

Cumberland Geological Society

<http://www.cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk/>

President: Ben Johnson

Newsletter, February 2026

From the President

AGM

The 2026 AGM is almost upon us see **Attachment 2** for details. I will be unable to attend due to work commitments.

We have full 2026 Summer programme, please put a date in your Diaries. We will be using a booking system for these events to ensure that excursion leaders are not overwhelmed with numbers, to ensure a high quality of events, and also for health and safety reasons. Booking forms will be made available via the website alternatively you can contact the field trip secretary (details below).

Lectures and Field Trips

Our themed series of Winter lectures is progressing well. I for one have been very impressed with the detail of the research and high quality of the presentations. My thanks again go to the speakers for giving up their time to enlighten us. I will mention the society has taken on board feedback from these events and will try to implement the suggestions over time.

Turn out has been good overall particularly given the weather conditions on the days for some of the in-person meetings.

The next events are:

Caledonian versus Acadian tectonics

Wednesday, 11 March, 2026

19:30 - 21:00

Braithwaite Institute

Supergene mineralisation in the Lake District

Wednesday, 22 April, 2026

19:30

Crosthwaite Parish Rooms

A random walk in the Caledonian Orogen

Wednesday, 13 May, 2026

19:30

Crosthwaite Parish Rooms

Field Trips

I am pleased to report that our residential and weekend trips are now full. Thank you to Helen and Lesley for organising and a special thanks to the field trip leaders.

Bursaries

The council has awarded two bursaries to applicants either with local connections or conducting geological research within the region. Their research on the Carrock Fell Complex & Effects of granite on mineralisation in the Skiddaw intrusion is still ongoing.

Other News

Whilst on walks in the Lake District recently I saw much evidence of the former extraction of mineral veins snaking over the hillsides and on-site processing at 450m. Even with the ever-increasing prices of the worlds limited resources it seems the economically interesting mineral resources of the region will remain just that, interesting. Cumbria holds exploited resources such as limestone, gypsum, and sand and gravel, and rising commodity prices could make some existing or marginal sites more attractive. However as markets have shown again, the fluctuation can prove fickle for investors.

From,

Ben Johnson

The Cumberland Geologist

We are going to press!

This year's *Cumberland Geologist* will feature a new section called Members' Notes. The section contains short (one-page) communications from members who want to share details of interesting outcrops or specimens that they have come across over the preceding year (not necessarily in Cumbria). The emphasis is on illustrations, rather than text. We hope that Members will submit their own notes to the Editor, to be considered for inclusion in future Issues of TCG.

From the Membership Secretary

Thank you to all members who have renewed their annual CGS subscription this January by standing order. It makes our administration much easier. Nearly 100 members have renewed by this method which is much appreciated.

However, if you haven't set up a standing order, please can you pay your 2026 subscription by bank transfer by the end of February. After this date, non-payers will have their access to the members' section of the website removed and will no longer be eligible to receive the 2026 CGS Proceedings.

We do hope you will continue to support our varied programme of lectures and field excursions. Membership fees for 2026 continue to be £15 individual and £23 for a couple. Please include your name in the subject heading.

Account: CUMBERLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sort Code: 20 18 47

Account No: 40297682

If you are unable to do a bank transfer or have any queries regarding your membership please contact Lesley Wornham, Membership Secretary

From the Treasurer

Accounts are with the auditor for the financial year and will be circulated amongst the membership once they are approved. The Angela Marchant fund was exhausted in 2025 and closed up, the Charles Edmonds fund remains for the time being.

CGS Website

Past proceedings are now all input and searchable with tables of contents. The 'elves' now will turn to the past Cumberland Geologist articles and make these digitally available.

Otley's Gravestone

During 2026 Cumberland Geological Society is assessing the situation to partially replace the badly deteriorating 19th century headstone of Jonathan Otley.

CGS is in consultation with the church authorities about the headstone and is taking steps to see if any distant family members or others have an interest.

More detail on the headstone condition, course of action and publicity will be distributed soon.

