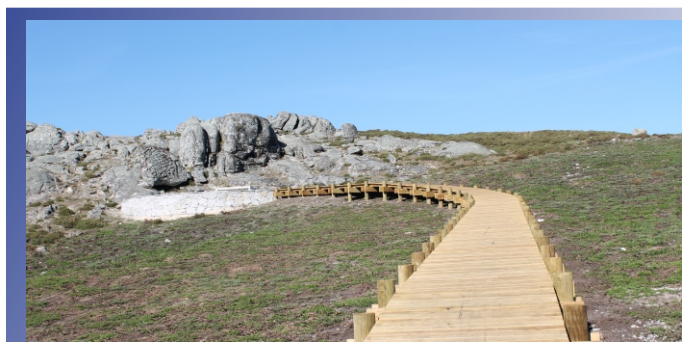


New projects and facilities

Launch of the new Geopark's visitor centre in Adamello Brenta Geopark (Italy)

The launch of the new Geopark's visitor center, the Geopark House, dedicated to the rich geology and geodiversity of the Adamello Brenta Geopark, will be launched on the 19th July. The new visitor centre is located in Carisolo, one of the Geopark's 39 municipalities, at the entrance of one of the most famous valleys of the Geopark, Genova Valley. The visitors will be able to discover the geological secrets of the Geopark from plastic models, interactive experiments and multimedia touch screens.



Corn Bread Rocks and Mizarela Waterfall: Two geosites with improved access and information in Arouca Geopark (Portugal)

In 2014 the AGA - Arouca Geopark Association initiated a programme to improve the access to and information provided at some of its geosites. The Corn Bread of Junqueiro and the Mizarela Waterfall were considered to be eligible for improving the access and information provided in interpretive panels, including information on the geosite, the fauna and flora in the surrounding area, viewpoints, walkways and signage. The aim of the Management of Arouca Geopark is to improve the access to six geosites in order to promote the knowledge, preservation a project submitted by AGA to ON2 - North Regional Operational Programme under the PROVERE is integrated in the Collective Efficiency Strategy "EEC Montemuro, Arada and Gralheira" of the Local Action Group - ADRIMAG. The aim of this project is to provide the public, with an understanding of the natural resources and the need for their preservation in order to enhance the sustainable development of the region.

New facilities in the Geopark Swabian Alb (Germany)

Spring 2014 has been an eventful period for the GeoPark Swabian Alb. We warmly welcomed our new colleague Dr. Dana Pietsch (Geographer and soil scientist) who joined the Geopark on 1 March to assist the Geopark team as a project manager. Her first tasks cover geotope management and publicity in the field of soil protection. Further activities, such as the unique and, again, successful, GeoPark Festival at the Karls-and Bear cave in Sonnenbühl on 27 April and more than 50 events carried out by our partners in the Swabian Alb during the EGN weeks drew our Geopark to the attention of politicians, inhabitants, tourists and visitors from the region. Last but not least, a new infocentre at the "Natural Educational Centre" in Ulm now represents the Geopark in the southwestern part of the Alb.



Cooperation with EGN/GGN

Ten years - the remarkable journey in creating a Global Network of National Geoparks seeking UNESCO's assistance

In February 2004, experts in geosciences and geological heritage concerned with their conservation and promotion, met in UNESCO's headquarter in Paris. On the agenda were, among other items, the foundation of a Global Geoparks Network and proposed guidelines for such a network. Later in the same year, 17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks were included in the network, following evaluations by an advisory group of experts. This was the beginning of the Global Geoparks Network that, after 10 years, has grown to include 100 geoparks in 30 countries. The concept of geoparks, our



geoheritage from a holistic perspective, the Earth's past, present and future, has proven to be a huge success. Geoparks communicate the importance of the knowledge of our origins and demonstrate how this approach can be used to enforce local development through sustainable tourism and education. The growing family of geoparks faces a bright future and the Global Geoparks Network looks forward to welcoming new territories with important stories to tell.

