THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - November 2026

Lecture Programme 2026-2027

Venue: Kelvin Hall lecture theatre. Talks start at 7pm and will be recorded but not live streamed. The recordings do not include the Q&A so if you want to meet the speaker or are likely to have questions then we encourage you to attend in person. You can meet the speaker afterwards and have tea/coffee/biscuits with fellow members in the Activity Room (Geonatter Room).

Note the November lecture is a change to the original programme. We hope to have a talk from Dr. Daly in the future.

Thursday 12th November 2026: *Phillipe Mongeau, University of Edinburgh*

"The hidden metal ores of the Irish Caledonides"

The Caledonian-Appalachian orogenic belt hosts a large number of mineralised occurrences in arc and ophiolite sequences of varying type, age, host stratigraphy, magmatic affinity, and tectonic setting. World-class deposits occur on both sides of the Iapetus Suture upon Laurentian and Gondwanan affinity crust. Within these systems, regional-scale to intra-deposit controls on precious and critical metal enrichments are poorly understood. Further, the prospectivity for base, precious and critical metals varies significantly between mineralisation types, adding to the complexity of this issue.

The Tyrone Igneous Complex (TIC) of Northern Ireland represents an arc-ophiolite system that formed outboard of the Laurentian margin between the Early and Middle Ordovician. It has been recognized to be a direct correlative to the mineral-rich Annieopsquotch Accretionary Tract of Newfoundland, host to the world-class Buchan's deposits. This study aims to improve the understanding of controls on mineralisation within the Caledonian-Appalachian orogeny, to provide a detailed assessment of their precious and critical metal potential and to contribute to their exploration and development efforts.



Philippe Mongeau is a Canadian PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, specialising in mineral exploration and geochemistry. He holds a BSc in Geological Engineering from Laval University (2021), where he also completed his master's research (2023). His thesis used multiple sulphur isotopes and trace element chemistry to track fluid-rock reactions and to develop predictive targeting methods for gold exploration.

His doctoral research focuses on the controls on precious and critical metal enrichment in sulphide occurrences of the Caledonian-Appalachian orogen. Using sulphide trace chemistry and a variety of isotopic and geochronological systems, he aims to provide a clear assessment of the mineralisation styles and ore-forming processes involved in the orogen, set within a robust geodynamic framework.

Phillipe recieved a grant from the Society towards his studies

Further Reading: Hollis, S.P., Cooper, M.R., Tapster, S., Mongeau, P., van Acken, D., Shaw, J., Hilderman, R., Piercey, S.J., Nash, I.J. and Condon, D.J. 2026. Rapid arc-ophiolite formation during the Grampian-Taconic event: evolution of the Tyrone Igneous Complex, Northern Ireland. *Journal of the Geological Society,* jgs2026-082. https://doi.org/10.1144/jgs2026-082

Upcoming Lectures

10 Dec Three presentations by grant awardees: Rebecca Richardson, Olivia Grime and Dan Turkington from the University of St. Andrews on the overall topic of igneous petrology and rifting

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

11 Feb TBC

11 Mar Hannah Mathers. Deglaciation of Scotland

8 April Victor Hunderboll. Geochronology and geochemistry in the Kintyre peninsula.

Previous Lectures

Recordings of previous talks can be found on the Society website at https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/past-lecture-recordings/ and on the YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMsCeNiRm1w

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Residential excursions 2027

South Shropshire

Leader: David Webster

Dates:12-16 April (Travel Days 12th and 16th, 3 full field days Tues-Thur)

Base: Church Stretton

Travel: By train to Church Stretton or by private car. We are hoping that there will be enough seats in shared private cars to visit the localities on the field days. The option to use a local minibus with a driver is still possible but it would require 15 participants to make it viable with a cost per person of about £80-£90.

Accommodation: Self book.

The aim of the trip is to visit key localities in the Precambrian, Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian on the Gondwanan margin of the Iapetus Ocean (the Avalonia microcontinent), get a feel for the geological evolution and compare it with similar-aged successions on the more familiar Laurentian margin exposed in Scotland. We will spend some time fossil hunting and also visit some excellent museums and possibly old lead mines. Great scenery, easy walking and lots of geological history.

