

Notes for presentation re U3A Geology Group

To U3A meeting 9 Feb 2015

While I'm talking you'll be able to see some photos of our activities over the past 2 years.

We started following a Geology course run by Elizabeth Hallam.

Then we started up on our own. The aim was to learn more about the geology of our own County and also to do further study into the scientific background of geology.

We soon discovered that unlike most U3A special interest groups, which act as self help groups, we couldn't run the Geology Group in this way so we looked for an expert. Luckily James had just retired and was looking for something to do – so he joined U3A and we found him something to do!

After 2 years we have worked out that its best to be inside in the winter and outside in the summer.

So in the winter we plan, watch DVDs from such people as David Attenborough, Iain Stewart, and Aubrey Manning, and we have also started doing our own presentations to the Group on the Geological time periods. From my experience, you learn a lot very quickly when it's your turn to produce something. We have also visited the Geological section of the Natural History Museum in Kensington, and the geology section of Maidstone Museum, which, being about Kentish geology is very interesting.

In the summer we go out. We are very lucky to live in Kent which has a long coastline – it's easier to see and access geology on the coast. We've been looking at Thanet Beds, London Clay, chalk, ragstone and even coal deposits.

So you will see from the photos we have been to:

Reculver, Warden Bay on Sheppey, Beltinge, Samphire Hoe and Shakespeare Cliff, Folkestone Warren, Pegwell Bay and the Kent Coalfield.

And this year we are planning further visits to some of these places, together with visits to Dungeness and Hastings.

We welcome new members, so please contact me if you would like to join. You don't have to know anything about geology – we're learning all the time.