



FARNHAM GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1970 – 2020

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## How to Contact Us

We would be delighted if you were to join us – it is very easy:  
Just Come to a meeting as a Visitor

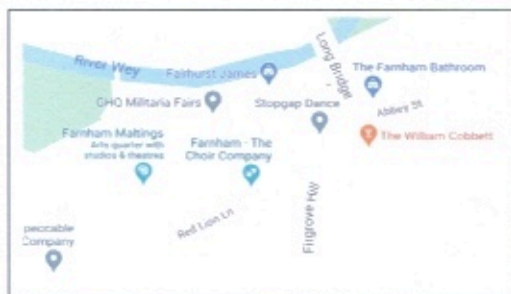
Meetings are held at:

The Maltings

Bridge Square,

Farnham

GU9 7QR



- Meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month
- A full list of meetings is available on the FGS website  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/meetings.html>

Or contact FGS at: [memsec@farnhamgeosoc.org.uk](mailto:memsec@farnhamgeosoc.org.uk)





WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LIZ ASTON  
6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1970 to 2020

As we celebrate 50 years of the Society's existence I want to thank our members for joining Farnham Geological Society and to welcome new members, we hope you all will continue with us through the next 50 years.

Our membership comprises a wide range of geologists from enthusiasts, amateurs, students to active and retired professionals. Whilst we are mainly 'geologists' we have a good many people from other areas - archaeology, environmental, housewives, househusbands, engineers. Some are fit and healthy others are beginning to 'creak'.

Geology is a wonderful science (or pseudo-science as my chemist husband would say) it provides us with a knowledge of all sciences: biology & botany to astronomy, physics & chemistry; also meteorology, climate change to billions of years of Earth's history. It controls most geopolitics but best of all – it is a job, a hobby and often a passion.

Those of us who have been looking at the Earth over the 50 years of the Society's existence have witnessed an amazing change. When I graduated in 1967 I went to John Dewey's talk on Sea Floor Spreading - an iconic lecture which I shall never forget. 2020 is a great time to be a geologist with amazing 'CT Scans' of the Earth's crust & mantle, fantastic 3-D computer graphic models of fossils which once were just marks on a rock; amazing satellite images of the Earth's surface enabling identification of structures, e.g. meteorite impacts, until recently, hidden from view.

We have a great team, keen to show you interesting geology through Field Trips, learning as you enjoy a day out with friendly souls. Through lectures from specialists who often provide a resumé of their talk to go into our newsletter, so you can absorb the information in your armchair.

*Liz Aston BSc, ULSS, FGS, Chair, Farnham GeolSoc.*

## **The Society and its Objectives**

*To promote interest in geology and allied sciences by:*

- *holding Meetings for the presentation of original papers and lectures,*
- *holding Field Meetings, and*
- *extending knowledge of the science by research, publication or other means.*

We honour these objectives and our meetings and field trips remain the core strengths of the Society.

The variety and quality of our lectures and field trips are exemplified by our planned programmes. The Meetings Secretary works hard to bring both interesting lecturers and topics to the membership at the monthly meetings which are held in Farnham. Our Field Trips Secretary is supported by a small team to determine suitable venues and respected leaders for the regular and diverse field trips - often within the UK, but when appropriate, overseas.

Farnham Geological Society is a member of the Geologists' Association and thus members are able to attend their meetings and field trips.

Reports of these meetings and field trips are recorded in the Newsletters which are published at four-monthly intervals. News items of current geological events or research papers are often summarised for inclusion in the newsletters.

Details of the Society's activities are displayed on the website, where you will also find copies of all newsletters dating back to No 1, in pdf format, links to other organisations together with other pertinent information.

In brief, the Meetings are held monthly, normally on the second Friday of the month at 7.30 for the lecture to begin at 8pm. The Newsletter is normally produced three times per annum and the field trips include both day and residential trips throughout the year.

The website is [www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk](http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk).



## The Current Committee

We have an excellent team of professionals and enthusiasts that I feel honoured to chair. So that you can get to know them I have compiled a gallery and brief resumé about their lives.



Judith Wilson, Secretary, worked in radiation dosimetry at NPL before moving to Surrey, taking an OU geology degree and finally working in toxicology at the University of Surrey. Sport has always been high on the agenda and lately an interest in astronomy.



Peter Luckham, Treasurer, has kept the books for the Society almost since the very first day. He plans to retire when he has completed 50 years. He has kept the Society solvent all those years for which we are very grateful.



