



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC007013

President: Dr. Neil Clark

www.geologyglasgow.org.uk

September 2021

164/1



Some dramatic unnamed peaks in the Ganesh Himal - between Manaslu and Langtang in Nepal. Our opening lecture of the session features Prof. Mike Searle on "Tectonics and Mountain Building in the Himalaya". 14th October at 7:30 on Zoom.

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Lecture Programme

2021-22 (Session 164)

This session is still different. The Covid-19 pandemic is not fully over and this means we will have hybrid mixture of lecture styles this session. We will still keep to the usual dates of the second Thursdays of each month - starting in October. All start at 7:30.

Provisional Lecture Programme 2021-22

October 14th. Tectonics and Mountain Building in the Himalaya *Mike Searle*.

November 11th. The Hunterian and the Geological Society of Glasgow Retiring Presidential Address Neil Clark.

December 9th. Landslides, Glaciation and the evolution of mountain landscapes during the Quaternary. *Colin Ballantyne*.

January 13th. Glaciotectonics. *Emrys Phillips*

February 10th. Geo-engineering challenges in the uplands - Rest and Be Thankful, Loch Lomond. *Andrew Finlayson*

March 10th. Big Boulders of Scotland. *Noel Williams*

April 14th TBA

May 12th Members night

Some lectures will still be held online using Zoom. Some will take place in person in the Boyd Orr building of the University and will be recorded and posted on YouTube . They may be live-streamed if we can master the technology. We will be using Eventbrite to reserve places - we have been told that we are limited to 50 attendees in person - which will allow for social distancing in the large lecture theatre.

Zoom invites for online talks will be emailed to members who have provided an email address a few days prior to the meeting.

If you have access to an email address but have not given it to the Society and wish to view these lectures online please contact meetings@gsocg.org

Thursday 14th October 2021 - **BY ZOOM**

Professor Mike Searle, Oxford University.

“Tectonics and Mountain Building in the Himalaya.”

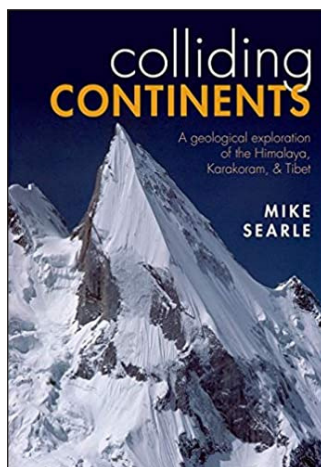
The crash of the Indian plate into Asia is the biggest known collision in geological history, and it continues today. The result is the Himalaya and Karakoram - one of the largest mountain ranges on Earth. The Karakoram has half of the world's highest mountains and a reputation as being one of the most remote and savage ranges of all. This talk will present a rich account of the geological forces that were involved in creating these mountain ranges. Using his personal accounts of extreme mountaineering and research in the region, he pieces together the geological processes that formed such impressive peaks.



Mike is Professor of Earth Sciences and Senior Research Fellow, at Worcester College, Oxford. He researches the tectonic, structural, metamorphic and magmatic evolution of mountain belts, in particular the Himalayan ranges of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan and south Tibet, and the Karakoram and Hindu Ranges. He also specialises in the tectonics of the Oman – United Arab Emirates mountain range in Arabia, the Worlds’ largest and best exposed ophiolite. He has spent more than 35 years carrying out fieldwork in these mountain ranges. During the last 15 years he has also worked extensively in Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Yunnan,

as well as specific projects in the Cyclades Islands, Greece, Northern Scotland, and SW England. He retired in 2021 and continues to do active research, mainly in Nepal, Oman, Greece, Scotland and Cornwall.

Mike has been in the Department of Earth Sciences, Oxford University since 1989, first as a Post-Doctoral Research fellow, then as a Professor. He is a Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford, and an Honorary Professor at Camborne School of Mines in Penryn, Cornwall, part of the University of Exeter. He has written three books, *Geology and Tectonics of the Karakoram Mountains* (1991; J. Wiley), *Colliding Continents* (2013, 2017; OUP), and *Geology of the Oman Mountains, Eastern Arabia* (2019; Springer). He has written more than 240 peer-reviewed papers and has published several geological maps, including the *Geological Map of the Central Karakoram Ranges* (1991), and the *Geological Map of the Mount Everest - Makalu area, Nepal and South Tibet* (2003, 2007). He has co-edited six books, all Special Publications of the Geological Society, London.



Background Reading: Mike’s book “*Colliding Continents*” is highly recommended

Thursday 11th November 2021 IN PERSON AT THE BOYD ORR

Dr Neil Clark Hunterian Museum

“The Hunterian and the Geological Society of Glasgow ”

The Hunterian at the University of Glasgow have long been closely associated with the Geological Society of Glasgow. It is important that we celebrate the early historical links and recognise that it has not always been smooth. From the early keepers of the Hunterian such as Henry Darwin Rogers who refused to even join the Geological Society of Glasgow, to his successor John Young (the bad), Ethel Currie and Ian Rolfe who all

became president of the Society, the Hunterian has always had an influence on the Society. Where will the future of the Society take us post pandemic and is there a future for geology at the Hunterian and Glasgow?

