



IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
President: Peter Lewis

Newsletter 2009 No.1

FORTHCOMING LECTURE MEETINGS

NEW YEAR'S LECTURE

Thursday 22nd January, 2009

The IGA proudly presents

Prof. Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth) will present a lecture entitled:

Costing The Earth?

Our human history is deeply rooted in the planet we live on. In a new BBC series 'How Earth Made Us', I'll examine how our civilisation is founded in the rocks underfoot, as shiny metals were forged into swords and ploughshares, precious stones became the prizes of glittering imperial conquests, and ancient carbon fuelled modern global furnaces. And yet, many of the gravest threats that humanity faces in the 21st century loom from an ever more uncertain and predictable natural world. In this talk I'll explore how, as geologists seek to be viewed as stewards rather than exploiters of Planet Earth, a key question arises: will it be the well-being of our human economy or the integral functioning of the Earth economy that will become the normative value guiding the global community into the future?

VENUE: **Walton Theatre, Arts Block**, Trinity College, Dublin 8pm
(Pedestrian entrance opposite the bottom of Dawson Street.)

LECTURE MEETING – Friday 20th / Saturday 21st February, 2009

Irish Geological Research Meeting - Guest Lecture

Please watch the IGA website for an update on final details of this lecture. An email alert will also be circulated to members.

VENUE: Trinity College Dublin

LECTURE MEETING – Wednesday 11th March, 2009

Dr. Deirdre Lewis (SLR Consulting Ltd.) will present a lecture:

Hubble, Bubble Can we safely store carbon dioxide geologically in Ireland?

The author recently led a study to assess the potential for geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) on the island of Ireland. The study concluded, using an internationally recognised methodology, that there is very significant theoretical storage potential available, while a more limited effective storage potential also exists.

To reduce the risk of leakage of CO₂ from geological structures, it is stored optimally below 700m depth, where it enters a dense, less buoyant, super-critical fluid state. Deep onshore and offshore Irish sedimentary basins were assessed individually for CO₂ storage potential in both hydrocarbon fields and saline aquifers. The depleting Kinsale gasfield could potentially offer a near-term storage site for emissions from Moneypoint / Cork Harbour, while the Portpatrick Basin offshore Belfast could theoretically store the emissions from Kilroot power station. The study assessed the key point sources (power stations, industry) of CO₂ and mapped a range of economic scenarios by which CO₂ could be cost-effectively captured, transported and stored, to reduce our national emissions by more than 9% annually. There would be the added benefits of avoiding carbon penalties under our Kyoto obligations. However, hydrodynamic, structural and geochemical parameters in each structure require to be modelled to reach environmentally and societally acceptable levels of certainty of containment. Very considerable multi-disciplinary geoscientific research will be required to positively match our emissions with safe, long term geological storage sites.

VENUE: Room G01, UCD School of Geological Sciences,
Belfield, Dublin 4. at 8pm with Tea/coffee from 7.30pm

LECTURE MEETING – Thursday 12th March, 2009

Dr. Deirdre Lewis (SLR Consulting Ltd.) will repeat her lecture:

Hubble, Bubble Can we safely store carbon dioxide geologically in Ireland?

VENUE: Department of Geology, University College Cork at
8pm with Tea/coffee from 7.30pm

FORTHCOMING FIELD EXCURSIONS

FIELD EXCURSION – Friday 8th – Monday 11th May 2009

Leader: Dr. John Morris (Geological Survey of Ireland)

The Geology and Mining Heritage of the Isle of Man

John Morris will lead a fieldtrip in May to examine the mostly Ordovician age rocks of the Isle of Man and associated mining activity. Members interested in coming on this fieldtrip should contact the Excursions Secretary Dan O'Shea (osheadanp@gmail.com) as soon as possible. We will travel by air and members should book their own flights. We are planning to use the following specific Aer Arann flights:

Departure: Friday 8th May, flight RE 373, departs at 09.15 from Dublin, arrives at 10.00 in Isle of Man

Return: Monday 11th may, flight RE 378, departs 17.15 from Isle of Man, arrives in Dublin at 17.55

Further details on accomodation and a full itinery will be available shortly on the IGA website and in the next IGA newsletter.

