



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - March 2024

Lecture Programme

NOTE: The March lecture will be held in the lecture theatre (Room 407) in the Boyd Orr. The April Lecture and the Members night in May will be in the Kelvin Hall on a trial basis. We will be recording the talk for later viewing.

Thursday 14th March 2024

Dr. Murray Reid,

“What lies beneath: the geology of Strathkelvin”

Strathkelvin covers the valleys of the Kelvin and Allander Waters north of Glasgow and extends from Milngavie and Bearsden in the west to Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth in the east. The presentation will describe the geology of the area, concentrating on outcrops where the strata can be clearly seen and looking at evidence for what lies beneath the surface in areas where rock is not exposed. In the north, the lavas and ancient volcanoes of the Campsie Fells are well exposed but most of the built-up areas are underlain by sedimentary rocks of Carboniferous age which are largely covered by thick layers of glacial and alluvial materials. Coal, sandstone and limestone have been exploited and traces of the workings remain. The Kelvin Valley forms a major east-west transport corridor across Central Scotland and has played a significant role in the history of Scotland.



Murray is a retired engineering geologist who lives in Kirkintilloch. He was born in 1954 in Giffnock on the south side of Glasgow and grew up there. He went to St. Andrews University in 1972, graduating with a BSc in Geology in 1976, then to Aberdeen University, where he carried out a PhD on the weathering of soils in a moorland area, graduating in December 1979. In January 1980 he started work as an engineering geologist with a small site investigation company in Cumbernauld, which led to him moving to Kirkintilloch in 1981. After five years, he moved to Babbie Geotechnical in Glasgow, working on a number of large infrastructure projects in the transport and water supply and treatment sectors. In 1995, he moved to the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) in Crowthorne, near Reading in the Thames Valley, where he worked principally in the recycling and sustainability sectors. He retired from TRL in 2017 and moved back to Kirkintilloch. He joined the Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries and became Secretary in 2021. He is a keen hill walker, having climbed all the munros, though these days he concentrates more on the HUGHES (Hills Under Graham Height, i.e. < 2,000ft.) and low-level walks on the excellent network of footpaths in East Dunbartonshire.

Future Lectures

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/nQGFjA11asY>

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

A recording of the February lecture on Mars analogue sites can be found here: <https://youtu.be/JrBoDYrsHfs>

GSG YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMSceNiRm1w/>

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. Go to Events, Excursions, and click on your chosen excursion and then simply press **Book** at the end of the description and you can also pay for the trip, enter emergency contact details etc.

Its all very easy and no need to fill out a booking form.

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 Mainhill Wood surface coal mines to examine spectacular exposures of Carboniferous strata on a scale not seen anywhere else in the United Kingdom (photo right).

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



NEW: 24th August – Londniddy and Aberlady: a joint excursion with EGS to explore this shoreline. As ever we will join EGS for a high tea afterwards, likely in Aberlady. There will be no bus booked for this trip, we will encourage car sharing if possible. This trip will be subsidised by the two societies and is therefore free.

7th September – Dunure beach pebble event:

Leader Neil Clark.
A Scottish Geology Festival Event. 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.

NEW: We also have a tour of Granton museum collection planned. Details to be confirmed.

Member Survey

This has now closed and results will be reported in the April newsletter

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Dr Theodoros Simakou

Dr Aidan Smith

Simon Barnes

Tony McCready

Cameron Monie

Thorfin Gunn

Alison Kerr

All Members
Remember to login to your Webcollect Account to book field trips, events etc and check your details are up to date.

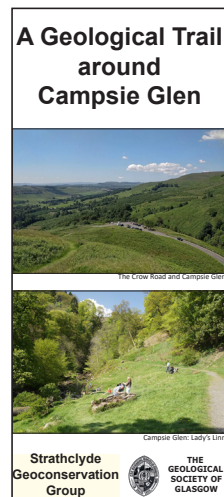
Strathclyde Geoconservation Group

The SGG is a subcommittee of the Society with its own Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Group have been very busy over the winter writing and producing leaflets on the geology of local sites of interest and geoconservation value. The new leaflet on Campsie Glen is about to be distributed and should be available (free) at the cafe there. A leaflet on the geology of Linn Park is almost complete and will soon go to the printer. Leaflets and flyers for the Kelvin Walkway, Glennifer Braes, Calder Glen and Rouken Glen are in the pipeline.

The Group organise visits to sites potentially deserving of a leaflet (or a reprinting of an out-of-date one). To this end a trip to Dumbarton Rock is being planned (at a suitable low-tide in April) with the aim of re-doing the existing leaflet.

