



## BT Vision 100

After a very detailed evaluation process, the BGS has been named as one of Britain's top 100 most visionary organisations. In fact the BGS was ranked in the top 18 of the index and it's Executive Director, Dr David Falvey was a runner-up in the Vision 100's 'visionary leadership' category. The Vision 100 Index has been established by British Telecom, in partnership with Cranfield School of Management, Sunday Business, and Management Today.

In the selection of the index, Britain's top private companies and public sector organisations have been judged by their ability to adapt within the new wave economy with creative and innovative approaches. The index provides a record of those organisations that have shown the most promise so far in rising to this challenge.

Dr Falvey said, 'This award is a much-deserved recognition of the enormous transition that has been made by the BGS over the past year, and a ringing endorsement of the approach we have taken. Our organisation has shown, through the Strategic Planning process, vision in recognising where we needed to be at the start of the 21st Century, the tenacity and distributed leadership to carry that vision forward; and the self confidence to be different in the way in which we carried out the necessary changes. We have also shown that a public sector body can be every bit as dynamic, efficient, and innovative as any in the private sector'. Full details of this initiative can be found at:

<http://www.youcan.bt.com/vision100/home.html>

## Pupils return from live geography lesson on Montserrat

Three UK school children have a remarkable and fascinating tale to tell of a week spent on the volcanic island of Montserrat. The party returned to Gatwick in April with video diaries and photographs of their visit. They also returned with new video footage supplied by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory and additional video footage taken by David Lea who has



Courtesy Ian Redford

*The three students in a chemistry lesson in the newly furnished secondary school on Montserrat.*

charted the progress of the Montserrat volcano since 1995.

Nic Colman, Michael Brown and Helen Benello shared a week-long live geography lesson on the tiny Caribbean island and it proved to be a trip of a lifetime. They are winners, selected by their respective schools, who took part in a charity prize draw organised by MAC89 to raise funds for a bookmobile for the children of the island. Montserrat, a modern-day Pompeii, suffered the ravages of a volcano that came to life in 1995, destroying almost two thirds of the island.

An ex-Montserratian teacher, Mrs Annette Brade, and Mr Ian Redford, a teacher from Thornhill School in Sunderland, accompanied the pupils. They were guests of the Montserrat Secondary School and Education Department and spent time in the school where they experienced Montserratian education and learnt about the ordeals of living with a live volcano. The director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, Dr Gill Norton (of the BGS), and other scientists provided them with the same induction course given to visiting volcanologists.

The students went snorkelling with Dr Wolf Krebs of the Sea Wolf Diving School, learning about marine life of the island, and Mappai, a guide from the



Courtesy Ian Redford

*The group standing just outside Plymouth, the devastated capital city, which is now closed to everyone except scientists.*

# ... Newslines ... Newslines ... Newslines ...

Montserrat National Trust, took them walking in the Centre Hills to seek out the rare Montserrat oriole. Both taught the youngsters about the impact of the volcano on the wild life. They also attended receptions hosted by the Governor of Montserrat, His Excellency Tony Abbot and the Chief Minister's office, as well as by the Minister of Education.

Islanders, keen to show Montserrat is still an attractive tourist destination, despite the volcano, offered free hospitality to the visiting party. The visitors were accommodated in the beautiful new Tropical Mansion Suites in the safe north of the island and meals were provided by every restaurant on the island, where the children were able to sample and enjoy local cuisine. The pupils witnessed the new infrastructure on the island that the resolute

Montserradians have created and enjoyed the friendly, relaxed atmosphere that symbolises life on Montserrat, the emerald isle of the Caribbean.

MAC89 with the assistance of the MVO have produced a Montserrat Volcano Resource Box that they are selling to schools and other interested parties. Proceeds from the sale of the boxes are being used to purchase a mobile library for the children of Montserrat. The box contains a series of eight charts pertaining to the volcano and a variety of field maps; a risk assessment map of Montserrat; a video on the Montserrat volcano commissioned by the Royal Society; geological samples; a CD and booklet of Little Island Live Volcano — the songs; and lists of useful Internet references and books on volcanoes. Each box costs £53.50 including postage and packing.



*Dr Falvey, Executive Director of BGS, and Dr Kwak, President of KIGAM, signing copies of the MoU with Dr Jung Uck Seo, Korean Minister of Science and Technology and Lord Sainsbury, Science Minister, looking on.*

## **BGS signs MoU with Korean Institute**

The BGS and the Korean Institute of Geology, Mining and Materials have signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the Fifth Korea-UK Science and Technology Round Table Meeting held in Seoul in November 2000. The ceremony was also attended by senior representatives of the OST and Research Councils from the UK, and by Directors and Presidents from many of Korea's science and research institutes.

