



## **The Russell Society Annual Society Meeting Weekend – Friday 3rd April to Sunday 5th April 2020**

You are cordially invited to the Annual Society Meeting Weekend hosted by the Wales and West Branch at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel, Shurdington Road, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4PB.

<https://www.thecheltenhamchase.co.uk/> on the southern fringe of the beautiful Georgian town of Cheltenham, just below Crickley Hill Country Park. The venue is easily reached from junction 11a of the M5.

### **Detailed Information**

On the Friday there will be a field trip to Dolyhir Quarry and visits to museum collections in Bath and Bristol. There will be an informal meal and social gathering with an optional quiz on the Friday evening.

The Saturday symposium will consist of illustrated talks and mineral displays, 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.

In a new departure for the Society, Sunday will feature a variety of activities based at the nearby Century Hall in Shurdington village. These will include a Mineral Bazaar, identification table, exhibits, illustrated talks, grab table, sandwich lunch (if pre-ordered) and tea/coffee throughout the day.

Full details of all the activities for the weekend are given below. For those who are successful in gaining a place on the field trip or museum visits complete details will be provided on confirmation.

### **Friday Visits and Field Trip**

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 The Cheltenham Chase Hotel**

Members are required to arrange their own accommodation at the hotel. Please book by telephone on 01452 519988 (select option 2 for group bookings) and quote 3rd & 4th April 2020 and the Russell Society when booking as we have negotiated special rates for delegates.

Please note that bookings must be made a minimum of 8 weeks before the event to get the discounted rate. Rooms may be available after this cut-off date but will be charged at full price.

The discounted rate is £80 for single and £90 for double occupancy (either twin or king double) including breakfast and VAT.

Alternatively there are a good number of reasonably priced guest houses in the Cheltenham area and details of these can be obtained at <https://www.visitcheltenham.com/accommodation>

### **Friday Evening Social Gathering**

An informal evening meal is planned at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel. 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 we can let the hotel know roughly how many people to expect. Persons not staying at the hotel 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 we plan to run a mineralogical themed quiz.

### **Saturday Symposium**

The Saturday Symposium will be held at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel where there will be a varied programme of illustrated talks and displays showcasing the mineralogy of Wales.

Talks planned are as follows: Norman Moles – Out With the Old, In With the New – the Foss and Duntanlich Baryte Mines; John Cooke – Researching and Collecting Vintage Boxed Mineral Sets; Mick Butler and Karl Houseley – ‘A career in mineral processing’ – exact title to be confirmed; Speaker to be confirmed – The Rogerley Mine and Diana Maria Mine Project (Courtesy of Crystal Classics Fine Minerals Ltd.); Phil Taylor – ‘Drilling wells – an insight into the oil industry’ – exact title to be confirmed.

We shall have mineral displays on the mineralogy of Wales presented by Steve Plant and Alan Thorogood, Nigel Moreton, Steve Warren and hopefully Ian Jones (to be confirmed).

Coffee, tea and lunch will be served during the day and there will be ample opportunity to enjoy the mineral displays and to socialise with other delegates. There is a booking fee of £35 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.

Please be sure to bring your best find of the 2019 collecting season, along with details of where the specimen was found and a summary of its geological/ mineralogical context, for entry to the Trevor Bridges Award.

On the Saturday evening the Society annual dinner will be held at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel. There will be a choice of three courses for £28 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 Activities**

Activities will be based at The Century Hall, Bishop Road, Shurdington, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 4TB (Approximately 12 minutes' drive, 2.3 miles north of the Cheltenham Chase Hotel).

**Mineral Bazaar** – please bring your better duplicates for sale or exchange. This is your chance to generate some cash in a safe internal market and reinvest it in some nice specimens.

**Grab table** – a chance to create some space at home and pass on unwanted specimens to a new home.

**Mineral identification service** – Please bring along your unknowns and take advantage of the expertise within the Society.

**Exhibits** – details to be confirmed

**Illustrated talks, with accompanying exhibits** – Roy Starkey – Excavations at the Peatfold Pegmatite, Glen Buchat, Scotland; Steve Warren – Halkyn Mine.

**Sandwich lunch** (if pre-ordered) and tea/coffee throughout the day.

## **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 (many thanks to Gary Morse for his assistance with this). 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 Marashean Parker 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 £63 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.: ASMParkerM) 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: Marashean Parker, 33 Colerne Drive, Hucclecote, GLOUCESTER, GL3 3SX.

Please return booking forms and payment to arrive before Friday 6th March 2020. Thank you.

The booking form is also available online along with these ASM details at [www.russellsoc.org](http://www.russellsoc.org)