

Newsletter



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Recent AGA Activities -

We are Sailing -

Stonehaven Boat Trip 2001

Once again Gordon Holm picked one of the few sunny summer evenings for the boat trip to Crawton and the HBF. Alan Crane and George Downie gave a running commentary whilst passengers photographed the birdlife. Some seals were spotted but no Dolphins this year.

Afterwards we had a welcome pint and sea-food platters all round at the Marine Hotel.



Ancient mariners at Stonehaven

Gordon reckons someone else should organise the trip next year as his weather luck could be running out. Whatever, if you missed this trip watch out for next year's!

Winetasting 2001

About 60 members and friends gathered in the 1st Year lab. on 3rd October for this year's wine-tasting. Professional wine educator Carol

Whitehead presented 6 wines from vineyards on gravel and schist. A great evening -once again. Thanks to Carol.



Slurping lessons at the winetasting

3rd Year Challenge

A new addition to the 3rd year course this year will be a team problem solving evening to be hosted by AGA on 24th October in the 1st year lab, start time 6.30pm. Exxon-Mobil will actually run the challenge (the subject of which remains a secret until the start-time) - thanks to Pam Kearney for organising their support. Alumni are welcome to come along and observe or maybe even take part if there are enough volunteers. Please let Mark Douglas at m.g.douglas@abdn.ac.uk know if you would like to come.

Sponsors

Geomem is the latest company to join our list of favorites, having made a generous donation of £400 to the AGA good cause.

Copy costs for this newsletter have been covered by their sponsorship. James Tweedie of Geomem graduated from Aberdeen in 1976. Geomem Consultants, located in Blairgowrie supply and develop geoscience software.

We are always on the lookout for sponsors!! If you or your company is able to assist via donation or sponsorship, please let us know.

Remember that all our profits find their way back to helping Geology students, mainly to cope with the extra expenses incurred by fieldwork costs etc.

Membership Renewals

If you have paid by cheque and your membership is due, please consider renewing with a direct debit. You can download a mandate form from the AGA website.

Information and joining instructions are also available from our website at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/aga

For more information contact the Aberdeen University Alumnus Officer Rachel Charnock (01224 272092) r.charnock@abdn.ac.uk

AGA Events to watch out for

31st October
10th November
February 2002
16th March 2002

- AGA AGM - & free whisky raffle!
- Ceilidh at Elphinstone Hall with "Iron Broo".
- The HRH Quiz Challenge Evening.
- Granite City Ball at the Treetops Hotel.

Updates and more information on the AGA Website:
www.abdn.ac.uk/geology/aga

AGA Membership Application

Surname: _____ First Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Type of Membership: Alumni / Friend / Student (circle one)

Membership:
Student £2
Alumni/Friend £10

Post Code: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Telephone: _____

Please return the completed form and cheque/DD mandate to:

Email Address: _____

Rachel Charnock
Alumnus Officer
University Office
Aberdeen
AB24 3FX

Subscription can be made by cash or cheque (payable to "Aberdeen Geological Alumni") or preferably by Direct Debit. Please download a DD form from the AGA website.

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NEWS SNIPPETS

AGA at the Oilshow!

Members of the AGA Committee were on the University Stand at Offshore Europe on 6th September. We had the opportunity to hand out information - in the form of an "Oilshow Special Edition" Newsletter summarising AGA activities. AGA was also a featured link on the special Aberdeen University Oil & Gas Centre website created for this event at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/oilgas/

AGA features on the Petroleum Technology link, from the main menu.

www.abdn.ac.uk/oilgas/petgeol.htm

You can also see a copy of the newsletter on the AGA website.

Aberdeen Grad Dun Gud

1977 graduate Ian Collins has been awarded a Distinguished Service Award by AAPG. "In recognition of his continuing efforts to promote geological and geophysical earth science during his career in South-east Asia. In particular, while president of the South East Asia Exploration Society". Congratulations Ian.

Union Bar Shines

Aberdeen Students Union has been named "Best Club in Scotland" by Club Mirror Magazine. It is also one of four finalists in "Student Union of the Year" to be decided 27th Nov.

Alumni can still be members of the Union - it costs £6 per annum. Life membership is £60 less £6 per year of study. Forms available from the Union.

Dusting off the Old School of Mineralogy and Crystallography.

Aberdeen Asset Management have announced plans to convert part of Marischal College into its new headquarters offices. Varsity will still keep



Pamela Kearney hands out newsletters at the Oilshow

the museum and Mitchell Hall. The Quad is set to become a "design feature".

Spanish Fieldtrip, May 2001

Tim Gray

The onslaught of foot and mouth disease earlier this year wreaked havoc upon geological fieldwork across much of the UK, with the effects being felt nowhere more than at the geology department of the University of Aberdeen. Second and third year students reeled

the second day however, the third year were to discover that the rain in Spain is very likely to fall in the mountains when mapping, whilst being greeted with news of a heatwave in Aberdeen with temperatures up to 30°C. Apart from mapping tracks, throughout the rest of the week the second and third year alike were treated to such

delights as sedimentary logging, Palaeozoic mapping and mineralisation, structure mapping, feature mapping, and mounds of mud. The trip culminated with an attempt to find the biggest mountain in the Pyrenees that one can access with a coach, and climbing it.



