

LOCHABER GEOPARK ASSOCIATION – March 2008 UPDATE

Following the success of Lochaber Geopark being awarded membership of the European Geopark Network work continues to establish the organisation as a contributor to the understanding of Lochaber's earth heritage and to the development of its economy. The following outlines some of the recent activities:-

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust

The production of interpretive material, including an exhibition and poster of geological information is being undertaken for the Trust.

Corrantee Mine

A scheduled 'Ancient Monument' mining area near Strontian has been assessed by Historic Scotland and the Forestry Commission has commenced to make a new path to the area making it easier for visitors to walk to it.

Geological course

A series of regular day time geological training courses has been taking place for the University of the Third Age.

Geotrails Leaflet

Four new Geotrail leaflets were produced to complement the existing four Geotrail leaflets.

Interpretation Boards

Geological information has been exhibited on a number of new interpretive boards being erected in Lochaber.

Kilchoan Workshop

Lochaber College ran a visitors centre exhibition which included a geological interactive PC information system.

Launch Event for EGN

The launch of Lochaber Geopark took place at the local Kilmallie Hall, with a marquee, Highland & Classical music. Demonstrations were given by Memo of Agreement supporters and SESEF. The "rock circle" in the Hall grounds which demonstrates a number of large geological specimens was renovated and cleaned.

David Sedgwick, a local surgeon, whose antecedent was Adam Sedgwick the famous geologist, opened the event together with local MP Charles Kennedy.

There was also a book launch for the new Ben Nevis & Glencoe Landscape fashioned by Geology series.

Lochaber Life

A series of articles explaining the geological and geomorphological events that have occurred at specific locations in Lochaber's local scenery are appearing in 'Lochaber Life' a local monthly magazine which is distributed to each household in Lochaber.

Mobile Phone Interpretation System

The project to produce an innovative mobile phone interpretation system has been set up with a local software systems company. Funding for a new member of staff has been obtained as well as working with the University of the Highlands and Islands on the method of producing the interpretive material.

Mountain Festival

The "Making Mountains" exhibition was held at the National Trust for Scotland's Glen Coe Visitors Centre during February.

Nevis Range Ski Area

Two interpretive Boards have been fitted at the end points to walks from the top station of the Gondola uplift system at Nevis Range Ski Area. These include aspects of the local geology.

Poster

A 360° panoramic poster taken from the top of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, has been produced and is being sent to local schools together with a geological explanation of the caldera and processes which made the mountain. Copies are also for sale in the local Tourist Information Centres.

Teacher Training

Working in conjunction with the Scottish Earth Science Education Forum, training courses for local teachers were undertaken which are designed to support the Environmental Studies curriculum for 5-14 year old pupils.

Website

Lochaber Geopark's sophisticated website was made live in October. It includes an interactive map with geological overlays, and information on local heritage, archaeology, tourist visitor information locations together with accommodation, travel, restaurants, and activity providers.