

Summary Write Up of the DGAG Talk Tuesday 21 November 2023

Aspects of the geology of the Hampshire Basin - an idiosyncratic view

Speaker: Tony Cross: A talk combining art, recent history and industrial archaeology with geology. The presentation was based on a lifetime of geological exploration in and around the Hampshire basin starting with school field trips from Blandford Forum and then via university and various museum and geological curator jobs to retirement in Alton in Hampshire. In between there was much exploration with WEA groups and as an Open University tutor.

The talk was, as expected, thoroughly enjoyed by 19 attendees. There was much material to consider, and questions continued with the final one being what stone to use as one's tombstone!

Below is my attempt (with generous help from the speaker) at a summary from some rapidly scribbled notes, hopefully to whet appetites for future meetings or field trips to the sites worth visiting mentioned by Tony, perhaps?

The speaker delivered, as promised, a fascinating talk with excellent slide illustrations. In summary we learnt:

- a few basics such as the extent of the Hampshire Basin that includes much of the counties of Hampshire and Dorset. Indeed, from subsequent discussions it was clear the geology ignores the current country boundaries and extends well beyond into the near continent.
- There are more than the usual key historical people important to the geological story of the region. Some seem to have been forgotten or their legacy mislaid, or their monuments weathered over the passage of time. People such as the Marchioness of Hastings, Robert Hooke, Gustavo Brander, Alfred Russell Wallace, Clement Reid and John Perkins, to name a few.
- to keep an eye out for wildlife such as the exotic green tinged Wall, and less so, Sand lizard scurrying around the rocks at Winspit quarry
- The interesting collection of UK building stones on display leading up to the main entrance at Bournemouth University in Wallisdown, but unfortunately lacking labels indicating rock type and source. They were originally alongside the Russell-Cotes Museum & Art Gallery on Bournemouth's East Cliff and explained in an accompanying booklet.

Finally, and importantly were sites to visit that many people have not seen but which are useful to gain an appreciation of the art, history, industrial archaeology, combined with geology, of Dorset and surrounding areas. A few examples were Longford Castle near Salisbury, the Purbeck Marble in both Salisbury Cathedral and the Great Hall in Winchester and the Robert Hooke Trail and Dinosaur Isle in Sandown on the Isle of Wight.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to simply produce a PDF copy of the slides without the author to explain them and their context, so a future presentation may be a request from those who missed the talk! A few images from the talk are attached to give some small flavour of the many places and subjects covered and to start the grand game of exploration, go visit the sites in person!

The next DGAG talks and events are as shown on the DGAG website and Facebook page. More speakers are required for 2024, so please ask your networks and let me know who may be interested.

Chris Webb
DGAG Events – Editor

A 6 image puzzle for explorers!

What Museum?



What Venue and small Museum?





*Where is this and
who/what is it
about?*

*A global view but
where?*



Great building stones! Where is this? What is missing?



What a rock! Where is this? Is it still there?

