



# COPROLITE

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## DROPPINGS FROM THE GEOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

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### Outgoing Chairman's Report

This year I spent the first 6 months on the eastern side of the Atlantic Ocean and the latter half on its western side. Consequently I was unable to attend a number of GCG seminars and committee meetings. However, I did engage in outreach on behalf of the Group during my American sojourn. I attended the Geological Society of America in Denver in November and with members of the History of Geology Division discussed the potential for a session at next year's GSA meeting (in Salt Lake City) devoted to collections at risk. It now seems that this session will take place when the GSA meets in Philadelphia in 2007. Given the historical location and the fact that there has been talk of the American Philosophical Society disposing of some of its collections this is a better venue for the seminar. This is a good opportunity for us to highlight some of the work carried out in the old world in this area and I hope that a good number of GCG members might make the trip. In addition while in Denver I was able to solicit some papers for *The Geological Curator*.

Following my note in *Coprolite* about trying to widen the membership base I had an e-mail from a member in Germany who asked if he could help, and so I suggested to the Committee that the Group might appoint some Regional Representatives who could act as local Treasurers and PROs in their own regions. They should be asked to identify potential individual and institutional members and recruit them. The Committee agreed that this was a good approach and that contact details should be available in *Coprolite* and in *The Geological Curator*. The committee will discuss this at its next meeting with the view to identifying and appointing some foreign representatives. Once our membership and information leaflet is available I shall target some contacts in the US. Your help in increasing the membership would be appreciated and if you know of individuals or museums who should join the GCG please let us know or put them in touch with us.

The Group is involved in hosting a session at the SPNCH meeting in July, and for all his work in arranging this I thank Giles Miller. We look forward to launching the new State and Status report that Helen Fothergill has been working on, and this major initiative will help us to plan future strategies. It will be most interesting to discover if the state of collections is in any way improved since the publication of the 'Doughty Report' in 1981.

In April NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collections Association) came to Dublin for their AGM and seminar and I was delighted to be able to welcome them to my home city on behalf of the GCG. We remain in close contact with this group through Steve Thompson who is on the GCG committee.

In May I made a submission to the Museums Association regarding their Collections Project and argued that either the GCG or NatSCA should be represented on the MA working group. This suggestion was rejected by the MA. Following the recent publication of their report we heard from the MA who were trying to find out about the specialist groups that were working in the field.

The Committee met with Phil Manning who told us about the status of geology at Manchester Museum and for this I was grateful.

I wrote to the Chairman of the Royal Cornwall Geological Society concerning the status of the geological holdings at Penzance. During a subsequent 'phone call from the Chairman I offered the help and advice of the Group. Since then this matter has been taken up by Sara Chambers on behalf of the Committee.

I am hopeful that the revised edition of *Guidelines for the curation of geological materials* (to be published by the Geological Society) will be submitted in the near future. It has been some time since authors were commissioned to write entries for this volume, and I shall be rounding up contributions shortly.

I am very grateful to all the members of the Committee who have continued to work very hard on behalf of the GCG. I have enjoyed working with them all, and thank them for their work. Jon Radley has completed his term of office, and I am

handing over the reins as Chairman to Mandy Edwards. Mandy served as Secretary for seven years, and brings to the committee a wealth of experience, and I wish her all the best during her term of office.

The GCG was saddened to learn of the deaths of Muriel Arber, Paul Shilston (Black Country Geological Society), and Colin Sparrow. To their families and friends I extend the warmest sympathy on behalf of the Group.

Patrick N. Wyse Jackson  
17 January 2005

### **From the incoming Chairman**

I would like to say how honoured I am to have been chosen to represent the Group as Chairman for 2005-2007. For those of you who don't know me I would like to introduce myself to you and give you some background information.

I was first introduced to the possibility of working in a museum by the warm welcome I received from the staff at Liverpool Museum when I was an undergraduate at Liverpool University where I studied geology. I was one of the first demonstrators in the fledgling Natural History Centre back in the early 1980s. In the summer of 1982 I was awarded a vacation studentship at the Natural History Museum in the Department of Palaeontology and given the opportunity to work with Howard Brunton, a past chairman of GCG, who introduced me to Carboniferous brachiopods, the wonders of the NHM and the fascinating world of geological curation. After graduating I ignored the advice of my careers advisor and determined that a career in the museum world was for me; so I went to Leicester University and took the postgraduate course in Museum Studies. I was in the same year as Simon Knell, who is now Director of the Department of Museum Studies, and we were tutored by Roy Clements at the Geology Department, amongst their inspirational teaching and research collections.