Who's who

President: Ben Johnson

president@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Senior Vice President: Helen James & Phil Davies

Junior Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Fi Harwood

treasurer@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Field Trip Secretary: Helen James

events@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Editor The Cumberland Geologist: Ian Francis

editor@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Librarian (acting): Ben

librarian@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

2025 Lecture Programme: Danny Clark-Lowes

2026 Lecture Programme: vacant

Council Secretary: Phil Davies

General Secretary: Susan Beale

secretary@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Membership: Lesley Wornham

membership@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Website: Ben Johnson

website@cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk

Website Admin: Steve Rozario

Council Member: Rosemary Vidler, John Lackie

Cumberland Geological Society

<http://www.cumberland-geol-soc.org.uk/>

President: Ben Johnson

Spring/Summer Programme 2026

<p>The Windermere Supergroup <i>Thursday 16 April</i> Richard Wrigley</p>	<p>Walna Scar car park (paid) SD 2889 9701</p> <p>Examination of latest Ordovician to late Silurian rocks unconformably overlying rocks of the Borrowdale Volcanic Group. Total walking distance (moderate) is about 6.5km. In places it maybe wet underfoot. (Participants are recommended to have read GA Cumbria Guide Volume 2, itinerary 2.3)</p>
<p>Askill Knott to Low Fell <i>Wednesday 29 April</i> Phil Davies</p>	<p>Meet at 10am NW of 'Pinfold': NY 128 218.</p> <p>The track heads NW from the rendezvous point: green dots on this map. Limited side-of-road parking at various places along Loweswater shore. Wonderfully exposed structures in Ordovician age Skiddaw Group strata (Loweswater Formation) north of Loweswater: complex slump folding at Askill Knott; thrusts and folds on the lower slope of Darling Fell; dramatic fold and shear structures in the closure of the major Loweswater anticline viewed from below Low Fell. See The Cumberland Geologist No 4 (thrusts, Darling Fell); and No 5 (Askill Knott and drone photography).</p>
<p>Scarborough <i>7-10 May</i></p>	<p>Details coming soon</p>
<p>Ingleborough <i>Wednesday 3 June</i> Bernard Skillerne de Bristowe</p>	<p>Details coming soon</p>
<p>Seathwaite Fell Excursion <i>Wednesday 17 June</i> David Haselden</p>	<p>Billed by the late Clive Boulter as "The best traverse through the best-preserved caldera-fill sedimentary sequence in the world" the excursion will follow Clive's 2017 joint field trip itinerary through the Seathwaite Fell Formation. The field itinerary can be found on Clive's website https://englishlakedistrictgeology.org.uk/.</p> <p>The excursion is around 8k with 540m of ascent and maximum altitude of 630m. The approach is on good mountain paths, but the geological traverse is on pathless open fell, steep in places with some simple scrambling. Meet at Seathwaite Farm at 10am. Parking is available for free on the Seatoller to Seathwaite Road - usually very busy, or for £5 per day (2025) at the farm.</p>

<p>Windermere Supergroup in the Grizebeck, Gawthwaite and Woodland Area <i>Wednesday 8 July</i> Dave Kelly</p>	<p>Based on new GA Cumbria Guide 2.5 Meeting in the car park of the Greyhound Inn, Grizebeck SD238849. More information coming soon.</p>
<p>Sourmilk Gill Seathwaite <i>Monday 27 July</i> John Lackie</p>	<p>A volcanic ‘bomb’ and various Borrowdale Volcanic Group exposures. It entails a moderately strenuous path up the side of the gill. Further information in GA Cumbria Guide 1.2. Meet at Seathwaite Farm at 10am. Parking is available for free on the Seatoller to Seathwaite Road - usually very busy, or for £5 per day (2025) at the farm. This will be a joint trip with Cockermouth u3a Geology Group and numbers will be limited so book direct with the leader jmlackie@gmail.com</p>
<p>Binsey <i>Wednesday 5 August</i> Ian Francis</p>	<p>Afternoon excursion to explore the Eycott Volcanic Group on Binsey, and its relationship to the underlying Skiddaw Group. Starting point: 2pm at roadside carparking at Bewaldeth road end, Bassenthwaite NY 23549 35104 (W3W factoring.pulps.salon). The route will take us around the southwestern foot of Binsey to Whittas (NY 21418 36217), returning to start point via Binsey top.</p>
<p>Shropshire <i>23-28 August</i></p>	<p>Details coming soon.</p>
<p>Braystones to St Bees: A walk along the coastal path to view the legacy of glacial readvances <i>Saturday 5 September</i> Jon Merritt</p>	<p>The coastal path allows easy access to view glacial landforms and to study sediments at several localities between Braystones and St Bees. These provide an insight into subglacial and ice-marginal processes that operated during the latter stages of the last glaciation in the region. The excursion is planned to start at c.11.20 am at Braystones Station [NY 0010 0597], joining up with participants who have taken the train from St Bees at c.11.00 am. The first stop will be a degraded cliff section beside the River Ehen at Warborough Nook [NY 0085 0494], a quiet locality good for a picnic. The route then follows the coastal path through Lowside Quarter to Nethertown Beach [NX 9881 0734], where we can examine a raised beach and cliff sections around the promontory. The coastal path is then followed back to St Bees stopping at several small sections and scrapes at the back of some large, but stable, landslips. The excursion ends at the southern end of the St Bees Moraine at Sea Mill [NX 9695 1074] where there is parking for cars only. The route is c.10 km over gently undulating ground, but includes walking on a bouldery shingle beach at Nethertown.</p>
<p>Mineralisation in Caldbeck <i>Early October</i> Brian Young</p>	<p>Details available soon</p>