Sally Pritchard, Membership Secretary, spent her career teaching in Farnham. She is a very keen archaeologist attending numerous digs and also an avid mineral collector. She enjoys attending field trips and lectures, whilst being our representative with the Geologists Association.



Janet Catchpole, Meetings Secretary, has had this role for many years, always managing to find an interesting selection of topics. Her passion is sheep, having worked on their diseases at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, DEFRA. She loves seeing geology in field trips and talks.



John Williams, Field Trips Secretary, has happily taken up this important role. After a long career with the Natural History Museum and recently British Geological Survey, he is well placed to find and then educate us on, the field areas. He is helped by Jean Davies.



Mick Caulfield, Newsletter Editor, has had a long career with the oil industry – it mirrors my career, only 20 years later! Working around the world on exploration, appraisal and development projects and new venture opportunities.



Michael Hollington is FGS Website Manager. Michael is a physics graduate who is now working in the IT Industry.



Peter Crow, FGS Advertising, is a landscape and environmental scientist within the forestry sector and currently leads a multi-partner project on tree health and citizen science. Peter has a diverse range of experience and interests, including remote sensing, geoarchaeology, mineral collecting, photography and theatrical production.



Mike Millar, was a petrophysicist, with a long career in exploration, development and decommissioning projects. He now volunteers at Farnborough Air Sciences Trust and is involved in conservation, helping to maintain heathland and other habitats in Frimley to encourage all wildlife including reptiles.



Alan Whitehead graduated from IC in Elec. Eng. / Control Systems then had a long career in aerospace military systems research. His interest in geology came through his digital mapping. He has served on the Committee for a long time, but now prefers to take a back seat, maintaining contact with Farnham U3A.

### **The FGS Today**

We started the new decade with great enthusiasm at the January Meeting, the AGM, with a talk by FGS Members on a field trip to South America. However, like every other Society in the UK if not in the World, 2020 is a year of non-events.

The members normally meet monthly, but this year we have had to cancel the lectures for February onwards, but hope to hold these when possible, hopefully over the next 12 months.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations had been planned to coincide with the July meeting, but this also had to be cancelled but WILL be held eventually. There will be a photographic competition for all members, a display of rocks and minerals, including an ichthyosaur tail, from the FGS collection. A stream of members' photos from Society Field Trips will be displayed for all to watch with a glass of wine and a piece of cake.

We planned an interesting residential field trip to the iconic geological area of the Lizard in Cornwall at the end of May which like the selection of day trips around London and the residential trip to North West England have had to be cancelled. It is uncertain whether our Annual Lunch in November will be able to continue.



## FGS Activities – A few of the Lectures in Farnham

These are listed below under headings and then by year – they have all been written up in the newsletters and can be accessed from the Society website.