I have been the Curator of the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University of Manchester since 1986. The University maintains geological collections in the Manchester Museum and within the academic department. Our collections, particularly the Harwood Mineral Collection, play an active part in the research portfolio of the University. Access to the expertise and resources of the Manchester Museum has been very important to the collections that are my responsibility.

On a personal note I have a very understanding husband who is almost used to the fact that I enjoy visiting museums and going out in all weathers to 'look at rocks'. This year he joined us for the GCG visit to Prague and enjoyed the experience, especially the visit to the National Museum and their amazing mineral display. We have two children, a menagerie of animals and very understanding neighbours!

I have been a member of GCG for nearly twenty years. I have attended a lot of meetings, have made many friends along the way and hope to meet many more of you during my term as Chairman. Please introduce yourselves if we haven't met

and feel free to talk to me about issues that concern you, and I will make sure that the Committee of GCG keeps the membership well informed about current initiatives and concerns.

In the next three years I would like to see the completion and publication of some of GCG's long standing projects, such as *Guidelines2*, the updated *State and Status* report and the thorny issues of ethics and the import and export of geological material.

Mandy Edwards

University of Manchester

### **GCG Committee 2005**

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**Minutes Secretary:** Tony Morgan, Natural History Centre, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN tel 0151 478 4286, fax 0151 478 4390, e-mail Tony.Morgan@nmgm.org

**Committee Member:** Andrew Ross, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD tel 0207 942 5492, fax 0207 942 5546 email A.Ross@nhm.ac.uk

**Coopted members:** Steve Thompson, Museum of North Lincolnshire, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe DN15 7BD tel 01724 843533 fax 01724 270474 email Steve.Thompson@northlincs.gov.uk; Camilla Nichol, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York YO1 7FR tel 01904 687687 fax 01904 687655 email camilla.nichol@ymt.org.uk; Ros Gourgey, 32 Durham Close, Great Bardfield, Essex CM7 4UA tel 01371 810832 email Ami\_air-exel@msn.com

### **New members**

GCG is pleased to welcome the following new members: **Petr Budil**, Czech Geological Survey, Prague; **Tim Ewin**, Haslemere Educational Museum; **Nick Francis**, Oxford University Museum of Natural History; **Lorna Steel**, Dinosaur Isle.

### **Musical curators**

Dr Jennifer Cripps, a GCG member, has been appointed Curator of Collections in the Dorset County Museum for a one year fixed term. Her previous position was Post-Doctoral Research Assistant in geochemistry in the Department of Earth Sciences and Geography, Kingston University but has also been undertaking voluntary conservation and related work on fossil plants in the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum. She is expected to take up post at the end of February. She comes at a time when the geology gallery in the museum is planning a major reorganization to display the geology of the Dorset and East Devon Coast recently awarded World Heritage Site status.

### **Sponsored places at SPNHC**

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by holding its annual meeting in London. GCG and the newly formed Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) are jointly hosting the meeting, which will be held from 13-18 June 2005 at The Natural History Museum, London. The subject of the meeting will be "Realising Standards". Details of the meeting are on the website at [www.nhm.ac.uk/spnhc2005/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/spnhc2005/)

GCG are sponsoring a day trip to Oxford University Museum on Monday 13 June and holding a morning session of talks on Thursday 16 June. To encourage as many of our members to attend as possible, GCG Committee have decided to sponsor 10 members for half of the full day rate, which is £85. We can also offer 5 members a free place on the Oxford trip on 13 June. If you would like to be considered for either of these special offers then please contact Giles Miller, GCG Secretary by telephone or e-mail as soon as possible.

This is an opportunity for GCG and its members to make contacts with museums and their staff from North America and for us to raise our profile overseas.

Dr C. Giles Miller, Secretary, Geological Curators' Group, Organising Committee for SPNHC 2005, Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD tel 020 7942 5415 email [G.Miller@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:G.Miller@nhm.ac.uk)

### **Join GCG's emailing list**

GCG runs an emailing list through which you can receive and circulate news and job vacancies, seek the advice of, or ask for information from, your colleagues in the geological curatorial community, and discuss issues concerning geological collections. It is also used to circulate news of GCG's seminar programme and any changes to the programme details between the distribution dates of *Coprolite*. If you have not already signed up to it, go to GCG's home page at [www.geocurator.org](http://www.geocurator.org) and follow the link at the bottom of the page.

