



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - January 2025

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 9th January 2025

Luisa Hendry 'Scottish Geologist'

"Rocking the Digital World: Promoting Geology through Social Media and why it's important"

The talk will explore the power of social media as a tool for promoting geology and engaging diverse audiences in Earth science. It will highlight innovative strategies for making geology accessible, relatable, and exciting through platforms like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok and talk about the importance of doing so. From creating engaging, educational and captivating content and building a passionate online community, the presentation will demonstrate how social media can inspire a new generation to connect with the natural world and understand its geological foundations.



Luisa Hendry, known online as @scottishgeologist, is a Scottish geologist and social media influencer dedicated to making geology accessible and engaging to the public. After graduating from the University of Glasgow in 2015 with a BSc in Earth Science, she has worked as a Senior Engineering Geologist in the engineering sector.

In April 2022, Luisa began creating educational and entertaining videos about geology on platforms like TikTok and Instagram, under hashtags such as #tiktoksaboutrocks and #reelsaboutrocks. Her content, which includes informative and immersive explanations of various rock formations across Scotland, has reached millions of viewers and significantly increased her social media following to over 460K followers.

Recognizing a gap in public appreciation for Scotland's geological landscapes, Luisa founded 'Scot Rock Walks - Geology Tours Ltd' in January 2024. This initiative offers geology tours ranging from brief excursions to multi-day trips, aiming to educate participants about Earth's processes and Scotland's geological history.

Through her innovative use of social media and in-person tours, Luisa Hendry continues to inspire a broader interest in geology, making the subject accessible and engaging to a diverse audience. With Scotland offering some of the most incredible landscapes where the rocks reveal a complicated geological history, Luisa presents this in an easy and understandable way which has led to opportunities such as: appearing in newspaper articles (the Scotsman, Daily Mail and Press and Journal, BBC); appearing on the radio (BBC Radio Scotland, Heart FM, Hope FM and Sunny Govan Radio); presenting talks on the geology of Scotland for scientific groups, institutions and societies; sponsored trips to GSA connects and Germany to speak about geology; appearing in documentaries speaking about Geology. Luisa shows passion and enthusiasm within her role - Her commitment to inspiring, leading and coaching the next generation of geologists as well as the general public has had a significant impact within the industry and within geology.

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>

Paige dePolo: Pantodonts from New Mexico <https://youtu.be/RWamAw6uo10>

GSG YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMsCeNiRm1w/>

Next talks

Feb 6	Dr Alex Dunhill University of Leeds	Species loss, community collapse, and ecosystem recovery during times of mass extinction	Palaeontological Society Exceptional lecturer 2024-25	Room 407 Boyd Orr Building
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Dates and Speakers for March-April are will be confirmed later this month after the new Meetings Working Group have had their inaugural meeting.

AGM 2024 - 12 December 2024

The December talk was preceded by a brief AGM to approve the Accounts and elect 6 Council Members. The Minutes of the previous AGM, the Accounts for the year ended 30 September were approved, as was the appointment of the Independent Examiner. Council posts (in grey in the table) were approved and the make-up of the Council is also shown.

Position	Elect at AGM?	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded	Remaining term (years)	Notes
President	Yes	M Greene	S Cuthbert	N Clarke	3	Nominally for 1 year
Hon Secretary	No	D Webster			2	
Treasurer	No	I Veitch			2	Start to seek new candidate in 2025
Vice President	No	M Donnelly			2	
Vice President	Yes	C Forrest	S Cuthbert	D Webster	3	
Ord. member	No	M Anderson			2	
Ord. member	No	J Guerrier			2	
Ord. member	No	R Alexander			1	
Ord. member	Yes	N Clark	S Cuthbert	L Smith	3	Change from VP
Ord. member	Yes	S Cuthbert	N Clark	G Hoare	3	Change from Pres
Ord. member	No	W Gray			1	
Ord. member	No	I Millar			1	
Ord. member	Yes	L Hendry	D Webster	M Greene	3	Previously co-opted
Ord. member	No	L Smith			2	
Ord. member	Yes	G Hoare	M Greene	C Forrest	3	
SGG Rep.	No	?				SGG to propose
Junior Member	No	B Hardman	n/a	n/a	1	Co-opt again
SJG Editor	No	H Stewart	n/a	n/a	1	Co-opted

Roles and membership of working groups will be decided at the Council Meeting in January.

Talk at the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow

Wednesday 8th January - ."How to Customise a Planet by accident – what Future Fossils will reveal" by Professor Mark Williams, University of Leicester. All welcome. More details [here](#)

Geonatter

Next year the sessions are switching to monthly, but don't worry as we will run sessions over the holidays so we can enjoy GeoNatter all year. This will allow some of our school age attendees a chance to come and get their rocks/fossils identified. (Please share dates with any family and friends you think might be interested)

Thank you to everyone who comes along and makes GeoNatter so much fun, and remember to keep rummaging for things to bring along as we all love the challenge of trying to identify new rocks and fossils.


