

REPORT ON THE AGM HELD ON FRIDAY 20 MAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL

What can you do in an hour? Last week, Peter Worsley, Emeritus professor of geology at Reading University, enthralled his fellow villagers with his “layman’s guide” to the geology of Whitchurch – remarkably covering this huge subject in just such a time. The talk covered not only the “movers and shakers” in the study of geology in this area and the main sources of study but a thoroughly absorbing and comprehensive guide to what makes up our area of the planet, the materials beneath the vegetation that we see around us, how the materials are made up and the history of our planet revealed by them. Materials from Peter’s own garden and the nearby area were passed around for us all to handle and photographs of local sites clearly helped us to see what we otherwise miss - from looking down workman’s holes in the ground to the Rushall Farm RIGS (regionally important geographical site) with its stunning exposed chalk face. Not surprisingly when looking at the history of the Earth and the cycles of change inevitably we ended up at question time on the thorny topic of climate change.

The event was hosted by The Whitchurch Society as one of the village activities that we organise each year. The Whitchurch Society embraces all residents of the village. The organising committee, under the current chairmanship of Peter Smith, meets 4-6 times per year to plan a calendar of events for the benefit of the village. We warmly invite new members to join the committee as we welcome fresh ideas to expand and diversify the calendar of events for all sectors of our community. If you can spare some time to attend committee meetings and to assist with the organisation of local events such as old favourites: the Village Walks, the Garden Walk and the Art & Craft Exhibition or to suggest any new activities, then please do get in touch with us – through Secretary Ian Bruce, tel 0118 984 2653, email ian.bruce@whitchurchsociety.org or Chairman Peter Smith, tel 0118 984 3340, email peter.smith@whitchurchsociety.org.