

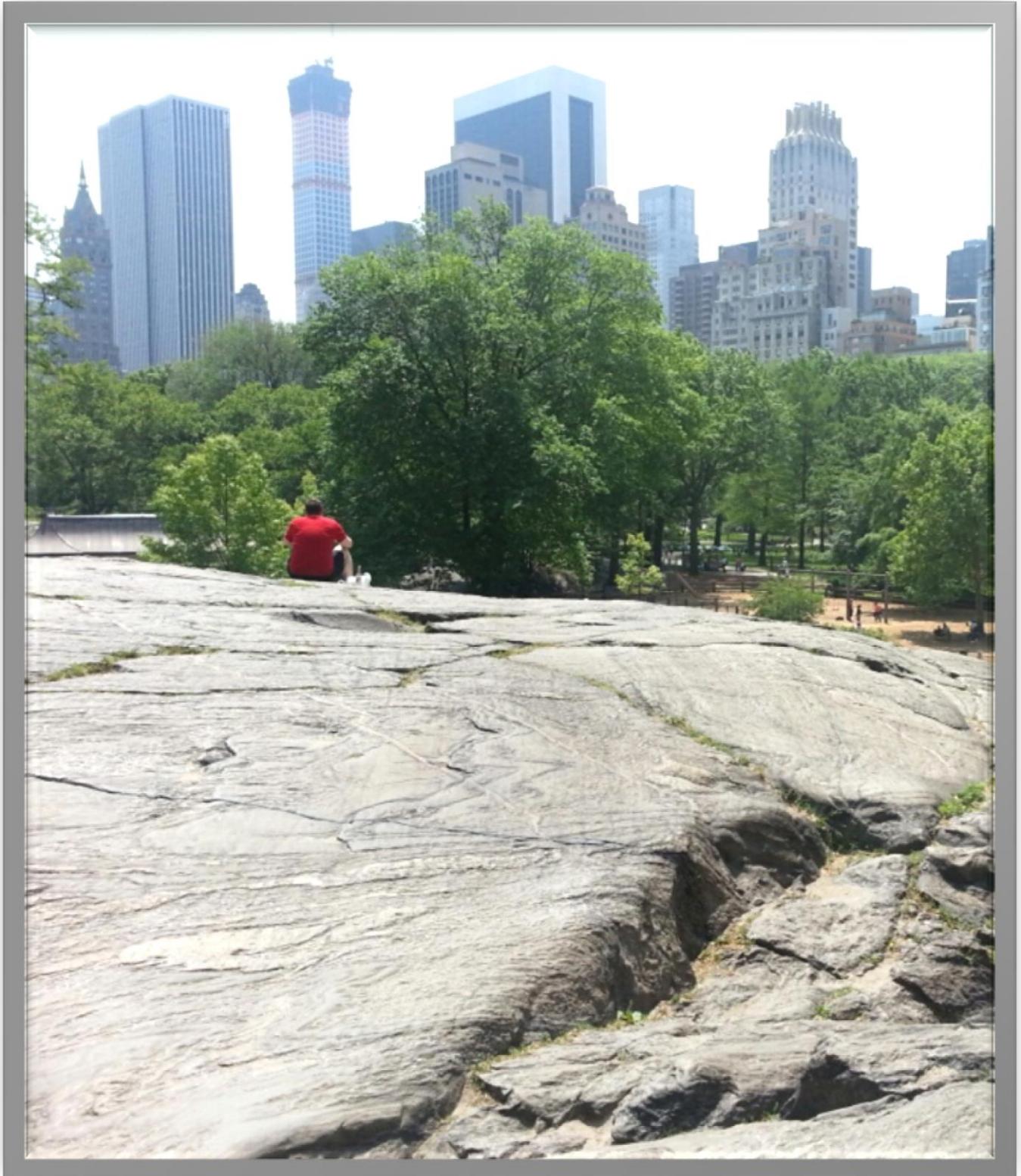


EUROCK

THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MAINLAND EUROPE
WINTER 2018



WINTER 2018



Manhattan schist with massive grooves from the last glaciations on the Rat Rock New York Central Park, 2014, by Harald Stoler



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUGS ME,

it's that time again, when everybody gets in the Christmas spirit and probably also starts to reflect on the past year (was it a good one, was it a bad one), and maybe even starts to make plans for the new year. And I'm not just talking about New Year's resolutions :-)

Talking about the New Year: You all know that we'll have our AGM weekend at the first weekend in February. I'm sure we are all looking forward to visiting Nancy, seeing the prestigious labs at the university, as well as to a lot of socialising, of course!



