

AGM 2000 Highlights

IN WITH THE NEW AND OUT WITH THE 'OLD' BRUCE MAIR

AGA's second AGM was held in the Basin Studies Room of the Department on the 29th November. Bruce Mair reviewed the year's events and noted that we had established some popular social events, however we should continue to aim to do our bit to improve links between the Alumni, industry and the undergraduates.

*A couple of years
as chairman takes
its toll!*



The Treasurer's report showed a healthy position with 3584 pounds in the bank, mainly raised from the quiz evening and the ceilidh. The use of funds will continue to be in support of the Undergraduates and, in addition to supporting the purchase of field equipment, a prize for the Best Fieldwork results is to be initiated.

The AGA constitution was adopted and you can view a copy on the website.

The membership secretary reported 55 sustaining members renewed to date. We need to boost this figure and ask all alumni to remember to try and raise our profile and help maintain contact with fellow alumni.

After 2 years at the tiller, Bruce Mair

stepped down as Chairman and handed over to Roger Hinton, with Gordon Holm as vice-chairman. Both are graduates of the "Department of Mineralogy and Crystallography" back in 1971 and spent a spell in hard-rock mining and mineral exploration before being lured into the the oil industry.

Incoming Chairman's Notes

ROGER HINTON

Bruce has said it all (again, do I hear?) and reminded us of our more long-term goals. The Wine Tasting, Ceilidh and Quiz Evening are becoming our established annual fun events.

*Wonder if I should
get a hat?*



We have a couple of events for Spring and Early Summer, first a Whisky Appreciation Evening and then a repeat of the Stonehaven Boat Trip. Find details below and on the web page. During the next few months we will be working on our other objectives and hope to have something to say about that in the next newsletter.

Thanks for all your good work Bruce!

Diary Dates

25th May, 20th June,
10th Nov.

See page 5 or look on the
AGA website for details

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Committee 2000-2001

Hon Pres:	JTC Hay
Chairman:	Roger Hinton
Vice Chairman:	Gordon Holm
Treasurer:	George Downie
Membership Sec:	Rachel Charnock
Newsletter Editors:	Pamela Kearney, Anne Watkins
Departmental Rep:	Alan Crane
Student Rep:	Bruce Charlton
Ordinary Members:	Frank Barker, Wendy Burfoot, Mark Douglas, Moirra Fallas, Angela Holland, Bruce Mair, John Sands.

Angela Holland is re-locating to Dublin. We would like to thank her for her contribution to AGA and wish her luck for the future!

NEWSLETTER No.6



Quiz Evening 2001

THE HRH QUIZ CHALLENGE CUP

This year's cerebral challenge took place on the 21st February at the Crombie Hall. We had another capacity turnout, with 28 teams going for the honours this year.



HRH Limited has generously donated a superb quaich, which now becomes the **'HRH Quiz Challenge Trophy'**



This will be up for grabs every 12 months or thereabouts at future quiz evenings. The overall winners will have their team's epic achievement engraved on the trophy for geological time- but will be expected to hand the quaich back and defend their position the following year.

Reservoir Management Limited and Schlumberger also sponsored team prizes.

We had a generous selection of prizes to give out this year and we thank the sponsors for their generous donations. Prize for the overall highest score went to

"Dynamo Disaster" from Sperry Sun, "The Reservoir Dogs" from Shell won the best non-geological rounds and Technoguide's, "Technogods" walked away with the geology rounds prize, largely on their eloquent descriptions of the rock samples.

The range between highest and lowest scores was narrower than last year, maybe the questions are getting too easy; Even so, our previous star teams failed to twinkle. The "Ignorant Academics" (lecturers' team) failed to recognise the shape of their samples from their teaching sets and last year's winner from Baker Atlas, "The Nosebags" were resting on their laurels. Both teams claimed their prime brains had been called away at the last minute.

The event raised almost £640 for which we thank all contributors and attendees.



Gordon "I ask ze questions" Holm

The "Scores on the Doors" and pictures can be seen on the AGA



The Conoquiztadores - deep in thought?

website:-

www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/aga



The Ignorant Academics prepare for defeat

Take a lookor maybe not!!

**If you didn't make it to the Quiz,
try these Brain Teasers:**

- 1 SCOTLANDITE is a naturally-occurring sulphite of which metal?
- 2 Which famous Scottish Geologists wrote "The Testimony of the Rocks"? What happened next?
- 3 Which volcano erupted molten sodium carbonate? Where is it?
- 4 What is the name for the highest mountain on Mars?