The Church Stretton area has a number of excellent pubs and a range of eating establishments. We will aim to eat together each evening and use some social spaces for evening get-togethers.

Contact Lindsay at excusions@gsocg.org for more details and to register interest.

Geosites Project



The Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites project, which was launched in June 2023, aims to put all of Scotland's best geology sites on an interactive, online map, making it easy for anyone to find sites, learn about them, and report any damage or deteriorating conditions.

The Society is setting up a new Glasgow Geosites Group to succeed the Strathclyde Geoconservation Group. All society members are invited to participate. The Group will organise a number of field days to visit and examine selected geosites in the Greater Glasgow area and add site information and photographs to the Geosites system.

Further information, links to the Geosites system and a list of sites in the 'Greater Glasgow' area can be found on the Society website at https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/geosites-project/, or email geosites@gsocg.org

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New members

The Society welcomes our new members:

Dylan Duncan, David Degan

Deborah Meechan, Hannah Muir

Gonatter

Dates for remainder of 2026

18th November, 16th December

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

2027 Dates - see Poster (R)

Down to Earth

Nov episode of Extra here



Scottish Journal of Geology - New Papers

Rugen, E.J., Webster, D.J., Tindal, B.H., Hyde, W.R., Pastore, G., Unwin, H.E. and Gernon, T.N. 2026. Revisiting the origin of the Ediacaran Loch na Cille Boulder Bed, SW Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, **63**(1) https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2026-003





Stone, P. 2027. Geological collections associated with the Scottish polar explorer William Speirs Bruce (1867–1921). *Scottish Journal of Geology,* **63**(1), pp.sjg2025-021. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2025-021

Hoare, G. and Donovan, S.K. 2027. On the occurrence of Eupachycrinus (Crinoidea) in Trearne Quarry SSSI (Mississippian, Lower Carboniferous), North Ayrshire, Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology,* **63**(1), pp.sjg2026-001. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2026-001

Printed copy of Scottish Journal of Geology

If you wish to order the latest printed version of the Scottish Journal of Geology you need to order it no later than MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER. Priced at £10 including postage it can be ordered either as a subscription or event product via our WebCollect site.

From the Web

Stunning early mammal fossil sheds light on the evolution of suckling
A predecessor of modern mammals that lived in the Jurassic has been found in China with its throat anatomy preserved, allowing researchers to examine the earliest evidence for the evolution of suckling

What Did Dinosaurs Think About? review: delightful and informative
Questions abound about dinosaurs' brains, behaviour and lives. James Woodford finds some answers in Jean Le Loeuff's book What Did Dinosaurs Think About?

Dinosaur named new species a century after fossil found on Isle of Wight
Invictibellatrix amberina, a predator in the megaraptoran group of dinosaurs, lived in what is now Britain 120 million years ago and may have had claws 20 centimetres long

Flightless ancient bird complicates our picture of wing evolution
Fossils of a ground-dwelling, carnivorous bird with wing anatomy similar to that of a pheasant may force a rewrite of the role of flight in the early evolution of birds

Spectacular feathered dinosaur fossil shows bird-like adaptations
An exquisitely preserved fossil found in China shows that many anatomical features seen in birds also evolved independently in another group of dinosaurs

Fossil mammal with reptile-like teeth changes picture of our evolution
Unlike most modern mammals, which get just two sets of teeth in their lifetime, an ancient species from the Cretaceous, found in China, appears to have had the ability to replace its teeth throughout its life

Earliest alligator flourished in the wake of the dinosaur extinction
Just a few hundred thousand years after an asteroid wiped out most dinosaurs, large alligators were thriving in North America

Exquisite 66-million-year-old bird feather preserved in dinosaur dropping
A dinosaur, possibly a young Tyrannosaurus rex, excreted a bird 66 million years ago, and one of its feathers is exquisitely preserved in the fossilised dropping