Austrian Geoparks Forum established (Austria)

The Austrian Academy of Sciences organized a Geopark's day on 10 May 2014. EGN members (Eisenwurzen, Carnic Alps, transborder Geopark Karawanke/Karaswanken) and the aspiring Geopark Erz der Alpen attended themselves a public meeting. Following their presentations, Geopark staff members and members of the Academy met for a brainstorming session. At this session the Austrian Geoparks established their forum under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences. Heinz Kollmann was elected coordinator.



But meeting them in Unst was an added bonus, with its unique geology, stunning scenery, abundant sea birds and warm and welcoming community. It was a great opportunity to see how Geopark Shetland is achieving the key objectives of the Geoparks movement, for sustainable development, education and public outreach."

Shetland Geopark hosts UK Global Geoparks Forum (UK)

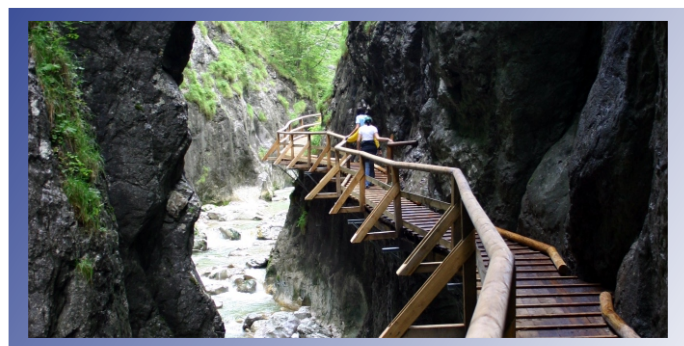
Geopark Shetland was proud to host the 2014 meeting of the UK Global Geoparks Forum (UKGGF) at Saxa Vord Resort, Unst on 1st and 2nd May. In addition to the Geopark delegates there were representatives from the British Geological Survey, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Visit Scotland and the UK National Commission to UNESCO (UKNC). Beth Taylor, UKNC Director with responsibility for natural sciences, said *"It's always a pleasure to meet the delegates from the UKGGF, who are without exception enthusiastic, enterprising and highly committed to the success of their very different Geoparks across the country."*

Peony arts exhibition - a flower as a natural and cultural bridge between continents - Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany)

Seventy peony paintings and peony calligraphy poems from 33 contemporary artists are exhibited in the Museum Centre of the City of Lorsch, Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Germany. The original art works have been collected by the Global Geopark Mt. Lushan, PR China within the framework of a sister Geopark cooperation project. In China, the peony is the national flower with origins going back 4000 years. As in China, the peony is also an important medicinal plant/medicinal plant in Europe, as mentioned in the Lorsch Abbey Medical Book, the earliest medical documentary of the medieval age and part of the UNESCO Memory of the World. This deep connection led to a comprehensive cooperation program with four partners: the two Global Geoparks, the city of Lorsch and the WHS Lorsch Abbey. Within this context the peony arts exhibition is considered as a first step. The exhibition was open daily until August 17th-2014.



Common activities



GeoTrail Gams awarded as "Thematic Trail of the (Austria) Year" – Nature and Geopark Eisenwurzen

Distinction. The designation "Thematic Trail of the Year 2014" in Austria was awarded to the GeoTrail Gams in the Eisenwurzen Nature and Geopark. The certificate was handed over to park representatives by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Andrä Rupprechter. The jury emphasized the fact that explanations referred exclusively to actually visible phenomena which was unique among the evaluated trails. It further pointed out the easily comprehensible information and the optimal balance between information and adventure.

Les « Rendez-vous du Geopark Chablais » 2014 : 40 free events until September (France)

Discover this summer the geosites through a large program of activities. Everyone will be able to re-discover the landscape and geological history of the Geopark with other themes such as cultural heritage, history, fauna and flora.

You will be guided by the mid-mountain guides and heritage guides of Chablais Geopark. The program is attached here or available on www.geopark-chablais.com <<http://www.geopark-chablais.com>>



the lecture geopark representatives from the neighbouring countries will present examples of their best practices in the field of tourist destinations and Geopark brand marketing. The day will end with a workshop, working as a group to focus on plans for destination and Geopark brand marketing based on best practices. Following the day of lectures we will organize two excursion days in two Slovenian geoparks – Idrija Geopark and Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken.

