



# THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

## Newsletter - December 2024

### Lecture Programme

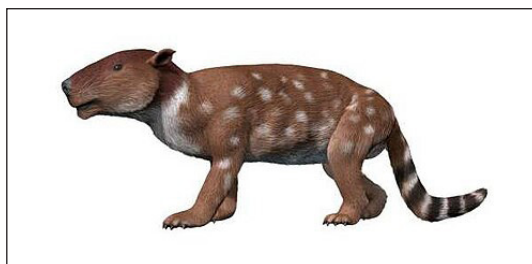
Lectures continue to be held in Room 407 of the Boyd Orr Building (unless otherwise noted). **Note: Meetings commence at 7.00 pm.** Room 407 is on the 4th floor. We will record the lectures but not the Q&A and will not be offering a live zoom.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Dr. Paige dePolo, Liverpool John Moores University**

#### **“The taphonomy of a pantodont-rich assemblage from the San Juan Basin, New Mexico, USA”**

66 million years ago, an asteroid hit the earth and kicked off the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. In the wake of this extinction, many weird and enigmatic mammals began radiating into empty niches. One group, the plant eating, herbivorous pantodonts, quickly grew to the largest mammals yet known in Earth history. In this talk, we'll look at a collection of fossils from Torreon Wash in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and think about their taphonomy (what happened to the animals after death). I will then develop an argument for gregariousness within *Pantolambda bathmodon* (a small pantodont), that illustrates grouping behaviour is wide-spread within this clade (a grouping that includes a common ancestor and all the descendants of that ancestor).



*Paige is a vertebrate palaeontologist and a Lecturer in Vertebrate Biology at Liverpool John Moores University. After completing undergraduate degrees in Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, Paige moved to the UK and studied for an MScR. in Palaeontology and Geobiology at the University of Edinburgh. She recently completed her PhD. at the same institution. Paige is broadly interested in vertebrates with work spanning from dinosaur footprints to Triassic marine reptiles to Paleocene mammals and, when she's not puzzling over fossils, can be found reading fantasy and sci-fi books or wandering around botanical gardens.*

#### Further Reading

dePolo, Paige E., Thomas E. Williamson, Sarah L. Shelley, and Stephen L. Brusatte (2022). Occurrences of *Pantolambda intermedium* in the San Juan Basin, New Mexico, USA.” *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

dePolo, P., Funston, G., Shelley, S., Williamson, T., Wible, J. and Brusatte, S., 2021. The first juvenile of *Pantolambda bathmodon* (Mammalia, Pantodonta) from the San Juan Basin, New Mexico. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, Program and Abstracts, 2021.

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### Next talks

**January 9th 2025. Luisa Hendry 'Scottish Geologist' “Rocking the Digital World: Promoting Geology through Social Media and why it's important”**

Dates and Speakers for February-April are still in flux and will be confirmed early in the new year.

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### Recordings of past lectures

St Andrews students' Greenland Expedition <https://youtu.be/giy1WE9L-Cw>

Stuart Haszeldine: Carbon Capture & Storage <https://youtu.be/oXiIQD7eHdk>

Heather Stewart: The Abyss Gazes Also Into You <https://youtu.be/-6b9bi-AehM>

GSG YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMSCeNiRm1w/>