Dr Neil Clark studied Geology at Edinburgh University where he became a part-time research assistant travelling around southern Scotland looking for rare Carboniferous fossil crustaceans. At the same time, he began working as a part-time assistant curator at The Hunterian before starting his PhD in 1985. He completed his PhD on the world-famous Carboniferous Bearsden arthropod fauna in 1989 before working in interactive science centres in Edinburgh, Halifax and Glasgow. In 1990, he began working as part of a team of geological curators at The Hunterian as a result of the Earth Science Review process that amalgamated several university geology departmental collections in Scotland with The Hunterian.



In 1989, Neil began a public engagement exercise to promote geology in Scotland by instituting a national geology week. This soon evolved into a major undertaking with hundreds of events being organised across Scotland during the month of September until 2011.

Much of his early work at The Hunterian was dinosaur related beginning with the discovery of a four toed track from the Jurassic of northern England in 1990, and he was described by the Glasgow Herald as “worth his weight in sand”. Since then he has been working on dinosaur eggs from China as well as Scotland’s first dinosaurs. From 1996 to the present day, there have been new discoveries of Scottish dinosaurs, nearly every year, all from the Isle of Skye. In 2006 he appeared in the book of Guinness World Records with his discovery of the World’s smallest dinosaur footprint. He has now published several dinosaur books for Dorling Kindersely and Readers Digest, as well as having worked on several encyclopedia and a book on Baltic amber. He works on all aspects of Scotland’s fossil heritage and because of his work on Scottish Jurassic dinosaurs was nicknamed Jurassic Clark by the Times Educational Supplement.

Thursday 9th December 2021 (Probably at the Boyd Orr - with AGM)

Professor Colin Ballantyne, University of St. Andrews

“Landslides, Glaciation and the evolution of mountain landscapes during the Quaternary”

Full details in next newsletter

News and Topical Articles

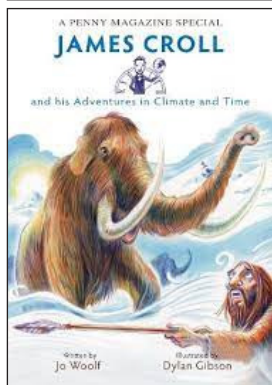
Geologists' Association Annual Conference

(in conjunction with the Edinburgh Geological Society and the Scottish Geology Festival)

The GA Annual Conference is taking place in Edinburgh from Friday 15 October – Sunday 17 October 2021

Click [here](#) to view the full programme for the Conference

Please book online www.geologistsassociation.org.uk or contact Sarah 07952 700246



James Croll book

There is new a illustrated book on James Croll, aimed at younger readers which may be of interest. Written by Jo Woolf, illustrated by Dylan Gibson and published by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Priced at £10.

"Bursting with energy and colour, this is the story of the inspirational 19th century Scottish climate scientist told in an exciting new way for young secondary school students".

The Edinburgh Geologist magazine also has a article on Croll

Scottish Geology Festival 2021

1 September - 17 October

The Scottish Geology Festival 2021 brings you a packed programme of activities from Stranraer to Shetland that will showcase and celebrate Scotland's geology. Events range from coastal walks to fossil hunting to online talks and even boat trips to Siccar Point, where James Hutton found proof of an ancient Earth. You can explore extinct volcanoes in Edinburgh or the UNESCO Global Geopark in the North West Highlands, find evidence of ancient tropical seas and coral reefs in Fife, and learn how the recent ice age helped shaped our incredible Scottish landscapes; geology isn't just a thing of the past, but a tool for exploring our future too.

More info at www.scottishgeologytrust.org/events

Some October Highlights

Exhibition: John Muir, Earth, Planet Universe, at John Muir's Birthplace, Dunbar

5 May - 31 October

Free

The exhibition focuses on John Muir's legacy and his role as an environmental activist and successful campaigner and his relevance for our situation today in addressing the

climate crisis. However, we have paused to reflect on the content of the exhibition in the light of the current COVID-19 crisis. There are certain parallels between what are both global existential crises. Perhaps the pandemic may help us to understand the ties that bind us on a global scale, the fragility of our economic systems and how vulnerable they leave so many people and the inadequacy of our response to the even greater threat of climate crisis? Even though climate change presents a slower, more long-term health threat, an equally dramatic and much more sustained shift in ways of life and economic, political and social structures will be needed to prevent irreversible damage. Free, booking not required but please pre-book your visit if you can, call 01368 865899 or email museumseast@eastlothian.gov.uk

