

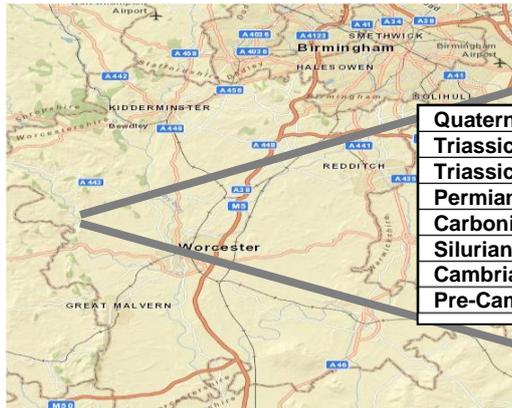
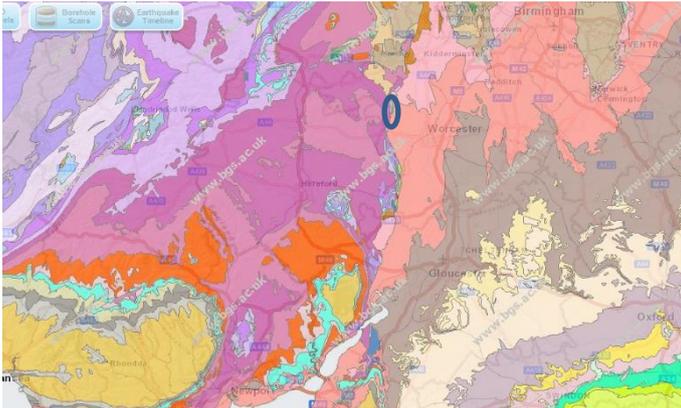


# BROADSHEET

TVGS has many activities under way and many plans for the future. The purpose of this broadsheet is to give a report to members and friends on all of these topics as of October 2018. If you feel inclined to take more interest in any of them, DO tell us!

## MISSION

The mission of TVGS is the discovery and conservation of the geology of the Teme Valley, education in the science of geology and support for the local economy through these efforts.



Quaternary
Triassic-Sidmouth Mudstone
Triassic-Bromsgrove Sandstone
Permian-Haffield Breccia
Carboniferous-Highley Fmn
Silurian
Cambrian-Martley Quartzite
Pre-Cambrian-Malvern Complex

The Society is based in Martley, Worcestershire and dates from October 2010. It has 85 members with over 350 on email circulation. Efforts to discover, conserve and spread the knowledge of geology are focussed on the valley of the River Teme where rocks date from +700 million years ago to the present day. In Martley parish alone, 7 geological periods are represented, there are over 30 documented sites, some with accompanying interpretation boards, being accessed by several trails with excellent guides.

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## ANNUAL DINNER

Initiated in 2014, the Xmas dinner proved popular. 2017 was snowed off but we are now taking bookings for Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the Talbot, Knightwick.



## APPS

Grants and a huge team effort (not directly TVGS, but including some TVGS members) resulted in the production of 'state of the art' electronic, interactive educational resources. Tested thoroughly in the field by developers and local schoolchildren, these are on the point of being fully released. This is the way of the future and we are so privileged to be part of it.

## DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITIONS

TVGS maintains a stock of kit to use at displays and exhibitions, for example the GA festival in November in London, Martley Show in August, the Chantry School Applefest in October and others. In the last period



TVGS presented papers / had a stand at the International Geopark conference in Torquay, the Pro-Geo conference in Poland and the European Geopark conference in the Azores. As a result, we receive regular visits from other geological societies

## EDUCATION

Geology courses for adults and school children form a major plank of the Society's aims. We believe it is vitally important to with local school children to develop in them an understanding and appreciation of the natural environment leading to a sense of awareness and ownership. TVGS will shortly take delivery of teaching resources--rock boxes and notes--from the GA for sale to local primary schools. We are to investigate grants to finance part time assistance (**Young Person's Ambassador**) for schoolwork, storytelling, courses, short field trips and help with displays. Volunteers to help in this important area would be *most* welcome.

## EVENING LECTURES

Our monthly evening meetings, autumn thru spring, are a key attraction, informing of forthcoming events, progress on ongoing projects and so on, as well as listening to what have invariably been



well-received lectures. The Rock of the Month slot is enthusiastically supported and allows those who are not always used to talking in public, a chance in front of a friendly group. The well-stocked library has its main outings on these evenings and is a popular and well used resource.

Lately it has been suggested we invite a leading overseas lecturer on a once only visit as something of an 'event', so we will intend to investigate this.

There is an opening for a volunteer to provide, summary notes of evening talks for the web site—*any offers?*

## FIELD TRIPS

The Society offers several types of field trips each year: geo-ambles—local short walks around Martley, day visits (e.g. to the 5 hills of Herefordshire & Woolhope Dome) and weekends away (this year to the Bude area). More are proposed—Tenerife? Scotland? Anglesey? Poland?



## FUNDS



LEADER (European) funding was behind the creation of TVGS. To secure the funding a formal society with bank account was a pre-requisite. BREXIT has put an end to this funding source and in any case, it would not support the day to day operations of the Society. Expenses are incurred e.g. when re-printing guides (we give these away but they cost around 25p each, so whether we should charge is a good question, but would a charge restrict their use and limit visitors?). Money is also needed to purchase library books, to finance visiting speakers if evening takings are insufficient, to buy refreshments, for hall hire, printing of posters and pictures, web site hosting, domain name registration and so on. We do not claim all our expenses, such as travel costs to London for the GA display, for local deliveries and collections, miscellaneous purchases such as items for displays and others where it would seem churlish to bill.

The Geologists Association (GA) gives us access to a number of funds often specific to a purpose (there is a JCB fund!) We are mindful that money is available and all we have to do is frame a case for it to come our way. The Knighton mapping project received a small grant from the GA and our 2015 symposium received funding from the same source.