Regional conference on Geoparks and workshop “Geoparks and marketing” (Slovenia)

Idrija Geopark and the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO are preparing a regional conference on Geoparks in Idrija in October 2014. After the conference all participants are invited to stay and cooperate in a three-day event focussing on »Geoparks and marketing«. We have decided to organize this event for several reasons. The most important of all is to get to know each other better, to share our experiences and to discuss our plans with the view of creating possibilities for future cooperation. The first day is dedicated to the lecture by Tanja Lešnik Štuhec PhD, a renowned expert on protected areas and the management of tourist destinations. After

Meet our European Geoparks

Valley of Arts Festival with geo-programs in Bakony–Balaton Geopark (Hungary)

Geo-tales about the diverse geological heritage of the Geopark, guided geo-tours, 3D pop-up cards depicting ancient landscapes, presentations of erupting volcanoes and an ancient alginite lake, a geo-walk to discover the rocks in the walls and buildings of Kapolcs Village and many other programs enrich the Valley of Arts Cultural Festival between 26. June and 3. August, in the heart of Bakony–Balaton Geopark. The Balaton Uplands National Park Directorate, the leading organization of the Geopark and volunteer geo-tour guides have provided free programs for the festival since 2011.



7000 tons of sand formed in sculptures: Hondsrug Geopark (The Netherlands)

The Hondsrug Geopark in the east of the Netherlands is a region with a story which begins in the Ice Ages, a story about 150,000 years of history. A story of sand, loam and boulders which has now been captured in sand sculptures which can be seen at the largest exhibition of its kind in Europe in the village of Zuidlaren. 25 artists from all over the world have transformed 7,000 tons of sand into impressive sculptures which bring to life the origins of the Hondsrug region. The event continues for six months and over 100,000 visitors are expected. The Hondsrug Geopark and its partners will be present throughout the event to provide visitors with plenty of information. For a new geopark this is an excellent opportunity to introduce the Hondsrug story to many more people.

Tourism

Gastronomic Routes of the Geopark - Central Catalunya (Spain)

A year ago, some of the best cooks of the Central Catalonia Geopark had an idea for creating The Gastronomic Routes of the Geopark. In order to achieve this they founded the "Gastronomic Stoves of Bages County Association". The initiative involves preparing special local recipes for each of the four gastronomic seasons of the year ("cod", "mushroom", "orchard" and "pig slaughtering" seasons), and to link these with the Geopark's main geo-routes: "The Caves of the Park" and "The Extinct Interior Sea". Why not visit our Geopark and enjoy a special meal?



First National Congress on Rural Tourism organized in Naturtejo Global Geopark (Portugal)

The first National Congress for Rural Tourism, held between 20 -21 June in the Santa Margarida Hotel, Oleiros, was managed by the GeoRural company. The main subjects covered "Tourism, Territory and Heritage" and were included in the Festival of the Landscape 2014 – European Geoparks Week. This congress has been organized by the Portuguese Federation of Rural Tourism, the Municipality of Oleiros, Center of Portugal Regional Tourism and Naturtejo, E.I.M., with the patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic, Aníbal Cavaco Silva. Representatives of all regional tourism boards and regional agencies for tourism promotion abroad were present. Information in www.naturtejo.com.

Education

Pebble Routes – enjoying family walking trails - Geopark North West Highlands (UK - Scotland)

The North West Highlands Geopark in the very north of the Scottish mainland, is known for its stunning mountain landscapes, clean sandy beaches and some of the wildest places in Europe. With just 2,000 people in 2,000 km² you don't need to travel far to get away from it all and enjoy the rich geodiversity and wildlife.

Following the success of the award-winning 160 km Rock Route, Pebble Routes are now being established. As part of European Geoparks Week 2014, the first Pebble Route was celebrated at Clach toll Broch in Assynt. See leaflets www.nwhgeopark.com.



Agenda/Calendar

6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks – Stonehammer (Canada) (19th to 22nd September 2014)