THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - February 2026

Lecture Programme

Venue - Kelvin Hall Lecture Theatre at 7pm.

Meet the speaker afterwards and have tea/coffee etc in the Activity Room, Kelvin Hall (Geonatter Room).

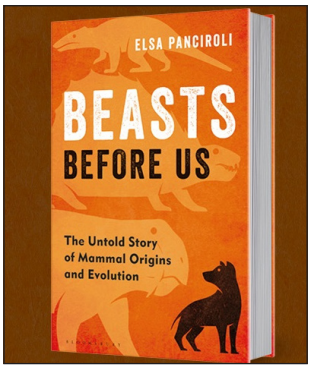
Thursday 12th February 2026 - The T.N. George Medallist lecture

Dr Elsa Panciroli, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

"Discovering Mammals in the time of Dinosaurs"

Mammals, the furry, milk-giving group to which humans also belong, can trace their origins back to the Mesozoic. Fossils from the Isle of Skye in Scotland in particular, are providing new insights, revealing how their evolution alongside the dinosaurs set the foundations of their survival and success after the mass extinction 66 million years ago. In this talk, we will find out about fieldwork in Skye uncovering exceptionally preserved fossils, and the new analytical techniques revealing how mammals lived, grew, and flourished in the Jurassic.

Dr Elsa Panciroli is a palaeobiologist from the Scottish Highlands who completed her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at the University of the Highlands and Islands, her Masters in Palaeobiology at the University of Bristol, and her PhD joint between the University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland. Her thesis examined fossil mammals from the Jurassic rocks of the Isle of Skye in Scotland. After working as a Research Assistant at the University of Oxford, she continued her work on Scottish mammal fossils for her Research Fellowship at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, before taking up her position at National Museums Scotland in 2025. She is Secretary of the Palaeontographical Society and until recently chair of the Scottish Geology Trust.



Elsa co-leads a team carrying out annual fieldwork on the Isle of Skye since 2016. She has described multiple fossils from the island and the neighbouring Isle of Eigg, including early mammals and their close relatives, salamanders, small reptiles and dinosaurs. This work is providing new insights into the evolution of these animal groups in the Middle Jurassic, a time period which is poorly known globally. It is also a pivotal time for the birth of modern ecosystems.

Dr Panciroli is also a science writer and author, and has featured on various television, radio and podcasts. Her first book, Beasts Before Us*, is a popular science title on the origin and evolution of mammals. This was followed by* The Earth, A Biography of Life, *the story of life on our planet through 47 incredible organisms.*

Further Reading:

Panciroli E., Funston, G., Maidment, S.C.R., Butler, R.J., Benson, R.J.B., Crawford, B.L., Fair, M., Fraser, N.C., Walsh, S. 2025. The first and most complete dinosaur skeleton from the Middle Jurassic of Scotland. *Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,* pp. 1-12, https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755691024000148

The T.N. George Medal

The Professor Thomas Neville George Memorial Medal is awarded by the society "for excellence in palaeontology and/or stratigraphy". The award ceremony takes place at one of the society's lecture meetings, and is followed by the T. Neville George Memorial lecture, delivered by the recipient.

Thomas Neville George (1904-1980) was Professor of Geology at Glasgow University from 1947 to 1974. He was Dean of the Faculty of Science from 1951 to 1955, and played a key role in the planning and building of the new geology building, which opened in 1974 shortly after he retired. There have been 24 recipients of the T. Neville George Medal since the first award in 1982.

Recordings of past lectures

Iain Neill: Granites and Geothermal Energy. https://youtu.be/xOokfZgxMxE

David Bond: Mass Extinctions. https://youtu.be/kkA5jziEdiI

David Webster: the Early Evolution of the Dalradian Basin. https://youtu.be/K0AE0BaWxOY

Dr. Katie Strang: The Geology of Gilmore Hill and the Gilbert Scott building. https://youtu.be/WZrnQIucaYo

Available (along with recordings from previous sessions) on the GSG YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMsCeNiRm1w/

Future Lectures

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Title / topic
12th March	Keyron Hickman Lewis	Birkbeck, University of London	Astrobiology and the Torridonian
9th April	Neil Buchanan	Bearsden Shark Group	The Bearsden Shark. Talk at the Hunterian with the fossil shark. Details tbc

Note: there will now be no event on the 14th May as the Council have decided that holding indoor lectures in May is no longer viable. However, in the future we will be starting the annual lecture programmes in September rather than October, and running them through to April. They are planned to be held on the 2nd Thursdays of the month as usual.

AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting was initially held on Thursday 11th December, immediately preceding the December Lecture. Unfortunately we were a few members short of a quorum. Therefore we re-ran the AGM (in person and additionally via live zoom) preceding the lecture on the 9th January, and a quorum was reached. The previous minutes and the accounts were approved unanimously

The President thanked those leaving Council for their work on it. These being Bobby Alexander, Margaret Anderson, Simon Cuthbert, Bill Gray and Gary Hoare. The President then noted proposed new members of Council with a brief introduction of each. These being James Campbell, Aidan Smith, Katie Strang, Keith Torrance and Joan Walsh. All were approved. Changes to two Council roles were also announced by the President. Hon Secretary – Ian Millar, Meetings Secretary – David Webster. The 17 Members of Council are now:

Position	Holder	Role
President	Margaret Greene	Also Chair of Strathclyde Geoconservation Group
Hon Secretary	Ian Millar	Also Membership Secretary
Treasurer	Ian Veitch	
Vice President	Margaret Donnelly	
Vice President	Campbell Forrest	
Ordinary Member	David Webster	Meetings Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Publications
Ordinary Member	John Guerrier	Archivist
Ordinary Member	Neil Clark	
Ordinary Member	Lindsay Smith	Excursions Secretary, Librarian
Ordinary Member	Aidan Smith	Web Master
Ordinary Member	James Campbell	Social Media
Ordinary Member	Keith Torrance	Proceedings Editor
Ordinary Member	Joan Walsh	Asst. Excursions
Ordinary Member	Katie Strang	Asst. Excursions
Co-opted Member	Luisa Hendry	
Co-opted Member	Iain Neill	SJG Representative
Co-opted Junior Member	Lily Deadman	

Looking into the future - we are interested to hear from any Member who might want to think about helping our Treasurer -and maybe becoming a future Treasurer. You don't need to be a trained accountant!

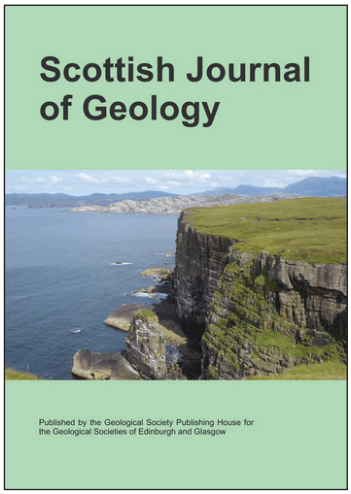
Residential Field Trips

Planning for the Cromarty trip in May is well advanced and those Members who have notified an interest will be able to formally book and pay for the trip very soon via webcollect.

A possible trip to Shropshire in March 2027 is in the early stages of planning. We are envisaging self-travel (by train recommended), self-booking of accommodation in Church Stretton and use of a minibus with driver.

If you are potentially interested in the Shropshire trip please let Lindsay Smith know, so we can progress things if there is sufficient interest. Lindsay can be contacted on excursions@gsocg.org

Scottish Journal of Geology



Dr. Ian Neill of the University of Glasgow has been recently co-opted onto the Council of the Society with a specific remit to represent the SJG as he is a member of the Editorial Board The SJG is published through via Geological Society of London and is available internationally via the Lyell Collection and GeoScienceWorld platforms. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Geological Societies are joint owners. Iain's role is to collaborate constructively between the Society and the board of the SJG to reflect this ownership.

The journal has a target of ~20 submissions/year, usually met. Manuscripts are typically sent to two reviewers, or one reviewer and a hands-on editor. There is typically a >50% acceptance rate, with editors encouraged to be constructive towards submissions requiring work to achieve a publishable standard. Articles appear online as soon as they are typeset.

The journal has suffered in recent years from shifting attitudes in academic research, and fluctuating levels of Scottish geological research. Despite discussion about broadening article types (e.g., research in brief), submission and citation of regular articles remain vital to journal survival in the current environment.

There is hard work to be done shifting tough academic attitudes, but it is worth noting the journal is as globally available as the Journal of the Geological Society of London. Many submissions currently come from the palaeontological sector (huge thanks!), postgraduate researchers, and retired or amateur geologists. A wider range of geological sectors and career levels need to be represented more regularly.

Remember as a Member of the Society you have free access to all SJG content via the Lyell Collection of the Geological Society of London. If you are unsure how to access the collection then contact Ian Millar sec@gsocg.org. Periodically we offer Members the chance to purchase hard-copy versions of the Journal - contact Ian Millar if interested.