Exhibition: Fabulous Fossils and Marvellous Minerals, at Dumfries Museum

1 September - 15 October

Free

Follow a fun family trail around Dumfries Museum to discover some of the geology of South West Scotland. From fossil footprints older than dinosaurs, to minerals glowing in the dark. You'll find out how people made tools from stone 10,000 years ago and how Dumfriesshire sandstone was shaped into amazing architecture. Explore the museum in a whole new way and uncover some intriguing connections with the rocks around us. The trail is available throughout the Festival during museum opening hours, Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-1pm & 1.30-4pm.

booking essential Dumfries Museum – <https://www.dgculture.co.uk/venue/dumfries-museum/>

BBC Radio Scotland Out of Doors Podcast

Online Event

In celebration of the Scottish Geology Festival, Mark Stephen went to the beach with Festival organisers Drs Katie Strang and Angus Miller and talked geology. Podcast available until early October - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09vcdk6>

Excursion: North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark Extended Weekend Geotour

1 October - 4 October

Extended weekend tour comprising days 2,3,5 & 6 of the full tour

Expert tuition by Geopark staff will help you to interpret the geology of this wild and remote highland landscape. The area has the lowest population density in Europe and exhibits unique geodiversity and biodiversity. As home of the oldest rocks in Europe, the first identified thrust fault, the oldest and biggest meteorite impact ejecta and with evidence of the earliest life; the North West Highlands Geopark really is the "Cradle of Geology".

£140 per person including transport. £50 Deposit required. Friends of the Geopark also qualify for a further £15 discount. Fee includes tuition, insurance, transportation and materials. Accommodation is not included, however please feel free to contact us for

advice. Booking essential: <https://www.nwhgeopark.com/geopark-geotours/>

Pebble Events in October

7th October: Ardnamurchan

9th October: Kirkcudbright

10th October: St Abbs

11th October: Limekilns

Scottish Journal of Geology

The Scottish Journal of Geology is currently published by the Geological Society Publishing House (GSPH), which is owned by the Geological Society of London, since about 2006 at little or no cost to the geological societies of Glasgow and Edinburgh. For both environmental and economic costs, the GSPH has decided to follow most other scientific journals and offer solely online access to journals by 2022. We realise that many people might enjoy having a paper copy and we will discuss ways to print some copies for those members who require this. In the year where Glasgow hosts COP26, our focus is on the environment and reducing our carbon footprint, thus reducing our future paper printing of the Scottish Journal of Geology would certainly be a step in the right direction. We anticipate that there will be a transitional year where the new contracts, and a commencement date, are agreed. Talking points for members might include:

Scottish Journal of Geology

- If the Scottish Journal is online only, will you be adversely affected by this?
- What is the best way to keep you abreast of research that is undertaken in Scotland?
- Do you think the Society should pay to have printouts of papers available at meetings?
- Would you like a stand-alone electronic copy?

Please let us know what you think about this change, including if you would like another option to be considered, by contacting our secretary Walter Semple (sec@gsocg.org) or at the usual GSG address.

As members of the Society you get free access to the journal via the Lyell Collection - and you can setup email alerts to get notifications of new articles. Some recent articles in the Scottish Journal of Geology that you might want to read:

First report of fish trace fossils (Undichna) from the Middle Devonian Achanarras Limestone, Caithness Flagstone Group. Benjamin H. Tindal, Anthony P. Shillito and Neil S. Davies. doi:10.1144/sjg2020-023

<http://sjg.lyellcollection.org/content/early/2021/08/04/sjg2020-023.abstract>

Radiocarbon dating of a composite multi-period debris cone stratigraphy in the Lochan na Lairige, Ben Lawers. Richard Tipping. doi:10.1144/sjg2021-008

<http://sjg.lyellcollection.org/content/early/2021/08/18/sjg2021-008.abstract>

Fossil Grove Update

The Fossil Grove Trust organised three very successful open afternoons at the Fossil Grove in August and September. One more is planned on the 17th October (12-4). If you want to help in any way let David Webster know. A new report on future options is expected soon. Update in next newsletter.



Subscriptions & Memberships

Just a reminder that subscriptions for the coming session are due on 1st October. The majority of members pay by Standing Order but if you do not do so the preferred method is to pay online to the Society's bank account at:

Geological Society of Glasgow. Sort code: 83-52-00 Account Number 00160071

If you have any questions about your subscription payment, or wish to pay by cheque, please email our Treasurer Ian Veitch on treas@gsocg.org

Please contact the Membership Secretary if you have queries about membership. We have ceased producing a membership card, but if you require evidence of membership please contact Campbell Forrest, Strathview, Fintry Road, Kippen, Stirlingshire, FK8 3HL email memsec@gsocg.org

AGM Notice

The AGM of the society will be held, as usual, immediately prior to the December lecture on Thursday 9th December at 7:30. It will probably be an online Zoom meeting. Annual reports from Council officers will be presented along with the annual accounts of the society. Election of officers will also feature. We are always looking for members to join the Council - as ordinary members - so if you are even remotely interested please contact any Council member. The next newsletter (due in late-November) will contain all the reports and papers.

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