THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

Newsletter - October 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). We will have some (free) books to give away too.

Thursday 8th October 2026: *Dr. Brian Bell, University of Glasgow (retired).*

"Paleocene volcanics and sedimentation in the Inner Hebrides"

The spectacular remnants of Paleocene lava fields in the Inner Hebrides are dominated by thick sequences of simple (sheet-like) flows and more complex compound flows. Interbedded with these lavas are sedimentary units, deposited within canyons, broad river channels, lakes and mires. In some cases, sufficient time intervals between eruptions allowed trees to develop on the volcanic landscape, now preserved as moulds and casts, together with slabs of bark and rafts of leaves. Elsewhere, magma interacted with sediment in a dynamic manner, producing a variety of distinctive lithologies, including peperites and hyaloclastites. Understanding the architecture of these volcanic and sedimentary systems allows us to get a glimpse into the dynamic development of these lava fields.

This talk will comprise a pictorial trip through the volcanic sequences of the Inner Hebrides, looking at examples of volcanic-sedimentary systems from Skye, Canna, Sanday, Rum, Eigg and Mull. There will be no mention of rock chemistry or isotope signatures – just field views from his collection of the past forty years!



Since retiring from his university research and teaching 'career', Brian has set up a website which he hopes captures the fabulous geology of the islands of Skye and Raasay (www.skyegeology.com). His swansong is an update of the 2005 BGS memoir ***The Palaeogene volcanic districts of Scotland*** *which he co-authored with his good friend and mentor Henry Emeleus, to be published online in 2026 or 2027, and which makes full use of his photograph collection.*

Beyond his university work, he also produced revisions of the BGS maps of Skye and was involved with the discovery of the Rosebank and Cambo oil fields.

Furthermore he notes that, to be honest, he had a 'career' that allowed him to indulge himself in his passion for field-based geology, which he notes is not really 'work'…

Upcoming Lectures

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)

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

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 (eg via through Booking.com or airbnb or possibly the Holiday Fellowship (Longmynd Hotel).

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.

David spent his formative years fossil hunting in the Church Stretton area and did geology at school in Ludlow before getting gainful employment in the oil industry in Scotland.

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

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.

A short YouTube video about the award can be found here.



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.

New members

The Society welcomes our new members:

Ciara Carberry

Rod Ferrier

Isabella Hutcheson

Shae Rafferty

Membership benefit

With the start of a new session members should consider making the most of their membership by taking advantage of free membership of the University of Glasgow Library.

This membership, as a Special Reader, gives you full access to the library's physical books and journals no matter the subject. No access to electronic resources are included due to licensing conditions.

This free benefit would normally cost an ex-alumni of the University £40 per annum or £60 for graduates of other Universities.

If you would like to take advantage of this please contact the membership secretary at memsec@gsocg.org for further information

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Geonatter

Dates for remainder of 2026

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

Next event - **October 18**. Come along and see the fossil trees if you haven't or help out if you have!

Scottish Journal of Geology

The latest issue **62**(1) totalling 9 papers can be viewed here. A pdf of all the papers can be downloaded here

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Other Recent Papers on Scottish Geology

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

[Not Scotland, but Steve Hollis gave us a talk on the Tyrone Inlier recently, there's lots of comparisons with Ballantrae and Phillipe Mongeau (one of the co-authors) received a grant from the Society towards this study - and we hope to hear more from Phillipe soon].

Mako, C.A., Caddick, M.J., Law, R.D. and Thigpen, J.R. 2027. A Scandian pressure-temperature path for the northern Moine Nappe, Scotland. *Geological Society, London, Special Publications*, **563**(1), gslspecpub2026-39. https://doi.org/10.1144/gslspecpub2026-39

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*, jgs2026-035. https://doi.org/10.1144/jgs2026-035

Banks, D., Watson, S.M. and Ofterdinger, U. 2026. Thermal conductivity of Caledonian rocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland–Review of Existing Data. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, sjg2026-002. https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2026-002

Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow

The 'royalphil' lecture programme for the session 26-27 has a number of lectures that will appeal to geoscientists, as well as other fascinating talks.

In particular the events by Nick Lane on the Chemistry of Life (7 Oct), Megan Schwamb (21 Oct) on the Solar System and Elsa Panciroli (3 Feb) on Mammal Evolution. They're held at the Wilson Building. You don't need to be a member to attend, you can join the Society at a meeting or pay a small donation on the night.

Full details at https://www.royalphil.org/lectures/upcoming-lectures/

Hugh Millers Birthplace Museum

News of an event being organised by Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum in Cromarty - part of the National Trust for Scotland on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October 2026 (from 11am to 3:30pm).

The organisers are gearing up to celebrate Hugh Miller's 224th birthday with a fun community event at the museum celebrating everything that made Hugh Miller great, including of course geology.

Celebrate Cromarty's hippest, coolest, grooviest historical inhabitant as we wish Hugh Miller a very happy 224th birthday with a jam-packed day of science and historical fun!



