



# THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

## Newsletter - October 2023

### Lecture Programme

All lectures are held in Room 407 of the Boyd Orr Building (unless otherwise noted). **Note: Meetings commence at 7.00 pm.** Room 407 is on the 4th floor. We will record the lectures but not the Q&A and will not be offering a live zoom.

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Professor Jane Evans, British Geological Survey.**

#### **"A Boatload of Vikings - Isotope evidence from a mass execution in Weymouth"**

Much infrastructure work was undertaken in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. This included improving the access route (A354) to Weymouth. A burial pit containing over 50 skeletons was uncovered during this work; the skeletons had all been beheaded. This talk follows the isotope work undertaken to determine who these individuals might have been, where they came from and why they came to this gruesome end.

*Jane studied geology and geochemistry at London (BSc) and Oxford (MSc) Universities. She started working at the British Geological Survey in London in the early 1980s and during that time she focused on isotope analysis of rocks, mostly to determine the age of geological events. She concurrently did a PhD, part time, at London University.*

*When the BGS laboratory moved to Nottingham around 1990 and its remit changed, this resulted in archaeologists being able to apply to undertake collaborative work with the laboratory. Jane then focused on archaeological projects, using isotopes to look at the geographic origins of people, artifacts, and animals. The laboratory has had many fascinating projects come its way, including Richard III.*

*She has been involved in the development of isotope maps as a reference source for archaeology studies and is currently very interested in looking at what lead isotopes can tell us about past environments.*



### Further reading

JA Evans, J Montgomery, G Wildman, N Boulton 2010. Spatial variations in biosphere  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  in Britain. *Journal of the Geological Society*, **167**, 1-4.

JA Evans, CA Chenery, J Montgomery 2012. A summary of strontium and oxygen isotope variation in archaeological human tooth enamel excavated from Britain. *Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*, **27**, 754-764.

JA Evans, V Pashley, CA Chenery, L Loe, SR Chenery 2017. Lead isotope analysis of tooth enamel from a Viking Age mass grave in southern Britain and the constraints it places on the origin of the individuals. *Archaeometry*, **60**, 859-869.

### **Future Lectures**

9 November: The Neoproterozoic Supergroup, Tony Prave, University of St Andrews

7 December (with AGM): The Origin of Modern Plate Tectonics, Craig Storey, University of Portsmouth

*(Note this is the first Thursday in December, not the usual second Thursday)*

11 January: The Closing of the Iapetus and associated mineralisation. Steven Hollis, University of Edinburgh

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### New Membership system

The new system (webcollect) is now up and running and has greatly simplified the jobs of the treasurer, membership secretary and the secretary. **PLEASE SIGN UP AND PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY** <https://webcollect.org.uk/mem/> Contact Ian Miller at [meetings@gsocg.org](mailto:meetings@gsocg.org) or Ian Veitch [treas@gsocg.org](mailto:treas@gsocg.org).

We still have about 40 members who have either no email or have not supplied one. It greatly simplifies matters if you could supply one to us and you will get a monthly newsletter by email instead of two posted out per year.

## **New Constitution**

*A message from Simon Cuthbert - President, Geological Society of Glasgow:*

The Society's Council has been working on revising our Constitution. Such revisions are done every few years so that the administration and operations of the Society can adapt to changing circumstances. Preparation of a new Constitution involves a great deal of detailed work and I am grateful to colleagues on the Council for all the effort and attention to detail they've put in to make these revisions. It is now time for the Society's members to have an opportunity to scrutinise the document, so I attach a draft which proposes the following main changes:

- Updating the charitable purposes and bringing them into line with the current requirements of the Scottish charity regulator (OSCR).
- Updating the Constitution generally to conform to modern practice.
- A new provision that allows for the conduct of remote meetings (i.e. where at least some members participate on-line) for the purpose of making decisions.
- Society members will elect Council members on a 3 year rota. It is proposed that only the President, Secretary and Treasurer will be appointed by a vote of the membership at the AGM and that other office bearers will then be appointed by the Council. The remaining Council members not appointed as officers by these means will retain the status of "ordinary members of Council" as at present. This will allow for flexibility as the need for office bearers changes.
- There will be no limit on the number of times a Council Member may be re-elected.
- Associate and Junior Members of the Society will have the right to vote and to receive the Scottish Journal of Geology on-line.
- There will be a new provision allowing for online membership application and record keeping (such as the recently adopted "WebCollect" system).

The Council intends to propose the adoption of this Constitution at the AGM in December. One month's advance notice is required. The changes are extensive compared to the existing Constitution, so we are allowing three weeks for consultation with Society members in advance of the AGM. A draft of the new Constitution accompanies this newsletter -or can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. A copy of the existing Constitution may be downloaded from the GSG website [https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/017\\_070\\_gsgconstitution\\_1362591343.pdf](https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/017_070_gsgconstitution_1362591343.pdf)

This draft Constitution has been submitted to OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, who have consented to the revised charitable purposes set out in Clauses 2 and 3.

The deadline for responses to this consultation is 21st October 2023. Please send any requests for copies, comments, queries or proposals for amendment to the Hon. Secretary by email ([sec@gsocg.org](mailto:sec@gsocg.org)) or by post to The Geological Society of Glasgow, c/o School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, Molema Building, University of Glasgow, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

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## **Geonatter**

These popular sessions will continue into the autumn. Venue Kelvinhall from 13:30 to 15:00.

