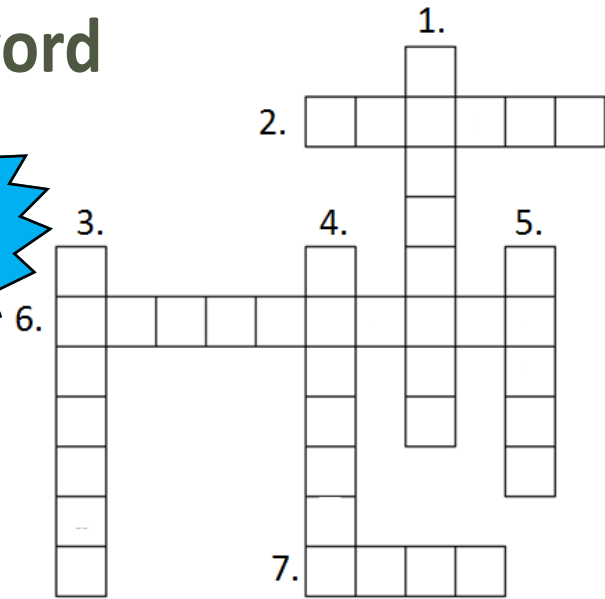


AGA Crossword

**Baker Hughes
'Smart Charger' to be won!**



Across

- 2. Whose equation is used to calculate water saturation in hydrocarbon bearing zones?
- 6. Which grade of coal has the highest carbon content?
- 7. The red gem form of corundum is better known as what?

Down

- 1. Which garnet rich metamorphic facies results from a particularly high pressure regime?
- 3. What is the deepest trench existing between the Phillipine-Pacific plates?
- 4. Which Law is used to predict density based on P- or S-wave velocity?
- 5. How many primary tectonic plates comprise the surface of the earth



ISSUE 11
February 2015



AGA News

THE QUARTERLY ABERDEEN GEOALUMNUS NEWSLETTER!

AGA: SEVENTEEN YEARS ALMOST PASSED

When I set the wheels of the AGA in motion in 1998 I rode on a wave of enthusiasm generated by then President of AAPG Robbie Gries (AAPG's first female President) who during her visit to Aberdeen encouraged me start a Geo'alum group. It seemed a very un-British thing to do!

Although being charitable is a British trait the whole concept of asking people to give their time, and even more so their money, to the organisation that they and their taxes (allegedly) were already paying for seemed unlikely to capture anyone's imagination. Robbie told me that her alma mater UT Austin, one of the richest Geology Departments in the US, took 10 years to raise their first \$million and 1 more year to raise the next \$10 million. A story like that was too tempting to ignore!

I do have no clear memory of how the first AGA meeting came about – it was pre- e-mail so telephone calls were undoubtedly important? I remember that we met in Meston Lecture Theatre 1, a location for which I still had grim memories of level 1 organic chemistry, but on this occasion things were incomparably more enjoyable.



Professor Andrew Hurst,
AGA President

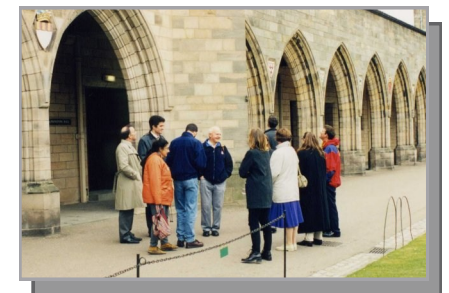
This Issue

- AGA President's Welcome P. 1
- Your New Constitution P. 2
- Wine Tasting Event p. 3
- Upcoming Events P. 4
- Burns Night Ceilidh P. 5
- Fundraising Beneficiaries P. 6
- AGA Chat P. 7
- AGA Crossword P. 8

"I take this opportunity to encourage you to engage in AGA activities"

AGA quite quickly developed a series of events and objectives for raising money for undergraduate activities, and events such as the annual quiz and ceilidhs became important events in many of our diaries.

AGA remain nowhere near their first \$ million but I believe that AGA pursued other noble goals serving social and personal interaction of current and former GPG students and, in particular supporting the needs of undergraduates. As in many voluntary organisations success is largely a measure of the pleasure that volunteers gain from their involvement and AGA is a demonstrably a group that enjoys what it does and I take this opportunity to encourage more of you to engage in AGA activities. The Department of Geology & Petroleum Geology has a global reputation for its education and research but successive governments seem disinclined to commit to sustainable investment in tertiary education, which increasingly leaves the destiny of higher education in our hands.



