



THE RUSSELL SOCIETY

SOUTHERN BRANCH

Will be hosting:

The 2019 Annual Society Meeting Weekend

Friday 12th April to Sunday 14th April 2019

at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0EG

2019 ASM Detailed Information

The 2019 ASM Weekend

The Southern Branch will be hosting the Russell Society 2019 Annual Society Meeting (ASM) weekend at Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon, on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park in the valley of the River Dart. Devon is an ideal venue for the ASM weekend giving us good access to the many geological and mineralogical sites of interest in the South-west.

On the Tuesday prior to the ASM there will be a special one day field trip to Lundy Island, the largest island in the Bristol Channel. On the Friday there will be visits to classic mineral collecting sites, sites of significant geological interest and institutions in the south-west area. There will be an informal meal and social gathering with an opportunity for mineral specimen exchange on the Friday evening.

The Saturday symposium will consist of illustrated talks, mineral displays and further opportunities for the disposal and acquisition of minerals, with refreshments and lunch provided. Following the Society AGM on Saturday afternoon the day will round off with the Society's annual dinner followed by the auction of mineral specimens and other ephemera in aid of Society funds.

Sunday will feature field trips to South-western collecting sites and visits to sites of geological interest. Full details of all the activities for the weekend are given below. For those who are successful in gaining a place on their selected field trip complete details will be provided on confirmation.

Field Trip to Lundy Island

A special field trip has been arranged for Tuesday 9th April Trip to [Lundy island](#) NNR/SSSI in the Bristol Channel. This will be a full day, leaving Bideford Quay at 08:30 and returning at 20:00, with a two hour each way sailing, in potentially choppy waters, on the [MS Oldenburg](#). There is a limit of eight members and there will be restrictions on collecting on the island.

Friday Afternoon Visits and Field Trips

A selection of visits to mines and a museum has been arranged for those members who will be travelling to the ASM on the Friday. Venues include (collecting site links go to the Mindat page):

- [Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery](#), Exeter to view their collections of minerals.
- [Bampfylde mine](#), North Molton, Devon, a former copper and iron mine, where gold has been reported.
- [South Terras mine](#), St Stephen-in-Brannel, Cornwall. Originally an ochre and magnetite mine and later uranium. Pitchblende and micro uranium minerals, such as torbernite, occur.

There is a limit on numbers for these trips, shown on the booking form, and allocation will be on a first come first served basis. Please make your first and second choice on the booking form if you wish to attend any of these trips. The [Health and Safety](#) requirements of the Society will be adhered to for all field trips and visits. Full details will be provided to successful field trip applicants nearer the date.

Accommodation at Northgate House

Members are required to arrange their own accommodation at Northgate House, Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0EG (<http://buckfastaccommodation.org.uk/northgate-house>). Please book by telephone on **01364 645630** and quote the **Russell Society** when booking as we have reserved rooms. The standard room rates are as follows: single occupancy - £71.10 per room per night (room, breakfast & VAT), double/twin occupancy - £80.10 per room per night (room, breakfast & VAT). Superior room rates single occupancy - £98.10 per night, double/twin occupancy - £107.10 per night. Alternatively there are a good number of reasonably priced guest houses in the Buckfastleigh area and details of these can be obtained at Visit Dartmoor: <https://www.visitdartmoor.co.uk/>.

Friday Evening Social Gathering

An informal evening meal is planned at Northgate House. Members are required to make their own arrangements on the evening for ordering food and payment. Members are asked to please indicate attendance so that numbers are known. Persons not staying at Northgate House who wish to join us for the evening meal must indicate their intention on the booking form so that we can relay expected numbers to the hotel. Following the meal there will be the opportunity to socialise in the bar and an adjoining room is expected to be available for exchanging minerals..

Saturday Symposium at The Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

The Saturday Symposium we will be held at the [Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre](#), Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0EG where there will be a full day of illustrated talks and displays around the theme of The Minerals and Mineralogy of the South-West. There will also be the traditional specimen and other mineralogical related material exchange sessions available during the day. Talks arranged for the symposium are:

- Wavellite and other phosphates from North Devon by David Ifold;
- South Terras, Cornwall's premier uranium and radium Mine by Courtenay V. Smale;
- Mineral collecting in the Mendips (other than in quarries) by Peter Burr;
- Minerals of the English Midlands by Roy Starkey;
- Classic mines and minerals of Devon by Owen Baker.

There will be displays of wavellite, Mendip minerals and English Midlands minerals.

Coffee, tea and lunch will be served during the day and there will be opportunities to exchange material. There is a booking fee of £30 payable by all attendees at the symposium which includes lunch and teas/coffees. The Society AGM will follow the afternoon events, and there is no fee for attendance at the Society AGM only.

Russell Society Annual Dinner at Northgate House, Buckfast Abbey

On the Saturday evening the Society annual dinner will be held at Northgate House. There will be a choice of three courses for £25 per head. Vegetarian choices will be available. The menu choices will be made available nearer the time and will be sent out to delegates to make their selection. A pay bar will be open for wines and other drinks. Following the dinner there will be the annual auction of mineral specimens and mineralogical ephemera in aid of Society funds. Quality specimen donations for the auction will be gratefully accepted.

Sunday Visits and Field Trips

A number of visits to mines, museums and geological locations have been arranged for the Sunday. Venues will include:

- [High Down SSSI, Heddon quarry](#), Filleigh, Devon, the type locality for wavellite.
- [Great Rock mine](#), Hennock, Devon, a former micaceous haematite mine. There will be an opportunity to explore the underground workings.
- [Teign Valley mines](#), Devon. This will include visits to [Frank Mills](#) mine and [Wheal Exmouth](#).
- [Virtuous Lady mine](#), Buckland Monachorum, Devon. Former copper, tin and iron mine on the banks of the River Tavey, famous for its siderite 'ladies slippers' and box epimorphs.

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Booking

For the 2019 ASM we have produced a PDF electronic form that can be completed in most PDF reading applications, saved and emailed back. Payment can be made by electronic bank transfer direct into the Russell Society bank account. The form is fully self explanatory with help tips when you select any field. Please complete the form, **save the file as a PDF with your personal reference ID** (ASM+surname+initial) and email back the form using the mail link given at the bottom of the form. Alternatively the form can be printed and filled in manually, and posted to Gary Morse at the address below. Keep a copy for yourself as a record of your selections. If you provide an email address we will send you all other information by email to save postage costs. The total cost of the weekend symposium plus annual dinner is £55 per person attending both.

You can make payment by bank transfer to the RS account: Account name: The Russell Society, Sort code: **30-14-40**, Acc. No: **00286068**. **YOU MUST IDENTIFY YOUR PAYMENT! Please put ASM plus your surname and initial(s) (e.g.: ASMMorseG) in the identification field** so that we know who the payment is from. If you provide an email address payments will be acknowledged, along with confirmation of receipt of the booking form, once verified by the Hon. Treasurer.

Posted forms should be sent with full payment (cheques payable to “The Russell Society”) to:

Gary Morse,
2, Fountain Court,
Hedge End,
Southampton,
SO30 4QF

☎ 01489 787300

Please return booking forms and payment to arrive before Friday 15th March 2019. Thank you.

The booking form is also available online along with these ASM details at www.russellsoc.org