

We had an interesting and varied meeting at The Witham in May.

In the first half, David Saville continued his excellent series of presentations on the basics of geology. This talk was an 'Introduction to Palaeontology'. This is the study of ancient life prior to the end of the last ice age and includes the study of fossils and the environments in which they lived.

David gave us a brief history of palaeontology and some of the key steps in the development of this important science. Familiar names such as Mary Anning, William Smith and William Buckland were just three of the many fossil collectors and geologists who made important contributions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Before the introduction of radiodating in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the relative dating of strata could only be established using zone fossils. David also mentioned the schoolboy Roger Mason who found the first pre Cambrian fossil (*Charnia masoni*) in 1957 while climbing in Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire in 1957.

After the coffee break, Trevor Morse outlined the geology of the Faroe Islands following his recent cruise which went past these islands and then onto Iceland. He then showed a photo of the recent volcanic eruption on Iceland but from some distance away!

Trevor then gave a debrief of the field trip to Teesdale in April covering the types of rocks in the area and the structure of cyclothem. This local geology was very useful not just for those who had attended the trip itself.

Our next meeting is at The Witham on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Start 10 am. All are welcome.