

SOMERSET GEOLOGY GROUP

Update 2: Spring 2016 (March 2016)

Dear all,

This is to update you following our meeting on 17 September 2015 at the Somerset Environmental Record Centre (SERC). Many thanks to those that attended - and to SERC for hosting us. We had hoped to meet again this spring, but have now cancelled that date, so that we can prepare more fully for an autumn meeting - date to be circulated in due course.

You will know from the summer 2015 circular that Andy King has been holding the fort for us temporarily, since the loss of Hugh Prudden, our former co-ordinator, in January 2015 (see Somerset Wildlife News, Winter 2015, for his obituary). Andy is now increasingly tied up with geological consultancy work (excellent news for geology, but perhaps not for us!) and, in the last few weeks, I have agreed to take on co-ordinating the group: a big thank you to Andy for the all that he has done in the interim. The good news is that he is still keen to be involved, particularly with developing the project to review our local geological sites in Somerset.

At the meeting in September there appeared to be a consensus that:

- It's important to keep the group going to support SERC's work, including being able to respond with expertise on any planning issues on local geological sites.
- The statement developed from Hugh's material, updated and circulated by Andy, is a good explanation of the background to our group and its focus on geological conservation.
- We should seek to develop and expand the current e-group and our links to other relevant organisations and share tasks as far as possible.
- Our priority should be to develop a project to review Local Geological Sites in Somerset, as it is some years now since they were originally identified, including exploring grant aid from the Curry Fund.
- There are many other potential activities for the future, pending our capacity and member interests. Several of us, for example, are involved in other conservation projects that highlight the importance of geological knowledge of local vernacular building stones.
- Andy has since continued to work with the South West Heritage Centre to ensure that Hugh Prudden's archive is available as a resource for the future.

For those of you that don't know me, I originally studied geology at University College London (under Desmond Donovan and Eric Robinson, both of whom, as many of you will know, have made significant contributions to Somerset geology and retired here; Desmond started our group in 1986) and then in Adelaide in South Australia. I retired from a career in landscape and environmental conservation about three years ago, having worked for a number of different conservation charities at a national or South West level, including the National Trust. I grew up in the Blackdown Hills, just over the border into Devon, and now live in South Somerset.

I still feel '*I know nuffin*' about our local geology and need to get up to date with the latest on geological conservation, but I'm looking forward to that and hopefully meeting many of you.

Wendy Lutley, Coordinator, Somerset Geology Group