I believe that we all need to do as much as we can to make the future of Geology at the University of Aberdeen secure. So here I am, President of something that I helped start with no idea what my term of office will be, but flattered by the opportunity to invest some time and energy in AGA. Almost seventeen years since this all started it is pleasing and exciting to discover that new blood is rushing through the veins of AGA but also to note and thank Roger Hinton who has served AGA loyally since its inception. Thank you Roger and thank you all, which in whatever way support AGA, we need you!

E-MAIL YOUR ANSWER TO ABERDEENGEOLOGICALALUMNI@GMAIL.COM TO ENTER PRIZE DRAW ANSWERS AND PRIZE WINNER WILL BE POSTED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER AND ONLINE! (WWW.ABDN.AC.UK/AGA)

Next edition...

Our next edition of **AGA News** will be released in May 2015, look out for photographs and commentary from the AGA Quiz and Granite City Ball events!

For the next newsletter, we will be looking for a couple of volunteers to provide a short Q&A statement to share your news on life after University, whether your last visit to the geology department was 1 or 100 years ago!

Please get in touch with any of the committee members if you wish to suggest fundraising activities, volunteer help, provide a donation / company sponsorship, trace old friends or share your news—we would love to hear from you!



www.abdn.ac.uk/aga

AGA News / Issue 11 / Feb 2015



Your New Committee!



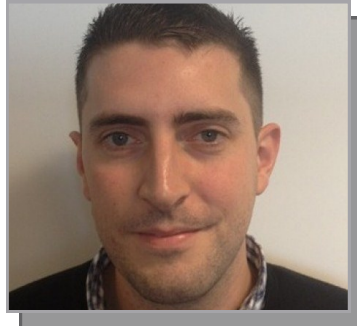
Meet the recently elected team who warmly welcome you to the AGA Society...



Professor Andrew Hurst
AGA President
ahurst@abdn.ac.uk



Leanne Mearns
AGA Chairperson
leanne.mearns@cop.com



Jamie Bennett
AGA Vice-Chairperson
JBennett9@slb.com



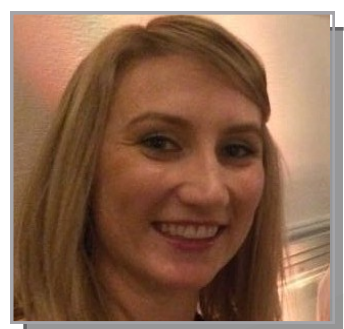
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Matthew Forrester
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AGA wish to thank the following companies for sponsorship and prize donations this year:



AGA Recent Events



Schlumberger

AGA WINE TASTING EVENING "FINE WINE: A GEOLOGICAL JOURNEY ACROSS THE GLOBE"

On Thursday 2nd October 2014, the AGA Society held a wine tasting event, generously sponsored by Schlumberger at the Teddy Scott room in Pittodrie Stadium, titled "Fine Wine: a Geological Journey across the Globe".

The event sold out (over 100 people) and was attended by a mixture of students, lecturers and industry professionals, all eager to sample different varieties of wine!

The event guest starred Carol Brown of 'Wine Uncorked'. In a story-teller fashion, she guided participants minds through different geological terranes and explained the relationships between bedrock, mineralogy and the varying tastes we can detect based on where the grapes originated from.

The event was a huge success! Over £1300 was raised from tickets and raffles, the profits as always are used to support undergraduate geology students (*see Fundraising Beneficiaries*). This event was a particularly good accomplishment as it was the first event run by the newly



The Schlumberger table!



Maersk Lego prize winner—Tom Marsh!



The 2015 AGA-HRH Quiz Challenge

Annual Quiz Night

Wednesday 25th February 2015

Elphinstone Hall, Old Aberdeen
7pm for 7.30pm start

Raffles | Prizes | Bar

Teams of 4-5 @ £5 per person (£3 students)

Reserve your team table now by contacting:
Ewan Roberts (e.roberts.08@aberdeen.ac.uk)
or download and send in the booking form at
www.abdn.ac.uk/aga/quiz

This event is kindly sponsored by HRH Geology

Quiz Night

Wednesday 25th
February 2015



Elphinstone Hall, Kings
College
Old Aberdeen

Teams of 4/5 @£5 per person or
£3 students

Contact:
e.roberts.08@aberdeen.ac.uk

The Granite City Ball

Ardoe House, Friday 20th March, 2015

Northeast Scotland's premiere charity fundraising event for the geoscience community in aid of Aberdeen Geological Alumni, Royal Lifeboat Institute & Search and Rescue Dog Association Scotland

Programme

Sparkling wine reception
Three course dinner with table wine
Ceilidh with 'Iron Broo' ceilidh band
Charity raffle

Tickets

Early-bird student tickets: £45
Standard Tickets: £55

For tickets and all other enquiries contact us : gcb@abdn.ac.uk
Or visit: <http://t-wild.wix.com/granitecityball>

Sponsored by

Granite City Ball

Friday 20th March 2015



Ardoe House,
Aberdeen

£55
or students £45

Contact:
gcb@abdn.ac.uk



AGA BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH

On Friday 23rd January 2015, the AGA Society organised a Burns Night Ceilidh which, decided by the new committee, was held in a different venue this year —the Hilton Treetops Hotel.

