

GROUP NEWS . . .

GEOLOGY GROUP

What do you call a group of geologists? A rockery! The area of south Shropshire has some of the oldest rocks in England. A group of 14 of us went to explore some of them and we were based in Little Stretton for 3 nights. We looked at rocks from the Precambrian period (<550 MY million years old) to Carboniferous (about 330MY) and visited the Wrekin, Ashes Hollow on the Longmynd, Stiperstones, Onny valley, Titterstone Clee Hill and Wenlock edge. Some of the rocks were volcanic in origin either as plutons or as sills and also as volcanic ash. Most were sedimentary rocks as shales, mudstones, sandstones or limestones. Highlights were looking for fossils on the pebbly bank of the Onny River and examining the reef limestone on Wenlock Edge. The weather was kind to us as we had sunny periods, light winds and no rain while we were on our visits and we had some great views from Stiperstones across into Wales and as far as Snowdonia. *Keith Waterson*



GREAT LIVES

Our next meeting will be at the Catholic Church Hall on Wed 20th October (11.00am) when Bob Young will talk to us about Thomas Boleyn who rose to the heights of power and influence at the court of the tyrannical Henry VIII, at the expense of sacrificing two of his children. Any u3a member not registered but wishing to attend should contact John Parry on jamatcv@gmail.com *John Jebson*

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

For its first meeting of the new season the Group travelled to Hutton Roof Crag. In amongst the rocks and trees the birds put on a good show: 22 species in all. As well as green and great spotted woodpeckers we enjoyed good views of coal tit, nuthatch, linnet, and greenfinch. We also saw large flocks of mistle thrush and a delightful charm of goldfinches. Another highlight was a lovely pair of stonechats. In addition to the birds we saw some special plants and fungi, and butterflies including the beautiful but increasingly rare Wall Brown.

The group's next meeting, on 6 November, features an early morning trip to Sizergh Castle in search of the elusive hawfinches (pictured) followed by a visit to the amazing Foulshaw Moss.



For more information about the trip, and the u3a Birdwatching Group in general, contact *Les Chandler* on lchandler52@gmail.com

SINGING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

The group is back up and running every Tuesday morning at the Friends' Meeting House. All welcome, a sense of pitch and rhythm are not required but a sense of fun is! *Cate Holland* cmholland468@btinternet.com