- Discover the amazing life story of Hugh Miller and see fabulous objects on display inside the cottage and museum! Explore life for children in the 1800's with living history inside Hugh Miller's Cottage!
- Have a rock or fossil you're begging to learn more about? Bring it along for rock and fossil identification courtesy of the Highland Geological Society!
- Take home your own artwork with our kids craft activities to remember your visit to Hugh's historic house!
- Have your minds blown by extraordinary science experiments happening on both days, including the return of our very popular rocket!

All activities happening over the weekend are included free with admission to the museum - National Trust for Scotland members get FREE ENTRY to museum!

Find out more online at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hugh-millers-big-224th-birthday-weekend-tickets-1996333996724

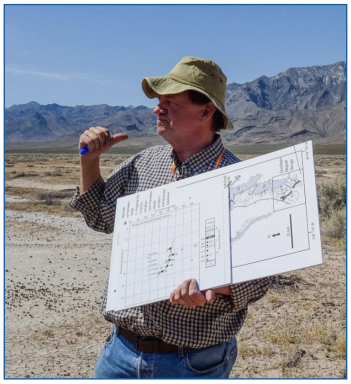
Down to Earth

Oct episode of Extra here



Geology Bites - Latest Episode

Brian Wernicke on Lithospheric Extension and the Basin and Range



To a first approximation, tectonic plates behave like rigid blocks of lithosphere — but near their boundaries they get compressed or stretched. Compression is obvious: the edge of a plate crumples and throws up a mountain belt. Extension is usually hidden, because the stretched lithosphere subsides and the basins that form fill with sediment. The Basin and Range Province is a prime exception, its stretching recent enough and its land high enough to remain on open view — dozens of regularly spaced ranges between the Colorado Plateau and the Sierra Nevada, in a crust pulled out to about twice its original width.

https://www.geologybites.com/brian-wernicke

The Geological Society of Glasgow

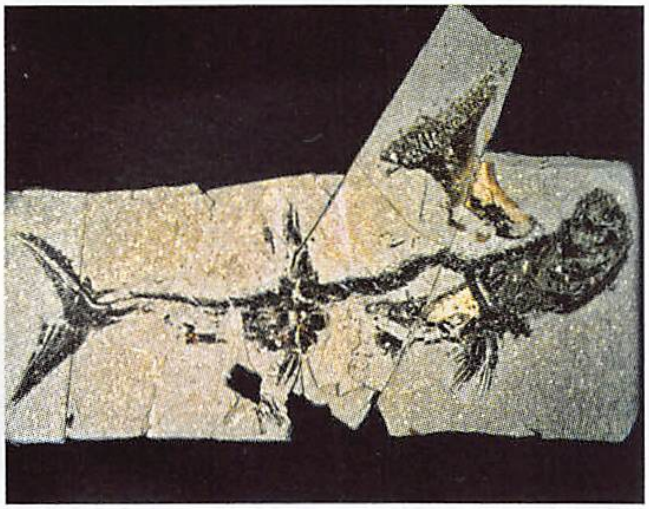
https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/

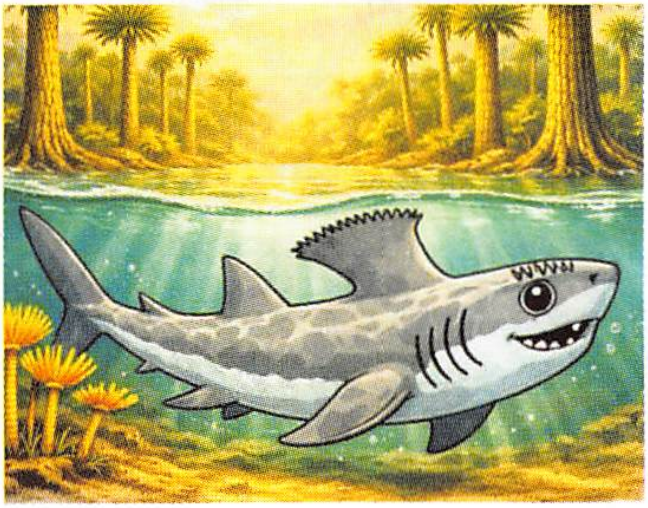
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Newsletter Editor: David Webster

HELP BRING SHARK STATUE TO LIFE





A community project celebrating one of Bearsden's most remarkable discoveries is appealing for volunteers to help.

The Bearsden Shark Group has been working towards the creation of a statue in Bearsden town centre and is now seeking additional support as the project enters its final fundraising and organisational stages.

The statue is planned for a site outside The Hub in Bearsden and will commemorate the discovery of the famous Bearsden Shark fossil in 1982 at Manse Burn.

The 330-million-year-old fossil, known scientifically as Akmonistion zangerli, is regarded as an exceptional find because of the remarkable preservation of its skeleton. Scientists were even able to identify evidence of the shark's final meal within its stomach.

The group is preparing to launch a crowdfunding campaign and would like to hear from local people willing to give just a few hours each month over the coming months.

Volunteers are welcome regardless of their particular skills or experience, with help needed across fundraising, organisation and general support as the project moves closer to completion.

More information about the Bearsden Shark can be found at **www.bearsdenshark.co.uk**. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact **bearsdenshark@gmail.com**.