### **Newish publications**

- Volcanoes in human history. The far-reaching effects of major eruptions* by J Z de Boer and D T Sanders, 2004. Princeton University Press, £12.50.
- Earthquakes in human history. The far-reaching effects of seismic disruptions* by J Z de Boer and D T Sanders, 2005. Princeton University Press, £15.95.
- Life on a young planet. The first three billion years of evolution of Earth* by Andrew H Knoll, 2004. Princeton University Press, £12.50.
- The Dinosauria* edited by David B Weishampel, Peter Dodson and Halszka Osmolska, 2004. Second edition. University of California Press, £62.00.
- The origins of stratigraphy 1719-1801* by John Fuller, 2004. London: Geologists' Association Guide No 65, 53pp. ISBN 0 900 717 556, £5.00.
- Walking the rocks. Six walks discovering scenery and geology along the Glamorgan coast* by Steve Howe, Geraint Owen and Tom Sharpe, 2004. Cardiff: Geologists' Association South Wales Group, 120pp. ISBN 0 903222 01 9, £7.95.
- Mammals from the Age of Dinosaurs. Origins, evolution and structure* by Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska, Richard L Cifelli and Zhe-Xi Luo, 2004. New York: Columbia University Press, xv + 630pp.
- Extinction in the history of life* edited by Paul D Taylor, 2004. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, xii + 191pp. ISBN 0 521 84224 7.
- Fossil plants* by Paul Kenrick and Paul Davis, 2004. London: Natural History Museum, 216pp. ISBN 0 565 09176 X, £16.95.

### **Fossilien**

*Fossilien*, which has been published for over 20 years, is a German-language magazine for fossil collectors and amateur palaeontologists. Each issue is about 65 pages and is full colour. From 2005 each article will carry an English summary. *Fossilien* is published six times a year and an annual subscription costs €44.00, plus postage. A trial subscription of 3 copies is €15.00, plus postage, or a free sample copy is available from the publishers Quelle & Meyer Verlag GmbH & Co, z. Hd Herrn Georg Grothe, Industriepark 3, D-56291 Wiebelsheim, Germany.

### **Fossil, mineral and gem shows 2004**

- 19-20 March Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury  
2-3 April Newton Abbot Racecourse, Newton Abbott, Devon  
9-10 April Cheltenham Racecourse, Prestbury Park, Cheltenham, Glos  
23-24 April Newark Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Notts  
14-15 May Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London

For further information contact HD Fairs Ltd, PO Box 72, Maidenhead SL6 7GB tel 01628 621697 email info@rockngem.co.uk www.Rockngem.co.uk

### **Petrefakta international fossil show**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Petrefakta takes place on 19-20 March 2005 in the Filderhalle, Leinfelden-Echterdingen near Stuttgart Airport. About 80 exhibitors from all over Europe will be displaying fossils, geological equipment, and publications. The show will be

open from 1000 until 1800 on Saturday 19 March and from 1100 to 1700 on Sunday 20 March.

Contact: Isa and Werner K Weidert, Birkenweg 5, 71404 Korb-Kleinheppach, Germany tel +49 7151 604 8084, fax +49 7151 604 8085.

### **Yorkshire Geology Month 2005**

A series of geology-related events is being planned for the public in and around Yorkshire in May (or early June) 2005. There is a small organising Committee for Yorkshire Geology Month and we plan to have a website listing all the events and also hope to produce leaflets and posters for use by event organisers. We also hope to create an informal network for those taking part and are holding a "gathering" in York on Saturday 21 May 2005. Over 35 individuals and organisations have already agreed to support Yorkshire Geology Month. You can find out more about Yorkshire Geology Month at [www.horne28.freemove.co.uk/ygm.htm](http://www.horne28.freemove.co.uk/ygm.htm)

Camilla Nichol, Mike Horne, Stuart Ogilvy & Will Watts

### **Lottery funding to create new museum in Newcastle**

At the GCG AGM in Newcastle in January, I referred to Tyne and Wear Museums' bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to completely renovate the Hancock Museum. The bid was successful and HLF have set aside £8.75 million and £496,000 development funding to create the Great North Museum.

