



THE MOLE VALLEY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.mvgs.org.uk

Welcome to the Society!

General Information

The Society was formed in 1979 by a group of enthusiastic people who had attended evening classes run by Richard Butler for several years. A programme of monthly lectures, occasional field trips and some social events was established.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday in the month, with speakers on a range of topics of geological interest. Speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, but often from one of the nearby universities. Topics during the year usually include some local geology, some topics from further afield and even some extra-terrestrial geology. The committee entertains the speaker to dinner before the meeting and presents them with a bottle of local wine after the talk – if they have not asked for a fee! Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided prior to the meeting. This is a good opportunity to get to know other members.

Anything of geological interest can be displayed on a table at any of the meetings. Please bring along specimens of interest for display, discussion or maybe for identification.

Our secretary provides three or four newsletters each year, and contributions from members are always welcome. These will be distributed electronically to members' email addresses, but please let us know if you would prefer to receive a paper copy instead. We put press reports into local papers and we put our annual programme into local libraries etc. If you know of anyone who would find our meetings interesting please bring them along as a guest for the small fee of £3.

Our programme of evening lectures runs from September to the following June. Our Annual General Meeting is held in October. It is followed by our annual dinner held at a local restaurant - a social event that is always enjoyed by members who are able to attend.

Our Committee

The Committee members are listed at the back of the programme, together with their roles, and can be identified at meetings by their very smart name badges. These members are your representatives to manage the Society as you would wish. They ensure the smooth running of all our events, and discuss and monitor matters of interest to the well-being of the Society. Please let one of them know if you have any ideas for future lectures, field trips or practical work, or if you have any suggestions that you feel would improve the quality of the Society.

Members Meetings

Each year we hold two meetings at which members give illustrated talks and display specimens. These might be about holidays or trips with a geological theme, or about areas of expertise or special interest. We hope that, in time, you may be able to contribute to these meetings.

Our Library

Our library is available at the back of the hall at each meeting for members to borrow books, maps or papers. It is important that the library is kept up to date with new volumes and we are pleased to be able to do this by running a simple voluntary lottery at each meeting. £1 buys you a number on our Lotto board between 1 and 49 and the winner, identified by the Lotto bonus ball number from the weekend immediately before the monthly meeting, gets £25. The Society keeps the rest. In the event of the winning square not having been bought, the Society keeps all the contributions. All the proceeds from the lottery are spent on new books. If you have any recommendations for new books please let the librarian know.

The library borrowing process is simple – just sign up with your name, book and date. When you return the book (hopefully within three months) enter the date. Please use the library – it is there for you.

Field excursions

Some field outings are organised, as well as weekend trips. These excursions provide the 'hands on' experience which is essential for such a practical subject, something that books or lectures cannot provide. Over the years our members have found many fascinating rock, mineral and fossil specimens. Please join us on these trips; they are also a good opportunity to get to know other members better.

Records

Since the formation of the Society we have kept records of excursions, local walks, miscellaneous events and exhibitions, plus papers written by members. Archived copies of these records are now stored in Dorking Museum, but committee members are currently working on making some available on our new website. Any write-ups and photographs of field trips are most welcome.

Where your money goes

Annual subscription renewals are due on 1 October each year, and should be paid before 1 December. Your subscription helps pay for the hire of the hall for lectures, which is our biggest expense. There are stationery, postage, and some printing and photocopying costs, although these are kept to a minimum by members agreeing to receive information and documents electronically. Some speakers' expenses have to be met. Our Treasurer keeps a sharp eye on the budget and we try to keep the subscription as low as possible.

The Geologists' Association

As sufficient of our members are also members of the GA we are classed as a local group. Each year they hold a Festival of Geology, usually held in November. This is an excellent day comprising a series of talks, displays from member groups and stalls selling minerals, fossils, maps and all things geological.