Friends of Hugh Miller

The Friends are planning their AGM and Sennachie Festival weekend for 2025 - a gathering of stories, music, songs and poems inspired by Hugh Miller. Friday 23rd May 2025 to Sunday 25th May 2025. Full programme TBC, venue The Old Brewery, Cromarty.

Down to Earth

January Xtra [here](#)

Want to learn more about geology?





Geo Natter

Kelvin Hall, Glasgow

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 provide.

1.30-3.30pm on the following dates in 2025

8 th Jan	5 th Feb	5 th Mar
2 nd Apr	7 th May	4 th Jun
2 nd Jul	6 th Aug	3 rd Sep
1 st Oct	5 th Nov	3 rd Dec

It's free & everyone is welcome

THE HUNTERIAN
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Geological Society of London - Free Lectures

The Geological Society hosts public lectures throughout the year to share knowledge with the geoscience community. These monthly lectures are open to everyone and free to attend.

The lectures are ordinarily held at Burlington House in London and virtually via Zoom.

The first Public Lectures of 2025 have been announced:

14 January: One World is Enough for All of us - Geoenergy & an Equitable Energy Transition

18 March: The Stegosaurian Dinosaurs

20 May: Re-storifying Planet Earth: narratives and storylines for publics and policymakers

17 June: Forged by fire - How can volcanoes shape out landscapes, lore and lives

Details on their website [here](#)

Geological Society's Climate & Ecology: Off the Rails series

You might be interested in this talk which is taking place on the 16th of January at the University of Glasgow.

Dr John MacDonald, “**Anthropogenic Geomaterials: what are they, and how do they impact climate and ecology?**”

Humans deposit large quantities of waste on the Earth's surface. This waste is often solid, made of minerals, and a by-product of industry. These ‘anthropogenic geomaterials’ pose various environmental challenges and opportunities. In this talk we will explore how such materials, such as slag from steelmaking, can help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as well as influence landscape and ecology.”

The talks are free to register for and will be run in hybrid format for anyone not close by enough to do so in person.

More details at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/offtherails>

University of Edinburgh Open Learning

The Understanding the Earth: a new course with Fiona McGibbon at the Centre for Open Learning at the University of Edinburgh. It is a six-week course for anyone with a curiosity about the Earth and its long history. Whether you have pondered this when hill walking or looking at a museum display, this course will help you understand how it all fits together and how geologists work it out.

The course is in-person on the Holyrood campus, just off Holyrood Road in central Edinburgh. It runs for six weeks from Thursday 16th January 2025, 4:10pm - 6:00pm. Further details and booking [here](#).

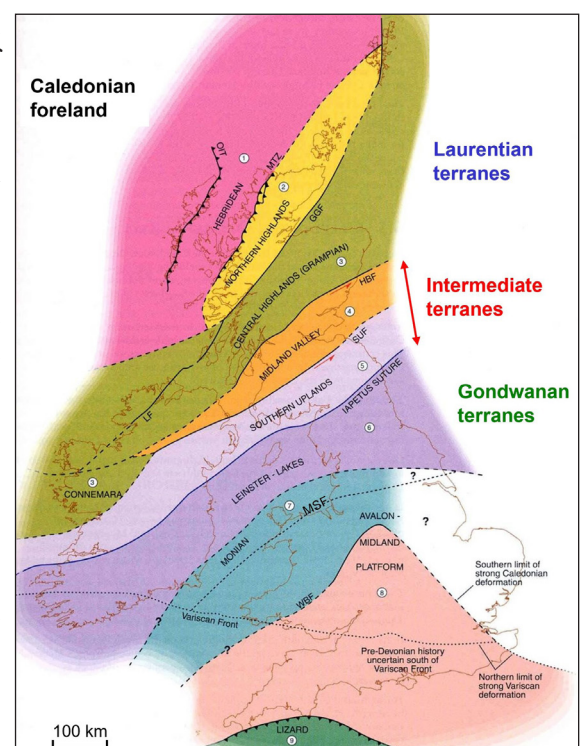
Geology Bites

Two new episodes to enjoy (numbers 99 and 100) - [Rob Strachan](#) on the Caledonian Orogeny and [Mike Searle](#) on the mountain ranges of Central Asia. Both are excellent podcasts and highly recommended.

Rob's podcast is especially relevant to everyone interested in the geological evolution of Scotland. The Caledonian Orogeny took place during a multiphase collision of crustal blocks in the early stages of the assembly of Pangea between about 490 million years ago and 390 million years ago. In the process, Himalayan-scale mountains were formed. While these mountains have been worn down today, we still see plenty of evidence for their existence in locations straddling the Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea.

