

We had a very interesting and varied meeting at the Witham in September to start the autumn season.

Les Knight gave us a superb talk on 'Asteroid Impacts'. He explained how we think asteroids form and the three types with different compositions. We are not able to see evidence of the vast number of impacts on Earth through history because the impact craters are removed over geological time by erosion and tectonic changes. This explains why the surface of the moon is covered in craters. Probably the most well-known asteroid impact was the huge Chicxulub impact at the end of the Cretaceous period some 66 million years ago that triggered the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction with the loss of 75% of all plant and animal species and the end of all non-avian dinosaurs. Understandably there is ongoing concern about when the next big asteroid will hit the Earth and whether we can do anything to prevent this happening!

After the interval, David Saville gave the second presentation on igneous rocks as part of his excellent series of talks on 'Introduction to Geology'. He explained the formation of mafic and felsic igneous rocks and how their properties differ as a result of their different mineral composition. A most useful 'Igneous Rocks' summary sheet was sent out after the talk.

Trevor Morse had also brought his fossil box to the meeting and we were able to look at the various specimens, many of which can be found in the North Pennines.

Our next meeting is at The Witham on Monday morning October 23rd at 10 am. All are welcome.

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