



www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk

Since its formation in 1975, the Hertfordshire Geological Society (formerly the Geological Section of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society) has been welcoming both professional geologists and anyone with a general interest in geology and related subjects, including fossils, minerals, rocks and the landscape. Everyone is welcome to join. Children may also attend meetings if they are accompanied by an adult.

The goals of the Society are:

- to develop the knowledge and enjoyment of its members in Earth Sciences
- to be a focal point in the county for all matters relating to its geology

The aims to achieve these goals are:

- Schedule monthly lectures on a broad range of geological or related subjects
- Organise regular field trips both within and outside Hertfordshire
- Maintain and seek opportunities to increase society membership
- Seek opportunities to promote Earth Sciences to a wider audience
- Encourage and assist with geo-conservation and accessibility of SSSIs and RIGS sites in Hertfordshire
- Partner with similar organisations (and when appropriate lobby local and/or national entities) to further public awareness of geology, geomorphology, resource sustainability etc.
- Develop and maintain 2 - 3 local geological projects which should be initiated as funds permit

Talks programme 2018

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at **Oaklands College**, Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL4 0JA at 7.30p.m. SR = Sapsed Room, HR = Hartoak Room.

In addition we also hold a summer event, which in recent years has been a morning of lectures, with a walk in the afternoon.

11th January	Jonathon Turner, Radioactive Waste Management. <i>Geological disposal of radioactive waste in the UK</i>	SR
8th February	Dr. Richard Ghail, Imperial College, London. <i>Inversion of the London Platform: evidence and implications</i>	SR
8th March	Annual General Meeting followed by Geo Quiz.	HR
12th April	Percy Evans Lecture: Ted Nield, Geological Society. <i>Supercontinent disunited: why did America reject Wegener's Big Idea?</i>	HR
10th May	Prof. Paul Nathanail, University of Nottingham. <i>Coal Measures: coal treasures or cursed measures?</i>	SR
14th June	David Riley, National Oceanography Centre Southampton, University of Southampton. <i>Gas hydrates.</i>	SR
12th July	Mike Howgate. <i>The myth of the pack hunting dinosaur.</i>	SR
Saturday July/August	Summer Event TBC	
13th September	Gerald Lucy. <i>Geology of Essex.</i>	SR
11th October	Dr. Tony Doré Statoil. <i>Tectonic controls on North-Atlantic-Arctic opening, and their implications.</i>	SR
8th November	Naomi Stevenson, Natural England. <i>Jurassic ecology.</i>	SR
13th December	Dr. Paul Taylor, NHM. <i>A brief history of life in 10 fossils.</i>	SR

(NB: any last minute changes to the programme will be posted on the website)

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Visitors will be charged £3.00 per visit up to a maximum of three, to offset the cost of hiring the hall. The charge will be deducted from an Annual subscription on taking out membership of the society in the same year.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone:

2018 Subscription rates

Adult £24.00 per year
 Family (one household) £32.00 per year
 O.A.P. £21.00 per year
 Student £10.00 per year

Please contact us to ask for a membership form or join as a member at one of our monthly meetings. Membership entitles you to free entry to our talks:

<http://www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk/contacts.htm>

Field trip programme 2018

Saturday 24th February	Working Party Field Trip to Little Heath, Potten End.	Leader & Organiser: Clive Maton	
Saturday 3rd March	Field trip to Lapworth Museum, Birmingham.	Leader: Jonathan Clatworthy	Organiser: Nick Pierpoint
April/May to be confirmed	Day field trip to Walton on the Naze.	Leader: Gerald Lucy	Organiser: Nick Pierpoint
During 2nd or 3rd week in September	Field trip to west of Ireland.	Leader: John Graham	Organiser: Dr Liam Gallagher

We also have some geological trails for you to try out on the website:

<http://www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk/walksandguides.htm>

2017/8 COMMITTEE

Honorary President: Dr. Liam Gallagher

Chairman: Dr Haydon Bailey: 01923 404547

Vice Chairman: Adrian Champion: 01442 874897

Secretary: Lesley Exton: 07503 153532

Treasurer: Margaret Selby, 01438 353551

Other members: Mike Howgate (County Recorder), Nikki Edwards, Clive Maton & Nick Pierpoint.

Geology of Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's main topographic features, such as the Chiltern Hills and Vale of St. Albans, its valley patterns and soil types are all determined by the geological history of the area. These natural features in turn influence the county's varied agriculture and semi-natural habitats and the distribution of its older towns, villages and industries.

The oldest deposits occurring at the land surface are the Gault Clay and Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous (about 100 million years ago). The Gault Clay only occurs in two areas in the northeast, near Tring and Ashwell, but it forms a continuous area of low-lying ground all along the foot of the Chiltern Hills, and occurs at depth beneath southeast Hertfordshire. The main Palaeocene deposit is the Reading Beds, occurring mainly in the south-eastern parts of the county near Radlett and Essendon, which consists of multicoloured clays with irregular patches of yellow sands and occasional bands of small black pebbles. Hertfordshire Puddingstone is sometimes found in these beds. London Clay overlies the Reading Beds in south-east Hertfordshire and on some of the outliers to the north-west.

Partially covering the solid formations are the superficial sediments, formed in the last 2 million years (Quaternary). These are much more variable in nature and include gravel deposits of the River Thames which once flowed through the Vale of St Albans, clays and gravels deposited by a glacier, clay-with-flints and loess deposits. This makes the surface horizons of the soils fertile and very suitable for agriculture as it is easier to cultivate and retains more plant-available water than the underlying gravels or stony clays.

Interested in finding out more?

Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape - John Catt (Editor)

Buy a copy direct from Haydon Bailey (minus postage for £34.00) (See page 3 for contact details) – collect at meeting.

OR order and pay online at www.hnhs.org (£39.00 including postage)

OR send your order and cheque for (£39.00 including postage) to: HNHS, 24 Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7JU