DAY SCHOOL

As part of the course, a day school will be presented in various places. This will cover "How the Earth works". We will try to match each person to the nearest place, but cannot promise you one close to where you live. Currently we are looking at putting this on in Sheffield, London and the Midlands. This a chance to meet the tutors and your fellow learners and to learn more about this important element of the course, first hand. Refreshments will be provided at each of the venues. If you are unable to attend any day school then you can attend one of our day trips instead.

PRACTICAL POINTS

- To do this course electronically you'll need a computer with access to the internet. You'll also need an email address - please supply it at the time of enrolment. Units will be sent as pdf files.
- We'll help you to access MOODLE, a free learning platform and give you a password, this will enable you to get the most out of the course.

COURSE MATERIALS

Everyone who enrols on this course will receive several items including a simple geological map of Britain and a time scale free of charge. In addition we recommend you to purchase a 'home kit' of rock, mineral and fossil specimens and a book to aid you in your learning. All can be purchased by post or at the day school where you will save money.

Rock, mineral & fossil home kit - comprises 25 core specimens that will be frequently referred to in the units and tasks, along with a hand lens, streak plate and grain card. The cost is £29.95 (£24.95 for collection).

Textbooks - *Introducing Geology* by Graham Park (£10.99), *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Rocks of the World* by John Farndon (£9.99) *(Prices shown include UK postage.)*

FIELDWORK

By the end of the course you'll be familiar with many of the basics of geology, but there's nothing finer than being able to go out and see rocks in their natural habitat. Whilst there's no fieldwork as part of this course, we do encourage you to go on a field day or a residential course. We'll keep you informed our programme and as a current learner you'll be entitled to discount rates on all of our day trips.

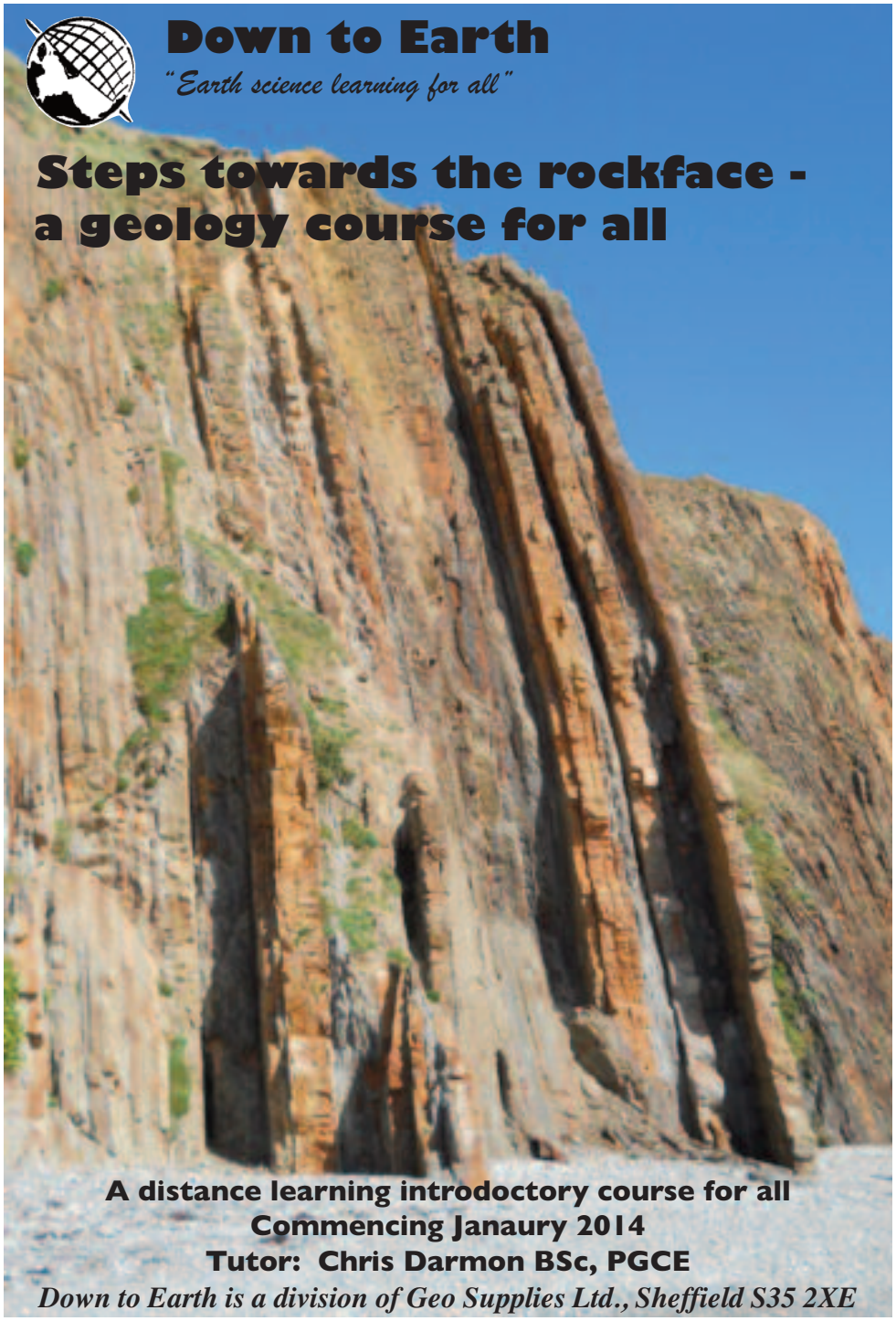
THE COST

The online cost is £80.00 (students under 19 years £60.00) and covers all the tutorials and the day school (with refreshments). For learners who wish to have materials posted the cost is £95.00.