Cumberland Geological Society

Annual General Meeting

To be held at

Braithwaite Institute

A66, Braithwaite, Keswick CA12 5RY

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026 AT 19.30

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2025
3. Matters arising from 2025 Minutes
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts
6. Election of Officers for 2026-2027
7. Any Other Business

(Close of AGM business will be followed by the talk by Dr David Schofield on Caledonian versus Acadian tectonics - an assessment of their respective influences on Lake District rocks)

Officers of the Society

Nominations which have been received for the 2026/27 Council are as follows. However, more nominations are welcome. Do please consider coming forward to assist in the running of your Society and contact any member of Council

President	Ben Johnson
Senior Vice President	Helen James and Phil Davies
Junior Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Fi Harwood
Field Trip Secretary	Helen James
Lecture Secretary	Vacant
General Secretary	Susan Beale
Proceedings editor	Ian Francis
Librarian	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Lesley Wornham
Council Secretary	Phil Davies
Website Officer	Ben Johnson
Website Admin	Steve Rozario
Council Member	Rosemary Vilder, John Lackie

Report of the Annual General Meeting

12 March 2025

The meeting was held at Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick.

Proceedings Editor Ian Francis brought copies of The Cumberland Geologist No. 5 for distribution. The AGM was followed by a talk on Himalayan Geology by Danny Clarke-Lowes and refreshments.

Coverage of the Agenda items:

1. Apologies for absence

Adele and Paul Fairman

2. Minutes of the AGM 2024

Accepted.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Presidents Report

Phil Davies summarised the report that was provided in the January 2025 Newsletter:

Our two year term as co-presidents seems to have sped by and yet it feels a long time ago that we stood for the post.

So to review the past year we have continued our Summer Field Trip program aiming to provide something for everyone. This year trips were on various days of the week, requiring different levels of fitness and covering aspects of Cumbrian geology. There was also an evening trip and a trip for those in the early stages of learning on their geology journey, both of these were enjoyed by the participants but were rather poorly attended. Phil organised two longer trips which were very popular, a week trip to Arran in late April and a weekend trip in June to investigate the ophiolite at Ballantrae. This trip was led by Con Gillen who also gave us a talk in January on the geology of the Western Isles of Scotland illustrated with his superb photographs.

This year we had no Lecture Secretary so Council compiled a programme of talks focussing on the geology of Cumbria and the surrounding area with local speakers, many of them members. During the year Phil and Danny led an investigation into the feasibility of finding speakers who could cover the latest thinking on the geological history of the Lake District post 'Woodcock & Strachan 2012' and the intention is that this will form the basis for the next Winter Lecture Series.

Ian has continued as editor of The Cumberland Geologist. His first edition last year was much appreciated and so I am sure you are all looking forward to reading the current edition which is being

distributed. You may have seen from the Newsletters that we have agreed to put all The Cumberland Geologists and the old Proceedings on our website as open access, and this is in progress.

We sponsored a student on an undergraduate project on Carrock Fell and a Cumbrian student on a Tenerife Field trip, and another application is expected.

Membership numbers appear to have remained fairly stable at just over 100 and we were pleased to welcome new members during the year.

At the AGM two years ago we were surprised to find ourselves as co-presidents. We have worked well together, enjoyed the learning and it has been good fun. We are most grateful to the field trip leaders, the lecturers, the authors of TCG and Council members who enable the Society to continue to flourish. There are some anticipated changes on Council. Peter is stepping down. Susan is happy to take on the General Secretary role. Rosemary has been Council Secretary for almost 20 years and will be handing over to Phil in the next year. Lesley is taking on the Membership Secretary role and Steve is assisting Ben on some of the IT administrative issues, so this leaves Ben in a good position to take the CGS forward. Ben has been Junior Vice President for some years, and we are pleased to support his nomination for President.

5. Treasurers Report and adoption of Accounts

Treasurer Fi Harwood presented the accounts, which were adopted.

6. Election of Officers for 2025-2026

President	Ben Johnson
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Junior Vice President	Vacant
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Lecture Secretary	Danny Clark-Lowes
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Membership Secretary	Lesley Wornham
Council Secretary	Phil Davies
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Website Admin	Steve Rozario

7. Any other business

None.

Helen James closed the AGM.

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025

Accounts are still with the auditor at this time.

Audited accounts will be circulated via email as soon as they are available.