Upcoming committee elections

Speaking about the AGM weekend – an important part of it is the actual annual branch AGM, of course. At this meeting, we are going to hear the reports of members of the OUGS ME committee, and discuss matters that concern our branch. A draft programme for this meeting will be sent to all members in due course.

An essential part of the meeting will be the elections of the committee (if you need a reminder of who is actually on the committee at present, have a look at the last page of this newsletter). I would like to stress at this point that all posts are open to anybody. Therefore, if you are interested in taking a part in organising our branch, do consider joining the committee. Maybe you would like to be involved, but don't want some official post yet? Then that's no problem! We have enough space on the committee for people who don't have any specific role, but are still valuable members and contribute to the running of our branch.

But also if you are interested in the jobs of librarian, webmaster, treasurer or branch organiser: don't be shy! Get in touch with us if you'd like to know more about what we do (contact details see last page of this newsletter), and do put your name forward for election. We always welcome new faces on the committee!

Changes to the OUGS ME website

Some of you may have noticed that our website (www.ougseurope.org) is not entirely up-to-date anymore. This is not due to the fact that our webmaster couldn't be bothered! We are simply in the process of moving our web content to the main OUGS society website. This is a process that has been on-going for quite a few months now, and during that time it has seemed somewhat pointless to keep our current website managed for more than the absolute necessary updates. As I am writing these lines, the process of moving our content to the society site has been nearly completed – but not to 100 percent yet. As soon as this is done, you'll notice because our domain www.ougseurope.org will be directed to the new site.

In my last BO word I mentioned the OUGS Facebook groups, but neglected to point you directly to them. Therefore, if you are on Facebook, here are the links:

- 1) Open University Geological Society: 
www.facebook.com/groups/6968848564

This is an open group, where anyone can join who is interested in what we do.

- 2) OU Geological Society: 
www.facebook.com/groups/8130711950

This group is closed, i.e. only for members of the OUGS

Continued on the next page.





3) And of course, our Mainland Europe group:



www.facebook.com/groups/ougs.mainland.europe

Of course, if you are not on facebook, it doesn't mean you are missing out! You can always use the forums on www.ougs.org/forums to get in touch with other OUGS members.

But enough of the virtual world for now. I hope you get a chance to enjoy the real world, too – go for a walk in the snow, perhaps. And above all, have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Marion Seitz

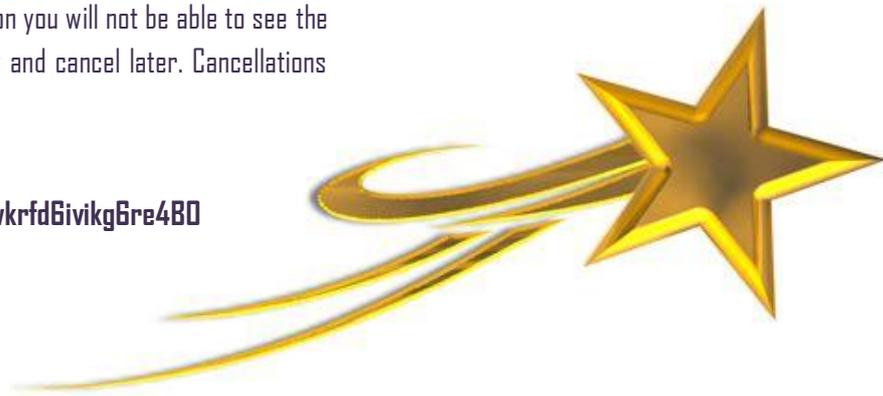
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P.S: Do not forget to register for the lab visits at our AGM weekend! Without a registration you will not be able to see the labs. If in doubt, register now and cancel later. Cancellations are no problem.

Register here:

<https://doodle.com/poll/vwkrfd6ivikg6re480>



FIELD TRIP 2019

UPCOMING IN 2019

GEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH ALPS - 22 TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2019

Next September we will again organise a trip to the Alps. This time we will first explore outcrops in the Internal zone in Italy and France with Dr Françoise Chalot-Prat.

The places we will visit are witnesses of the alpine orogenic cycle from continental and oceanic mantle and crust history: peridotite in the Ivrea-Verbano zone, eclogite and blueschist in the Sesia and Queyras zones and ophiolite of the Chenaillet. Some of you might know Françoise already as she has once lead us through the Alps in 2014 and organised the mapping week in the Ardèche. We will go back to some of the places

visited in 2014, but since last time research has been done and Françoise will tell us more about them.

On the last day we will drive into the External Alps, not far from where we ended last year's trip and explore the history of the Variscan basement during the Alpine orogeny with Dr Johnathan Mercier. He works with Thibaud at the Centre de Géologie de l'Oisans; a leader we all greatly appreciated during our last trip.

