



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - May 2024

Lecture Programme

Our talks will be held in the Kelvin Hall- starting at 7pm. If you've not been to the Kelvin Hall before the lecture theatre is at the end of the main corridor on the right-hand side. We will be convening afterwards in the activity room (where Geonatter is held), which you pass in the main corridor before the lecture theatre. There will be tea, coffee, biscuits etc. Parking at the adjacent Bunhouse carpark is £3 for the evening.

Thursday 9th May 2024

This is our usual Members' night evening - this year with a bit of a difference. We have two talks lined up in the lecture theatre (see below) and we are also encouraging any member to bring along any specimens, curios, displays etc to the Activity Room after the talks.

Talk 1: The Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites Project - Angus Miller

Angus will give a presentation on the Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites Project. Scotland has over 1000 sites that are designated as important for geology and geomorphology at a national or local level, but the value and importance of these sites is often not recognised, it is hard to find information about them and systematic monitoring is under-resourced.

The Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites project aims to bring information about all these sites together in one place, to make it easy for people to report issues with sites, and to share information. Working with partners, we propose to support a network of volunteers to visit sites and become ambassadors, available to help engage with local communities in learning and benefiting from their local geoh heritage.



Talk 2: Determining tectonic transport directions in the southern part of the Northern Highlands Terrain, Scotland - Ella Davis

Ella is an MS student at Virginia Tech in the USA. She recently received a grant of £1000 from the Society to help her with field work in northern Scotland, and she will give a presentation to us on her findings. The objective of her study was to determine the tectonic transport direction, shear senses and deformation temperatures in the southern part of the Northern Highland Terrain (NHT) of Scotland using optical microscopy-based petrologic, microstructural, and crystal fabric analyses. Previous studies have demonstrated that in the northern part of the NHT, tectonic transport changed from top to the north at 450-440 Ma in the high temperature core of the orogen to top to the west along the western foreland margin at 435 Ma (Law et al., 2021). However, no equivalent studies have been made of the southern NHT.



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/nQGFjAl1asY>

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>

A recording of the March lecture on Strathkelvin can be found here: <https://youtu.be/0pzj05vN88E>

A recording of the March bonus lecture on Dinosaurs from Montana can be found here: <https://youtu.be/GOZRw2DQdDU>

A recording of the April lecture on the Port Askaig Formation can be found here: <https://youtu.be/vRCOgHEt5uo>

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 full and up-to-date details including prices are available. Go to Events, Excursions, and click on your chosen excursion and then simply press 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, although a paper copy can be requested. More information from Lindsay Smith excursions@gsocg.org

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.

15th May National Museums Tour: Leaders Dr Andrew Ross and Dr Rachel Walcott

National Museums Collections Centre tour (with fantastic visit to Granton shore with Neil Clark and Katie Strang). A fantastic chance to visit both the Palaeobiology and Earth Systems collections held in the National Museums Scotland specialist facility.

Own/Public Transport.

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

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.



Geonatter

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

May 8 and 22

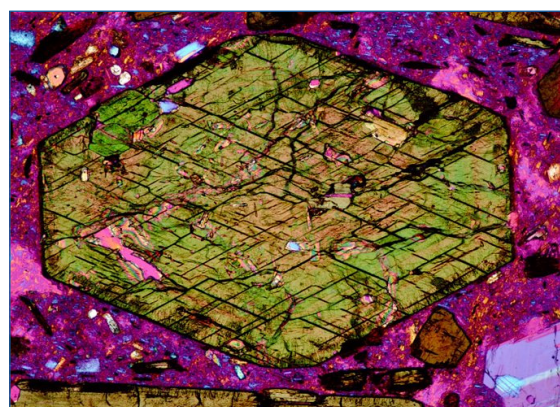
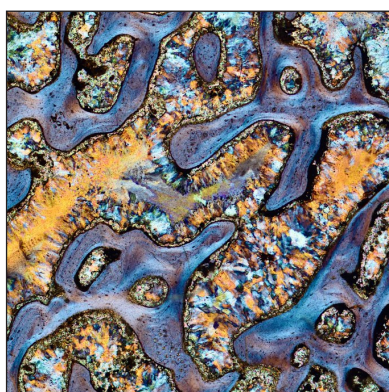
June 5 and 19

Microscopia

Very nice twitter account

[@micROCKScopica](https://twitter.com/micROCKScopica)

On the right is a basal section of an amphibole crystal with its characteristic cleavage. Left is a silicified dinosaur bone.



Recent Papers on Scottish Geology

Walker, S.N. and Cortés, J.A. 2024. Pāhoehoe lava emplacement in Lon Reudle, Mull. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, pp.sjg2023-019.

Down to Earth Xtra

April edition [here](#)

Fossil Grove Update

In late 2023 GCC earmarked a sum of 450k for fossil grove renovations and to stabilise the fossils. The funds are retained within GCC and City Building are nominated lead contractor.

