

Another Interim Edition

Explanation

In the very midst of sorting out a programme of field meetings for the Summer, and producing a newsletter to publicise them, our editor has been whisked away to Pakistan. In an email this week he complains of heat, mosquitoes and power cuts. How very fortunate we are to be enjoying a cold, showery spell of weather and to be able to venture out of doors free of the midges that plague us later in the year!

It therefore falls to me to issue this short-form newsletter with news of the forthcoming programme, which has been notified only in the form of target dates and without any details of the speakers and subjects.



Anatomy of the oceanic crust; remnants on Anglesey?

**Dr Graham Banks,
Fugro-Robertson**

**Wednesday 16th April 2008, 19:30h
Civic Hall, Castle St. Conwy**

Unusual and enigmatic outcrops on Anglesey of rather altered gabbro, serpentinite and pillow lavas have always been associated with oceanic

crust and the implication that a subduction zone was once nearby. It is therefore a special opportunity when we are able to call upon a local with experience of looking at ocean crust!

This talk starts with a guided tour through the oceanic crust, focusing on the magma chambers that provide the building materials. As an example, the well-preserved Troodos ophiolite, an exhumed fragment of Cretaceous-aged Tethys oceanic crust, is presented.

The second part outlines the findings of an expedition that sampled recently-formed oceanic crust at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (15° 20'N), at the intersection of the spreading ridge and a major transform fault. This anomalous crust has generated an interesting debate about our accepted ideas of the structure and formation of oceanic crust.

The third part of this talk presents some exotic igneous rocks that outcrop on Anglesey, then asks whether they could be fragments of oceanic crust. If so, are they of Cyprus-type or 15° 20'N-type oceanic crust?

This promises to be a very thought-provoking meeting, and should not be missed.

Further Meetings Summer programme.

**Wednesday 14th May 2008, 19:30h
Civic Hall, Castle St. Conwy**

Unfortunately, our speaker for this meeting is unable to make the May date, but will be returning later in the year to deliver a truly volcanic meeting. We will be producing a Summer Newsletter to include this meeting and details of the field programme.

Watch the Association's website for the latest details of the programme as it unfolds.

Field Meetings Dates to be announced

Anglesey – Encounter with unconformity

Due to a fortuitous bit of erosion by the sea, good views may be had of the Carboniferous strata above the metamorphic basement in the south-west of the island. Also to be included are more Carboniferous strata exposed by movement along the Berw Fault.

South Snowdonia – Fossils and intrusions

An intriguing and previously untrodden itinerary which we hope to reveal in the Penrhyndeudraeth area. No Carboniferous strata to be encountered in this trip!

BREAKING GEO-NEWS

Brickworks to close

The following story appeared in the Daily Post on 1st April, but is neither a hoax nor humorous in any way.

The historic Caernarfon brickworks, the last remaining clay brick factory in Wales, is to be closed amid a national housing slump. Production was recently around 30M bricks a year. Stocks and material will be “mothballed” while bosses hope for a surge in the market. Employees were told that 50 jobs will be slashed and production at Seiont Mill Road will cease in May. A skeleton team of 12 will man the site until the leftover bricks are sold.

Forty years' worth of raw material and the firm's adjoining clay quarry will be preserved in the hope of the market eventually picking up. The blow was blamed on a brick industry slowdown and energy price rises. The UK brick market has plummeted to its lowest level for more than a quarter of a century because of a slump in new building.

The site is of great geological interest, as the raw material is a shaley mudstone of Ordovician age which is sufficiently unconsolidated that it can be broken up by hand – a considerable contrast with the hard slates which typify the area. Why has this area escaped the pervasive metamorphism that has affected all the other rocks of the area?

I hope that we will be able to revive our intention to make a field visit to the quarry despite the unhappy news.

Terms agreed for sale of Parys Mountain Project

Anglesey Mining plc has announced that it has agreed the sale to Western Metals Limited of Perth, Western Australia of the Company's Parys Mountain poly-metallic mining project in North Wales. The total consideration for the sale would be 29.136 million Australian Dollars. At today's exchange rate this is equivalent to approximately £13.75 million.

Continuing exploration and evaluation will be required to complete a bankable feasibility study on the project, which will require a significant investment over the first two years. During the feasibility study, WMT has indicated to Anglesey that it intends to carry out a major surface drilling programme, rehabilitate the Morris Shaft, extend the underground development and carry out an underground drilling programme. WMT estimates the cost of this work to be between AUD12 and 15 million and hopes to complete the work within 2 years.

Anglesey Mining continues to pursue its 50% interest in Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Limited which is developing a direct shipping iron ore project in Labrador, Canada which it intends to bring to production during 2009.

It seems that the Australians cannot get enough of North Wales at present! We will try to bring you report of interesting stuff relating to Parys as the story unfolds.

Môn Geopark Project

The adjudicators have now made their final inspection visit and their decision is awaited with great anxiety.

Contacts

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