

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

February 2019 – Monthly Report



Dear Members

A short summary of our meeting and some notes on our future programme and plans.

Firstly, **Alec Hillier** is due a big thank you for his really well presented talk last week on the contentious subject of Fracking. He described his involvement with the Shell Group and the first steps in using this technique under the ocean. Now it has been brought on land and is causing some consternation within various protest groups. These seem to be a mix of threats of dire consequences from earthquakes and from the expansion of the use of carbon fuel in the UK. A selection of his slides are reproduced at the bottom of this newsletter. Please contact Alec for more information.

We followed this with a short **Science in the News** session and a general discussion on administration of the group. It was also agreed to make a private collection towards a gift for our ex Convenor Rod Parker, to show our appreciation for the sterling work he carried out in getting this group up and running.

We briefly discussed the group web site, its content and general use. From a show of hands it is clearly often accessed by the members. Therefore efforts will be made to ensure it is kept up-to-date and informative. All feedback is useful please, to the Steering Group.

Looking ahead,

On **7th March** we plan to have a full two-hour session of **Science in the News**, so please bring all your items of science news and let's try to cover as many topics as we can.

For the **4th April** meeting we have invited **Dr Martin Parry** to speak. Dr Parry is **Visiting Professor at The Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College** London, and also Visiting Research Fellow at The Grantham Institute at the same university. Until September 2008 he was Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability), of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) based at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, U.K. Meteorological Office. Need I say more – this should be very interesting and informative.

In **May** we have the first of our outside visits scheduled. The **John Innes Research Centre** outside Norwich is an independent, international **centre** of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology. They provide guided tours of the facility and with a limit of 15 persons per tour we have agreed two separate 2 hour tours for **7th and 21st May**. Check your diaries as this is an excellent opportunity to hear about the work undertaken.

We are also looking at organising a farm walk later in the year.

Just to remind you, our **Meetings** take place **2pm to 4pm** on the **first Thursday of the Month**, in the **St Michael's Undercroft** (unless otherwise arranged in this monthly newsletter).

We look forward to seeing you all next month.

Richard Winterburn

richard@winterburns.com

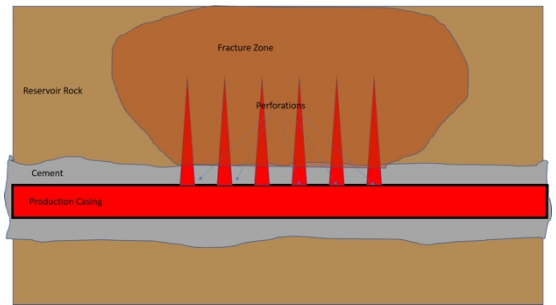
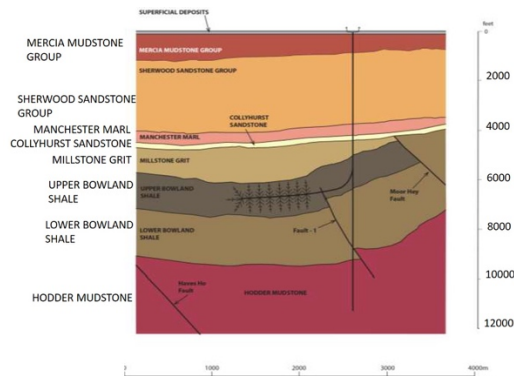


Figure 2: Spatial distribution of natural seismicity (red) and coal-mining induced seismicity (green) in the UK from 1382 to 2012¹¹.

