



IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
President: Peter Lewis

Newsletter 2009 No.2

FORTHCOMING LECTURE MEETINGS

LECTURE MEETING – Wednesday 8th April, 2009

Prof. Alan Jones (Dublin Institute of Advanced studies) will present a lecture:
(Provisional topic, check IGA website:)

Lithospheric structures in southern Africa: The SAMTEX Project.

The structures and geometries of the Archaean and Proterozoic elements of southern Africa are relatively well-known where geology is exposed, but are unknown in Namibia and Botswana where thick Kalahari sands cover basement. The overarching objective of the Southern African Magneto Telluric EXperiment, SAMTEX, is to image those features and to relate them to lithospheric formation and deformation processes and then to compare the results with other Archaean cratons worldwide. Over the course of four phases magneto-telluric (MT) data at some 700 sites have been acquired in a region in excess of one million square kilometres, making this the largest regional-scale MT survey ever undertaken. One primary goal of SAMTEX is to image the lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary (LAB) beneath the region. MT results on known terrain are broadly consistent with petrological, geochemical and seismological data, with thin lithosphere (~150 km) beneath the mobile belts, thick lithosphere (>250 km) in the centre of the Kaapvaal Craton and transitional lithosphere in between. Beneath Botswana and Namibia we define, for the first time, the LAB and its lateral variation. We show that the known diamondiferous kimberlites predominantly occur mainly where we have mapped the LAB as transitional in depth.

VENUE: Museum 4, Museum Building, Trinity College Dublin at 8pm *with Tea/coffee from 7.30pm*

LECTURE MEETING – Thursday 9th April, 2009 (Provisional)

Prof. Alan Jones (Dublin Institute of Advanced studies) will repeat a lecture:
(Provisional topic, please check IGA website to confirm this lecture:)

Lithospheric structures in southern Africa: The SAMTEX Project.

VENUE: Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences, NUI Galway at 8pm with
Tea/coffee from 7.30pm

FORTHCOMING FIELD EXCURSIONS

FIELD EXCURSION – Sunday 29th March 2009

Leader: Dr. Matthew Parkes (National Museum of Ireland) will lead a field trip to:

The Chair of Kildare

The fieldtrip to the Kildare inlier of Ordovician and Silurian rocks is a chance to visit an ancient volcanic island, contemporaneous with the Lambay Island and Portrane successions. The sedimentary rocks around it are locally rich in fossils, providing good constraints on the age of the rocks and good indications of changing sedimentary environments. Although exposures are scattered and sparse, the rich geological history of the inlier can be understood piece by piece. However, there are still interesting questions about many aspects of the inlier which will be explored. If the weather is good, good views over the surrounding Quaternary and Recent landscapes of the Curragh and Bog of Allen can be enjoyed.

Meeting place: Outside the Curragh Racecourse stand at 11.00am. Grid Ref N777 136 Discovery series 1:50,000 map 55, (and 49 may be useful too). Entrance to the Curragh is at junction 12 on the M7 motorway. Please remember the clocks go back on the Saturday night, so it may feel a bit earlier than 11 o'clock! We should be able to pool cars, as many of the roads are small and parking is limited. Please bring a picnic lunch with you (ideally some good weather too) and a flask or drink. If you own a hard hat, high visibility vest and steel toecap boots please bring them with you, in case we are able to visit a working quarry (permission uncertain).

Please let me know if you intend to come so that I have a handout for you.

mparkes@museum.ie or 087-122 1967.

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 and a full itinerary are available on the IGA website.

SAND WORKSHOP AND FIELD TRIP

SAND WORKSHOP AND FIELD TRIP – Saturday 18th April, 2009

Dr. Bettie Higgs (UCC) will hold a Sand Workshop in the morning. This will be followed by a field trip in the afternoon to the coast at Killiney, Co. Dublin lead by Susan Pyne and Bettie Higgs. Please contact Susan Pyne at: susan.pyne@ucd.ie for further details.

MEMBERSHIP AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Presidents Message

The year so far has got off to a great start, with a very enjoyable lecture by Dr. Iain Stewart, that entertained about 175 people from various areas of the geological spectrum. Our sincere thanks once again to the efforts of the TCD team and others who advertised the event. It is our aim to increase the attendances at our meetings any way possible, as numbers have been a problem recently.