BOOKING

To enrol on this course you can do so via our website: **www.geosupplies.co.uk**
or you can ring us on 0114 245 5746 or you can send a cheque to the following address (made payable to "Geo Supplies Ltd"): Geo Supplies Ltd., 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield, S35 2XE

For further details email:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk



KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Steps towards the rockface - geology for all
LEVEL: The course is designed for anyone interested in learning about the basic of the Earth, what it's made of and how it works
COURSE DATES: Commencing January 2014
COURSE TUTOR: Chris Darmon BSc, PGCE
CONTACT: email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk
or tel. 0114 245 5746

BACKGROUND

The tutor is a trained teacher with extensive experience of teaching adults in a variety of settings including The University of Sheffield, WEA and the local authority over a period of nearly 40 years. He is particularly at ease working with adults in a relaxed atmosphere without the need for large amounts of administration and assesment. He firmly believes that learning can, and should be, fun! For the past three years Chris has, in collaboration with others, been developing online courses and this is the latest such course. It has been developed in response to interest from those with no previous knowledge in the subject area.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Our aim is to provide a relaxed learning environment in which we can all learn, both from the tutor and each other. We hope that everyone will want to complete the tasks we set you, though nobody will be insisting that you do. Feedback and positive encouragement will always be given - we want you to gain knowledge and confidence from everything you do! We want you to share ideas and experiences with each other through the medium of MOODLE. We'll show you how to use this free learning platform to get the very most from your experience. My colleague Colin Schofield will be your MOODLE guide and tutor.

To protect our materials, we must ask you to agree not to share them with anyone not enrolled on the course by any means, including email. This is a condition of you enrolling on this course.

THIS COURSE

How and where do we start out on our journey of discovery about planet Earth? To some it will begin with the materials, the rocks, minerals and fossils. To others it begins with the landscape; what we see around us as we walk, cycle or motor through the countryside. In this course we embrace both of these, but there's an even more fundamental fact about Earth - deep time, 4,650 million years of it to be precise and that's where we will begin. In just 10 weeks we'll give you an introduction to all the main aspects of planet Earth with just enough detail to leave you wanting to know more. Within 2 years, we aim to have a wide range of second level courses (some are already in place) so that your journey of discovery can continue for a long time to come.

COURSE AIMS

- To appreciate the enormity of deep Earth time
- To appreciate and understand how landscapes form
- To understand the range of Earth materials and how they form
- To outline how the Earth works and has evolved through time
- To outline the story of life on Earth
- To examine something of the vast array of useful materials provided by planet Earth
- To see something of the incredible journey of the United Kingdom through time

COURSE CONTENT

What follows is not intended to be prescriptive, but provides an overview of the topics to be covered in this course.

- **Earth in time & space -** delve into deep time with a lively and fun hands-on session, also presented via online picture challenges

- **Reading the view** - what makes landscape? How do we know what lies beneath us and the lie of the rocks? Open your eyes to a real understanding of landscape - you'll be amazed!

- **Opening up the Earth's chemistry store** - the elements that make up the Earth's surface that then go on to make minerals, that then make rocks. The rock cycle, the three types of rocks and how they relate to each other.

- **Rocks from the fiery zone** - igneous rocks from volcanoes and deep within the Earth.

- **Drip, drip, drip and a very wet Wednesday afternoon** - sedimentary rocks and the many and different ways in which they are formed. This extensive area is presented in two parts.

- **Rocks made in the pressure cooker** - the amazing story of how rocks like marble and slate come to be formed.

- **Our mobile Earth** - an insight into the story of how we discovered the workings of our planet, a journey that takes us to the highest peaks and to the bottom of the deepest ocean.

- **Bend me, break me** - given time, heat and pressure there's nothing we can't do to rocks! This is the story of folds and faults, where we present you with some of the best of British.

- **Life, but not necessarily as we know it** - the story of the ups and downs of life on Earth over the past 4 billion years. From microbes to dinosaurs, trilobites to *Homo sapiens,* Earth has seen them all.

- **Earth in the service of mankind** - our planet has so many rich materials, from gold to potash, oil and gas to mercury. We examine how the riches of the Earth have been used to provide us with the things that we take for granted.

- **Postcards from the past** - some glimpses through time at what it would have been like in the United Kingdom over the past 700 million years. Hang on, for the ride of a lifetime!

Everyone enrolling will receive a provisional timetable and further information by way of an inttoduction to the course and our way of presentation.