

Minutes of the Kent Geologists' Group Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Held at the United Reformed Church hall, Maidstone
on Tuesday 15th March 2016, starting at 7.00pm.

Committee Members Present

Anne Padfield - Chairperson

Mandy Bird

Oliver Hardy-Smith - Treasurer

John Taylor - General Secretary

Ann Barrett - Indoor Meetings Secretary

A total of sixteen (16) other members signed the register.

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Anne Padfield welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending. There were no apologies for absence. An agenda circulated prior to the meeting having elicited no comments was used for this meeting.

The meeting was started at 7.08pm.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 were posted on the members' page of the KGG website in April for member's comments/acceptance. As no comments had been received they were formally accepted at this AGM.

There were no actions or other matters arising from the minutes of the 2015 meeting.

2. Chairperson's Report

It's been a good year again for KGG, with plenty going on. As Ann Barrett our fantastic 'Members Evening Secretary' will tell you, we have had a great variety of enjoyable and informative talks. Thank you for organising those Ann.

Despite not having a field trip secretary, we have still managed, thanks to the efforts of a few enthusiastic members, to provide several enjoyable and informative field visits, over the past year. These include Smokejacks Quarry, springs at Stowting and Blue Bell Hill, Folkestone Warren for which we joined with Geo-Conservation Kent and Cliff End which was a Medway Fossil and Mineral Society trip.

My thanks go to John Taylor our secretary who has been very proactive in his efforts for the Group and Mandy Bird and Ann Barrett have been of great help with refreshments and projectors. I would also like to thank David Brown for his help with the hall and clearing up at the end of the evening. Oliver Hardy-Smith has once again helped with the accounts and collecting subscriptions, but he is standing down as Treasurer this time, due to work commitments. We will be sorry to lose him. Thank you Oliver.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank our Honorary President for his stalwart efforts at Kempton Park, where he raises £300 or more annually for the Groups funds. Thanks also to all those who have assisted Adrian in this, especially Dennis Fullwood and John Taylor. It would be great if we can continue to pull together to assist him with future Kempton and GA events, and in particular the event of the year 'Dinosaurs' at the London Wetlands Centre, celebrating the birthday of Sir David Attenborough.

Thank you everyone.

Anne Padfield (Chairperson)

The Chairperson's report was accepted unanimously.

3. Secretary's Report

The secretary reminded us that, at the previous meeting and in order to remain solvent, we had to take the unpleasant decision to increase membership annual subscriptions to £15 and to charge £1 per meeting. He was pleased to report that the numbers attending meetings had slightly improved and the membership numbers had not been significantly affected. He thanked all members for their continued support of the group.

Jo Mercer had suggested that we use Facebook to advertise the group. Due to a change in her circumstances she would be unable to attend indoor meetings but volunteered to set up an account provided the group supplied her with information. At the last committee meeting Mandy reported that she had contacted Jo and found that she was right up-to-date with events. They agreed that Mandy be made an administrator and act as contact with the group.

We thank both Jo and Mandy for their efforts.

Any members with ideas for promoting the group should contact Mandy.

4. Evening Meetings

Once again we had a year of a wide range of talks which are listed below. There have been some changes in that there is now a £1 attendance fee on club evenings as well as the usual 20p for refreshments.

I would like to thank all members for their attendance and helping with setting up and putting away equipment and in particular David, helping with opening up, organising chairs, tables, etc. Mandy with refreshments and John for putting the programme on the website and amending it promptly when needed.

Many thanks to all those who have brought in fossils, minerals and rocks for display and also sale for the benefit of the Group

We must also, of course, not forget our kind speakers including members, many of whom have given us multiple talks.

Record of Kent Geologists' Indoor Meetings 2015

20 th January	Tony Mitchell The Silk Road.
17 th February	Yvonne Cutt Exploring the Rocks and Seas of Arctic Canada.
17 th March	AGM Jennifer Jackson Finds Liaison Officer, Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council.
21 st April	Dr Chris Duffin Lapis Lazuli.
19 th May	Stephen Nye The Rochester Museum and collection. Talk and display of items.
16 th June	Dr Brian Marker 'A Burrowing and Boring Talk' – What trace fossils can tell us.
21 st July	Sandy Elsworth Water for Africa?
18 th August	Anthony Brook and Roger Cordiner The Building Stones of Mediaeval Sussex.
15 th September	Dr Anne Padfield The Application of Geology for Engineering
20 th October	Dr Geoff Turner The Kent Coalfield
17 th November	Ann Barrett Agate
15 th December	Christmas Evening [3rd Week] Quiz by Anne Padfield

The 2016 programme is now completed and published.

Ann Barrett (Indoor Meetings Secretary)

The Indoor Meetings Secretary's report was accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Started off the year with a balance of £215, finished the year with a balance of £270, i.e. a surplus of £55.