The event was a sell-out, with over 150 attendees all suited, booted and ready to dance the night away to live Scottish music from the "Dark Island" Ceilidh Band.

The night was brought in traditionally with the 'skirl' of bagpipes, shortly followed by a welcome speech from the AGA President, Professor Andrew Hurst.

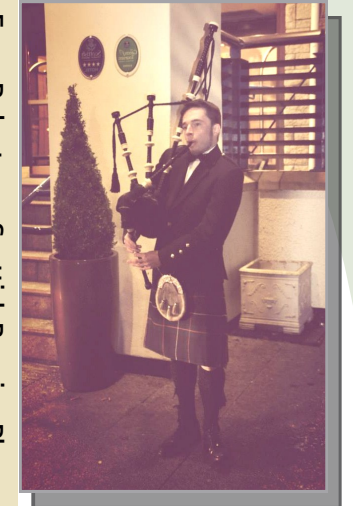
It didn't take long for everyone to be up on their feet for the first dance, the 'Gay Gordon's' which resulted in a slightly clumsy yet hilarious beginning to the evening!

The event saw a huge diversity in nationalities thanks to PhD students and OGEM/IPG MSc students. Also we had an excellent spread in ages, from seasoned Ceilidh dancers to first-timers!

After re-fuelling from the stovies buffet, attendees took part in "roll the coin" to win a bottle of whisky! Shortly after, raffles were drawn and prizes were gleefully claimed—but it didn't take long for the band to reclaim the stage and for the eager participants to find a partner and get back on-to the dancefloor! The fun and dancing continued through to midnight.

The event was a huge success in terms of turn-out and we managed to raise over £580 from ticket and raffle sales. In the future we hope to secure sponsorship so that we can raise more funds, but the night was certainly one to remember and we look forward to the next one already!

Ewan Robertson, Scottish Bagpipe Player



Integrated Petroleum Geosciences MSc Class of 2015



Some of our Honorary AGA Members!

The AGA Society mission statement is to:

"Provide a focus of peer-group support in order to preserve and promote the tradition of geoscience excellence at Aberdeen University."

In addition to **supporting links** between undergraduates, graduates and friends of the Aberdeen University Geology Department through events; **raising money** to help **offset** the **cost** of student fieldwork and **rewarding** those students who have **excelled** in their studies is also a primary focus.

Where does the money go?

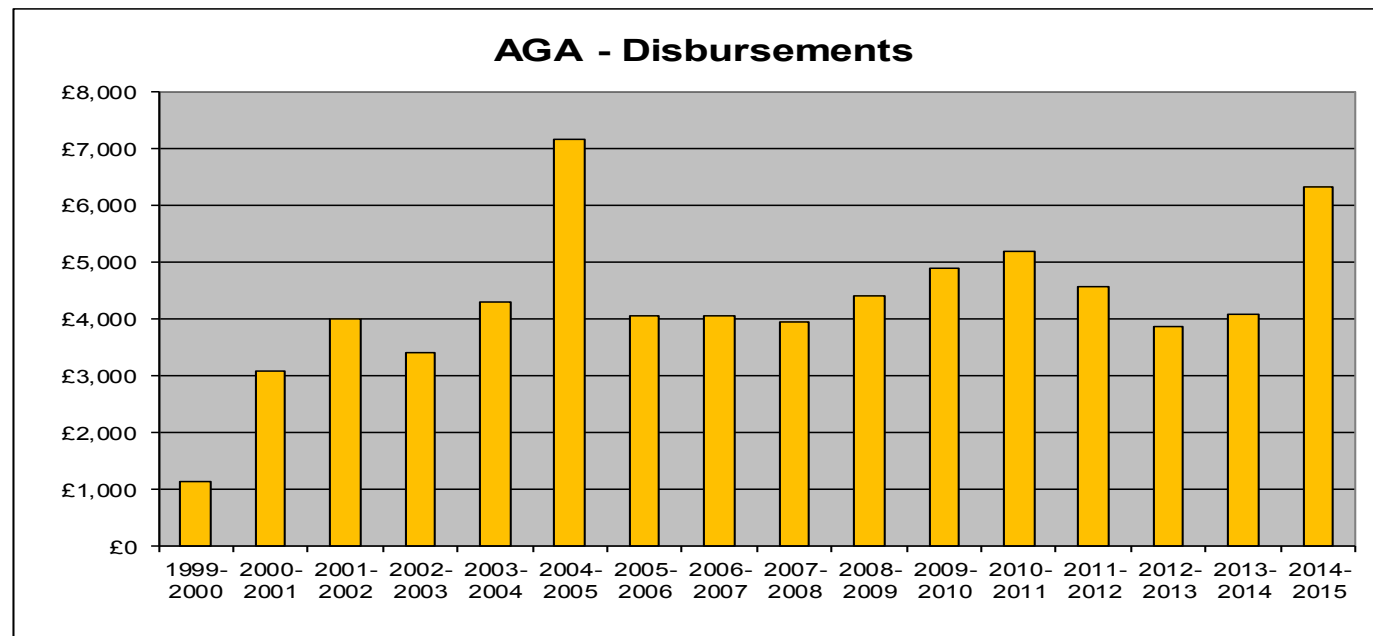
- Hand lenses (2nd year undergraduates)
 - Compass Clinometers (3rd year undergraduates)
 - Prizes
- ⇒ E.g. essay prizes, fieldwork prizes, project talks
- ⇒ MSc prizes e.g. Hydrocarbon Enterprise Award



