



**Down to Earth**

*"Earth science learning for all"*

# The Isle of Man September 22-29



## **A word from your leaders...**

We last visited the Isle of Man in September 2015 and had a wonderful time staying at the Ascot Hotel in Douglas. We vowed to return to cover some new localities, as well as revisiting some others. We tried for the same hotel, but despite being some 18 months before our date, could not get in. Instead, we have plumped for the nearby Welbeck Hotel that views with the Ascot for the TripAdvisor top spot! We are assured of every comfort and good food as we once again sample this beautiful island.

With a geological history stretching back to the Ordovician, the Isle of Man has much to offer, including amazing tectonics, minerals, fossils and a very interesting Quaternary history. Come and examine the geology of the Highlands and Southwest Scotland the Lake District right here on the beaches of the north of the Island! We'll even sample vintage transport in the form of electric trams and a steam railway.

Both of us are looking forward to returning to the island and hoping for the same kind of weather that we enjoyed in September 2015. This time, Colin promises even more of the Quaternary and Chris is hoping to find a couple more dykes!

**Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield**  
Course Organisers/Leaders

[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)

## **Getting to the Isle of Man**

There are regular ferry sailings from Heysham and Belfast with a fast catamaran service from Liverpool. Several different airlines, including FlyBe and EasyJet fly to Ronaldsway from various airports around the UK. Flight costs are most reasonable. There's a good bus service between the airport and Douglas.

## **Getting around on the trip**

For this trip we will be hiring a 17-seater minibus on the island. As usual, this will be driven by 'our Colin' who will ensure that we are safely transported around the Manx TT circuit in style! Having sampled some of the other modes of transport on the island we will also be using the steam train and the electric tram system to get to the top of Snaefell. If bookings exceed 15 people we may need an additional car, so we may be looking for volunteer drivers.

## **The geology of the Isle of Man**

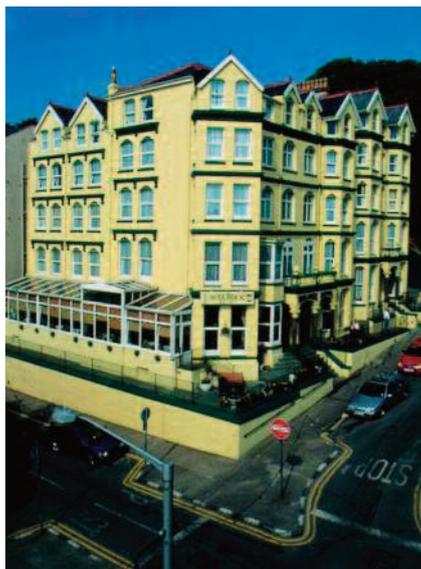
Geologically, the Isle of Man is a very interesting place. The NE-SW orientation of the island gives away the fact that much of it is underlain by Lower Palaeozoic sediments that have been affected by the Caledonian Orogeny. These rocks have been metamorphosed to slates and are

intruded by granites from the early Devonian period. Recent research has shown us that the island probably contains the suture that marks the disappearance of Iapetus.

The Peel group sandstones are now thought to be Devonian in age and are succeeded by Carboniferous limestones and volcanics of the Castletown area. To complete the picture of the solid geology there are several areas of metalliferous ore mines, along with a number of minor Tertiary intrusions.

The northern part of the island is a low lying plain of glacio-fluvial material from the Quaternary. The beaches are a reflection of ice movement from the north moving around either side of the Isle of Man. The beaches are amongst the most interesting in the UK with rocks that reflect the ice movement.

Recent work on the geology of the Island has identified it as possibly being the long sought after 'Iapetus suture', i.e. the place where the two former continents met during the Caledonian Orogeny. Whilst this remains controversial, what is not in doubt is the amazing geological interest contained within this small area.



### Accommodation & Food

The trip is based at the family run 3-star Welbeck Hotel which is just back from the seafront in central Douglas. This highly rated establishment is able to provide us with all en-suite rooms and half board accommodation. We will source packed lunches locally for each field day.

### Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip. The exact itinerary will be finalised in the light of your wishes, the prevailing weather and tidal conditions:-

- The Lower Palaeozoic sequence of slates
- Folding at Port Mooar
- The Iapetus suture of Niarbyl Point
- The Foxdale granite and associated ore mines
- The Devonian Peel group rocks
- The Carboniferous limestones of the Castletown area
- The Carboniferous Scarlett volcanics
- Steam train to Port Erin, electric tram to Snaefell summit
- Tertiary intrusions and Quaternary sediments



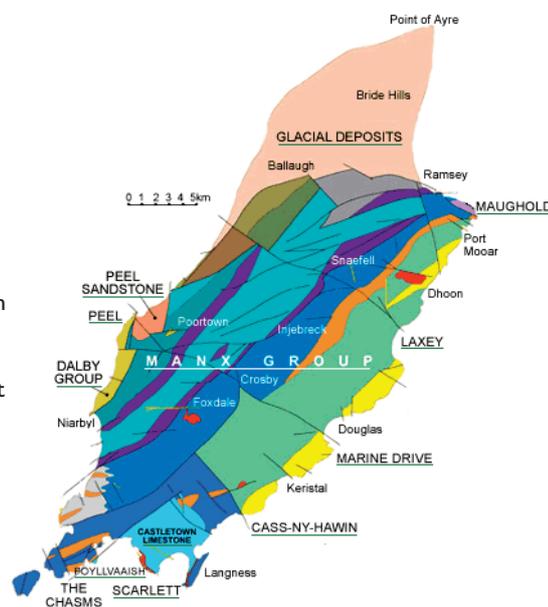
### Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night trip will be £995.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £1195.00 per person and is limited to a maximum of 4. De-luxe double rooms are available for an additional charge of £100.00 per person. If you would like one of these please indicate on the booking form.

If you are willing to share, but don't have a companion, just indicate on the form and we will try to help you.

### What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as tutors who will be available to you at all reasonable times.
- Accommodation and meals as specified here.
- The cost of all transport used during the trip, including steam train and electric tram.
- Admission to any museums, exhibitions etc. as visited by the group.



## What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Douglas
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenditure

## Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is strongly advised to take out holiday insurance. This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with many bank accounts and credit cards.

## Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these tours are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with EU Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

## Booking

*Please fill in and return a completed booking form.. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £300.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by June 30th. 2018.*

*This trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by January 31st. 2018.*

## What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - pretty soon judging by the number of people who have shown an interest already - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of early deals.

Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

*Please also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2018'*



*Tertiary dyke*