As well as visiting sites for the purpose of producing leaflets the Group are now entering site details (access, condition, recent photographs, existing literature etc) into the new Geosites database initiative that is being coordinated by the Scottish Geology Trust. At the moment it only contains those sites categorised as 'Geological Conservation Review' (GCR) sites but following the successful piloting of the system it is now being extended to include all 'local sites of interest' so the workload of SGG has increased (in a good way!).

If you are interested in helping out with SGG work or coming on one of the site visits please email sgg@gsocg.org



Geonatter

Geonatter continues on Wednesday afternoons (1 to 3:30) at the Kelvin Hall. Remaining dates for this session are:

13 and 27 March

April 24

May 8 and 22

June 5 and 19

Geological Society Library

The cataloguing of our collection of books on the shelves in the Molema Building all have now been completed. A copy of the catalogue (and information on access) can be obtained on request from Lindsay Smith at library@gsocg.org

Scottish Journal of Geology

Printed copies were posted out on the 8th February to the 8 members who requested and paid for them. The Edinburgh GS are consulting members to assess whether this to be a feasible on-going product for both societies.

ScottishGeologist - That girl that makes videos about rocks



One of our members - Luisa Hendry - has been making a whole load of fun and informative short videos about Scottish geology on social media, including some live streams. Well worth a watch!

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishgeologist>

Her website has a list of links to all the other platforms she's on

<https://linktr.ee/scottishgeologist>



Volcanic Experiences Escorted Group Tours 2024

Volcanic Experiences have been arranging escorted small group tours to geologically superb volcanic areas of the world for more than 25 years. They have a few vacancies on the following tours:

1) The Cascades Volcanoes of Washington and Oregon. This tour is being offered for the first time for many years. It includes time at Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood, the Columbia River Gorge and the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. (June 24th to July 4th)

2) Iceland ~ The South. This itinerary now has a whole day spent on the Reykjanes Peninsular, where eruptions have occurred in each of the past three years, plus many of the classic sites in the south of the country, including a trip to Heimaey Island and a venture into the remote interior to Landmannalaugar. (August 27th to September 3rd)

Full details of all their tours can be found on the website at www.volcanic-experiences.co.uk.

Four Arctic Islands, 9-26 August

Members might be interested in this trip. It has a very respected glaciologist (Mike Hambrey) on board. The main areas to be visited are NW Spitsbergen (possibly even Kongsfjorden), Jan Mayen (although this is very prone to poor weather) and Scoresby Sund in East Greenland. (The fourth island, Iceland, is a misnomer, as it is just the drop-off point).

<https://www.quarkexpeditions.com/expeditions/four-arctic-islands-spitsbergen-jan-mayen-greenland-and-iceland>



Recent papers on Scottish Geology

Metcalfe, J.H., Strachan, R.A., Darling, J.R., Fowler, M., Chapman, G. and Dunlop, J., 2024. U-Pb geochronology and microstructural analysis of apatite within a Proterozoic crustal-scale shear zone, Outer Hebrides, NW Scotland. *Journal of the Geological Society*, pp.jgs2023-139.[Open Access]

Donovan, S.K., 2024. Functional morphology of the stem in the Lower Paleozoic crinoid *Macrostylocrinus* Hall from Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, **60**, pp.sjg2023-021.

Down to Earth Xtra

February edition [here](#)

Geology Bites

Oliver has been busy! Three new episodes to enjoy.

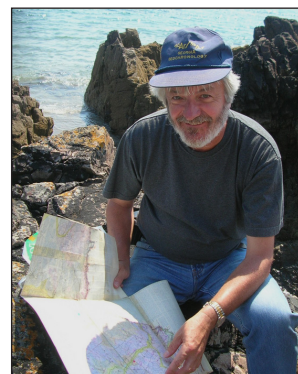
Go to <https://www.geologybites.com/>

Claire Corkhill on ‘*Geological Radioactive Waste Disposal*’

David Kohlstedt on ‘*Simulating the Mantle in the Lab*’

and the latest edition - Damian Nance on ‘*What Drives the Supercontinent Cycle*’

Perhaps as many as five times over the course of Earth history, most of the continents gathered together to form a supercontinent. The supercontinents lasted on the order of a hundred million years before breaking apart and dispersing the continents. As Damian explains in the podcast, newly acquired evidence suggests a new interpretation in which the supercontinent cycle is the manifestation of a process that involves the entire mantle.



From the BBC

Fossil reveals 240 million year-old ‘dragon’

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68374520>

Friends of Hugh Miller

This year’s AGM in Edinburgh will be in the The Library of Mistakes on Sunday 26 May at 2-4pm. Professor Ralph O’Connor will talk to us about how Hugh Miller’s geology intersects with Romantic-era studies of folklore and antiquities. Ralph’s talk will be accompanied by further entertainment. More details nearer the time.

Geological Society of Glasgow

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

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