

We have had two very interesting meetings at the end of 2023, one at The Witham in November and one on Zoom in December.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was John Watkinson, Professor Emeritus of Geology at Washington State University. He gave a fascinating account of some research he and a couple of research friends undertook in 2006 at the Theban Necropolis at Luxor in Egypt to investigate the geology of where the Pharaohs were buried. The research team even went up in a balloon at dawn to see the area from above!

The geology is Eocene Limestone; there are faults and the limestone is sensitive to moisture. It appears that the builders did take account of the faults that were present in some of the tombs but they may have overestimated the stability of the area. The full details can be found in a research paper in Geoscience online.

In the second half of the meeting, David Saville continued his series of most useful talks on the 'Introduction to Geology'. In this presentation, David covered the basics of metamorphism and a helpful information sheet was distributed after the meeting.

From December to February the Geology group is meeting on Zoom with two one hour meetings a month. In the first meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, Les Knight gave an excellent talk on the different approaches to Stratigraphy from using types of rocks to zone fossils to radiodating. In the second half, Trevor Morse showed a useful revision video on the basics of climate change which covered the role of the atmosphere and Milankovitch cycles.

Our next meeting will be on Zoom on Monday morning January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30 am. All are welcome. Please contact the convenor for the programme and the Zoom joining details.

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