(Balance does not include any 2016 subscriptions)

The 2014 Income was £780, a 2:1 ratio between donations etc. and subscriptions.

Membership of approximately 45 (up by 5) which brought in £297

Outgoings were £730, room hire account for £550

Oliver Hardy-Smith, (KGG Treasurer)

The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. Anne Padfield thanked Oliver for his report.

Note: The above report does not include a payment of £92 for hire of the church hall that was due in 2015 but actually paid in 2016 and will appear in the 2016 accounts.

6. Election of Officers

The Chairperson told the meeting that it was their responsibility to elect a Chairman and Committee to run the Group on their behalf. Officers of the group are elected for one year and need to be re-elected at the AGM to continue.

The Chairperson, Indoor Meetings Secretary and Secretary were unanimously re-elected unopposed

Oliver Hardy-Smith resigned as Treasurer due to personal commitments. There were no candidates forthcoming.

The post of Treasurer therefore remains vacant, as does the post of Field Meetings Secretary.

The non-executive committee members having indicated their willingness to continue were re-elected for another year. Though Ed Jarzembowski is resident in China, it was agreed that he should remain as a consultative committee member. He maintains contact with Tony Mitchell and Fred Clouter and his expertise is highly valued.

Anne Padfield proposed that Alison Taylor and David Brown be elected as new committee members in recognition of their valued contribution to the group. Both agreeing, their appointments were formalised by the meeting.

7. Field Meetings Report

Even without an individual dedicated organiser, the group achieved a healthy programme of semi-regular events.

Special thanks are due to Adrian Rundle for continuing his microfossil workshops at his home in Richmond and the Microfossil activity tables at three Kempton Park Rock 'n' Gem Shows and the annual GA Festival of Geology at University College London, donations from which continue to make a most valuable contribution to the Group's funds.

A special thankyou equally to Dennis Fullwood who transported the equipment between Adrian's home and the various venues, helped set up the activities and, with Adrian, manned them all

However more help from KGG members would be appreciated.

Peter Austen again organised two more field trips to Smokejacks quarry on Sunday 12th April and Sunday 6th September. Due to low levels of working there had been no new scrapes for some time and KGG members have not attended the arranged visits. However, the quarry returned to full working in 2015 and there were new scrapes for the visits. We thank Peter for maintaining contact with the owners thereby keeping open our access to the quarry.

Alison Taylor led walks in the vicinity of her home at Stowting to look at springs and tributaries in the East Stour valley. Anne Padfield led walks around the downs at Bluebell Hill, looking at a mix of local geology and flora.

There was excellent attendance at each of these events.

John Taylor (In absence of a Field Meetings Secretary)

8. Indoor Programme 2016

The Indoor Programmes for 2016 have already been planned and added to the KGG website www.kgg.org.uk. Several of the speakers are 'old friends' who have entertained us several times before yet still come back!

On 19th January Tony Mitchell gave us part 2 of his talk on 'The Silk Road' and on 16th February Yvonne Cutt: gave us another talk, this time on 'Hawaiian volcanics and how they have affected the fauna and flora.'

Pleasures yet to come include Geoff Downer on 19th April with a talk on 'The Building Stones of Maidstone and Nick Baker on 17th May with a talk on 'The Geology of the 'Blue Bell Hill Chalk Pits'.

On 21st June the ever popular Dr Chris Duffin returns, this time to talk about 'Tyrannosaurus Rex'

Further talks in the second half of the year are:-

- 19th July, David Bowler: 'What really is fracking and would it be safe here in the Weald?'
- 16th August, Anthony Brook and Roger Cordiner: 'Geology of the Mountains of Majorca, as seen from GR221'.'
- 20th September, Dr Anne Padfield: 'Magnificent minerals in thin section.'
- 18th October, Dr Geoff Turner 'Treasure from the North Yorkshire Coast.'
- 15th November , Alison Taylor 'The Faroe Islands'

All of these events are listed in Newsletter No.24 and on the Indoor Meetings page of the KGG website, www.kgg.org.uk

9. Any Other Business

The secretary explained that the major tasks of the treasurer were:-

- Collecting subscriptions (due 1st January each year)
- Recording membership numbers
- Paying the church for use of their hall (every two months)
- Collecting the cash from entrance fees for the meetings (twelve per year)
- Paying the GA insurance (yearly).

All of these activities, except cash collection from monthly meetings, can be automated.

The Church is now paid by standing order from the KGG's bank to the Church's bank.

If members would pay subscriptions by a standing order with their bank there would be no need to remember subscriptions over the busy Christmas period and bank statements would automatically give us a list of paid-up members. This costs nothing, saves money on cheques and postage, takes only a minute to set up, can be cancelled at any time and requires only the sort code and account number of the KGG's bank.

There was general approval by those present and the KGG sort code and account number were projected onto the screen for members to note.

There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.42pm