52nd Annual Irish Geological Research Meeting, 2009

Friday 20th February to Sunday 22nd 2009
Trinity College Dublin, Dept. of Geology

Registration:

Anyone who plans to attend the meeting, **including** those submitting abstracts, register by 5pm on Friday, 30th January. Please also indicate whether you will be attending the conference meal as this will allow us to finalise catering numbers. Please register by emailing your name and institution to chewd@tcd.ie including "IGRM registration" in the subject heading.

Conference meal:

A conference meal is being organised for the Saturday night (February 21st) of the conference. The meal will cost €20 and will take place in the Jameson Whiskey Museum in Smithfield. Please indicate when you are registering if you wish to attend so we can finalise numbers. The technical programme, details of guest speakers and venues will be issued in a final circular in early February.

For accommodation details and updates, please visit the IGRM website which will be active from late January onwards: www.tcd.ie/geology/MAIN-PAGE/igrm2009.php

MEMBERSHIP AND COUNCIL MATTERS

We would like to warmly welcome the following new members to the IGA:
Mari Pigott and Eszter Badenski.

As your new Newsletter Editor, I would like to pay sincere tribute to Gordon Poole who has given great service in this Council position for the past several years. I hope I can emulate his achievements and look forward to his continuing involvement on the IGA Committee. Many thanks Gordon. Finally, a former IGA President Barry Long has served on the IGA Committee for many years including as Auditor to the association. Many thanks Barry for your hard work and advice on last years Committee and we look forward to you leading an IGA fieldtrip in June and to see you at this years meetings.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Pádhraig Kennan was presented with honorary life membership of the IGA at the AGM on Thursday 11th December 2008 in the Geological Survey. Pádhraig has contributed enormously to the Association's success over several decades. As a Geology lecturer and researcher in UCD and abroad for many years, he is widely acclaimed as having inspired generations of Geology and Science undergraduate and postgraduate students with a fascination for the subject. These teaching skills have made him a popular ambassador for Geology leading to public acclaim in the area of documentary broadcasting in the Earth Sciences. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

We would like to sincerely thank our 2008 Sustaining Members who have helped to keep the IGA accessible to all over the years. Because of their generous help we are able to keep our subscriptions at a very affordable level. They are:

Gypsum Industries Plc

Dept. of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Cement Roadstone Holdings Plc

Conroy Diamonds and Gold Plc

Boliden Tara Mines Ltd

Irish Salt Mining and Exploration Co

DR. CYRIL WILLIAMS O.B.E. 1922-2009

It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the death of Dr. Cyril Williams, Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland from 1967 to 1987. He is credited with leading the rejuvenation of the GSI at the start of the minerals sector revival, and for promoting other geological disciplines such as geochemistry, geophysics, hydrogeology as well as bedrock and Quaternary mapping in the state. RIP.



2009 IGA SUBSCRIPTION FORM

We invite new members and our **personal subscribers** to renew their IGA annual subscriptions for 2009 which fall due on January 1st this year. Payment should be sent, along with the lower part of this form, to the IGA treasurer: **Angela Casey, 2 Munster Avenue, Galway.** **Please supply your email address for the newsletters and event alerts.** Members who require a receipt for their payment can be facilitated by email, otherwise, please include a stamped addressed envelope. Please notify the Treasurer of any changes in your contact details. Newsletters are sent by e-mail only, except in exceptional circumstances in order to reduce costs. Newsletters can also be downloaded from the website and printed.

Cheques should be made payable to the “**Irish Geological Association**”

Please note:

- 1. Student members** must complete the form with the *address of their University, College, School etc.*
- 2. Family membership** includes up to two adults and any number of school students.



IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION 2009

Name(s):

Institution (Student members):

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

.....

I enclose with this form (*please tick as appropriate*):

€20.00 **Full Membership**

€5.00 **Student Membership** (see note above)

€30.00 **Family Membership** (see note above & list all names)

IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL FOR 2009

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