THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

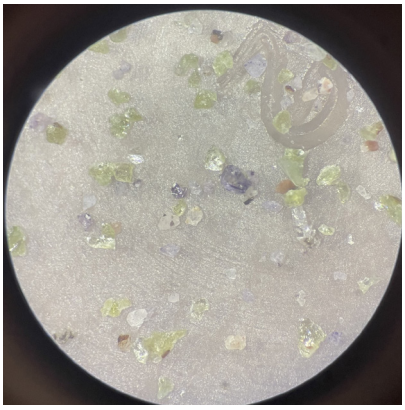
Newsletter - September 2026

Lecture Programme 2026-2027

Venue: Kelvin Hall lecture theatre (except 14 Jan). Talks start at 7pm and will be recorded but not live streamed.
Meet the speaker afterwards and have tea/coffee etc in the Activity Room (Geonatter Room).
Note the AGM will be held in January by zoom, followed by Susie Maidment's zoom talk.

Thursday 10th September 2026: Presentations by grant awardees. Theme: Lithium Exploration

Haari Aswat - University of St Andrews: Lithium in the Cairngorms



The Coilacreich intrusion of the Glen Gairn complex, Eastern Cairngorms, Scotland, hosts mineralisation-grade lithium concentrations leading to the formation of zinnwaldite, as well as other rare metal ores, yet is located amongst similar-aged, unmineralised granites (Ballater, Lochnagar, and Cairngorm), which constitute the eastern portion of the Cairngorm suite of Late Caledonian post-collisional intrusions. This suite provides a rare opportunity to study how melt source versus magmatic evolution governs the enrichment of lithium and other incompatible rare metals to mineralisation-grade concentrations within magmatic-hydrothermal systems.

Joseph Benson - University of St Andrews: A 4D Petrogenetic Model for the Uis Pegmatite Field



Lithium-Caesium-Tantalum (LCT) type pegmatites are major sources of the world's lithium, tin, and tantalum, driving a surge of global interest in recent years. Yet, their ore-forming processes remain heavily debated. Specifically, the roles of source composition, melting conditions, and magmatic fractionation in determining whether a system becomes economically mineralised are still unresolved.

To evaluate these competing models of LCT-type pegmatite formation, we investigate the Uis Pegmatite Field in the Late Precambrian to Cambrian Damara Orogen, Namibia. This region provides an exceptional setting to disentangle the drivers of mineralisation because it encompasses the Uis Li-Sn-Ta mine, well-exposed mineralised and unmineralised pegmatite suites, and three distinct regional granite suites. By integrating fieldwork, petrography, and mineral-based microanalysis with geochronology, we develop a comprehensive 4D petrogenetic framework for the Uis Pegmatite field.

Upcoming Lectures

8 Oct Brian Bell. Paleocene volcanics and sedimentation in western Scotland

12 Nov Luke Daly. Meteorites and cosmic geology

10 Dec Presentations by grant awardees: Igneous petrology and early rifting

14 Jan (AGM) Susannah Maidment (By Zoom) Natural History Museum, London. New research on Stegosaurs

11 Feb Victor Hunderboll. Geochronology and geochemistry in the Kintyre peninsula.

11 Mar Hannah Mathers. Deglaciation of Scotland

8 April TBC (TNG Medal Awardee - see below)

T Neville George Medal

The Professor Thomas Neville George Memorial Medal is awarded by the society, usually annually but occasionally less frequently, “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 then new geology building, the Gregory Building (now the Molema Building), which opened in 1974 shortly after he retired.

There have been 25 recipients of the T. Neville George Medal so far. Details on the website

This year we are asking for nominations from the Membership for the award of this prestigeous medal, to then be consided by the Council. We hope that the recipient will give us a talk in April 2027.

Any member can nominate a suitable candidate, which should be sent to the Secretary, sec@gsocg.org no later than 15 October. This should include a brief paragraph of the reasons for their nomination.

Geonatter

Dates for remainder of 2026

16th September, 21st October, 18th November, 16th December

1:30 to 3:30 Kelvin Hall Activity Room. Free

Fossil Grove Open Afternoons

Regular events: Third Sundays of the month, April to October 12-4pm. www.fossilgroveglasgow.org

September 20

October 18

Mike Browne

The Society has learnt in the last couple of days about the sad passing away of Mike Browne (a Distinguished Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society).

Mike spent a lot of time with Paul Carter undertaking geodiversity site visits and audits throughout Lanarkshire for the Strathclyde Geoconservation Group, for which we are enternally grateful.