Aberdeen students on a fieldtrip



Hand lens being put to good use!



OVERALL FUNDS RAISED '99 TO '15 = **£68,618**



Q1: Hello, please introduce yourself!

My name is Daniel McCormick and I am a former student of The University of Aberdeen. I graduated with a BSc honours in Geology & Petroleum Geology in July 2012.

Q2: What have you been doing since you left University?

Since Graduating, I have been working primarily in an offshore environment where I have been lucky enough to acquire a sound understanding of Wellsite and Drilling Operations.

I started my career as a Logging Geologist with Halliburton, monitoring Drilling Operations in Real-Time and analysing, interpreting and processing cuttings sample from the Wellsite. After a year with Halliburton I moved to Baker Hughes where I became a Consultant Data Engineer/Logging Geologist predominantly working in the Southern North Sea where my main duties were to create and interpret Formation, Drilling, Pressure and Gas logs, as well as Pore pressure analysis.

After 2 years in the Industry I was approached by Ikon Science who are one of the world leaders in Pore Pressure Prediction and Geopressure based studies. I accepted a job as a Pore Pressure Geologist/Analyst where I was responsible for the monitoring and calculating of Pore Pressure in Real Time. Working with Ikon provided me with incredible opportunities and training and now in my current capacity as a Real – Time Pore Pressure Specialist for Weatherford Consulting, I have the privilege of utilizing the skills I have acquired whilst previously working in an offshore/onshore environment. I would highly recommend any fellow Geology graduates to follow a similar career path to myself and gain experience working offshore. I have travelled/worked in several different countries where I have met lots of great people with every trip offering a new challenge and a new experience.

As a former Personal Trainer Fitness Instructor, I have always had a passion for sport and exercise and still try to keep as fit as I possibly can whether it be hitting the gym, going for a run or playing football.

Q3: Did the AGA support you financially during your undergraduate studies?

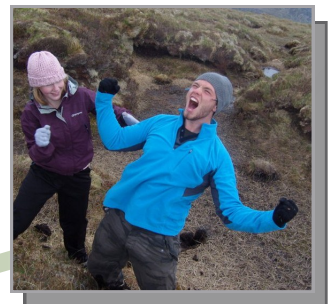
During my time at University, myself and my peers were lucky enough to be presented with free compass clinometers and hand lenses which were graciously supplied by the AGA society and helped with our studies and field trips for the duration of our undergrad.

Q4: Have you attended any AGA fundraising events before or after graduating?

I try to attend as many AGA events as I can when I'm not away working offshore or abroad, to not only raise money for the AGA , but to keep in contact with former peers and colleagues. I particularly enjoy the Granite City Ball, Burns Night Ceilidh and the Wine Tasting nights. They are a great laugh and it's awesome seeing everyone together.

Q5: Since leaving University, have any AGA events allowed you to reconnect with your peers or lecturers from your University?

During my time at University I met some really awesome people and I try to keep in contact with as many of them as I can, whether it be a "quiet" few drinks in the pub or game of 5s at a weekend. However I feel that events sponsored and hosted by the AGA are brilliant for allowing this to happen as you are able to see many of your former peers/lecturers and generally everyone has a beasting time.



Q6: Are there any events you'd like to see the AGA Society host?

I think it would be cool for the AGA to host field trips or more Ceilidh based events. Everyone loves a good dram and a boogy.

Q7: Can you describe your experience of undergrad geology in 3 words?

"Off the Hook!"