Below is a list of recent papers in the SJG. Many of these authors are Members of the Society.

Vol(Issue)	Title	Author
New	Palaeoecological insights from a large *Oichnus* Bromley in a Carboniferous crinoid stem. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-017	Hoare & Donovan
New	A new occurrence of *Britanniclus* (Pancrustacea, Multicrustacea) from Blairskaith Quarry, East Dunbartonshire, and a redescription of *Cyclidae* from Trearne, North Ayrshire. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-016	Clark et al.
62(1)	The Highland Border Complex. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-009	Henderson & Robertson
62(1)	The Coire Uaigneich Granophyre, Skye: a study in crustal reworking. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-008	Rollinson et al.
61(1)	Early Basin Development of the Dalradian Supergroup. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-006	Rugen, Webster et al.
61(1)	Gypsum pseudomorphs, subaqueous cracks, lake-bed morphology and palaeoclimate. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2024-001	Leather & Brown
61(1)	Hugh Miller the Elder and Younger. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-003	Davidson & Johnston
61(1)	A potential Middle Devonian example of fish *Mortichnia.* https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-004	Eisenhauer
61(1)	The *Ureocrinus bockschii* bed of Trearne Quarry SSSI. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2024-008	Hoare & Donovan

Library

The Library Group is Lindsay Smith, Margaret Anderson, Ian Millar, Bobby Alexander. New members always welcome!

Work is continuing to identify books from the University of Glasgow Library's "wanted list" of books which we have in our library room within the Molema building. Many books in our collection are very rare and it is important that these can be preserved so work has been ongoing with the main university library to transfer as much of our collection into their care as possible.

We still have use of the room in the Molema building, but the University are asking us to remove as much as possible of the excess books, periodicals and journals as possible from there.

We are investigating book-buying companies such as 'Better World Books' or 'World of books' who may be interested. We also have various other charities we could donate to. There are several batches of books donated by families of deceased members there too.

If you are interested in either joining the Group or seeing what books you might be interested in then please get in touch with Lindsay library@gsocg.org

---

Fossil Grove

The refurbishment works undertaken by the contractor - City Building - are now virtually complete; some snagging items remain and the fencing is still in position. We are assuming final hand-over to the City Council 'Client' by mid-February. There's a lot of work ahead for the Trustees - all offers of help gratefully received!

1. Clear up the fossil floor: Remove loose rock pieces, dust, paint and builders' debris. Clean salt deposits and 'tramlines'.

2. Production of baseline conditions data: Detailed examination of previous sites of water ingress including systematic photography, possibly wall dampness survey.

3. Prepare for public opening in April: Setup lighting to best advantage, setup poster displays, design and purchase open shelving, setup fossils and replicas as required. Refurbish and repaint model, design and purchase wall posters, banners, flags, gazebo, tables.

4. Undertake environmental monitoring programme: Monitor humidity, temperature and compare to previous data. Systematically monitor potential water ingress from bedrock or baseline of brickwork utilising time lapse cameras where appropriate. Undertake systematic review of any water penetration from the roof. Monitor and measure amount of condensation. Continue wall dampness measurements. Monitor any recurrence of any salt deposition. If salts reappear undertake a sampling programme to identify species.

5. Follow up unfinished items from city building work programme: The west canopy roof and internal wall painting require further investigation and funding

6. Improve displays: Commence consultation on options for improving lighting, displays and interpretation, including option of creating windows, purchasing automated donation system, possible 'Timeline' walk into the area.

7. Develop and deliver Outreach programmes:
   - Glasgow University Geography students 16 Feb
   - Glasgow University Earth Science students (in planning, dates tbc)
   - Glasgow Science Centre 13 March (evening event with stall at Science Centre)
   - Open Days – 3rd Sundays April – Oct
   - Victoria Park – Spring into Summer (stall) date tbc
   - Glasgow Geopoetics Visit – 25th April
   - Glasgow Science Festival 14 June (second Sunday in June)
   - Local Primary school visits (tbc)

8. Commence in discussions on possible lease: A lease will probably be required if we are to access further funding

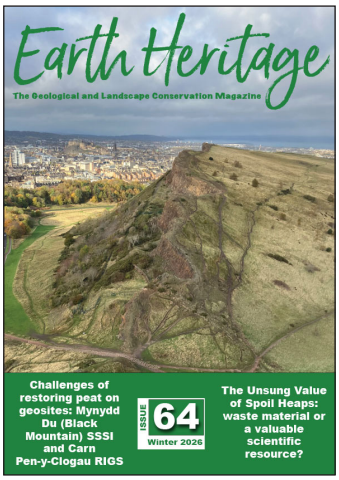
9. Review building improvement options: Review of possible options (including funding options) for fossil conservation and building improvement. The status quo may be preferable but items such as controlled ventilation, total roof replacement, render removal, insulation, installation of HVAC equipment may be required.