The recent IGRM meeting again in Trinity College was a great success also and thanks is due to Dave Chew who ran proceedings. The IGA sponsored some of the costs of the weekend, and awarded the prize to the best overall talk given by a student. Best talk went to Lorenzo Cociani (UCD), for his talk entitled "The role of

static and dynamic stress changes associated with the M=4.3 event in the gulf of Corinth, Greece". The talks of Vanessa Johnston, Paul Byrne and Marco Patacci were highly commended. The PESGB best poster prize went to John Sheehan (DIAS) for his poster entitled "A comparison between lithospheric scale numerical and analogue models" The prize was collected on John's behalf by Brian O'Reilly. The posters of Karina Fernandes, Cora McKenna, and Wellington Hudson were highly commended.

As you can see by your copy of the "Programme of Events" you all have on your Fridge door, we still have many events listed for the next few months. The aim of these guides is to facilitate spreading the gospel so please tell your friends about us.

Our Foreign trip this year is already well supported. We will be visiting the Isle of Mann under the guidance of John Morris of the GSI and we are all looking forward to better weather than we had in Poland last year.

We hope to keep you informed as quickly as possible as new plans are announced, and it is with this in mind that we advise you to keep checking our regularly updated website www.geology.ie

Do keep in touch, hope to see you at the next meeting,
regards,

Peter Lewis *President*

IGA Website <http://www.geology.ie>

We have recently completed migration of the new IGA website at to a powerful new web server. The latest events and up-to-date information will be maintained. Several files will be available for download including the six month IGA events guide, fieldtrip itineraries, the newsletter, book offers and membership subscription form. Very many thanks to Gordon Poole for re-coding and re-designing the site. Thanks also to Zanya Dahl and all other contributors. We will be building on this new foundation by adding further new features on an ongoing basis.

IGA TRAVEL GRANTS

IGA TRAVEL GRANTS FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

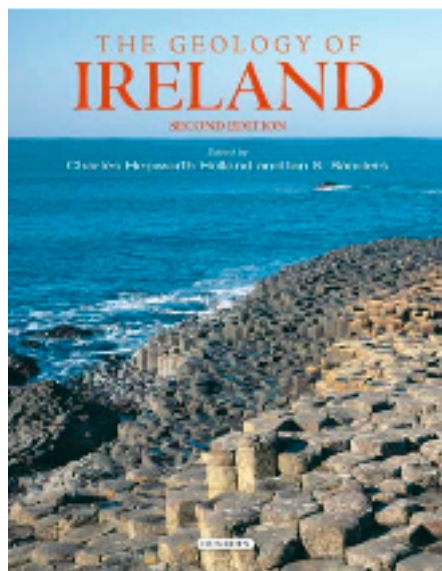
Applications are invited for one or two travel grants of €400 per person. Applicants should be postgraduate students who are members of the IGA, who are based in Ireland and who are in the first three years of a PhD degree or the first 2 years of an MSc degree programme.

The grants may be used for travel associated with research (e.g. field work, travel to conferences, visits to use analytical facilities or to museums). There is no

application form, but applicants should justify the support sought and include a letter from their research supervisor or Head of Department stating that the application satisfies the above conditions and funds are not available from other sources. Applications should be sent to the President, Mr. Peter Lewis, peterlewis1@eircom.net The deadline for applications is the evening of Thursday 30th April, 2009.

Congratulations to Catherine Breheny of Dept. of Earth & Ocean Sciences, Galway who was awarded the 2008 IGA travel grant to present her research on *Investigating the processes involved in peperite formation*.

THE GEOLOGY OF IRELAND



A major book publication, the second edition of THE GEOLOGY OF IRELAND edited by Prof. Charles Holland and Dr. Ian Sanders is due to be published on 23rd April 2009. As an IGA member you are entitled to a pre-publication special offer. Full details are attached.

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

IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL FOR 2009

President	Peter Lewis	peterlewis1@eircom.net 087-263 2131
Vice-Presidents	Dave Chew	chewd@tcd.ie 01-896 3481
	Susan Pyne	susan.pyne@ucd.ie 01-456 2301
Treasurer	Angela Casey	acasey101@googlemail.com 087-227 7378
Newsletter Editor	Tom de Brit	tomdeb@datarelate.com 087-250 5436
Excursions Secretary	Dan O'Shea	osheadanp@gmail.com
Ordinary Council Members		
	Frank Clissmann	frank@clissmann.com
	Sophie Preteseille	sophie.preteseille@gsi.ie
	Ed McKenna	ed@geology.ie
	Gordon Poole	gordon.iga@googlemail.com
	Bettie Higgs	b.higgs@ucc.ie
	John Murray	john.murray@nuigalway.ie



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)