



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - February 2024

Lecture Programme

NOTE: We are experiencing significant technology issues relating to recording in the lecture theatre in the Boyd Orr. We are attempting to hold the remainder of this session's talks held at the Kelvin Hall as a trial, however at the present time we are not able to confirm this.

Therefore the next lecture will be a remote zoom talk. We had hoped that the speaker would be "on-screen" in the lecture theatre with attendees interacting with the speaker from the lecture theatre, however given the aforementioned problems with the venues we are going to run this event as at 'at-home' zoom talk. A link is in the covering email and a reminder will be emailed out prior to the talk. We will be recording the talk for later viewing.

Thursday 8th February 2024

Toni Galloway, University of St. Andrews

"Biogeochemical cycling of essential elements within Mars analogue sites"

Toni's PhD research currently focuses on studying biogeochemical cycling of essential elements within Mars analogue sites. She works primarily on modern hot spring systems on Earth as analogues to Noachian Mars. This period dating from 4.1 to 3.7 billion years ago, was during the interval known as the Late Heavy Bombardment and when first life forms likely arose on Earth. Examining hot spring conditions while using geochemical and bioinformatic analyses aids in understanding how those extremophilic organisms associated with the springs use carbon and nitrogen, and the biosignatures which these reactions leave behind in the geological record.

Toni has a background in both biology and geology thanks to her joint Bachelor's degree at the University of St Andrews. She was one of the few locals at the University, moving from only 30 minutes away in comparison to her mostly international cohort. During her undergraduate degree, she was introduced to the field of astrobiology and the study of analogue environments by her supervisor Dr Claire Cousins. This area of research fascinated her so much that she returned to St Andrews to work with Dr Cousins for her PhD, and she is currently spending part of her time in Manchester learning bioinformatic analyses from her secondary supervisor Professor Sophie Nixon.



Further reading

Moreras-Marti, A., Fox-Powell, M., Zerkle, A.L., Stueeken, E., Gazquez, F., Brand, H.E., Galloway, T., Purkamo, L. and Cousins, C.R., 2021. Volcanic controls on the microbial habitability of Mars-analogue hydrothermal environments. *Geobiology*, 19, 489-509.

Future Lectures

Thursday 14th March 2024 Dr. Murray Reid – "What lies beneath: the geology of Strathkelvin".

Thursday 11th April 2024 David Webster – "Neoproterozoic glaciation in Scotland and Ireland: The Port Askaig Formation".

Thursday 9th May 2024 Members Night

Past Lectures

A recording of the October lecture on Vikings and isotopes can be found here: <https://youtu.be/ZUtCfCZxP1o>

A recording of the November lecture on the Dalradian can be found here: <https://youtu.be/tnsw0mQu0zI>

A recording of the December lecture on plate tectonics can be found here: <https://youtu.be/nQGFjAllasY>

A recording of the January lecture on Closing the Iapetus Ocean can be found here: https://youtu.be/LeJ_Tg5iPxc

AGM and SGM

The SGM on the 7th December unanimously approved the new constitution. The AGM approved the accounts.

Officers

The following officers were elected at the AGM:

President: Simon Cuthbert

Secretary: David Webster

Treasurer: Ian Veitch

Vice President: Neil Clark

Vice President: Maggie Donnelly

Ordinary Members

The AGM also approved the following 8 Ordinary Members:

Ian Millar

Gary Hoare

Bill Gray

Campbell Forrest

Bobby Alexander

Lindsay Smith

John Guerrier

Margaret Anderson

The new constitution allows for a maximum of 9 ordinary members, therefore there is one vacancy.

Co-opted Members

Under the new constitution Council can co-opt up to three Co-opted members

Junior Member: Vacant

Co-opted Members: SGG chair (currently Margaret Greene)
one vacancy

Field Excursions 2024.

Bookings can now be made directly in WebCollect or by clicking the links in the 'Events' section of the website, where up-to-date details including prices are available.

30th April – Guided tour of the Glasgow Life Geology collection: Leader Ann Ainsworth, Curator of Geology

This small intimate guided tour of the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre (storage facility) near Nitshill in Glasgow is an opportunity to see behind the scenes and view geology specimens not currently on display. Meet at 1.45pm. Limited to 10 members. Own travel. There is free parking at the resource Centre or the venue is a 10 min walk from Nitshill train station.

10-13th May – Garvellachs: Leaders Tony Spencer and David Webster.

This residential field excursion to the Garvellach islands is now fully booked; however if you would like to go on the reserve list then please email sec@gsocg.org.

25th May – Pentland Hills: Leader Gary Hoare

We will visit the Deerhope burn area and examine fossils dating back to the Silurian period. There will be a chance to see and/or collect a few sample fossils including trilobites, brachiopods, nautiloids, corals and crinoids.

