



Newsletter Autumn 2022

MEETINGS AUTUMN-SPRING 2022-23

Through the spring and summer we have enjoyed some day-time meet ups before the virtual evening meetings, which has enabled us to meet with some of those who have been unable to attend the Zoom meets. We will continue this when we can, you will be informed of the details by email. Most of the Zoom meetings are being recorded, so if you want to see a recording please contact Allan Wheeler for the link. (wheelera957@gmail.com)



- 12 Oct ***'The Rotating Earth and Plate Tectonics,'*** by Bob Maurer (HHGS) Zoom Lecture.
- 9 Nov ***'Almost Like Being There: New Approaches to Deciphering Animal Behaviour from Trace Fossils,'*** Zoom lecture by Jon Noad (University of Adelaide and Consulting Geologist and Palaeontologist in Calgary, Alberta).
- 14 Dec ***'Move, Adapt or Die: Ice Age Mammals from SW Britain,'*** Zoom lecture by Prof Danielle Schreve, Royal Holloway University of London.
- 11 Jan ***'Jurassic Dolerites in the Theron Mountains, Antarctica,'*** HHGS President's address on Zoom by Dr David Brook OBE to launch our 50th anniversary year.
- 8 Feb (amended) Visit to **Brunel University Experimental Techniques Centre** and presentation by Dr Tom Hoyle. Further details of time and location to follow.
- 8 Mar (amended) ***'Earth's Changing Temperature and Sea Level over the Past 540 Million Years Leading to Novel Insights for Sequence-Stratigraphy,'*** Zoom lecture by Douwe van der Meer.
- 12 Apr ***'The Geology of the North West Highlands Geopark,'*** Zoom lecture by Pete Harrison (Geopark geologist).
- 10 May **AGM** Details to follow by email update.

Your Committee members are continuing to regularly meet remotely by Zoom and are looking into places to hold 'live' evening meetings in the future, maybe even 'hybrid' meetings so as to include those who wish to continue accessing meetings via Zoom.

While **visitors** will still be allowed into our virtual evening meetings, this will be by invitation only (ie by being sent the meeting ID and passcode), and they will be able to do so as a taster before being invited to join the Society.

We currently have reciprocal arrangements with **Hertfordshire Geological Society** and **Reading Geological Society** to attend each other's meetings and the links for their available meetings will be sent out to our members. Please can you check that your display name includes 'HHGS' when attending the meetings of other societies.

Suggestions for future talks and trips are always welcomed.



HHGS NEWS 2022

In the early spring and summer HHGS had stands at **Eastcote** High Street 'Family Food Day', **Ickenham** Festival and **Eastcote House Gardens** 'Jubilee Picnic', where we were glad to meet enthusiastic and interested members of the public. ([Eastcote House Gardens](#))

The HHGS members on the **Brecon Beacons** weekend field trip in May had fair weather to visit localities in Palaeozoic rocks ranging from the Silurian through the Old Red Sandstone to the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures, and industrial archaeology sites in the **Fforest Fawr Geopark**. There was also an excellent display at the **National Museum in Cardiff** on 'The Evolution of Wales'. ([Fforest Fawr | UNESCO Global Geopark \(fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk\)](#))

During the spring and summer HHGS followed a theme of '**Local Rivers**', which involved evening Zoom talks and daytime walks to visit the **Colne Valley** rivers:-

- A walk in **Ruislip Woods** and **Pinn Meadows** led by Graeme Shaw and John Scrivens (RWMAG).
- 'The Geology and Hydrology of **Ruislip Woods**,' site report by Allan Wheeler followed by discussion of flood management in Park Wood in Pinn Meadows. ([PowerPoint Presentation \(hhgs.org.uk\)](#))
- A sunny visit, including some members we haven't seen for awhile, to the newly-landscaped water management scheme at **Headstone Manor Park** to see the completed restoration works near the source of **Yeading Brook**. Dr Phil Collins (Brunel University) attended the walk and gave an excellent talk in the evening on 'Floods – past, present and future'. ([Headstone Manor Park Project – Headstone Manor Museum](#))
- **Dowding Park**, Uxbridge, daytime walk (starting at Uxbridge Battle of Britain Bunker Museum) to explore part of the **River Pinn**.
- The '**Pleistocene Thames**,' taking in the gravel terraces laid down by the Thames in the Harrow and Hillingdon area, Zoom talk by Peter Allen.
- **Harrow Weald Common** walk, starting with a social meeting at Squire's Garden Centre café. It was a beautiful day and a very pleasant walk to explore the local gravels. The geological SSSI is the fenced-off site of an old quarry excavation where gravel has been removed. There was a wonderful view from the top, looking across to Harrow and Heathrow, plus the source of the **River Pinn**.

