

Dear Members,

Thank you to the 35 or so members who attended the lecture last Thursday by Dr Maarten Krabbendam of the British Geological Survey on **"A new stratigraphic framework for the early Neoproterozoic successions of Scotland (Moine Supergroup no more)"**

Unfortunately the sound gremlins were at work again and we didn't manage to get a decent recording of the lecture. The setup worked fine until the lecture started and then the sound went all muffled - again. We need to have a really through investigation!

Anyway all is not lost as Maarten gave a very similar talk to the Edinburgh GS last November and they did record it and you can see it here <https://youtu.be/E9ob2bVxtNM>

The subject matter was published (under open access) very recently in the Journal of the Geological Society. Download it [here](#) or use this doi link <https://doi.org/10.1144/jgs2021-054>

This talk forms the basis of the new chapter in the revised (5th Edition) of the Geology of Scotland book - due out later this year.

Upcoming Lectures

We can't guarantee at this stage that we'll be able to record the next lecture(s) so do try and attend if you can. We will do our best to find supplementary material anyway.

Dates are:

March 9th Brian Upton - Gardar Rocks of S Greenland (Boyd Orr A407)

April 13th Rachel Paul - Cononish Gold Mine (James McCune Smith Room 639)

Geonatter

Next Geonatter is on Wednesday 15th February at the Kelvinhall (1:30-3). If you've not been before its a fantastic way to engage with geology, especially if you're newish to the subject. Free, just walk along the main corridor and look for the sign on the right. The topic this week is crinoids.

New Geology Bites Episode

Oliver Strimpel has just posted an episode with Dan Rothman of MIT on **"The thresholds of catastrophe in the Earth system"**.

There are many projections of anthropogenic climate change based on climate history since human records began, but Dan Rothman has dug

into the carbonate record going back to the start of the Phanerozoic. This shows 31 significant disruptions to the carbon system. In the podcast, he describes how he analyzed these to reveal behavior suggesting that the carbon cycle behaves like an excitable dynamical system. Such systems are well known in the field of nonlinear dynamics. He has managed to extract some fundamental characteristics of the Earth's carbon system from a very noisy geological record and has been able to directly compare the amount of carbon we expect to emit in the present century with that emitted by the massive volcanism that deposited the Deccan Traps in India during the ~10,000-year period just before the end-Cretaceous extinction. Catch it [here](#)

Note that Brian Upton also recorded a podcast on the Gardar rocks with Oliver, so maybe give it a listen before or after the talk next month. link [here](#)

Deceased Members

We report with sadness the deaths of three former members of the Society. Apologies for the late posting of these notices.

Iain Burgess, a major contributor to the understanding of the stratigraphy and structure of the Pennines and NW England died in Leeds on the 25th July, 2021.

Dr Colin Gribble who died on 12th May 2022 after a period of illness. Colin was a Former Head of the Department of Geology and Applied Geology at the University of Glasgow.

Dr Norman Alexander Todd who died on 2nd January 2022. Retired psychiatrist, keen mountaineer and traveller.

Links of Interest

Sea life bounced back fast after the 'mother of mass extinctions'

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-00383-9>

Why Earth's Inner Core May Be Slowing Down

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-earths-inner-core-may-be-slowing-down/>

Why This Trilobite Had Neptune's Trident for a Nose

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/16/science/trilobite-trident-sexual-combat.html>

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