In the podcast, Rob describes the tectonic movements that led to the orogen and explains how we can reconstruct the sequence of events that occurred and what we can learn about today's mountain-forming processes by studying the exhumed rocks of ancient orogens.

Rob Strachan has studied the rocks of the Caledonian orogen for over 40 years, focusing on unraveling the history of the orogen in what is Scotland today. He is Emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of Portsmouth.



Edinburgh Geological Society Talks

15th January Linda Cotterill: Origin of mixed magma ring intrusions: implications for their extrusive, explosive ignimbrite equivalents in the BPIP, west Scotland

29th January Recent papers from the Scottish Journal of Geology

12th February Katriona Edlmann: Geological storage of Hydrogen for Net Zero

26th February Mike Browne: Geoconservation in Scotland

Field Excursion

Almeria Province, SE Spain. Professor Dorrik Stow, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh – 3-10 May 2025

Coordinator – Emma Bedda excursions@edinburghgeolsoc.org

NWH Geopark

The NWH Geopark have a series of online Winter talks in 2025, starting on the 14th January 2025 with “**Geothermal Energy Potentials in the North**” with Dr Iain Neill. More details [here](#)

It is uncertain how much the Highlands and Islands will benefit in perpetuity from the boom in renewable electricity production and storage. Half of our energy needs are not for electricity, but for heat. In this talk I suggest exploring our potential for shallow and deep geothermal heat production. The further you drill into the ground, the hotter it gets, and deep geothermal drilling (>1 km) is now in favour, including in Cornwall. Shallower drilling is now being explored to heat the University of Leeds. Geothermal energy has been mooted elsewhere in Scotland but is hampered by a lack of geological data necessary to de-risk investment in drilling. Yet, such systems are low-carbon, quiet, require little land, are reliable regardless of weather or shocks to the national grid, and built to last 50 years or more. They should be owned and distributed locally to benefit communities.

Iain will discuss where geothermal heat comes from, how it is distributed, what rocks across the Highlands and Islands might be of interest, from granites to fault zones, and how heat may be extracted. This is research that is only just getting started, perhaps with potential for some of the larger communities around the NW Highlands. He wants to show you his ideas and ask for your input, positive or negative, about whether geothermal systems might be added to our energy mix.

Iain Neill grew up in Dingwall. He is now a Lecturer at the University of Glasgow, having gained a BSc from St Andrews and a PhD from Cardiff University. His early research explored the origins of the Caribbean Plate and why there is magmatism across the South Caucasus and Iran. Having always kept tabs on Scottish geology, he is now leading a mission to re-evaluate the age and origins of granite bodies emplaced across the Highlands and Islands, with the eventual goal of putting these rocks to greater use in society.

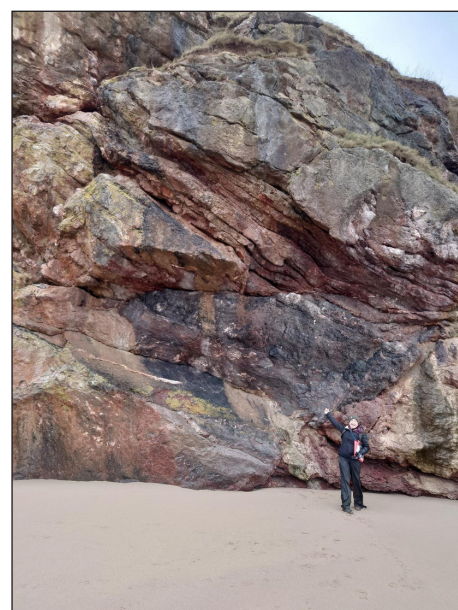
Coming up:

February 11, 2025 @ 19:30 – 21:00 Zoom Talk – Dr Frances Dunn on The Early Evolution of Animal Life

Recent papers on Scottish Geology

Valore, L., Sømme, T. and Eide, C., 2024. High-resolution sediment mass-budget of the Shetland Platform during the Palaeocene-Early Eocene—constraints on external forcing by uplift and climate. *Journal of the Geological Society*, pp.jgs2024-058. <https://doi.org/10.1144/jgs2024-058>

Lucas, N.A., Weller, O.M., Copley, A., Mottram, C.M., Chapman, G. and McMahon, W.J., 2024. The Diverse Habitats of Eclogite Formation: Insights From the Mesoproterozoic Glenelg Inlier, Scotland. *Journal of Metamorphic Geology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmg.12801>



Post-Caledonian faulting in the Durness limestone at Sango Sands. The grubby stuff of geology – the brittle faults and fractures – are worth exploring in the hunt for viable locations for geothermal energy. Dr Bailey Lathrop for scale

Geological Society of Glasgow

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

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