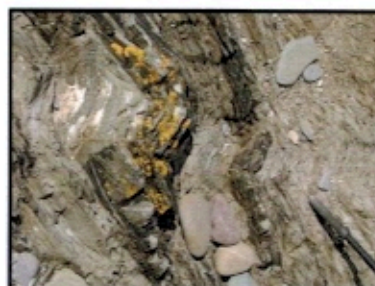
Year	Lecturer	Lecture Title
Published	<i>(apologies for any incorrect titles etc.)</i>	
<b>Astronomy and The Earth</b>		
2007	Downes, Hillary	A Field Trip To The Mantle
2003	Price, John	Our Nearest Star – The Sun
2010	Warner, Nick	Ares Vallis & History Of Water On Mars: Mega-Floods, Lakes & Climate Change
2015	Nield, Ted	Meaning Of Meteorites
2016	Joyce, William	Moon Rocks ...
<b>Magmatism - Plutons And Volcanoes</b>		
2004	Hall, Tony	The Granites Of Cornwall
2006	Taylor, Rex	Volcanoes & Volcanic Processes Along The Izu Bonin Arc, Japan
2011	Hutton, Donny	Dolerite Emplacement & Continental Break-Up: The Theron Mts., Antarctica
2013	Cresswell, James	The Geology Of East Greenland & Svalbard
2013	Stanley, John	Komatilites – Ultramafic Basic Rocks
2018	Prytulak, Julie	Plume, NE Pacific – The Biggest Volcano On Earth
<b>Plate Tectonics</b>		
1973	Roberts, Mr	Britain And The Plates
2004	Ebinger, Prof. Cindy	The East African Rift – How To Break A Continent
2011	Ridd, Michael	Thailand: Land Of Smiles And Plate-Collisions
2012	Barnes, Gina	Tectonic Archaeology In Japan
2014	Williams, John	Geological Hazards – Earthquake; Volcanoes Etc.
2016	Streule, Mike	Tectonic History Of The Alps
<b>Fossils and Evolution</b>		
2007	Fortey, Prof. Richard	Trilobites
2013	Moody, Prof. R	Dinosaurs And Art Through The Ages
2013	Siveter, Prof. D	Silurian Soft Bodied Fossils
2014	Waltham, David	Earth A Lucky Planet – Evolution Of Life
2016	Mills, Josephine	Neanderthals Of The English Channel
2017	Liu, Alex	Animal Evolution From Ediacaran Biota
<b>Geology of Countries and Continents</b>		
2005	Moody, Prof. R	NE Libya – Deposition & Distribution Of Eocene Carbonates
2014	Aston, Liz	Geological Titbits From British Columbia
2014	Fone, Chris	Kola Peninsula, NW Russia
<b>Climate</b>		
2004	Tooley, Prof. Michael	Predicting Changes In Sea Level
2010	Murton, Julian	Ice Age England
2012	Gupta, Sanjeev	Mega-flood In The English Channel Makes 'Island' Britain
<b>Minerals, Oil, Quarrying, Mining, Engineering</b>		
2008	Seltman, Reimar	Gold Giants Of The Great Silk Road
2012	Rankin, Prof. A. H	The Nature, Origin And Economic Value Of Gemstone
1973	Wood, George	The Vagaries Of Petroleum Geology
2004	Stow, Prof. Dorrick	Hydrocarbon Reservoirs – Present And Future Exploration
2013	Jerram, Derek	Dam And Blast
2017	Greenwood, John	Thames Tideway Tunnels And London's Sewers
<b>Local Geology</b>		
2005	Coates, Mike	The RSPB Farnham Heath Project
2006	Green, Christopher	Reconstructing Quaternary Rivers
2017, 18	Bridgeland, David	The Farnham Quaternary River Terraces
<b>Other – Waste, Nuclear, Remote Sensing, Wine, Crime, Darwin</b>		
2002	Mather, Prof J D	Radioactive Waste Disposal
2008	Marker, Brian	Managing Our Wastes – A Geological Perspective
2011	Stevenson, Paul	Geological Uses Of Nuclear Isotope
2009	Pirrie, Duncan	Role Of Geoscience In Serious Crime Investigation

## A Pictorial Memory of Interesting Field Trips From Recent Years

### Field Trip Leaders Explaining Their Interpretation & Ready for Questions

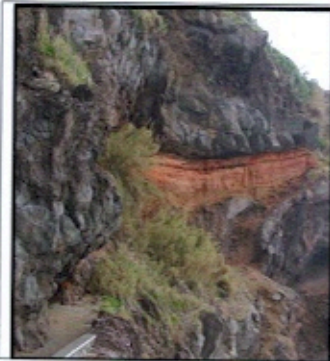
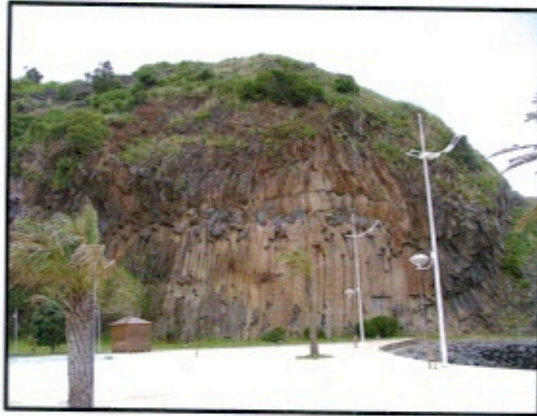