Field "workers" avoiding Foot & Mouth in Spain

with horror and disbelief as they were informed that they would not be taking part in the standard Easter field excursions to the rainswept areas of Arran and Ballachulish, due to local fears of the spreading epidemic. Student's grievances about missing the opportunity to visit such classic areas of geology were, however, somewhat dispelled upon the announcement of a replacement field-trip for both years to the popular coastal resort of Cap Salou, NE Spain. The encouragement from several staff members who stepped forward to offer their services was astonishing and helped to quell any remaining disparity amongst the student fraternity. Adrian Hartley, Jeremy Preston, Gordon Walkden, David Macdonald, Suzanne Miller, Clive Rice, Alan Crane, Titus Haggan and Christoph Zink all modestly regarded their role in this trip as crucial. Selflessly, some even went ahead to check that the Pyrenees were still there.

Greeted by the cruel Spanish sunshine on our first day, there seemed to be a general consensus that we should work on the beach where we could climatise and instigate community relations. On

Seriously though, the Spanish trip was of enormous benefit to all concerned and although many aspects of the Scottish trips could not have been covered, we also encountered many things that I dare say we would not see in Scotland. Many thanks to the staff who somehow managed to pull off a well-organised course at the last minute. Also on behalf of the current fourth year thanks to the AGA for the provision of compass-clinometers cost-free.



Kings becomes Seat of Power

The Scottish Parliament has to vacate its temporary Edinburgh accommodation when the Church of Scotland want it back for the General Assembly. In May next year the Parliament will move into the Kings Conference Centre to make it its second temporary home.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Geophysics Workshop

Anne Schwab

The University of Aberdeen Geophysical Steering Committee is sponsoring a VSP Workshop for industry on Wednesday afternoon, Nov 21st in the Basin Studies Room.

This will be a chance for industry to see how VSP data can be used for research topics.

Anyone interested in attending this workshop should contact Anne Schwab at:

a.schwab@abdn.ac.uk

Wanted

Second-hand Production Facility!

The Department is looking for a decent sized scale model of a production platform or drilling rig to display in the entrance area. With all the mergers and moves going on we imagine that someone must know of a surplus model in need of a good home?

Contact :

d.macdonald@abdn.ac.uk

Also Wanted -

Spare SEGY Data

(is that milli-secondhand? -doh!)

Anne Schwab teaches geophysics to the new Petroleum Geology and Hydrocarbon Enterprise MSc classes. The Department has got additional software licences from Geographix but now needs some SEGY seismic data for class use.

If you can help out - or "know a man who can", please contact :

a.schwab@abdn.ac.uk

New MSc in Hydrocarbon Enterprise

Bryan Cronin

A brand new MSc in Hydrocarbon Enterprise was launched by Aberdeen University in September 2001. Sponsored by the Larry Kinch Foundation and with course director Dr Bryan Cronin, this new MSc is a world first in cross-faculty taught business and technology courses.

The course provides a broad training

in all areas of International Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, including business and law. Students will leave with an MSc, but will also gain an offshore safety certificate and a recognised certificate in a technical course in one of a choice of languages.

The course units are delivered by University staff plus a range of leading oil industry professionals.

This year the MSc is a full-time study course. Next year it will also comprise part-time units leading to Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma qualifications, as well as individual Continuing Professional Development units available to industry. Studentships are available for eligible applicants.

Further details may be obtained by emailing Bryan Cronin on

cronin@abdn.ac.uk

MSc in Petroleum Geology

Anne Schwab

A new class of 15 students has started

the course. From the class which just finished up on Sept 7, all 14 students either have full time jobs, funded PhDs, or six month contracts. So looks like the course and the graduates are still well received by industry. Any contact with industry is welcome, and ideas should go through Anne Schwab.



GCB provides Fieldwork Prizes

Remaining Granite City Ball profits after making a donation to the RNLI have been used to give prizes of £250 for outstanding fieldwork. This year prizes were awarded to Kathryn Long, Michael Rose, Donald Stewart, and Alison Treharne.

Timothy Gray won the L.Austin Weeks award for the AAPG Student Chapter.

Well done!

Ceilidh
Dancing to -

IRON-BROO

Callers, Stovies, Raffle, Bar.

Ticket Entry:
Members £10
Students £10
Non-Members £12

Elphinstone Hall
Old Aberdeen
Sat. 10th Nov. 2001
8.00 'till 1.00am

*Contact:
Moria Fallas - 833137 - FallasM@bp.com
Roger Hinton - 323314 - roger.hinton@aberdn.demon.co.uk
Mark Douglas - 07808 171358 - m.g.douglas@abdn.ac.uk
or any AGA Committee Member*



See you there!