## GEO-GATEWAY CENTRE

This ambitious project is on hold owing to issues beyond our control, but be assured, the idea is still very much on our minds.

## GEO-VILLAGES INITIATIVE

A Geo-Village is a community that has distinctive geology within its bounds, has a policy of locally managed geological discovery and conservation, has developed a viable educational offer for both school pupils and adults and is using its geological assets in support of the local economy

Martley is a leading light in this movement and is willing to mentor other communities if they meet the (proposed) criteria. Geology needs to be *local* to the community to be used as the key attractor with other layers added. These might include output from local food producers, artists, crafts persons, farmers and so on, all of whom can offer something to entice the visitor. This offering may be visits, hands-on trials (pottery, art, baking), classes, farm meals, purchase of local products (Honey, biscuits, woollen goods and so on). After our recent visit to Dobkow, in Poland, we like very much their idea of '*open after knocking*' at these premises.

The GA is showing increasing interest in the concept and we are reporting at the annual conference in November 2018.

## GEO-VILLAGES LAUNCH

We are to introduce TVGS and its Geo-Villages concept, to Worcestershire County Council in late November 2018.

## LIBRARY

Our library is an asset of growing importance and reputation; we are very lucky to have a professional librarian managing it who is also a geology enthusiast. TVGS adds to the library in accordance with members' wishes and as opportunities arise, secure historical documents relating to our area. Library listings are on the web site.

## MEMBERSHIP

TVGS membership runs from November to October. Membership is £8, free to those in full time education, £4 for country members. Evening talks £3 non-members, £1 members. 2017-18 85 members and 350 on email circulation.

## MEMBERS' EVENING

A members evening, with free refreshments held each year with several short presentations by members making for a most enjoyable and relaxing time.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

TVGS has recently joined in partnership with the Earth Heritage Trust and will work together on some projects.

## PHOTO GALLERY

We uplift to our website a few photos from each of our activities. We are planning a more extensive gallery.

## PROJECTS

TVGS feels it is important to support and encourage academic pursuits. The Knighton Mapping Project, managed by Dr Arthur Tingley with a team of 8, has been underway for 3 years, and should be ready for final checking early 2019. A project to analyse rock types in local Permian breccia should start early 2019 as will assistance with the Herefordshire Kettle Hole project. Prof. Ian Fairchild will launch a project to study the raised terraces of the River Teme, early 2019.

## PUBLICITY

We made a large contribution to a paper comparing Martley with Dobkow in S Poland, prepared by Polish Professor Mazurski, Wroclaw Uni. He specialised in Geo-Tourism and came to our Ludlow symposium in 2015. We had a stand and gave a talk at International Geopark Conference in Torquay in September 2016. We presented at the Pro-Geo conference in Poland and at the European Geopark Conference in the Azores. We have visited several putative geo-villages--Dobkow, Poland (Oct 18), Senthem, France (2015), Eichstatt, Germany (2015).

Apart from the web site and email updates, we produce posters for our evening talks. We considered Facebook some time ago but it did not really gain traction. We are of the opinion that FB *DOES* need to be activated. One of our committee members uses Twitter and has made useful contacts. However reluctant some of us might feel about social media, it is a powerful publicity tool and perhaps we should make more use of it. *Anyone keen to help?*

## SOCIETY VISITS

As a result of our publicity, we have welcomed many societies to our area. Usually we are asked to lead them around our sites and this has been a most enjoyable experience. Several of us received walk leadership training at the County Council.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

We have previously organised one-off events, maybe unusual for a geo soc but they went well—the wine tasting evening, 3 pubs walk, rock-cake competition and so on. We plan another of these in 2019.

## STORE CUPBOARD AT MARTLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Our librarian, Hilary Harland, will lead us, late October, in a clearing out and re-shelving of the Martley Memorial Hall storage cupboard.

## TRAILS

There are three geological trails in Martley Parish and 8 or 9 country walks all with free, illustrated guides. The Geopark Way, length 109 miles from Bridgnorth to Gloucester passes through the centre of the village (as does the Worcestershire Way). Geology Trail 1, *Martley Loop*, is 6.6 miles, Geology Trail 2, *Martley Village, Traversing the Divide*, 2.3 miles, Geology Trail 3, *Martley Parish, the Highs and Lows*, 5.6 miles. An attractively maintained map display and leaflet dispenser, with picnic table is located in the centre of the village.



We have permission to erect a seat on the Worcestershire Way near Martley Rock where the East Malvern fault line crosses.

## WEB SITE

TVGS has a website—[www.geo-village.eu](http://www.geo-village.eu). It serves to inform and to act as a repository for the Society—events past and future with additional information as appropriate, blogs on society activities, library lists, free downloads of all trail guides. The site is written so that others are able to contribute—*ask* if you wish to have your own space.

## WORKING PARTIES

TVGS is committed to maintaining its geology sites, mainly within the parish but one or two outside. Included are Martley Rock with three interpretation boards and half a dozen supplementary boards, Lower House Quarry, the Nubbins, the Chasm, each with one interpretation board. Also, Penny Hill and further afield, Southstone Rock. A team of volunteers opens up new sites, clears away undergrowth, rakes leaves, cleans signs and so on. Our Sites' Manager operates the timetable. We have leaflet dispensers at the Chantry School, opposite the Crown pub in central Martley and at Martley Rock. Stocks at these places are maintained by members. We have additional duties inspecting, twice per year, a local stretch of the Geopark way. As the local footpath group, the Path-or-Nones, maintains most of it anyway it is usually in good order.

## WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

Thanks are due to landowners for access to many of the sites. There might also be opportunities for them in establishing trails, visit sites etc—we will check into this.