To mark the signing, Dr Falvey presented Dr Kwak with copies of historically important geological maps of Korea originally published in 1909 and 1929, the originals of which are in the BGS Library and not known to exist in Korea. In return, Dr Kwak presented a recently published geological map of Korea.

The MoU will enable new joint research and development focusing principally on environment and sustainable land use, especially addressing Korea's problems of pollution and waste, including radioactive waste disposal. An early outcome is intended to be a Workshop to be held in Korea in September 2001 that will bring together British and Korean researchers and industry.



*A group of primary school children learning about rocks and minerals at the BGS's Rock and Fossil show during National Science Week.*

## **National Science Week: Fossil and Rock Show at Keyworth**

The BGS's main contribution to National Science Week in 2001 was the Rock and Fossil Show, a three-day event held at Keyworth between 23rd and 25th March. During the event, nearly 800 schoolchildren and their teachers were able to examine at close quarters material from the Survey's world-class fossil, rock and mineral collections. Many of them braved snowfalls on

the first morning to attend the programme of hands-on activities and informal talks. Some of these activities, such as panning for 'gold' were old favourites while others were entirely new. Proving that there is more to the BGS than rocks, the Photographic Unit demonstrated the principles of the pinhole camera with the aid of a cornflakes packet. There was a quiz sheet with prizes for the best answers and many of the children had brought in their own specimens for identification.

Andrew Nadolski



### The End of the Land

This exhibition of photographs by Andrew Nadolski is being held at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, from 12th May to 3rd July 2001. The images depict the various and changing aspects of a cove in west Cornwall, over a period of several years, and with emphasis on the very dramatic natural sculpturing of the local granite rocks through the erosive agencies of tide and wind.

The exhibition marks an unusual collaboration between the worlds of art and science, with a supporting essay, describing the evolution of the landscape at Porth Nanven, by Dr Richard Scrivener of the BGS Exeter Office. The essay commences with the formation of the granite in the wake of a plate collision event some 280 million years ago, through the geologically more recent raised beach deposits of the glacial epoch, and ending with the activities of the tin miners in the last century. It is hoped that this exhibition will travel to other venues, and will continue to generate further interest in the world of geology through the medium of art. Andrew Nadolski can be contacted on telephone number 01392 496200.

### Thanks a million, Graham

The BGS's Graham Barton, from Cotgrave in Nottinghamshire, decided to stick his oar in and help out children at a local special school by completing a one million metre sponsored row. He spent more than five months stroking his way through the huge distance on the rowing machines in the gym at Cotgrave Leisure Centre, raising around £700 for

Ash Lea School along the way. Graham explained, 'The school is approximately 500 yards from my house and is the only one in the Borough catering for children with severe and complex learning difficulties. When I heard they were raising funds to try and create a new pool to allow the children to exercise, I thought I'd give the proceeds to them'. Graham recently presented the money to the delighted children in a special school assembly.



*All in a good cause: million metre man Graham Barton works up a sweat once more on the rowing machine.*

### BGS Chief Scientist honoured

Professor Jane Plant, Chief Scientist at the BGS has been awarded the Tercentennial Tetelman Fellowship at Yale University. Professor Plant visited Jonathan Edwards College, Yale in January where she gave the Tetelman Lecture on the theme 'Chemicals in the Environment'. Other distinguished Tetelman Fellows include James Watson, Murray Gell-Man, Sir Roger Bannister, and His Holiness the Dali Lama.

Professor Plant has also recently been appointed Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances. Environment Minister, Michael Meacher said, 'The Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances has a key role in helping us protect the environment from the risks posed by chemicals. A major part of its work will be to provide the new Chemicals Stakeholder Forum with strong but impartial scientific support. I am delighted that Professor Plant has accepted the post of chairperson. She is an outstanding scientist with a wide knowledge of the issues relating to chemicals in the environment and a

proven record of involvement with broader environmental concerns'.

The ACHS has a statutory role under the Environmental Protection Act in advising on proposals to ban or place restrictions on chemicals in the UK or to require information about them. The Government's Chemicals Strategy identified a new role for the ACHS in providing scientific and technical support to the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum. This is expected to form the major part of the Committee's work in the future. The ACHS will meet three or four times a year. It will operate in a transparent and open manner and all of its papers will be made available on the Internet.



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### Mozambique MoU and Ministerial visit

*His Excellency Mr Castigo Jose Correia Langa (standing, right), Minister of Minerals Resources and Energy, Mozambique, and Mr Vicente Mebunia Velosso (standing, left), President of Mozambique Electricity, look on as Mr Elias Xavier Daudi, Director of the Mozambique Geological Survey signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Head of BGS International, Mr David Ovidia. The Minister and his party visited BGS Keyworth on 29 March 2001 during a tour of Britain that also included a visit to RJB's open cast coal mine at Arkwright and various industrial companies in Scotland. Mr Daudi made a separate visit to the BGS's office in Edinburgh to discuss seismic monitoring.*