He was recently very involved in describing and interpreting the Spireslack opencast coal mine.

Mike was a stalwart of both the Edinburgh Society (member since 1967) and the of Chair of Lothian and Borders GeoConservation (RIGS) from 1998. After obtaining a degree geology from Newcastle University, he joined the BGS (1967-2010, part time 2010-2015 and as Honorary Research Associate from 2015). He served as the EGS’ Acting President 2022-23, and as Vice-President (1988-90, 2012-14 & 2022-24). He had been on their Council since 2012 and was their Assistant Secretary (Geoconservation) from 2017-18.

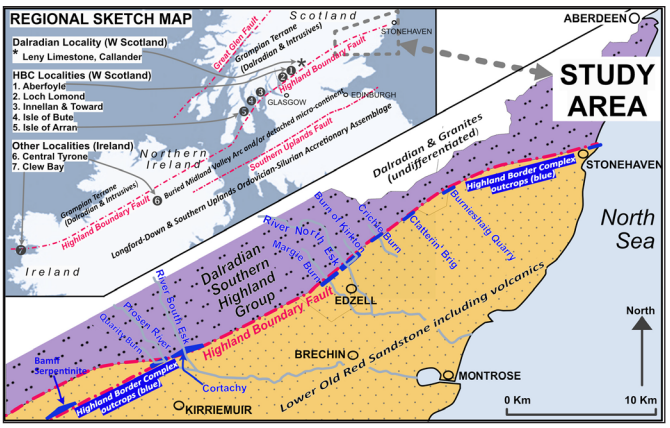
Mike was awarded the Society’s Clough Medal in 2024 and his citation for this covers his extensive contributions in i) Carboniferous and Devonian of the Midland Valley and south Scotland, ii) Quaternary of central Scotland and iii) Applied geology including environmental geology and geothermal energy. He co-authored the Carboniferous chapter in the new Geology of Scotland book (5th edition), amongst many other acedemic publications.

Mike’s sudden death will come as a shock to everyone in the geo-community. We will provide more details in due course, including on funeral arrangements.

Scottish Journal of Geology

Henderson, W.G. and Robertson, A.H., 2026. The Highland Border Complex, NE Scotland, revisited: its role in Laurentian rifting, Early Ordovician emplacement and later faulting at the Highland Boundary. *Scottish Journal of Geology,* **62**(1), pp.sjg2025-009.

https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-009



An important paper discussing the latest research on this enigmatic bit of Scottish geology

Other Recent Papers on Scottish Geology

Metcalfe, J.H., Ribeiro, B.V., Kirkland, C.L., Strachan, R.A., Holdsworth, R.E., Dunlop, J., Butler, C.A. and Imber, J. 2026. Rb-Sr and U-Pb geochronology of neoblasts and porphyroclasts constrain movements along reactivated segments of the Outer Hebrides Fault Zone, NW Scotland. *Journal of the Geological Society*, pp.jgs2026-035. https://doi.org/10.1144/jgs2026-035

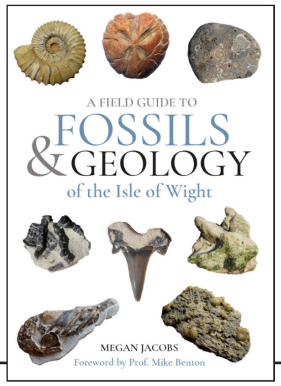
Hoare, G. and Donovan, S.K. 2026. On the occurrence of Eupachycrinus (Crinoidea) in Trearne Quarry SSSI (Mississippian, Lower Carboniferous), North Ayrshire, Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology,* pp.sjg2026-001.

Stone, P. 2026. Geological collections associated with the Scottish Polar explorer William Speirs Bruce (1867-1921). *Scottish Journal of Geology*, pp.sjg2025-021. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-021

Down to Earth

Sept episode of Extra here

New book on the Isle of Wight fossils



A Field Guide to the Fossils and Geology of the Isle of Wight by Megan Jacobs.

[Members may recall Megan's zoom lecture to the Society a few years ago]

A clear and engaging field guide to the Isle of Wight's geological and paleontological heritage. Written by local palaeontologist Megan Jacobs, this book supports fossil hunters, students, and curious visitors in exploring and understanding the island's extraordinary prehistoric past.

https://medinapublishing.com/books/a-field-guide-to-the-fossils-and-geology-of-the-isle-of-wight-by-megan-jacobs/

Geology Bites

Two recent podcasts

Sonia Tikoo on the Moon's Magnetic Field

The Moon once generated a strong magnetic field — comparable in strength to Earth's — from about 4.25 to 3.5 billion years ago. In the past few years have we learned that the field didn't simply switch off then: it weakened dramatically but lingered on, faintly, until as recently as 1.5 billion years ago, before disappearing entirely. As Sonia Tikoo explains in the podcast, no single mechanism seems able to account for both the intense early epoch and the long, weak tail that followed.