For more information about local geology and rivers follow this link: ([Local Geology \(hhgs.org.uk\)](#))

In June Dr Haydon Bailey (Herts.GS) led us on a joint trip with Reading GS, to look at the **Chiltern Chalk**. It was an excellent trip, **College Lake** had a very good exposure with a panel explaining it. While we were there a Curry Fund Plaque was awarded to Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust for cleaning up the exposure. The **Dunstable Downs** ridge gave a very good view of the Vale of Aylesbury, and in the **Kensworth Quarry** nature reserve, on the way to look at the Chalk Rock exposure, we saw many different types of orchid.

The Members' Walk and Social, '**Central Harrow Building Stones Walk**' led by Allan was well attended. We received new information about stones used for the plaza market area from the architect. Of interest was the Portuguese granite in the Greenhill area, which looks similar to Bodmin Moor granite. *Habib Bank A G Zurich* welcomed us in and we took photos of their marble floor. They said all the marble was Italian. The tour guide will soon be available on our website.

HARROW & HILLINGDON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1973. President Dr Dave Brook OBE



contact@hhgs.org.uk

Twitter @HHGeolSoc www.hhgs.org.uk

HHGS website 'Geological Sights' 2022 As they were unable to create the usual Uxbridge Rock Show in the Uxbridge Library atrium again this year, the **HHGS exhibitions team** (Joan Waters, Jackie & John Gill and Allan Wheeler) worked with our **Webmaster, Liz Chiu**, to add **overseas** fieldtrip sections to the 'Geological Sights' area as well as a virtual tour of **Uxbridge building stones** on the HHGS website.

In October, 'Geological Sights' was further extended to cover our former field trips to **Scotland, Ireland** and the **Isle of Man** for UNESCO International Geodiversity Day. It is all available to see on our website or by following this link: [Geological Sights! \(hhgs.org.uk\)](http://www.hhgs.org.uk/GeologicalSights)

Do pay a visit to the HHGS Rock Show, it includes interactive sections on The Rock Cycle, Art & Industry, Fluorescent Minerals, another look at our last live Rock Show 2020 and even a Fossils & Dinosaurs Quiz to stretch you! Find it here:

Rock Cycle: [Rock Show Online \(hhgs.org.uk\)](http://www.hhgs.org.uk/RockShowOnline)

Fossils: <http://www.hhgs.org.uk/RockShowOnline.html#fossils>

Holiday Geology: <http://www.hhgs.org.uk/RockShowOnline.html#HolidayGeology>

Our local home-grown geologist, **Jon Noad**, who is providing our November talk online from Canada, has provided our Rock Show with a set of informative photographic posters of the **Harefield Chalk fossils** that he found. [Rock Show Online \(hhgs.org.uk\)](http://www.hhgs.org.uk/RockShowOnline)

UNESCO International Geodiversity Day 2022

HHGS contributed not only the above-mentioned additional 'Geological Sights' to the International Geodiversity Day but also a YouTube recording of our September meeting. Watch our September Zoom meeting discussion about the **Stanmore Gravel at Harrow Weald Common SSSI** and learn how it might be linked to an earlier course of the River Thames here: [Harrow Weald Common SSSI - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Charnwood Forest Geopark participated in style with a video livestream from Bradgate Park linking up with other Geoparks in Sweden, Poland and South Africa for virtual guided tours. You should still be able to catch up here: [Geodiversity LIVE! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

FIELD TRIPS 2022/23

Allan Wheeler, our Field Trip Organizer, is researching our field trips for the coming year or so. They will include outdoor exploration, building stone town trails and museum visits (following government Covid-19 guidelines, should they be re-imposed). Further information will be emailed out once any field trips are agreed, and details about the trips will be available on the website or from Allan. We try to share cars or use public transport as much as possible to reduce costs and damage to the environment. On field trips we take photos, leave only footprints and collect only loose specimens for educational or personal use where it is environmentally safe to do so.

