



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - October 2025

Lecture Programme

Venue - Kelvin Hall Lecture Theatre and afterwards in the Activity Room, Kelvin Hall (Geonatter Room).

Parking is available at the adjoining Bunhouse Car Park (currently £3 for the evening)

Thursday 9th October 2025

Dr. Katie Strang, Curator of Mineralogy and Petrology The Hunterian, Glasgow

"Gilmour Hill and the building of the Gilbert Scott Building, with topical snippets from the Hunterian collections."

Join Katie to discover the 330-million-year history of the University of Glasgow's Gilbert Scott Building. Scotland has one of the richest legacies of traditional buildings and stone structures of any country in the world, and the rocks beneath our feet are intrinsically linked to our sense of place and identity. This talk will explore the local geology and how these resources have been exploited for building materials throughout history, and ultimately, how they have shaped our built heritage.

Katie is a geologist with a degree and MRes from the University of Glasgow, and a PhD from Durham University. Since finishing her studies, she has worked in the museum and heritage sector and has research interests in Scotland's palaeontology, industrial heritage, and the mineralogy of lime and related historic materials. She is the Curator of Mineralogy and Petrology at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and the project geologist for the Eco-museum of Scottish Mining Landscapes. She also dedicates most of her free time to volunteering and is currently a Trustee of the Scottish Geology Trust, where she has been involved with directing the annual Scottish Geology Festival over the last 4 years.



Future Lectures

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Title / topic
13 th November	Simon Cuthbert	AGH University of Kraków	Deep Continental Drilling: The COSC borehole project (Collisional orogeny in the Scandinavian Caledonides).
11 th December	David Bond	University of Hull	Mass extinctions: are we all doomed?
8 th January 2026	Iain Neill	University of Glasgow	From collision magmatism to a geothermal future in the Northern Highlands
12 th February	Elsa Panciroli	NMS Edinburgh	T.N. George Medallist lecture. Discovering Mammals in the time of Dinosaurs
12 th March	Keyron Hickman Lewis (Grant Awardee)	Birkbeck College, London	Astrobiology and the Torridonian
9 th April	Linzi McDade	Breedon	Stone industry in Scotland and STEM
14 th May	Members' Night		

Residential Field Trip - May 2026

We are in the process of finalising the details for a trip to Cromarty 22-24 May (3 nights) staying at the Old Brewery with the help of the Friends of Hugh Miller. Booking will be via webcollect and we'll send an email out to all members when this is ready. If you are interested in the trip you could note your interest to Lindsay Smith at excursions@gsocg.org with your room sharing preferences so we can get an early idea of demand.

New Members

We welcome the following new members joining in September

Katherine MacLean

Declan Beggan

Alex Staton

Pamela Todd

Lily Deadman

Iain Neill

Geonatter

First Wednesdays of the month - next one 1 October. 1:30 Kelvin Hall

New Council Members wanted!

Several members of Council are stepping down at the AGM (in December), so if you're interested in helping in any way with the running of the Society please contact the Secretary at sec@gsocg.org. We have a number of working groups dealing with critical things like the lecture programme, the field trips and communication/outreach; new members can join one of these groups and see how things are done and start to help in a way that suits their time, skills and interest.

Events at the Edinburgh Geological Society

A public lecture at Dynamic Earth on **Monday 6th October 2025** (starting at 7pm until 9pm); coinciding with International Geodiversity Day. This event will kick off the Hutton Tercentenary celebrations with a talk entitled "Introducing James Hutton". The speakers will include Prof Colin Campbell – CEO of Hutton Institute, Dr Rachel Walcott – National Museums of Scotland and Angus Miller – EGS). The event will be chaired by Hermione Cockburn (former Director of Science at Dynamic Earth). The event is a ticketed and you will be able to buy tickets on the door but better to purchase them in advance (standard ticket is £6). Please note that this event is only available as a physical lecture.

Wednesday 15th October 2025 (at 7pm). The theme for the first lecture of the autumn series is "Geoscience's Critical Role in the Energy Transition". The speaker for the evening is Professor John Underhill (Professor of Stratigraphy and Director of the Centre for Energy Transition at the University of Aberdeen). This lecture will take place at the Grant Institute, University of Edinburgh's Kings Building Campus

Recent Papers on Scottish Geology

Lamont, T.N., McCarthy, W., Strachan, R., Roberts, N.M., Mackay-Champion, T., Bird, A. and Searle, M., 2025. Late Ordovician regional high-pressure metamorphism in Scotland, UK: Caledonian metamorphic climax predated the closure of the Iapetus Ocean. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1130/B38370.1>

An important paper describing newly recognized Late Ordovician high-pressure (HP) metamorphism in the Scottish Caledonides and compares and contrasts three different models for the Caledonian/Scandian orogenies.

Scottish Fossil Code

A reminder to all Society Members to take note of the Scottish Fossil Code in the light of recent allegations of over-zealous collecting as reported by the BBC recently.

[Scotland's most important mineral sites 'being targeted' - BBC News](#)

The Scottish Fossil Code plays an important role in preserving Scotland's geo-heritage for future generations by asking fossil (and rock) collectors to be considerate with their collecting activities - and by taking note of restrictions at SSSIs.

The Scottish Geology Trust also publishes ethical rock collection guidance (i.e. any geological material) at:

<https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/geology/ethical-rock-collection/>

Scottish Geology Festival

The Scottish Geology Festival continues into October 2025

Full details at <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/festival/>

Scottish Geology Trust <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/>

Siccar Point Crowdfunder

The Scottish Geology Trust are running a Crowdfunder to raise funds to install a Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point, the birthplace of modern geology.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/siccar-point>

At present, visitors to Siccar Point are presented with a poorly-defined path and a small info-board; such a historically important site, and its visitors, deserve better. To that end, SGT are working with Edinburgh Geological Society and the James Hutton Institute to install a Deep Time Trail at the site, in time to celebrate Hutton's Tercentenary in June 2026. The Crowdfunder is aiming to raise at least £75,000, which is around half of the costs of installing the trail. Stretch-goals will help to kick-start the subsequent phases of work at Siccar Point, with a long-term view to installing steps down the steep slope and making the unconformity more safely accessible.

There are exciting rewards available - ranging from neckwarmers through to acknowledging donors on the structures of the trail itself. In particular, there are vintage prints of John Clerk of Eldin's "Lost Drawings" available - you can get a single print or the entire set of 29.

All donations and help in promoting this exciting project gratefully received.

For further information, please contact SGT Vice-Chair Steph Flude: steph@scottishgeologytrust.org

Geological Society of London - Public Lecture

Putting the EO into Geology 21st October (Virtual and in-person public lecture)

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/putting-the-eo-into-geology-public-lecture/>

Earth Observation (EO) is not a new science. However, with a 50-year history in satellite-based exploration and science, it has also encouraged new, and all the more daring, missions with novel technological improvements and innovations to help us understand Earth (and beyond) even more.

Down to Earth

October episode of Extra [here](#)

Virtual Seminars in Precambrian Geology

A series of (fairly technical) online lectures on Precambrian Geology

Next talk on 2 October by Jeff Vervoort on "The Growth of Earth's Earliest Crust—Unraveling the isotope record"

All presentations are posted on its YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmxePnmA2Lchjn_gm7O06g

For more information and to subscribe go to <https://sites.google.com/ucr.edu/vs-pg/home>

Geology Bites

A new episode to enjoy: see www.geologybites.com

Claudio Faccenna on the Dynamics of Subduction Zones

Geological Society of Glasgow

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

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