

**Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
(Registered Charity Number 1144717)**

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020

Page	Contents
2 - 8	Trustees' annual report
9	Independent Examiner's report
10	Receipts and Payments account Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

Full name Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Principal address c/o Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA

Management Committee members

TRUSTEES

John Crossling (Chair)
Ray Pratt (Secretary)
John Duncan Innes (Treasurer)
John Hiatt (Minutes Secretary)
Philip Henser (Deputy Chair)

OTHER

Max Down (Chair of Conservation)
Jim Watts (Co-opted)
Brian Ellis (Co-opted)

Observer Dr Jon Radley – Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum

Bankers HSBC, 46 The Square, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1EA

Independent Examiner. Burgess&Bullock 23 Waterloo Pl, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5LA

Governance and management

The organisation is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 19th October 2011. A number of Trustees were elected or re-elected at the AGM 18th October 2018. All new Trustees attend an Induction Course soon after their election.

The governing body of the WGCG is the Management Committee which comprises the 9 Trustees. There are 3 sub-committees – Education, Conservation and an Outreach Group, which is largely responsible for organising outside events. Decisions of these sub-committees are subject to approval by the Management Committee.

The charity has a series of documents outlining policies and procedures relating to financial management, reserves, management of risk, safety, volunteers and conflict of interest. These are subject to periodic review by the Management Committee. The most recent versions are contained within the 2019 Trustees Folder.

Aims and objectives

- a) To advance the education of the public in the significance of geology for the understanding and aesthetic appreciation of landscapes, for human settlements and economic activity, for recreation and leisure and for ecology.
- b) To conserve the geological heritage of Warwickshire through identification and active conservation of geological sites and through fostering an interest in and knowledge of the geology and landscapes of Warwickshire.

When planning our activities, the Trustees take note of the Commission's guidance on public benefit. To meet these Objects and provide 'public benefit' the Trustees have promoted a

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

concerted programme of Education, Outreach, Conservation and Publications. It remains the Group's policy to focus on the links between these activities.

None of our work would be possible without the willing cooperation of a large number of volunteers. They are involved directly in practical activities including supporting outreach events, designating, recording and monitoring Local Geological Sights (LGS) and maintaining the database, curating the Group's collection, supporting the lecture and field programme, contributing to and producing the bi-annual Newsletter and other publications, dealing with local enquiries, talking to community groups and not least attending a variety of meetings. This is in addition to the large number of people who are involved in running what is an increasingly complex organization.

The Holloway Bequest (Brian Ellis)

As previously reported the Group has received a bequest from a former member, Robert Holloway, which was invested in February 2012 so as to secure an annual income big enough to support the increased range of education, conservation, outreach and publications activities now being undertaken and to secure the long term future of the Group. The performance of the investment portfolio is monitored by a group of three Holding Trustees and is reported to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings and to the membership at the AGM. Our financial adviser attends a meeting of the Management Committee once a year on the anniversary of the initial investment.

The Holloway Award, according to the wishes of the benefactor, aims amongst other things, to encourage an interest in geology in children and to support young geologists early in their career.

As a result of the disruptions caused by the Covid 19 pandemic most of the activities we planned to support with schools, university student mapping projects and teacher professional development did not take place, so most of the budget remained unspent. However we have already committed to carry forward into 2021 the three awards for teacher professional development we are making to Keele University's Summer School, the Earth Science Teachers Association and Geol. Soc.

However, we also budget for being able to support 'one-off' activities as opportunities compatible with Rob Holloway's wishes arise. We have supported three such activities this year. The purchase of the Charles Lyell notebooks by Edinburgh University was completed referred to in last year's report was completed successfully. We have supported two independent researchers in Mid-Wales with a contribution of £2000 towards the purchase of a specialist microscope. We made a contribution of £750 to an appeal by the Etches museum in Dorset.