Answers on page 6

NEWSLETTER No.6



AGA Ceilidh, November 2001

Bruce Mair

The 3rd AGA Ceilidh was held in



Now where's my partner?

Elphinstone Hall with music provided by the "enigmatic" band, Cat in a Doocot. Enigmatic - Yes, they are a wacky bunch of great musicians who sometimes had us wondering which dance it was. However, most of the 150 guests didn't mind and many would have graced "The White Heather Club" with Andy Stewart - help ma boab, what a thought! Stovies, both original and politically



Committee members discuss the finer points of Stripping the Willow.

correct veggie variations (fit? nae meat!) fuelled the second half of the

evening.

The raffle was dominated by a plethora of green tickets, yet five colours had been on sale? So Pam Kearney's marketing ploy ensured that all of the Malt Whisky prizes went to the lecturers, and the indefatigable Gordon Holm (surely that was a mistake). So, a great success and Elphinstone is already booked for this year's Ceilidh on Saturday November 10th 2001. We hope to see you there.

Sponsorship

Website Sponsored
by HRH
Limited

AGA have received sponsorship for their website from HRH Limited. This is a helpful boost to our fundraising and incentive to try keep the site up to date. Hopefully it will benefit HRH Limited too.

We are always open to offers of sponsorship!

There are further opportunities to sponsor the website, associate your company name with one of our events, as well this Newsletter. So... if you would like to see your name or your company's logo in lights, please contact

Pamela_Kearney@hotmail.com
for details.

If you have any comments, or would like to assist with the AGA, please contact Roger Hinton or Gordon Holm.

Thanks to all the contributors.
PM Kearney
A Watkins
Newsletter Editors

In the Next Edition:

***Highlights from the
Whisky Appreciation
Evening.***

***Highlights from the
Stonehaven Boat Trip,
birds and outcrop!***

***Field Work Comments
from the
Undergraduates.***



If you want to get in touch with long-lost fellow alumni, why not put a note in the next newsletter? We would be happy to publish photos of class field trip activities (within reason) or add a few notes about where folks are and what they are up to. AGA needs your participation - keep in touch!

Contact the
Newsletter Editors or
the Alumni Officer Rachel
Charnock.



r.charnock@abdn.ac.uk

NEWSLETTER No.6



Departmental News

PRESS RELEASE - ANNE SCHWAB

The Department of Geology and Petroleum Geology at the University of Aberdeen is pleased to announce it's receipt of \$1.4 million University Grant from Landmark Graphics Corporation.

This 3 year software award includes integrated exploration and produc-



tion software and support services for Landmark and GeoGraphix Programmes. Aberdeen is one of twelve universities around the world which has received an award from Landmark.

In the Landmark press release Mike Simmonds says "The grant means that we will be able to expose our students to the latest integrated interpretation technology in the industry". Read the rest of the release at

www.halliburton.com

[/LGC/LGCNWS/LGCNWS_041101.asp](http://LGC/LGCNWS/LGCNWS_041101.asp)

ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

With the departure of Mike Simmonds to CAS, Gordon Walkden has been confirmed as new Head of Department with assistance from David Macdonald.

FOOT AND MOUTH?

The University of Aberdeen, Geology department were no exception to the impact of "Foot and Mouth". Undergraduate field work for the

Easter Holidays was cancelled and plans are 'afoot' to have the fieldwork rescheduled to Spain in May!!! One would think that is was a cunning ploy instigated by the crafty students to get better weather for their fieldwork.

Other immediate fieldwork has been carried out locally, where access to Farmland was not required.

WHO SAYS THE WEATHER IN
SPAIN IS BETTER THAN THE
WEATHER IN
BALLACHULISH?

Granite City Ball - March 2001

BRUCE CHALTON

Planning for this event began back in April 2000. The ball is run by students within the department of geology and during this embryonic stage of this years ball Mark Douglas and I had the onerous task of deciding on and booking the venue (Shell limited the choice by booking the Ardoe for the whole of March), the meal, and the two bands.

After this initial period of activity we then laid the ball to rest till December 2001 when we began to remind people of the date for purchasing tickets. The ticket selling day began at 8am and within 2 hours all but a few seat were completely sold out. From this period on our main involvement was in the selling of the remaining seats, which continued till the days leading up to the event as people chopped and changed with many industry people having to go off-shore.

The event this year was well attended with personnel from all of the major oil companies, service companies, and academic divisions of the geological community of Aberdeen being repre-

sented.

