

Berwick-upon-Tweed Educational Association

Landscapes of Iceland Two lectures by Alison Tymon

Wednesdays 20th and 27th September 2017 1.00 - 3.00 pm

Iceland's position as a large volcanic island on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is explained by the underlying structure of the crust and mantle. Because the rift valley through the centre of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is still active, small earth tremors are common and volcanoes form Iceland's dramatic volcanic landscape. The nature of differing volcanic eruptions, such as Laki and Eyjafjallajökull, will be discussed and the features of lava flows will be illustrated.

The present landscape has been modified by ice since the last glacial maximum about 25,000 years ago, when most of the island was covered by ice-sheets. At present, 10% of the country is under ice and many glaciers are retreating, probably due to increasing global temperatures, but the pattern of retreat is uneven and more complex than expected. The spectacular waterfalls in Iceland result from the loss of ice in the last 8,000 years.

Since the settlement of Iceland c.870 AD, deforestation of the cover of birch and willow woodlands by early Norse settlers has resulted in loss of much vegetation and soil. More recent restoration of soil and reforestation in the last 30 years is beginning to redress the balance.

The illustrated talks are open to everyone and no previous knowledge is assumed.

There will be an opportunity at the end of the session on Wednesday 20th September for those who are going on the Iceland tour to talk to Alison, who will answer any questions and give further information about health and safety issues.

The cost of the two lectures is £12 including refreshments. The lectures will be held at the William Elder Building, 56-58 Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

TO BOOK please go to the Booking page of our website www.berwickea.co.uk and pay by Paypal

or complete the attached slip and post to Alison Tymon at 25 Meadow Grange, Berwick TD15 1NW (team@berwickea.co.uk or 01289 305842) together with a cheque payable to 'Berwick-upon-Tweed Educational Association'. Your booking will be confirmed once the Bookings Secretary has received your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

email: _____

Cheque enclosed to the amount of £_____ (Iceland)