### Field Trip to the Southern Uplands – N Solway Fault Ophiolites, Micro-Folding,

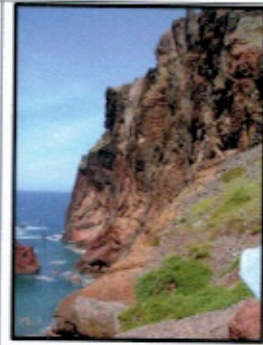




### To Madeira Volcanic Structures ...



Soils between  
flows, volcanic  
bomb, dykes cut  
through tuffs



### ... and Jersey Intrusions

Dyke, St Brelades and Feldspars with Reaction Rims



**Flamborough Head Chalk – Magnesium Limestone Concretion  
North Yorkshire**



**Folding and Shearing Intensifies in the Shales of Brittany**





**Ripple Bedding**

**Turbidites, Jersey Shale**



**Syn-depositional Slumping**

**Cross-bedded Bar Sandstones**



**Trace Fossil on Bedding Plane**  
**Northern France**



**Belemnite**  
**Location Uncertain**



**Dyke, Lava Flow, Folding**  
**Mull**



## A Brief History of the Society

### The Beginnings

In April 1970, at the Council Hut, South Street, Farnham, the Society was founded with Stanley Smith, Chairman; Audrey Hewins, Secretary and Ted Finch, Field Trip Secretary; there were less than 20 members and they met at each other's homes. From these humble beginnings and thanks to the imagination of these individuals, the Society has grown and is now a thriving concern with 90-100 members - it has become a local group of the Geologists' Association and is an important asset to Farnham and neighbouring areas.



1974 - Field Trip to Pembrokeshire

The first field meeting was on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1970 when 12 members led by Ted Finch met at Burrington Coombe. Other visits that year were to Lyme Regis, Isle of Wight, Ringstead, Portland, Church Stretton and many more. Members took their children,

babies, dogs, one intrepid member carried a 7lb sledgehammer!

Lectures included continental drift, gemstones, expanding Earth and Iceland. Activities included 'wine, cheese & rock', 'wine & fossil', slide parties and social gatherings.

The first newsletter was produced in Autumn, 1970; these early ones were often hand-written and some had to be delivered by hand due to a postal strike!

The accounts at the end of the first month show 'income, including a £3 donation, was £3.3s.0d and cash in hand to carry forward at the end of the month was 1s.0d'; total subscriptions received that year were £23.0s.0d.

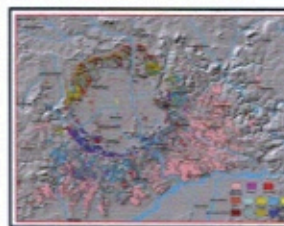


## The intervening years

At the end of 1970, membership was 27; by 1971, it was 50 and by 1986 it was 66. Initially, a small room at Farnham Adult Education Centre housed the Society's collection of specimens; through the years interesting specimens have been found by society members: an ichthyosaur tail (image to right) on a trip to Whitby; a new species of fish found by one of the members' children is named after the family 'Watkinseii'. Both have ended up in museums.



During these years, meetings have covered subjects from palaeontology, stratigraphy and fossil extinctions, to igneous, metamorphic and structural processes, and to environmental and planetary topics. Field trip locations have expanded from the easy local pits to regional areas of UK, to Europe and the USA. Shirley Stephens recalls "31 of us travelled the entire way by train, stopping to see Mt. Vesuvius, Mt. Etna and Stromboli. We were in 6 couchettes and told to keep our doors locked for fear of thieves! We finally climbed up to the crater (image to left) and later found some had burnt holes in trousers and haversacks! At Messina the train split into two and one of our party climbed into the wrong train to find she was going the wrong way! She came back in a carriage transporting chickens and ducks. We were too late for breakfast, so survived the day on an ice cream - nothing was open due to the siesta."



Ries Crater impact structure visited in 1981, it is 25km across and approximately 15 million years old.

## **The Next 50 Years**

With your help and enthusiasm, support and commitment our Society should be able to go from strength to strength.

So to remind everyone of what we have to offer, there is:

A Library of Information

- An Archive of Newsletter articles is held on the website and is available to all members and visitors at <http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/password.html>

A Diary of Events is available at various locations -

- On Website <http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk>
- In Newsletter  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/newsletters.html>
- Programme of Meetings  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/meetings.html>
- Programme of Field Trips  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/fieldtrips.html>
- Membership Details  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/contactus.html>
- Affiliated Societies & Links to other organisations  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/links.html>

For this and any other information

- Visit our website  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk/contactus.html>

Please enjoy your time with FGS over the next 50 years of the Society. *Liz Aston*





# ***Farnham Geological Society***

[ [www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk](http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk) ]



Barley Room, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey. 7.30 for 8.00  
<http://www.farnhamgeosoc.org.uk>



THE SOUTHERN ALPS, SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

VIEW FROM THE ALTAR OF A SMALL CHURCH

Cover Photographs By Harry Aston

All Other Photographs From Members