**HGS Committee Meeting** **19 May 2022**

**Present:** Stephen Young Edward Acton Anne Cockroft Karen Deans (remotely) Andy Leggatt Kathryn Logan Andy Moffat Alan Thompson Alison Wright

**1. Apologies.**

Dave Longstaff Ann Reynolds

The chairman welcomed everyone to our first in person meeting for a while, with a special welcome to the new members of the committee.

**2. Minutes of meeting on 4 Feb 2022 and matters arising.**

The minutes were approved.

*Matters arising*

Stephen sent an email to Margaret Bridges thanking her for her involvement in HGS.

**3. Current financial position.**

We now have 57 members.

The financial position is healthy and is little changed.

**4. Summer programme 2022.**

The first event has already taken place with 20 participants:

* Sat 14 May: Ullapool Thrust - Alan Thompson, HGS and Pete Harrison, NW Highlands Geopark (Combined HGS and NW Highlands Geopark event)

The future programme as currently planned is as follows:

* Wed 1 - Fri 10 June: Shetland HGS self-led excursion. Fully booked.
* Sat 2 July: Stack of Glencoul - Donald Fisher. A few spaces available.
* Sat 6 Aug: Hopeman - Dave Longstaff, HGS (Combined HGS and Aberdeen Geological Society event). Do we want a group meal on Saturday evening? Book with Dave.
* Sun 7 Aug: Buckpool - Don Stewart, AGS (Combined HGS and Aberdeen Geological Society event). Book with Dave.
* Sat 27- Mon 29 Aug: Fife coast. Dr Katie Strang, Scottish Geology Trust. Book with Alan.

Members need to be reminded about the plans and encouraged to sign up for field trips as early as possible. Suggest pay in advance, £3 per day or £5 per weekend. AT

**5. Future evening lectures for winter 2022/23.**

At the moment the dates (all Wednesdays) arranged are:

* 5th October 2022 – Dr Jenny Bennett: Dr Eileen Hendriks. Zoom.
* 16th November 2022 – Cindy Howells: Dinosaurs and Deserts in South Wales. Zoom.
* 7th December 2022 – David Jarman; The shaping of the Scottish mountains by rock slope failures, with case studies from the NW Highlands. In person.
* 18th January 2023 - Noel Williams, Lochaber Geopark: Big Boulders of Scotland. Either.
* 15th February 2023 – AGM followed by Peter Reynolds: Making thin sections. Possibly bring microscopes to look at thin sections. Preferably in person.
* 15th March 2023 – Professor Rob Strachan: North Sutherland Coast. Probably Zoom.

Andy M has a back pocket presentation on mantle rocks.

**6. Arrangements for live meetings during Winter 2022/23.**

We have some Zoom meetings, some in person meetings and some as yet undecided meetings scheduled for next winter. Younger people in particular expect online options, and they are also a benefit to anyone who is not able to attend in person. Hence the minimum requirement for any meeting is to record at least the speaker's presentation. We will need to experiment with venues/equipment to see how we can best record in person meetings and how we can conduct full hybrid meetings with in person and online participants.

Millburn Academy will probably not allow internet connection, so we will need to look elsewhere. One possibility is the Muir Hub which we think has suitable technology. Alan is keen to attempt a hybrid meeting, and David Jarman has volunteered to be the guinea pig. AT

**7. Sinclair Ross’s material.**

Cataloguing is proceeding well. Karen suggested offering some material to Highland Archive for future research purposes. Kathryn suggested asking for online volunteer help with transcribing, but those involved with cataloguing did not feel that was needed at present.

**8. Summer excursion programme – 2023.**

Week - ask Con Gillen about Lewis/Harris using his new guidebook

Day/long weekend - ask Iain Allison for a suggestion he might like to lead

A DIY trip to Tarbat Ness. Tarbat Ness features in two GCR volumes. Firstly, in the hard rock section of Volume 28 Coastal Geomorphology of Great Britain with the principal interest noted as “the range of active micro- and macro-cliff and platforms. In addition, the juxtaposition of these actively evolving forms with the well-preserved emerged beaches and relict cliffs set back from the present coast...” and secondly in the Orcadian Basin section of Volume 31 The Old Red Sandstone of Great Britain with the principal interest noted as “an exceptionally well exposed representative section of part of the Middle Devonian Strath Rory Group and its boundary with the overlying Upper Devonian Balnagown Group. This is one of the few localities where the Middle-Upper Devonian boundary can be examined, and here appears to be conformable, in contradiction to the generally accepted model of regional unconformity.” In addition, Dave has a knowledge of the trackways.

An introduction to rocks in the field:

* igneous: Andy M
* sedimentary: ?David Macdonald
* metamorphic: Alison, Portsoy
* structure: ?Iain Allison

Sandstone quarry near Elgin/Elgin Cathedral/HES stone workshop AT

**9. Scottish Geology Festival 2022.**

Karen suggested children's competitions judged by photographs sent in:

* pet rock
* design a dinosaur
* geology baking

This idea could be passed on to Katie Strang to co-ordinate nationally. HGS could supply prizes, Kathryn suggests fossil kits:

https://www.geologysuperstore.com/product/childrens-fossil-set/ KD

The Beach Cafe in Rosemarkie might prove a useful starting point for a beach pebble hunt or the like, maybe for 2023? It has a rich variety including Jurassic, Devonian, Rosemarkie Inlier weird stuff and glacial import. Also car parking and toilets are on site. AL

Edward suggested Spittal, Caithness as a possible location, perhaps for 2023. EA

Karen suggested contacting Inverness Courier about whether they would be interested in reports of HGS events, and if so what would they want? KD

**10. Future plans.**

Stephen reminded us that he will step down as chairman and organiser of events at the next AGM.

**11. Monitoring of SSSIs.**

We are keen to help. Leadership is needed from SGT/NatureScot. SY

**12. Possible purchase of books for HGS library collection.**

Need to publicise to members the books etc. we already have and how to access them with a stamped membership card. Also how to see the list of items available. AT

Check with the library about space available for new books and consult Peter Reynolds. AC

**13. New edition of ‘Caves of Assynt’.**

We have 2 orders placed.

Note of thanks to Grampian Speleological Group. SY

**14. AOCB.**

World Ocean Day KD/AL

Andy M and Alan have been trained as North West Highlands Geopark ambassadors. Their first event was the Ullapool Thrust field trip.

**15. Date, time and place of next meeting.**

Not fixed.