



Events in Devon are 'out of this world'!

Laidback lectures, games, guided tours, and exhibitions form the bedrock to a celebration of earth science in Devon this weekend.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Hartland Observatory and International Heliophysical Year, the British Geological Survey (BGS) and Plymouth & Reading Universities are hosting a weekend of events in Hartland from 8 - 10 June 2007. The public are invited to discover more about the earth sciences and the unique geology of Devon.

On Friday 8 June at 8pm in Hartland Village Hall, Dr. David Kerridge, Programme Manager of Seismology and Geomagnetism at BGS, will explain why Hartland Observatory is a national resource for geomagnetism, navigation, space weather forecasting, and monitoring of ground motion produced by near and distant earthquakes in his talk entitled *"From a Devon Village to the Global Village"*.

On Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June, from 10 am to 4 pm in Hartland Village Hall, there will be a programme of activities providing fun for all the family. There they will be able to make their own earthquakes, learn to orienteer using a compass, sign up for tours of the Observatory and obtain information on the geological talks to be given at Hartland Quay. An exhibition featuring tsunamis, earthquakes, space weather and use of magnetic data e.g. oil well drilling, orienteering and shipping will also be on display.

The cliffs at Hartland Point form a clear and dramatic demonstration of the geological processes and dynamic changes which have formed our landscape. Guided tours will describe how the folding and faulting of the rocks helped early British geologists to propose the immense time scale of geological processes and show these processes are still active today all over the world. The public will also be able to hear about the geology of South West England and the unique geology of Hartland Quay.

Dr. David Booth believes these events will be of interest to everyone, from budding scientists to those with little knowledge of geoscience. Dr. Booth said: *"BGS aims to bring science, in particular geology and geophysics, alive for people of all ages and background. This weekend of events in Hartland will help bring geoscience to life for families and children. We hope by having exciting interactive activities, we can encourage more students to become interested in geology and pursue a career in a subject that really rocks!"*

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For an event programme go to
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/events/hartland/a5_handout.pdf

To find out more about International Heliophysical year 2007-2009 go to
<http://ihy2007.org/>

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.