Contact David Webster meetings@gsocg.org or Katie Strang katiestrang@gsocg.org with offers of help.

Down to Earth

February episode of Extra here

Earth Heritage



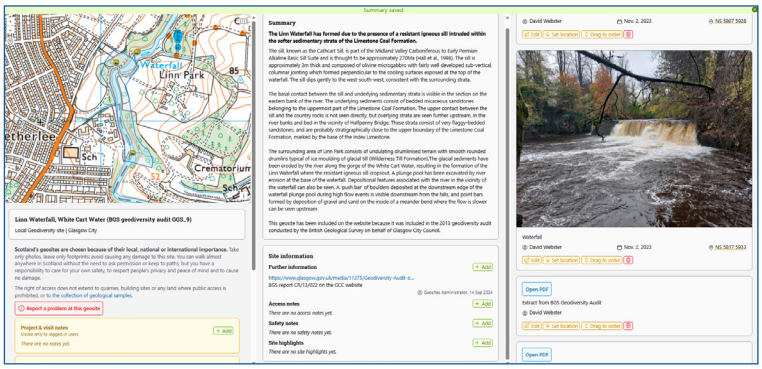
Issue 64 now available. It can be accessed online here. It includes articles on:

- Brymbo fossils inspire Eisteddfod Crown
- Celebrations at Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark – a landscape shaped by Iron and Ice
- Getting to the Point: the Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point
- Geoconservation in action: Teffont Evias Quarry / Lane Cutting SSSI, Wiltshire
- Access to Hutton geosites to be restored
- Geoheritage Management in UNESCO designated sites
- Management Plan Guidance for Protected Landscapes and Geodiversity
- What you 'need to know' if sampling for research in Scotland

---

Geosites Project

The Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites project launched in June 2023, with a new map interface that shows the location and boundaries for each of the 880 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites in Scotland, and links to a page of information for each site. The Society donated £500 towards the start-up of the project and our input is being coordinated by the Strathclyde Geoconservation Group.



Geosites is a long-term project to make it is easier to find and share information, and report conservation concerns, for the 1000+ sites in Scotland that are designated as important for geology and geomorphology at a national or local level.

The current phase of the project involves promoting the project to key new audiences, aiming to involve more volunteers, and developing the project further to include more information for more sites, and to add Scotland's Local Geodiversity Sites to the map. The database is managed by a volunteer at the BGS (Daniel Burgess). Users can access the data without a login, but require one to add/edit data.

Many of local Councils have commissioned Geodiversity Audits as part of their local planning processes. Quality is variable, but both Glasgow City and East Dunbartonshire commissioned reports from the BGS. Data from these and other audits (some carried out by SGG members and other volunteers) is being collated and input to the system. Each GCR site on the system is accessed through a polygon on an OS map base, however polygons are not readily available for most Local Geodiversity sites. The group has now produced polygon 'shapefiles' for Glasgow CC local sites (20) and a number of other sites (9) close to Glasgow (which have leaflets and flyers etc) using the QGIS software package. The entry of data for these sites now requires to be followed up with site visits and 'ground truthing'.

A programme of field visit dates, possibly in the form of a 'blitz' is envisaged for later this year. In addition a project to collate all the 20 Glasgow sites as 'walks' (plus the 2 building stones itineraries) into a A5 guidebook is in the early stages of planning. Contact Margaret Greene pres@gsocg.org or David Webster meetings@gsocg.org for more information and offers of help.

Geology Bites

Oliver has just released a new episode with Michael Manga of UC Berkeley on how water affects volcanic eruptions. The prime exhibit here is the 2022 Hunga Tonga eruption, the most powerful in a lifetime. Water was also responsible for the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull ash cloud that grounded European air traffic for 8 days. Michael also talks about erupting water falling as snow is what makes Saturn's moon Enceladus the whitest object in the Solar System.

Geological Society of Glasgow

https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/

President: Margaret Greene pres@gsocg.org

Secretary: Ian Millar sec@gsocg.org