

Meetings on Zoom on Feb 10th and Feb 24th

We had two very interesting meetings on Zoom in February with talks by Trevor Morse and Les Knight.

In the first, Trevor took us through a series of quite old but very useful Open University videos that covered some of the basic principles of geology. The first on 'Textures' had a Teesdale connection looking at the Whin Sill in the field and the related metamorphic rocks from this intrusion. The subsequent videos explored ways of measuring geological time such as the use of zone fossils as first applied by William Smith the early 19th Century. The final video explained the use of radiometric dating.

Les Knight gave us a fascinating talk entitled '**Victorian citizen science: the eruption of Krakatoa 1883**'. Krakatoa is an island in Indonesia and was the location of devastating volcano which had a worldwide impact with the pressure wave travelling three times around the world. While it was not the most powerful eruption in human history on Earth, (that was probably Tambora in 1815), it was one of the best reported because of the existence of a world-wide network of telegraph stations. The Royal Society sought evidence from around the world in what we would now know as 'citizen science'. We think the Krakatoa explosion was the loudest sound in recorded history and was heard in Perth over 3000km away! The explosions, pyroclastic flows and devastating tsunamis resulted in over 36,000 deaths which is probably an underestimate. The ash was thrown some 80km into the upper atmosphere and circulated the planet resulting in a temperature drop and poor harvests for a number of years. It also changed the appearance of sunsets around the world, as seen in many famous paintings like Edvard Munch's *The Scream*.'

EITHER

Our next meeting will be at the Witham on Monday morning March 24th/April 28th at 10.00 am. All are welcome. Please contact the convenor for the programme and details.

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