Education Programme: MIKE Allen

Year	2020	2019
Membership	79	94
Friends	66	19

For the events a tabulation like this would be appreciated.. (From 1/9/19 to 31/8/20)

Date	Event	Leader	Affiliation	Topic	Attendance
18/09/19	Talk	Andrew Howard	Yorkshire GS / BGS	Yorkshires ancient storms	?
20/11/19	Talk	Haydon Baily	University of Birmingham	The real value of microfossils	?
15/01/20	Talk	Tom Barratt	Open University	Volatile elements in the inner solar system	?
19/02/2020	Talk	Roger Suthren	Uni of Derby	Geology & Wine in Southern France	?
22/02/2020	Workshop	Norman Dutton	WGCG	Making sense of Geological Maps	16
13/05/20	Zoom talk	Martin Carruthers	Shropshire GS	Fracked or Fiction	40
17/06/20	Zoom Talk	Stuart Blake	Lochranza Centre	The Geology of Arran	48
08/07/20	Zoom Talk	Angus Millar	Consultant	The contrasting geology of Eigg & Rum	50
19/08/20	Zoom Talk	Robert Vernon	Consultant	The geology & mines of North Wales	53

WGCG: Trustees Annual Report 2019/2020: Education Programme

The season began with two talks on sharply contrasting subjects interleaved with the AGM and a Christmas social gathering for which a light-hearted quiz was organised. The evidence for storm events in the geological past formed the general background to a sedimentological study of “Yorkshire’s ancient storms”, whilst on the more practical side the “real value of microfossils” was posited in terms of a career spent applying the study of forams to a variety of engineering projects.

Further talks in the New Year offered an insight into the often esoteric and complex subject of meteorites and a more “hands-on” look at the geology of the south of France with its associated wines. Attendances for all these talks were in the 30-50 range, representing a sizeable proportion of the membership.

It has become customary to organise a full day workshop in February to look more deeply into a particular aspect of geology, and this year one of the society’s own members steered 16 further members through some of the intricacies of understanding geological maps, mainly with the use of simple mapping exercises provided by undergraduate texts. A similar presentation using “real” geological maps might well be a further outcome in the future.

The ‘Covid crisis’ then took its toll, necessitating the postponement or cancellation of all further indoor lectures and the whole of the planned outdoor programme.

To keep some semblance of activity alive, technology was embraced and a summer programme of monthly talks on the “Zoom” platform was organised. We happily found that some of our planned speakers were prepared to switch to this on-line format, whilst also finding some benefit in being able to engage additional speakers from further afield. Thus, planned talks on the controversial subject of hydrofracturing (“Fracked or fiction”), offering the speakers own views on the subject and a talk on the “Geology and mines of North Wales” were able to be re-arranged, supplemented by two talks from speakers ‘north of the border’ on the geology of some of Scotland’s loveliest islands. These talks were all well received by audiences of 40-55 which included a fair proportion of non-members, and has had the benefit of attracting a number of “friends” wishing to maintain links with the Society, and even one or two new members.

Education via Public Events (Outreach): Ray Pratt

Two groups from a local primary school were taken to Burton Dassett for a field study day. The first was 17/9/19 and the second 8/10/19. The children were taught to observe the geomorphology and were shown how to look at rocks. Lots of fossils were collected and a great fun day was had by all.

Planned activities for GeoWeek (9-17/5/2020) and the rest of 2020 were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. From early April all effort was focussed on outreach activity using our online presence. Social media platforms, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram were regularly updated and following numbers increased. Our website was frequently updated with news and links. Every week we posted a Wednesday video/talk link on all our online platforms from publically available YouTube postings. Members were kept updated and encouraged to get involved via regular emails and periodic newsletters.

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

Following the commencement of monthly talks (via Zoom) arranged by the Education Committee, we set up a WGCG YouTube channel for these recordings. Only talks where permissions had been gained from the speakers were posted to our YouTube channel. These proved to be very popular with a large number of visits.

As a consequence of our online activities people requesting to be on the WGCG mailing list has substantially increased and is nearly as big as our membership mailing list. Despite the challenges, 2019 has been quite a successful year for WGCG Outreach.