Bernhard Steinberger on whether Hotspots are fixed

Ocean-island chains like Hawaii trail off into ever-older seamounts, tracing the passage of a plate over a plume of hot rock rising from the deep mantle. If the plumes stay put, the world's hotspots give us something plate tectonics otherwise lacks: a fixed frame of reference against which to measure the absolute motions of the plates. But do they stay put? In the podcast, Bernhard Steinberger describes how paleomagnetism, the ages of volcanoes along hotspot tracks, and his own models of mantle flow reveal that hotspots drift — each blown on its own course by the very currents its plume rises through — and how, motion and all, they can still anchor the plates to the deep Earth.

More information and to download go to https://www.geologybites.com/

New Video Channel

As well as the audio podcasts, there is now a YouTube channel with produced video versions of the podcasts. These versions include what is on the existing episode web page as well as a lot of extra material that supports the discussion.

https://www.youtube.com/@Geology_Bites_Video

Carbfix

Scientists in Iceland have turned 100,000 tonnes of atmospheric CO_2 into rock. Permanent, solid, geological rock. The CO_2 injected in 2021 has already mineralized completely. It will remain stone for the next 10 million years.

The carbon capture debate always comes back to the same question: but where does it go? Can you really store CO_2 safely? Can you guarantee it won't leak? Will it stay underground?

Iceland answered all three questions simultaneously — and the answer is more permanent than any engineer dared promise.

The Carbfix process at Hellisheiði injects CO_2 dissolved in water into Icelandic basalt — the same volcanic rock that

makes up most of the ocean floor and significant portions of every major tectonic plate. When CO_2-saturated water contacts basalt, it reacts with calcium, magnesium, and iron silicate minerals to form calcium carbonate, magnesite, and siderite — solid carbonate minerals that are stable for geological time.



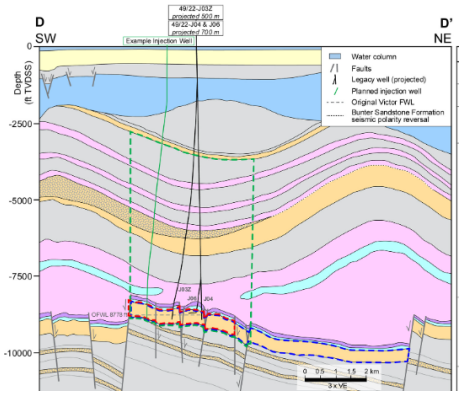
Two years. Not 10,000 years. Not even 100 years. Within two years of injection, 98% of the CO_2 is converted to solid mineral — permanently. Isotopic tracing confirms the mineralization. The carbon is not stored. It is gone. Transformed into rock.

Microsoft, Stripe, Swiss Re, and the European Commission have all purchased Carbfix carbon removal credits. They are not buying promises. They are buying geology.

When Iceland says your CO_2 is permanently removed, they mean permanently on geological timescales. The universe will change more than Iceland's basalt before that carbon moves again.

Carbon Capture Paper

This open access paper, is an excellent study of the potential for CO2 storage in the Southern North Sea. This is a good example of the soirt of challenges facing the current generation of geoscientists.



Underhill, J.R., Fletcher, A.L., Martin, T., Taylor, D.W., Izatt, C.N. and Middleton, P., 2026. Geological characterization of the Viking South carbon storage complex: injecting new life into the depleted Victor gas field. In: Energy Geoscience Conference Series (Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. gslbooks2025-29). *The Geological Society of London*. https://doi.org/10.1144/gslbooks2025-29

Scottish Geology Trust - Art in Earth Science



The Scottish Geology Trust are thrilled to bring you their fourth Art in Earth Science exhibition.

In collaboration with the Leith Lapidary Club and ScotArt, SGT are hosting another fantastic showcase of geologically themed art. Exhibitors include Carmen Carmelo, William Adams, Pindar Sidisunthorn, Sarah Inness, and many more.

The exhibition runs from Tuesday 1st to Sunday 6th September in Gallery 1, Scot-Art, 151 London Road, Edinburgh EH7 6AE.

They hope you can come along and support these wonderful artists bringing Scottish Geology to new audiences

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The Geological Society of Glasgow

https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/

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