Dates planned so far are:

4 and 18 October

1, 15 and 29 November

13 December

More information at: <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/event/geo-natter-at-kelvin-hall-6thsept/>

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## **Library and Publications**

### Glasgow University Library

A reminder that as a member of GSG, you can access the University library in Hillhead Street. The library houses a vast range of geological and palaeontological books and monographs. To get access, please email Gary Hoare [books@gsocg.org](mailto:books@gsocg.org) who will assist you in getting an ID badge for library use.

### Publications

Copies of all the societies newsletters, billets and proceedings have now been digitised and stored in the National libraries of Scotland.

Three sets of book donations have been received this year, and these were given away at various events, a donation box was available, and £70 was raised for society funds.

## Bookshop

The society bookshop has just added David Webster's geological guides to Islay. Copies are available to purchase for £15. Brian Bell's guide to the Geology of Skye and Raasay was published in October 2022 as a pdf download. Full details at [www.skyegeology.com](http://www.skyegeology.com)



The bookshop list was reduced after rationalisation and devaluation of inactive stock. The following titles have been reduced to £3 a copy.

Planets and their Moons  
Introducing Sedimentology  
Introducing Mineralogy  
Photographic guide to Shetland's Geology  
Set in Stone the geology and Landscape of Scot.  
Assynt a Geologists Mecca 2014  
Granite and Grit

## Library

The Society's Library is still currently still housed in the Molema Building, and full cataloguing is currently underway. Some of the rare historical texts will be accessioned into the main University library. A day will be set in January 2024 to finalise the cataloguing. Willing volunteers gratefully accepted!

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## Yorkshire Geological Society - Webinar

Thursday 5th October 4.00pm "Arabia – it's role in deciphering the last 600 million years of Earth history" by Professor Mike Simmons.

Mike is a recognised world expert on the Geology of Arabia and this is a great opportunity to hear him given an overview of the region. It is an area we hear much about but often don't know much about the geological framework which makes this geopolitically one of the hot spots of world attention from and energy perspective. It promises to be a fascinating overview and geological journey. All who wish to attend are welcome to join and sign up through the society's website.





## **News from Edinburgh Geological Society**

Friday 6th October 2023 - a public lecture to be given by Tom Sharpe on “Mary Anning and her sea dragons”. This lecture will take place at Dynamic Earth, starting at 6.30pm (doors are open from 6pm). The lecture will be followed by a discussion with the speaker and two invited guests, and which will be chaired by Dr Hermione Cockburn – Science Director at Dynamic Earth. You can book a place on the EGS website. Its free to EGS members and young people, but £5 for all others.

Wednesday 8th November 2023 – a special invitation to a reception hosted by Edinburgh University at the “Time Traveller: Charles Lyell at Work” exhibition between 6 and 8pm. This is taking place at the Main Library, Edinburgh University Library, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ. If you would like to book a place for this event then please e-mail [david.mcclay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:david.mcclay@ed.ac.uk) to reserve a place. The exhibition runs from the 27th October 2023 to 30th March 2024.

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## **New and Recent Papers on Scottish Geology**

Tamas, A., Holdsworth, R.E., Tamas, D.M., Dempsey, E.D., Hardman, K., Bird, A., Roberts, N.M.V., Lee, J., Underhill, J.R., McCarthy, D. and McCaffrey, K.J.W., 2023. Older than you think: Using U-Pb calcite geochronology to better constrain basin-bounding fault reactivation, Inner Moray Firth Basin, W North Sea. *Journal of the Geological Society*, pp.jgs2022-166.

Austrheim, H. and Andersen, T.B., 2023. Extreme enrichment of Arsenic and Antimony during alteration of serpentinised peridotites to form listvenite-like dolomite-quartz rocks and Ni-Cr-rich jasper and quartzites in the Highland Border Complex of Scotland. *Journal of the Geological Society*, pp.jgs2023-054.

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## **Down to Earth**

Latest edition [here](#)

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## **Geology Bites**

The latest podcast features Martin Van Kranendonk on the exceptionally well-preserved stromatolites his team discovered in the rocks of the Pilbara Craton of Western Australia. By quirk of fate, these rocks have been only mildly metamorphosed since they formed fully 3.48 billion years ago. And so they contain delicate wrinkly structures, as well as actual organic matter (kerogen), thought to be derived directly from the original microbial communities. Furthermore, these structures also contain concentrations of elements such as nickel and zinc, known to be concentrated by sulfide-producing bacteria.

Martin is a Professor in the School of Biological, Earth, & Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

Get the podcast at <https://www.geologybites.com/>



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## **Alistair Tanner**

Mike Keen has informed us that Alistair Tanner has recently died after a long period of illness. Many members will remember him from society meetings, classes in geology, and residential field trips accompanied by his wife Carol. This is just to inform you that Alistair's funeral will take place on Wednesday 4th October at New Kilpatrick Cemetery at 10.00 am and at St. Paul's Milngavie at 11.00 am, followed by refreshments in the church hall.

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## **Geological Society of Glasgow**

<https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/>

[@geolsocglasgow](#)

President: Simon Cuthbert [pres@gsocg.org](mailto:pres@gsocg.org)

Secretary: David Webster [sec@gsocg.org](mailto:sec@gsocg.org)