Publications Brian Ellis

- The interpretation board designed by WGCG was installed at the Ryton Pools Country Park adjacent to Pagets pool and the sculptures of two straight-tusked late-Pleistocene elephants. This has been a very productive co-operation with the Park's rangers, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The trail guide leaflet for Ryton Pools and the adjoining Bubbenhall Meadows and Woodlands Nature Reserve Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is now in circulation.

Conservation Programme Max Down

WGCG has now designated over 100 Local Geological Sites (LGS) in the County. The rotational monitoring of the condition of the Local Sites has continued in the current year with each site being visited at least every five years. This information is also fed into Warwickshire County Council's Single Data List and is also provided to Natural England in support of their construction of a national database of geologically designated sites.

The Group's policy is to concentrate physical clearance work and interpretation on those sites with high visitor levels to maximise the value of the effort. LGS 97 (Kenilworth Cutting) is situated beside an old railway line which is now a well-used bridleway and a Sustrans cycle route. This year the site survived being on the equipment access route for work in connection with a new housing development and therefore a working party restored it to its pristine condition and volunteers have subsequently cleaned and maintained the Information Board. The Wolstonian Glaciation board, which commemorates the work of Prof Fred Shotten, is cared for by volunteer Larry Wooding from the village.

Despite the Covid virus pandemic lockdown, members have been encouraged to visit sites, whilst being respectful of social distancing and taking all necessary precautions, to carry out this aspect of the work of WGCG. We are aware of potential new LGS sites which will be assessed and may be included in due course.

I would like to pay especial tribute to two members of the small conservation sub committee namely Phil Henser (LGS Officer) who has done sterling work with the monitoring programme of the almost 100 LGS spread across the County. The database of sites has been constantly updated as reports from volunteer monitors are received, and, up to date details are forwarded out to prospective new monitors.

Secondly, we have learned of the move to Dorset of the conservation committee secretary Frank Wells.

Both Frank and Chris have made major contributions to the work of WGCG over a long period as Group Secretary, running a member's workshop on Microscopy, attending residential courses and providing expertise and experience to the conservation sub-committee. They will be greatly missed by all and, on behalf of committee members, with gratitude, I wish them both well.

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

GeoWeek, (9th -17th May,2020),promoting “active geoscience” via a “week” of nine days, by fieldwork activities across the UK. The intention being to introduce as many members of the general public to geoscience and geoconservation as possible, mainly through outdoor activities such as urban and rural field work and guided walks. However, the curtailment of this initiative due to the Covid pandemic after only one full year will have the lasting impact of rebuilding links with organisations like The National Trust at Upton House.

The Conservation Sub-Committee continues to comment on specific planning proposals likely to impact on LGS sites in the County.

The committee has been made aware of a large planning application on the Coventry / Warwickshire border which could impact on two LGS (94 Kings Hill Nurseries and 23 Kings Hill Farm erratic)

Two neighbouring sites at Napton on the Hill (LGSs 58 and 98) have been the subject of planning applications and discussions were held with the local authority and developers to maintain part of the geological feature at one site and to possibly relocate the sandstone doggers (large boulders) from the other. The doggers were moved to their present location from elsewhere on the SSSI hill when they were uncovered during earlier quarrying operations. It was planned to clear the site of vegetation during the late winter months when conditions were appropriate, these plans are now on hold.

Information was provided to Stratford on Avon and Warwick District Councils about LGS sites within their area. These links with the Statutory sector are welcome and provide WGCG the opportunity to offer comments regarding geo-conservation.

External Links Max Down

Links to statutory agencies, particularly Planning Departments prove a useful way to comment on applications which could affect LGS sites.

Additionally, on a national scale, representation and dialogue with The Geology Trusts provide insights into the workings of other Geological Societies across the country as well as giving information and initiatives from Government agencies involved with geo-conservation.

Local initiatives have also built links with other groups such as U3A and The National Trust which remain to be developed.