One important aspect of that trip is that it involves walking; the programme below indicates the differences in elevation when hiking is involved. Still remember that we will look at





geology and not race uphill and so far we never lost anyone. A more comprehensive risk assessment will soon be available.

Accommodation will mainly be in shared rooms in hostels. Transportation will be in hired cars (two 9-seaters). The cost, depending on the number of people will be around 520 euros. It involves pick-up and return to Torino, transport, leader, accommodation and most dinner & lunches.

If you are interested in reading about our previous trips to the Alps, the write-ups are still available on our website (ougseurope.org). And for any further queries, please do not hesitate and contact us.

Elisabeth d'Eyrames efdeyrames@gmail.com

Programme:

September Sunday 22th Day 1:

Travel by 9-seater bus from Torino airport/railway, station to Santa Maria Maggiore (≈2h)

--> overnight stay at the Albergo La Jazza, S. Maria Maggiore (VB) <http://www.hoteljazza.com/>

September Monday 23th Day 2:

Morning: travel to Finero (≈15mn) on continental mantle outcrops (phlogopite peridotite; Ivrea zone) - walking on short distances along road and track

Afternoon: travel to Varallo-Balmuccia (≈1h45) on continental mantle and underplated gabbro outcrops (Ivrea zone) - walking on short distances along track

--> overnight stay at the Ostello Il Pinocchio in Varallo ostelloilpinocchio@gmail.com

September Tuesday 24th Day 3

Morning: travel to Dropa (via Biella) (≈1h30) and cable car (top at 1900m next to the Sanctuary of Dropa) to reach outcrops on eclogitic paleozoic continental sediments

crosscut by Permian granites (Sesia zone) - hiking morning up to 2200m

Afternoon: travel to Nuova Cives Quarry, close to Ivrea (≈1h15), one of both European quarries operating in mantle peridotite for multiple uses of olivine - walking on short distances along track

--> Travel to Claviere (≈2h) and 1st overnight stay in the Rifugio Alpino La Capanna

September Wednesday 25th Day 4

Travel to Montgenèvre (10mn) at the bottom of the Chenaillet Massif with outcrops of preserved oceanic lithosphere in a rifting context (serpentinized mantle, gabbro, basaltic volcanoes) - hiking day up from 1800 to 2600m (Chenaillet summit)

--> 2nd overnight stay in the Rifugio Alpino La Capanna

September Thursday 26th Day 5

Travel to Saint Véran (through the col de l'Izoard) (≈1h30), within the Queyras Massif, on the outcrops of blueschist to eclogite lithologies of oceanic lithosphere --> hiking day from 2200m to 2800m (Lacs Blanchet)

--> 3rd overnight stay in the Rifugio Alpino La Capanna

September Friday 27th Day 6

Travel to the Massif des Ecrins (vallée du Fournel; West of L'Argentière la Bessée) (≈1h) on the Variscan basement, its subsidence and uplift history during the Alpine orogeny and related metallogeny (Ag/Pb).

--> 4th overnight stay in the Rifugio Alpino La Capanna

September Saturday 28th Day 7:

Travel to Torino airport (1h20) and railway station



If you still are looking for ideas to bake during the holidays: Geologically-themed cake baking competition



An event I read about ON THE ROCK NL from the Yorkshire branch it seems to be yearly routine by now for the Geological Society of London (GSL).
Here are a few examples from the GSL website:



Mid-Atlantic ridge. Photo from GSL website



Giant's Causeway biscuits. Photo from GSL website

All of the following and plenty more examples are available [here](#).





Your Newsletter contribution!

- Share interesting geology information and photos.
- Tell us about your geological experiences and about passed or upcoming events.
- Sent an email and tell us what you miss in your NL: newsletter@ougseurope.org.

Looking forward to your input.

Final Reminder

Membership fee 2019

Membership fees (24€) for 2019 are due by 1st January 2019 and the cut-off date is 31st January 2019.

Kreissparkasse Munchen Starnberg Ebersberg

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BIC: BYLADEMIKMS

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REGISTER TO OUR OPEN EVENTS ON THE MAINLAND EUROPE COMING UP:

- ✚ **AGM** in Nancy France, February 2019
- ✚ **Erzgebirge**, June 2019
- ✚ **Internal Alps** in Italy and France, September 2019
- ✚ Remember our annual Moyra-Eldrige-Competition!
See https://ougs.org/photo_competition/

Find the details about the upcoming trips at our website www.ougseurope.org, of course on the OUGS events page (<https://nuns.nrn/events>) or if you like just feel free to contact us!

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Further details can be found on our website: www.ougseurope.org and <https://ougs.org>
Please send articles and photos for the spring newsletter by 15.03.2019!

