

Buckinghamshire Geology Group – 2023 events

Cost: Unless otherwise stated, all events are *FREE* to members. Non-members will be asked to pay a charge of £5.00 for attending field meetings and indoor events. Zoom talks are free.

Booking: Booking is usually required for all field meetings and indoor events to avoid meetings becoming oversubscribed and to allow organisers to communicate any last-minute changes.

Clothing: Some trips, especially quarry visits, may require protective clothing such as helmets and high-vis jackets. These will be stated on the event flier nearer the time.

Saturday 14th January 2023, 10am – 12noon Halton Workshop: Volcanoes and igneous rocks. In lieu of the 'Igneous is bliss' zoom talk Jill will show lots of familiar volcanoes from around the world in an introductory PowerPoint and explain where magma forms and how volcanoes work. Then we will look at some of the rocks produced, how you identify them and what they tell you about volcanoes. Places limited – **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** Contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org for further information and to book your place. Members free, £5 for non-members.

Saturday 11th February 2023, 4pm-5:00pm Zoom talk: Asteroids – mining and resources. Zoom talk by Dr Jill Eyers explaining what are asteroids and how many are there? Geologically very interesting, but a complex issue posing problems for our planet. Why have some governments claimed ownership of asteroids and how are they planning to mine them? Members will receive a Zoom link in good time prior to the event. If you are not a member, please request the link via bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com several days prior to the talk.

Tuesday 7th March 2023, 7.30 - 830pm Zoom talk by Dr Steve Etches MBE on the Jurassic Marine Reptiles of the Kimmeridge Clay. The Etches Collection in Dorset opened to the public in 2016 and houses an amazing collection of Late Jurassic fossils, including those of numerous marine reptiles, all found by Steve Etches in the Kimmeridge Bay area. Here in Bucks, the Kimmeridge Clay has also yielded a number of marine fossils including the 80 bones of the 'Watermead Pliosaur'. This talk will allow us to explore the lives and fossilised remains of these wonderful 150 million year old 'sea monsters'. If you are not a member, please contact bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com to request a link several days prior to the talk.

Saturday 15th April 2023, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm Geology and Scenery of Great Brickhill and the Greensand Ridge. Dr Clive Rodgers will lead a walk from Great Brickhill village to Stockgrove (now part of Rushmere) Country Park to consider the relationships between geology, scenery and vegetation across the Greensand Ridge followed by an examination of the monumental and building stones of Great Brickhill. **PLACES LIMITED, BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** For further details and to book your place please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org. Members free, non-members £5.

Saturday 27th May 2023, 10.45am – 11:45 am AGM to be held at the Community Centre at Studley Green, Wycombe Road, Studley Green, High Wycombe HP14 3UY. Doors open at 10.30 for a 10.45 start to the AGM. The AGM will finish by 11.45 if not before. We will have lunch in the centre (please bring) before a post-AGM walk at Aston Rowant Nature Reserve. Contact Jill at bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com if you are planning to attend the AGM.

Saturday 27th May 2023, 1:00pm-3:00pm Walk: Walk around Aston Rowant Nature Reserve exploring how the local geology controls and influences the landscape, archaeology and nature. It is recommended to wear good walking shoes and bring binoculars. There are steps to go down at the start and a steep hill to go up later – but this will be done slowly, especially as there are amazing views to be seen on the way up. Starting at the car park the walk encounters sarsens, chalky soils, Chalk escarpment and a view over to the Cotswolds! There is a strong link of soil character to plants and we can use nature to tell us about geological changes. An amazing

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holloway shows people have used this hillside for a very long time. A really lovely and interesting walk.

AGM free to all; field trip free for members, £5 for non-members.

Contact Jill to book bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com for further details and to reserve your place (limited to 20 people).

Sunday 24th June 2023, (date and times tbc). Norfolk Trip: Grimes Graves

A very exciting trip for us to be back to Norfolk after some time! Grime's Graves is the only Neolithic flint mine open to visitors in Britain. This grassy lunar landscape of 400 pits was first named Grim's Graves by the Anglo-Saxons. It was not until one of them was excavated in 1870 that they were identified as flint mines dug over 5,000 years ago. A small exhibition area illustrates the history of this fascinating site and artefacts. The visit will include a descent by a 9 metre (30 ft) ladder into one excavated shaft to see the Chalk mines with the jet-black flint horizons that were the prize. Set amid the distinctive Breckland heath landscape, Grime's Graves is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a habitat for rare plants and fauna. The visit will end around middle afternoon and there are several nearby locations that will be recommended for visiting under your own steam. There are plenty of B&Bs or hotels to stay over if you want to make this a full weekend. At the moment I am unable to make the group reservation until the New Year. But if you are interested, please put your name on the list. You will need to say if you are a member of English Heritage (this will be free entry, provide your membership number). If you are not a member then the cost should be around £7 or £8, but parking may be payable as extra (tbc). Jill is organising this trip and leading the tour with an EH tour guide giving information and leading us into the mine. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** Please contact Jill at bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com for further details. When the date and cost is confirmed then full payment will be required and full details will be provided.

The trip is open to members first, then to non-members with a further £5 charge.

Sunday 9th July 2023, 10:30am- 2:30pm A visit to Dry Sandford Pit and Cothill Fen, south west of Oxford, with Jill Eyers (geology) and Julia Carey (wildlife). We will start in Dry Sandford Pit exploring the geology (including Coral Rag) and wildlife of this former quarry, now BBOWT nature reserve. Jill will show how to record the geology of the exposed rock faces as graphic logs and show how this can be used to interpret what was happening here in the Jurassic. In addition we will look for fossils, although no hammering the rock face please! After a picnic lunch we will cross the road to explore the wildlife of Cothill Fen, a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Please contact Jill at bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com for further details and to reserve your place. Members free, non-members £5

Saturday 30th September 2023, 1pm – 3:30pm. Fossil Hunt and walk at Coombs Quarry.

Leader Jill Eyers Parking at the Thornborough Picnic site car park we will explore the landscape, wildlife and archaeology to be seen on a gentle stroll across the meadows and into the quarry. The quarry has plenty of Jurassic fossils for everyone – but what do they tell us about life in the Jurassic? Suitable for all including families. Not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs. For full details and to book a place with Jill email: bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com for further information and to book your place. Members free, £5 for non-members.

Saturday 7th October 2023, 4:00pm-5:00pm Zoom talk: The hidden world of amber. Zoom talk by Dr Jill Eyers explaining What is amber and how did it form? Where can you find it and how old is it? This talk will explain all and show a whole new world locked inside every piece of amber.

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Saturday 18th November 2023, 10am-12:30pm Hiding in plain sight - geology of Aylesbury Town Centre Leader: Jill Eyers Starting and ending at the Discover Bucks Museum the walk explores hidden gems of rocks, fossils and history that have made Aylesbury. We can end for lunch in the Kings Head before an optional visit to the museum. I will ask what people prefer to do and organise appropriately! Suitable for all ages and abilities. For full details and to book a place with Jill email bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com

2024 Programme

Saturday 20th January 2024, 10:00am-12noon Workshop at the museum centre at Halton, near Wendover. Fossil focus: by eck more to sea urchins than meets the eye! The workshop will use a collection of lovely fossils to show how the spikey, spiny, bumpy, warty and lily versions of the echinoderms (eck-eye-no-derms) can be ID'd and where they can be found. Lots of local examples given – bring some of your own if you have any. Booking is essential as a max of 20 will have to be kept to. For full details and to book a place with Jill email: bucksgeologygroup@gmail.com