[T. rex teeth show the enormous predatory dinosaur was warm-blooded]
Analysis of the chemistry of ancient T. rex tooth enamel adds weight to the idea that the fierce Cretaceous predator controlled its body temperature

[Fire amoeba breaks heat tolerance record for complex life]
An amoeba living in a Californian hot spring is thriving above 60°C, a threshold previously thought deadly to complex life

[Why haven't land-based mammals that returned to the sea evolved gills?]
This question was posed as part of New Scientist's Last Word series, in which readers give scientific answers to each other's questions. Here's what our readers had to say

[Towering glacial ice cliffs may collapse in fits and starts]
We still don't know for sure how the ice cliffs looming over the sea at the leading edge of some glaciers will behave as the climate warms, but satellite data offers some clues

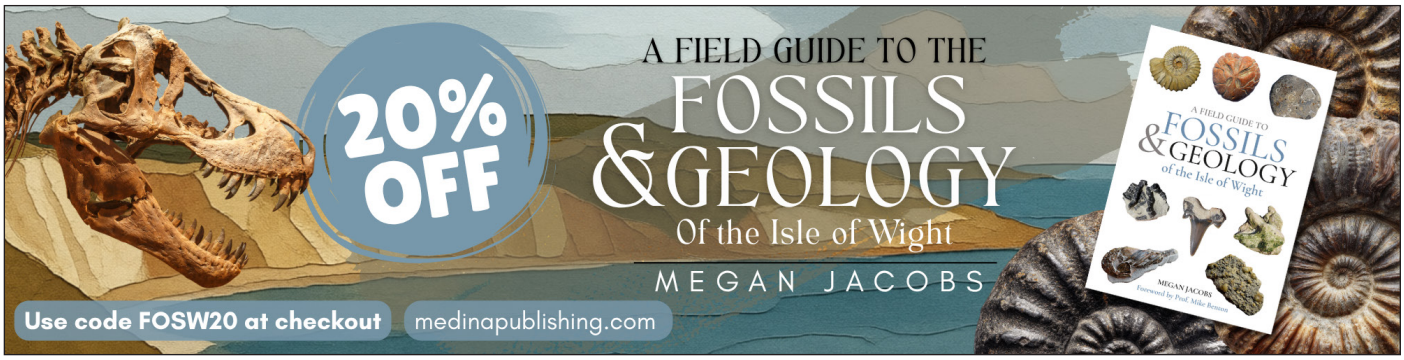
[Antarctica's 'doomsday' glacier will keep melting even if oceans cool]
Computer models suggest that unrealistically cold oceans would be insufficient to stop Thwaites glacier retreating, although a neighbouring glacier might begin to grow

[Earth's geographic poles wander more than we had thought]
A phenomenon known as true polar wander, different to the movement of the magnetic poles, may be more common and more dramatic than previously known

[Satellite data gives clearer picture of how ice sheets are losing mass]
The longest satellite record ever compiled shows the vast majority of ice loss from Greenland and Antarctica is due to glaciers flowing faster, rather than warmer air temperatures melting them at the surface

[Mystery of where ancient stones came from solved]
A set of giant monoliths known as the "Devil's Arrows" were moved 18km (11 miles) across Yorkshire by Stone Age people, new research has found.

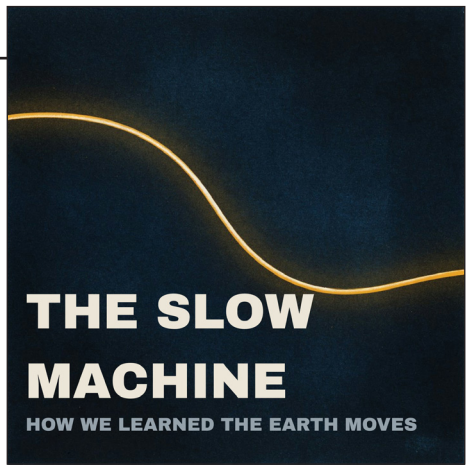
20% Discount on Isle of Wight Fossil Book



Megan Jacobs' book on the fossils and geology of the Isle of Wight is currently 20% OFF if you use code FOSW20 at checkout.