There have been a number of site meetings with GCC architects to develop a plan, which has been passed to City Building for costing. A draft costed plan was expected to be issued prior to 31 March, but nothing has been received by the FGT to date, but we are aware that it is being finalised following further clarifications with City Building.

A technical Advisory Group comprising conservation experts from NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland, Strathclyde Geoconservation, The Hunterian, Glasgow Museums and the Geological Society of Glasgow has been re-established. Group Members have received the initial GCC report, and the intention remains for it to review and comment on the finalised plan.

It is possible that FGT could then enter in a lease and operate the repaired building and leverage in further funding (from HES, AHF, corporate bodies, individuals etc) to continue developing the site and enhancing the displays and external information boards.

Some, if not all, FGT funds will need to be earmarked for income generation to fund running costs under a lease arrangement as there is limited scope for public donation given that charging for entry is a not an option.

Open afternoons are popular and will be further developed, however they may have to be curtailed somewhat later this year should work commence onsite. The first open afternoon of the season (21/4/24) attracted some 300 visitors despite the early rain and there were four different activity areas and about 13 volunteers assisting. Next one is 19th May

A school's programme (1/2 day for older primary) is being developed and hopefully will be piloted with St Pauls and Scotstoun once public access is restored after the current phase of renovation works is completed.

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.

The Library of Mistakes, 33A Melville Street Lane, Edinburgh EH3 7QB

2pm AGM Official Business

2.30pm - 4pm

Public talk by Professor Ralph O'Connor, University of Aberdeen 'Hugh Miller, folklore, and the recovery of the geological past'

There will also be two poets joining to read some of their own work; Cáit O'Neill McCullagh and Gill Shaw.



Mining Landscapes

The first walk and workshops of this new initiative take place on 31st May at Comrie Colliery in Fife. Rediscover this former extractive landscape through a variety of mediums.

More details at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coalscapes-walk-and-art-workshop-tickets-876079486327>



Bearsden Shark

The shark has its own website!

<https://www.bearsdenshark.co.uk/>



Girls into Geoscience

Here is an overview of the programme for this year's event, including workshop descriptions. This event is for anyone interested in any aspect of science relating to our planet. Travel bursaries are available!

To register for the event follow:

<https://forms.office.com/e/W9LgKsxx8v>

WebGeology

An excellent on-line series of teaching/learning resources

<https://www.nbvm.no/>



GiG
Geology into Geoscience
Scotland

14th June 2024 | University of Glasgow | James McCune Smith Building

Workshop Choices
When you register, you need to choose one AM, and one PM workshop. Please select from the following choices:

Afternoon Workshops

Charlotte Slaymark and Dr. Hannah Mathers, University of Glasgow
Postcard of the past: Using arts approaches to engage with landscape science
Engaging with landscape can be an approach to tackling ecoanxiety and understanding climate change. Around 12 thousand years ago Scotland re-entered a mini ice age. Over a period of just one thousand years ice spread across Scotland and left evidence in the landscape. In this workshop you will investigate the landform record of the last period of Scottish glaciation as a way of engaging with the rhythms of climate and environmental variability. Join us in creating images of the landscape with arts practices and interpreting hidden narratives from maps that show the extreme climate change of Scotland's recent geological past.

Dr. Jessica Pugsley, University of Aberdeen
Time travelers: A virtual field trip into the geological past
During this workshop we will be travelling back in time by examining some of the world's best geological exposures. We will be using virtual outcrop models from VGeo.com, generated using photogrammetry or LiDAR (on drones). You'll explore different geological formations from volcanoes to ancient sediments containing dinosaur fossils and then to some of the oldest rocks on the earth. Join Jess as she provides a guided tour discussing climate, to continental drift and much more, you'll discover how a geologists see the world!

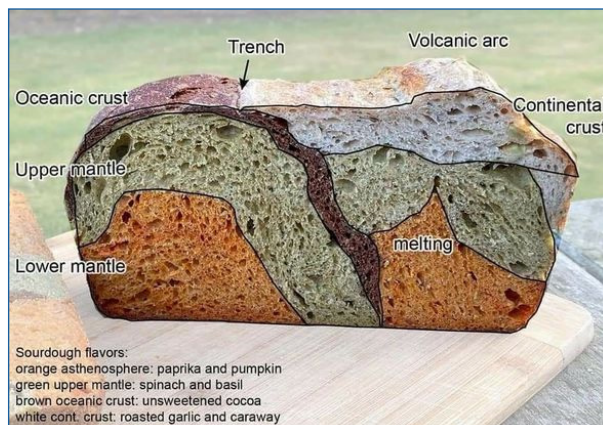
Registration Link
<https://forms.office.com/e/W9LgKsxx8v>

Travel Bursary Link
<https://forms.office.com/e/W9LgKsxx8v>

girlsintoglasgow.ac.uk | @GiG_Scotland

and finally!

Flat Earth theory debunked; the Earth is made of sourdough bread!



Geological Society of Glasgow

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

[@geolsocglasgow](https://www.instagram.com/geolsocglasgow)

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