The Hilton Treetops hotel provided an excellent three course meal, some wine and drink which seems to have been enjoyed by most. There then followed a period of technical glitches, supervised by the Hilton Staff. Professor David MacDonald's speech was cut short (to the pleasant surprise of some of the students attending the event) due to a technical problem with the microphone (Sorry David).



Nigel Trewin mimes the raffle numbers during a technical hitch.

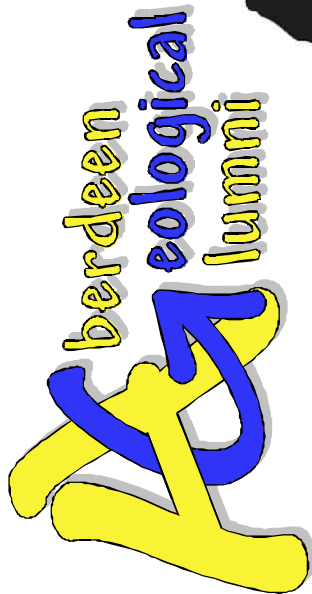
DONATION TO RNLI
from
GRANITE CITY BALL

The annual R.N.L.I grand prize draw, hosted by Dr. Nigel Trewin, has raised more than £10,000 over the last ten years. This year the prize draw raised £1555 for the RNLI.

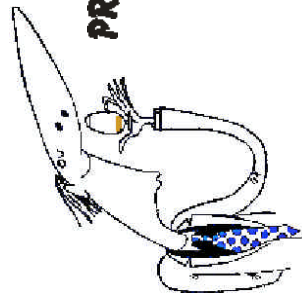
Other proceeds from the event are to



be distributed with the guidance of the AGA and will be aimed at supporting undergraduate field work.



Whisky Appreciation Evening



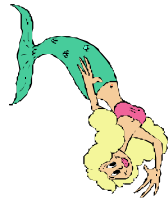
PRESENTED BY UNITED DISTILLERS

The Conference Room
A.U. Chemistry Department
Meston Building
Old Aberdeen

Tickets £5.00
Friday 25th May.
7.30pm

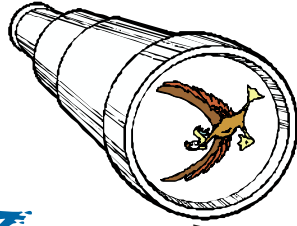
Contact bruce.mair@aol.com
roger.hinton@aberdn.demon.co.uk
or any AGA committee member

Book early - numbers limited



EVENING GEOLOGY CRUISE FROM STONEHAVEN

**WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE
DEPART STONEHAVEN 18.30HRS**



Commentary on the shoreline geology
view birdlife of the cliffs
& maybe dolphins



2 Boats reserved - max number 16
£10 (including pint on return to shore)

(priority to AGA members due to limited numbers
- see AGA website for membership details :-
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/aga>)

To Reserve a Place Contact:
Gordon Holm
01224 297419
gordon.holm@fifeeuk.co.uk



Subject to Weather

Please supply name, address or email,
plus a contact phone number for
confirmation on day of event



£10

NEWSLETTER No.6



Aberdeen Geological Alumni (AGA)

The AGA was formed in 1998 and is one of the most active Departmental Alumni Associations in the University. Its aims are to "provide a focus of peer-group support in order to preserve and promote the tradition of geoscience excellence at Aberdeen University."

The social programme has been our main means of bringing together students, staff, graduates and industry. The profits from these events and the annual subscriptions have so far enabled AGA to assist with the purchase of compass-clinometers, hand-lenses and grain-size comparators for undergraduate students.

All former graduates of the Geology Department of Aberdeen University are entitled to become AGA members for a subscription of £10 per annum. Graduates are encouraged to contact us and join the Association in order to keep in touch with the Department. Others are invited to join as "Friends of the Department". A newsletter is issued periodically (by e-mail and post) and website is also available.

Alumnus and industry support is essential to give present day students an opportunity to pursue a career in Geology!

Come and join us - we really are having fun!

For more information contact the Chairman, Roger Hinton (01224 323314)
roger.hinton@aberdn.demon.co.uk
or the Aberdeen University Alumnus Officer Rachel Charnock (01224 272092)
r.chnock@abdn.ac.uk

The main objectives of the Association :-

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.
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.

If you know the whereabouts of an Aberdeen Geology Graduate who is not a member of AGA please pass on this newsletter and ask them to contact Rachel Charnock.

Quiz Answers :

1. Scotlandite Lead, PbSO₃, from Leadhills.
2. Hugh Miller. He then committed suicide.

3. Ol Doiyo Lengai in Tanzania.
4. Olympus Mons.