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## Control the Drainage: the Gospel Accorded to Sinkholes (2015 Glossop Lecture repeat)

**Speaker: Dr Tony Waltham, Karst Geologist**

Date: Monday 27th March 2017

Time: 6.30pm (Tea & Coffee from 6.00pm in Student Hub)

Venue: Lecture Theatre OG/012, Queen's University,  
David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5AG  
Campus Map available [here](#).

Karst is a landscape that is distinguished by underground drainage normally formed on limestone or gypsum. Its impact on engineering geology is the distinctive suite of karst geohazards, which are largely related to the holes in the ground of varying size and unpredictable nature. The most widespread and frequent geohazard is the development of new sinkholes by suffosion within the soil profile over a cavernous limestone. New suffosion sinkholes are nearly all formed by rainstorms, new drainage inputs or water table decline. Rock collapse developing new sinkholes represents a further geohazard. Most sinkholes in soil and most collapses on rock are induced, wholly or partially, by civil engineering activities, and are therefore largely avoidable if the gospel of drainage control is obeyed.

This lecture, a repeat of the 16th Glossop Lecture, will address the challenges related to karst using examples from around the world and clearly illustrate that drainage control is the golden rule in karst.

Tony Waltham has a PhD in Mining geology from Imperial College and is recently retired from lecturing at Nottingham-Trent University. His long list of published works includes numerous academic papers and more than a dozen books on the topic of Sinkholes, subsidence and cavernous rocks, in Engineering and construction. Tony has been presented with a number of Geology awards including the Glossop Medal from the Geological Society.

