

## WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### E-MAIL NEWSLETTER No. 35 - June 2017

#### **Jacob's Join**

Jacob's Join & local geological visit Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - 5.00 pm onwards

This year's Jacob's Join will be hosted by Dennis Pook, at 5 Robby Lea Drive, Natland, followed by a trip to Scout Scar. Any WGS member is welcome to attend. If you have never been to one of our Jacob's Joins before, and are not sure what is involved, the idea is to bring some food along that we can share. This is not a test of cooking or baking abilities: a bought quiche or pie is as welcome as home-made salad or own baked cake! Let us hope for fine weather, and a good turn out, and give a big 'thank you' to Dennis.

Weather permitting it is planned to look at some of our local limestones at Scout Scar.

#### **Spireslack Geopark**

For the next field trip, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017, we are going to Spireslack (pronounced Spires-lack), a disused opencast coal mine, in Ayrshire. We are being led by two excellent field geologists, Graham Leslie & Mike Browne, both from the BGS. They have asked that we let them know the numbers attending in advance, and there is a cap on numbers (twenty people per leader). So, if you would like to attend, please email our Field Secretary, Mike Coates, as soon as possible, at [mail@mikecoates.f9.co.uk](mailto:mail@mikecoates.f9.co.uk) and he will add your name to his list.

When Mike has names & numbers attending, he will arrange some car sharing (drivers may ask for contribution towards fuel as it is a long journey). Estimated journey time from Kendal is 2.5 hours, which will mean leaving Kendal at 7.30 (a bit later for those travelling from further north).

Hard hats, high vis vests, & stout footwear (not trainers but do not need steel toe caps) are required, & binoculars might be useful. The trip is classed as 'moderate'.

We will be joined on this field trip by members of the Edinburgh Geological Society, and our two groups will probably be split between the two leaders, to look around the site separately. This will be a great opportunity for WGS members to meet fellow geologists from the Edinburgh society to look at this stunning locality.

If you would like a preview of Spireslack, the BGS website includes a video at [www.bgs.ac.uk/research/ukgeology/scotland/carboniferousLegacyLandscapes.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/ukgeology/scotland/carboniferousLegacyLandscapes.html) or have a look at this archived Geological Society article <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Geoscientist/Archive/August-2016/SCARP-a-Scottish-carboniferous-research-park.html> (go to GS website & search for

Spireslack if this link does not work). The website for the Edinburgh Geological Society includes details of the field trip at [www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/category/excursions/page/2.html](http://www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/category/excursions/page/2.html)

## **Website**

Ann Allwright does a great job looking after the Society webpages, and we are very grateful to her for all her hard work. However, it is only sensible that she has some back-up. Bob Entwistle, an ordinary member on the Committee, has volunteered to help, but is there anyone else out there who has some website expertise they would be willing to share? If so, please email me at [marychrisanderson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marychrisanderson@hotmail.co.uk)

'We would like to make greater use of the website, as it is a super resource. Our last Committee meeting was in May, and we will be putting a copy of the minutes on the website (probably under Constitution & Minutes). The website now also includes new 'buttons', one that links to brief summaries of field trips once they have taken place, and one that tells people about the next field trip.

## **Cumberland Geological Society Programme**

We have a reciprocal arrangement with our sister Society in the north of Cumbria – their members are welcome to attend our events and we are invited to go on their's. So could you please note the following changes to their advertised summer excursion programme:

Mapping the geology around Ullswater has been postponed to Wed 28th June.

Seathwaite Fell will be visited on Sun 3rd September, not Saturday as advertised.

Please note that the location of the Joint lecture on 13<sup>th</sup> September has been changed. This event will now be held in the meeting room of Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street, Penrith, CA11 7QY. The church does not have a car park but there is on-street parking nearby.

## **Dinosaurs of China**

An exhibition of rare Chinese dinosaurs is coming to Nottingham and will be on display from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 29th October. It includes feathered dinosaurs, a Gigantoraptor - the largest bird-like dinosaur yet discovered and a 23 metre long Manenichisaurus. For details see 'www.dinosaursofchina.co.uk'

## **North West Highlands Geopark**

This UNESCO World Heritage site has had its funding cut off by the Scottish Government and is mounting a crowd funding exercise to keep the visitor centre open. If you would like to help go to 'www.nwhgeopark.com'