

## Malvern U3A Geology visit to the BGS Open Day in Keyworth on 1st July 2017

A group of around 20 from Malvern U3A Geology travelled to the BGS Open Day in Keyworth on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. It was a lovely day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the varied exhibits, lectures and demonstrations. Many of these had been designed by the BGS specifically to interest children in Geology.

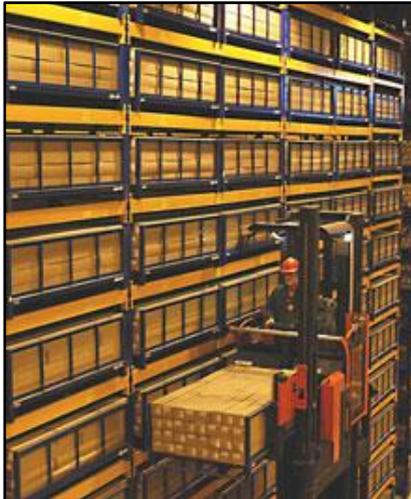
A number of guided visits were available. Particularly impressive was the National Geological Repository – the store which holds over 200 km of cores, samples and cuttings from all onshore hydrocarbon wells and over 300 km (and 4.5 million samples of cuttings) from the offshore hydrocarbon wells drilled in UK waters of the North Sea and the UK Continental Shelf.

The facility is enormous, filling a couple of very large warehouses with 80,000 trays of samples all weighing up to 10 000 tons and managed by a state-of-the-art, computer-controlled, sample-handling and storage system.

In addition to the above, there are also:

- over 3 million UK fossils and micropalaeontological slides - forming a comprehensive collection of the UK's reference examples
- the major British collection of the UK rocks - in both hand specimen and thin section
- materials collected by Charles Darwin from his voyage on the Beagle and samples collected by early Antarctic explorers
- geological records from over 1.3 million borehole logs and BGS geologists' maps and notebooks - some dating back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

An on-going programme of scanning and photography is building up an on-line archive of the above, most of which is available free to private individuals – see [www.bgs.ac.uk/collections/using.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/collections/using.html)



*High-lift Stacker in the Repository*



*The Walk through Geological Time*

Also at BGS, Keyworth is the “Walk through Geological Time” - a 130-metre-long stone concourse paved with representative samples of natural stone paving from three billion years of Earth's history. Every step from the beginning takes you about 25 million years closer to the present day.

The BGS Open Day occurs every 2 years. A return visit in 2019 is highly recommended.