Travel: 16 seat Minibus leaving Molema building 8.30am returning around 6pm

15th June – Innellan, Dunoon: Leader Keith Torrance

On this excursion we will look at the relationships between the Dalradian metamorphic rocks of the Highlands, the rocks associated with the Highland Boundary Fault, and the younger sedimentary fill of the adjacent Midland Valley. All these rocks are present in coastal exposures within a relatively short distance on the SE Cowal coast around Innellan.

Travel: Coach leaving Molema building 8.30am returning around 7.30pm

6th July – Spireslack, near Glenbuck: Leaders Graham Leslie & Mike Brown.

A visit to Spireslack and Mainshill Wood surface coal mines to examine spectacular exposures of Carboniferous strata on a scale not seen anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Travel: 16 seat Minibus leaving Molema building 9.00am returning around 5.00pm

7th September – Dunure beach pebble event: Leader Neil Clark.

A chance to bring the family along to a fun day out examining beach pebbles and learning more about the geology of this Ayrshire coastal location. Own transport.

Member Survey

A reminder that we are running a Member Survey and we would love to hear your views on the running of the society. We would be most obliged if you could find the time to complete the on-line survey if you've not already done so.

https://qualtricsxm36wbb2svn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bDANbgYJnPnysHY

Geonatter

Wednesdays 1:30 to 3pm Next Dates:

31 January

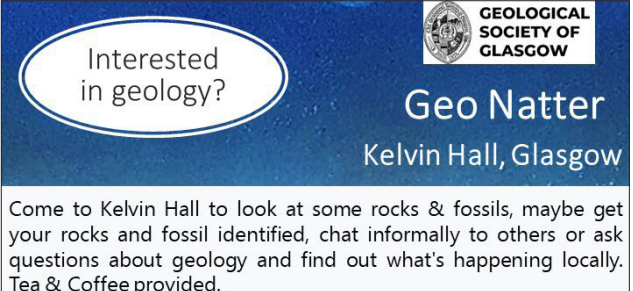
14 and 28 February

13 and 27 March

April 24

May 8 and 22

June 5 and 19

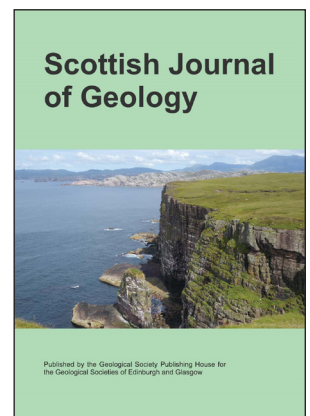


The poster features a dark blue background with a white oval containing the text 'Interested in geology?'. To the right is the Geological Society of Glasgow logo and the text 'Geo Natter Kelvin Hall, Glasgow'. Below this, it says 'Come to Kelvin Hall to look at some rocks & fossils, maybe get your rocks and fossil identified, chat informally to others or ask questions about geology and find out what's happening locally. Tea & Coffee provided.'

Scottish Journal of Geology

A reminder that all members of the society have online access to the full content of the Scottish Journal of Geology (SJG), including back issues, via the Lyell Collection, which is managed by the Geological Society of London (GSL). Before you can access the Lyell Collection, you need to register with the GSL. For new members of the society, once your membership has been accepted an email will be sent to the GSL to authorise your access. The GSL will then email you (within a few days) with instructions on how to register for access. When you have completed the registration, you will then be able to log in to the Lyell Collection section of the GSL website using your email address and password.

Members who have not previously registered and now wish to do so or who wish to renew an out-of-date registration should email the membership secretary.



Recent papers on Scottish Geology

Donovan, S.K 2024. Functional morphology of the stem in the Lower Paleozoic crinoid *Macrostylocrinus* Hall from Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, **60**,

Davidson, R. G., N. H. Trewin, J. Armstrong, and S. R. Waters. "Dr John Grant Malcolmson and a reconciliation of the Middle Devonian Lethen Bar and Lethen House fish-bearing nodule localities, with notes on the Middle Devonian nodule beds of the Moray Firth area." *Scottish Journal of Geology* **60**, sjg2023-011.

Earth Heritage Magazine

The current issue of Earth Heritage Issue 60 here (download [here](#)) includes articles on:

- the new Mendip National Nature Reserve
- the refreshed Scottish Fossil Code
- celebrating Cumbria's geodiversity
- the Building Stone Database for England

Lecture of Interest

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland lecture: 'Mesolithic catastrophe: the impact of the Storegga Slide tsunami on the Mesolithic population of Britain' Thursday 8th of February. Recording will be on their You Tube channel.

Geological Society of Glasgow

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

[@geolsocglasgow](#)

President: Simon Cuthbert pres@gsocg.org

Secretary: David Webster sec@gsocg.org