*Trips under consideration include weekend visits to the **Suffolk, The Black Country**, and repeats of the Society's earliest field trips to mark our 50th anniversary in 2023. A day at the **Maidstone Museum** is also planned, postponed from 2020. In addition, visits are proposed to **Coldfall Wood** near Finchley, a locality marking the southernmost extent in England that a Pleistocene ice sheet has reached, and **Newlands Corner (Surrey)**, a locality well-known in SE England for the effect of geology on the landscape.*

Allan Wheeler, Field Trips & London Geodiversity Partnership Representative, Tel: 01344 455451 (wheelera957@gmail.com)

HARROW & HILLINGDON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1973. President Dr Dave Brook OBE



contact@hhgs.org.uk

Twitter @HHGeolSoc

www.hhgs.org.uk

GEOLOGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE IN 2022

Do keep looking into our **HHGS website**, www.hhgs.org.uk, which, thanks to Liz Chiu, is evolving and growing in depth. Reports and précis of some of the previous talks that have been given at our evening meetings and photos from field trips. Plus Twitter Tweets to interest everyone. [Twitter @HHGeolSoc](https://twitter.com/HHGeolSoc)
Still available are the Virtual Trips to see the 'Building Stones of Pinner' and 'Building Stones of Uxbridge' that Allan created for the Virtual Festivals of Geology 2020 and 2021. Soon to come is a virtual building stone tour of **Harrow** following our field trip there for this year's August meeting.

To read about Bob Maurer's theories about how the Earth works go to:

<http://hhgs.org.uk/RobertMaurerTectonics.html>

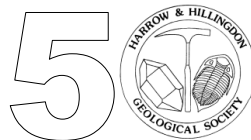
The **British Geological Survey** has all the up-to-date geological news, videos and animations explaining all things geology-related, even models of volcanoes and dinosaurs to print out and make www.bgs.ac.uk.

Rock Gem 'n' Bead Shows Our nearest one is 12th & 13th November, 10pm-5pm (4pm Sun) Kempton Park Racecourse, London, TW16 5AQ. Adults £5, Seniors £3, children free. An excellent chance to stock up on Christmas presents. www.rockngem.co.uk

Sussex Mineral & Fossil Show, Sussex Mineral & Lapidary Society, Saturday 19 November, 10am-4.30pm, Haywards Heath College, Harlands Road, Hayward Heath, RH16 1LT. Adults £3, children £1, Rockwatch free. A friendly, fascinating show with talks and members' displays as well as trade stands. [SHOW | smls](http://SHOW|smls)

Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show, North London, Amateur Geological Society, Sat 26 November, 10am-4pm, Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN. Adults £2, children free. [Amateur Geological Society-North London – Founded 1965 \(wordpress.com\)](http://AmateurGeologicalSociety-NorthLondon-Founded1965.wordpress.com)

For listings of other geological events see 'Down to Earth', the quarterly circular, which is available free as part of your membership, currently online, or you can find links via our website, www.hhgs.org.uk. The online publication 'Down to Earth Extra' is also sent each month to members with email addresses.



2023 will be Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society's 50th Anniversary year. We are hoping to celebrate it with talks, walks, field trips, socials and memorabilia. Watch this space for more information.

HARROW & HILLINGDON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1973. President Dr Dave Brook OBE



contact@hhgs.org.uk

Twitter @HHGeolSoc www.hhgs.org.uk

Information about Members

Our sympathies go out to our Hon. Secretary, **Jean Sippy**, following her sad loss in October of her husband, **Vishnu**, who many of us have met on social occasions.

We have sadly heard of the recent deaths through illness of two of our long-standing members, our thoughts are with their families and friends:

Sandi Shallcross

Sandi was a member of Harrow & Ruislip Geological Society before it became HHGS and she was the Field Meetings Secretary for many years before Allan took over. Sandi was made an honorary provincial member when she moved down to Gloucestershire with her family. She still joined us on field trips after moving away, and many of us have been grateful for her geological knowledge and welcoming nature.

Even in her last weeks she was helping Bob Maurer with the second edition of his book and also set the layout for a joint paper (with Bob) on Momentum in Geology. She will be sadly missed by her two sons and all who knew her.

Ron Dite

Ron and his wife, Pat, were very social members of HHGS for about 20 years, they enjoyed attending residential field trips and the New Year Social, although of late they were unable to come regularly due to health problems. Our kind wishes go out to Pat.

We welcome any news for this section, especially from our provincial members, or those who are unable to attend our meetings regularly.

Change of address

Please ensure that any changes of address, phone number or email address are notified to the Secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HHGS email address: contact@hhgs.org.uk



Dave Brook OBE, President

Guy Fiegehen, Chairman

Jean Sippy, Honorary Secretary

Hilary Place, Treasurer

Joan Waters, Publicity & Exhibitions

Allan Wheeler, Field Trips Secretary & London Geodiversity Partnership Representative

Liz Chiu, Meetings Secretary and Webmaster (HHGeolSoc@outlook.com)

Paul Szadorski, Field Meetings Assistant

Jackie Gill, Newsletter Editor and Assistant Secretary

John Howard, Membership Secretary

Peter & Daphne Moore, Refreshments organizers

Membership Secretary, John Howard, will be pleased to receive any outstanding subscriptions, ideally by bank transfer, thank you.