An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held between 30th September and 31st December. The business of the meeting shall include:

- Report by the Committee on the business of the past year.
 - Accounts and Treasurer's Report.
 - Election of Office-bearers and other members of the Committee and Honorary Members if required.
- The Annual General Meetings shall be held in the Department unless otherwise agreed.
 - All members of the Association shall be entitled to attend the meeting and to vote.
 - Notice of the date and time of the Annual General Meeting shall be circulated to all members at such time as will permit such notice to reach any member in the United Kingdom twenty-one days before the meeting.
 - Any member of the Association may submit motions for discussion and nominations for membership of the Committee.
 - Motions for discussion must reach the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the meeting. They must be proposed and seconded.

- Nominations for Officers and membership of the Committee may be submitted to the Secretary before the date fixed for the meeting. These shall be valid only if the person nominated has expressed consent to nomination.
- Where the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies members of the Committee shall be elected by those present at the Annual General Meeting in such manner as the Chairman may think appropriate.

Section 2. Special or Extra-ordinary Meeting

- A Special or Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Association may be called at any time.

- By a majority resolution of those present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Committee.

□ or

- By request in writing to the Secretary signed by at least 10 members. Such requests must state the purpose for which the meeting is to be called. It must reach the Secretary at least 30 days before the proposed date of the meeting.
- Notice of the date and time of a Special or Extra-ordinary Meeting shall be circulated to all members at such time as will permit such notice to reach any member in the United Kingdom twenty-one days before the meeting.
 - Special or Extra-ordinary Meetings shall be held in the Department.
 - No business shall be transacted at the Special Meeting or Extra-ordinary except that for which the meeting was called.

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ARTICLE VI: Affiliation

Any properly constituted body having conditions of membership and objectives similar to those of the Association may be affiliated to the Association on such terms as may be mutually arranged. Such terms must be approved by the Management Committee.

□

ARTICLE VII: Interpretation and Amendments

Section 1. Interpretation

- The Committee shall have power to interpret the rules of this Constitution should there be any difference of opinion concerning them.

- The Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in this Constitution

Section 2. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by mail ballot prior to an Annual General Meeting, or by a two-thirds majority of those voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special Meeting called for the purpose.

- A rule or rules of the Association may only be changed or a new rule adopted on the proposal of three members of the Committee or 10% of the members for the time being of the Association:

- By resolution at a General Meeting with a two-thirds majority of those voting.

□ or

- By postal ballot, held at the discretion of the Committee, with a two-thirds majority of those voting.

□

ARTICLE VIII: Winding Up

The Association may only be dissolved or merged with another organisation by a majority of three-quarters of those attending and voting at a Special or Extra-ordinary Meeting called for the purpose.

- In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Association, any assets or property of the Association remaining after the discharge of all just debts and liabilities shall become the property of the Department. These to be used for the benefit of the Department in accordance with the stated aims of the Association or if this is not possible, some charitable institution having similar objectives.

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Approved by Committee 11th September 2000.

To be approved and adopted by AGM 29th November 2000.