



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - April 2026

Lecture Programme

Venue - Kelvin Hall Lecture Theatre at 7pm. (NOTE change of venue, previously noted as being at the Hunterian)
Meet the speakers afterwards and have tea/coffee etc in the Activity Room, Kelvin Hall (Geonatter Room).

Thursday 9th April 2026

Neil Buchanan, Bearsden Shark Group and Dr. Neil Clark, Hunterian Museum

“The Bearsden Shark”

Stan Wood found and recovered from the Manse Burn excavation a previously unknown metre long fossil shark which was identified as the complete skeleton of a member of the Stethacanthidae family of prehistoric sharks. Neil Buchanan of the Bearsden Shark Group will give an overview of where the shark and Scotland was 330 mya, its climate, geography and geology; the finding of the shark, and its finder; and the site. The actual fossil is in the Hunterian. Neil will also talk about Prof John Long’s book on the History of Sharks; and he will report on the new sculpture project including its design, material, location and fundraising.



The Geological Society of Glasgow is supporting the sculpture project through a grant.

Dr. Neil Clark will also talk about the palaeontology of the fossil. It is so uniquely well preserved that even muscle and blood vessels and the last meal in its stomach can be seen. An interesting and unique feature is the dorsal fin which is shaped like an anvil with spikes on the top surface and is found only on males.

Further Reading:

Wood S.P. 1982, New basal Namurian (Upper Carboniferous) fishes and crustaceans found near Glasgow - *Nature* **297**, pp 574-577.

Wood S.P., 1983 The Bearsden Project or Quarrying for Fossils on a Housing Estate - *The Geological Curator* **3**, pp 413-434.

Recordings of past lectures

Recordings of lectures (back to October 2021) can be found on the Society’s website at: <https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/lecture-recordings/>

Recordings are also available (back to October 2023) on the GSG YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMSCeNiRm1w/>

Future Lectures

There will no Member’s Night 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.

Residential Field Trips

Cromarty 22-25th May 2026.

Those who have notified their interest will have received an email from Lindsay with a link to pay the remaining balance