Available here

The Slow Machine - Podcasts



A nine-part narrated series on how plate tectonics went from a fringe idea that could end a young scientist's career to something every geologist takes for granted. Written for curious people who do not know any geology and do not need to.

Every episode here has its full transcript and a table of every quotation in it — what is verbatim, what is a fragment, what is paraphrased, and where each one comes from. More info at https://theslowmachine.com/

Other Events

Knockan by Jim Carruth

On Sunday 15th November (staring at 12 noon) at The Pleasance, there will be a reading by award-winning Glasgow

Maker and geologist Jim Carruth from his new book entitled *Knockan*, which came out earlier this year. Buy it from Tapsalterie here. Jim will be presenting alongside award winning poet Grace Yee. This reading is part of this year's Push the Boat Out Festival and tickets for this event can be obtained from https://pushtheboatout.org/events/novels-in-verse/



University of Edinburgh Talk

Join the School of GeoSciences for the latest installment of their inaugural lecture series, featuring Stuart Gilfillan, Professor in Geochemistry. Stuart will talk on **'Burying carbon: How we can lock CO_2 underground to combat climate change'**

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the main driver of climate change, but our world still depends heavily on fossil fuels and the industries that produce it. One way to reduce those emissions is carbon capture and storage (CCS): capturing CO_2 and injecting it deep underground into suitable rocks, where it can be trapped over geological timescales. But how can we be confident it will stay put, and how can we monitor what happens to it underground? This lecture explores how natural CO_2 reservoirs, which have stored CO_2 in the subsurface for millions of years and chemical "fingerprints" in rocks and fluids can reveal how CO_2 moves, how securely it is trapped, and how it can react with minerals to form new solid carbonate rock.

These public lectures showcase the work of their newly appointed professors, offering an engaging look at their research journeys and its impact on their field and society.

Date: Thursday, 26th November 2026

Time: 6:00 pm (Welcome begins at 6:00 pm; Reception follows until 8:00 pm)

Location: Alder Lecture Theatre, Nucleus Building, King's Buildings, University of Edinburgh

Admission: Free and open to all (registration required)

More information and tickets here

Edinbugh Geological Society

Wednesday 11 November, 7pm Ian Jackson, BGS (retired)

The influence of geology on prehistoric and Roman societies in the north of England

What did rocks ever do for our ancestors? The answer is pretty much everything. From giving shelter, to defining the positions of their defences and infrastructure, to providing the materials, implements and ritual objects that sustained them. For the prehistoric and Roman inhabitants of the north an understanding of the landscape, its rocks and their resources was not just desirable, it was essential; and their knowledge of these things was intimate.

This talk is a geoscience-based perspective of the northern landscape and its archaeology; it raises some fundamental questions that have a bearing on the social, political and military narratives that have been and are currently promulgated.

Monday 16 November, 7pm Tim Fedak, Nova Scotia Museum

Retracing the Footprints and Notebooks of Charles Lyell in Nova Scotia's Geoheritage

In the summer of 1842, Charles and Mary Lyell spent one-month travelling across Nova Scotia. Charles surveyed the region's gypsum and coal seams, saw the famous Joggins fossil forest, and collected bird tracks from the Bay of Fundy mud flats. Today, Nova Scotia's rich geoheritage is celebrated at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site and across the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark. This talk will explain why Lyell thought Nova Scotia was so important and highlight the geologists he inspired.

Friday 27th November (between 1pm and 5pm), the BGS Core Store is going to have on display material from the exploratory adit constructed at SSE's Coire Glas Pumped Storage Hydroscheme. This extends across the Great Glen Fault Zone and is truly spectacular. The Edinburgh Society is combining with Central Scotland Regional Group of Geological Society of London for this event. If you are an EGS member then they are charging £10 per ticket and these can be booked on their web collect portal.

The Geological Society of Glasgow

https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/

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