The new museum will be created from the Hancock Museum, in combination with the collections of the Shefton Museum and the Museum of Antiquities. By bringing these collections together, this scheme will give visitors a much deeper insight into local, regional and world history.

Over 20% additional space will be made at the Hancock Museum of Natural History by the reorganisation of galleries, the construction of an extension at the rear, the creation of off site storage and the addition of a library and education rooms. The collections in this Grade II \* museum are currently at risk due to the central glass roof and poor heating and lighting conditions. The collections from the Shefton Museum and the Museum of Antiquities, presently tucked away on the University of Newcastle Campus and difficult to access, will go on full display. Many items from these collections will be united for the first time in new Greek and Egyptian galleries. The combined museum will also create the opportunity for visitors to see many of the important Roman artefacts from the Hadrian's Wall area alongside local natural history material.

This is fantastic news for us and means that the Museum will close next year for a three-year refurbishment. Lots of work, but a wonderful opportunity and a new lease of life for our Museum...and of course the geology collections.

Steve McLean, Hancock Museum

### **Heritage Lottery Fund to safeguard future of Creswell Crags**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £4.26 million to safeguard the future of Creswell Crags, in Derbyshire. The Crags is a limestone

gorge believed to mark the most northern explorations of Ice Age man and features the UK's earliest cave art, discovered in 2003, including 12,000 year old engravings of bison, horse and birds.

The award will fund the creation of a national centre of excellence for telling the Ice Age story to school children, local communities and tourists. A new museum and education centre will be built which will tell the story of the Craggs and a local road will be re-routed to protect the site. The British Museum is one of several museums which have already agreed to loan artefacts and special exhibitions once the new museum has been built.

A Scheduled Ancient Monument, Site of Special Scientific Interest, part of a Grade 11 listed park the site is undoubtedly unique but has unfortunately lacked much needed investment and modernisation. As a result it does not fulfil its potential as one of Britain's top heritage sites.

Creswell Craggs hit the headlines in April 2003 with the discovery of the Ice Age Cave Art, billed as one of the most important prehistoric finds in Britain. Archaeological finds dating back between 10,000 and 50,000 years ago have also been discovered, including flint and bone tools and carvings, proving that Ice Age hunters visited the site to hunt mammoth and reindeer.

### **Lottery boost for Purbeck's heritage**

Conservation in Purbeck in Dorset has received a major boost with the award of £125,000 of lottery funding. The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced that the Purbeck Heritage Committee has won a stage one pass for its funding bid. The award enables detailed projects to be developed and bid for second stage funding – which could mean the district winning a further £1.45 million towards projects costing around £2 million.

The bid for the Purbeck Landscape Partnership has been prepared under the title: "Carving a foundation for the Isle of Purbeck." The committee says: "The bid, which has been developed with a wide range of partners and communities in Purbeck, is about securing a working, living and thriving landscape for Purbeck - founded on Purbeck's unique geology."

Projects now set to be developed will involve a renaissance of interest and access to Purbeck stone, its working, skills and heritage; support for farmer co-operation and local produce development and will enhance Purbeck's rich biodiversity and distinctiveness. Purbeck district council's environment spokesman Councillor Nick Cake – who is also vice chairman of the Purbeck heritage committee – said: "It will enable an exciting range of projects to be carried out, including many which focus on Purbeck stone – for which the area is rightly world famous."

The underlying theme of the bid has been the fundamental influence of geology in shaping the landscape and identity of the Isle of Purbeck.



## **Northwest Highlands Geopark**

The Northwest Highlands has been designated Scotland's first Geopark at the European Geopark Network annual meeting in Sicily in October 2004. The 2,000 square kilometre area extends from Achiltibuie near Ullapool to Cape Wrath and includes the classic region of Assynt and the Moine Thrust as well the 54 Geological Conservation Review Sites and 26 geological SSSIs in the region.

## **An update on the Earth Science Education Forum (England & Wales)**

GCG is one of 27 organisations that form the Earth Science Education Forum (England & Wales). ESEF is growing in stature and influence, boosted significantly by a very successful conference last October at the Houses of Parliament. In a previous issue of *Coprolite*, Giles Miller outlined the role of ESEF. This is a recap about ESEF and an update on recent developments.

ESEF is a facilitative body for organisations involved in earth science education in England and Wales. The aims of the Forum are 'to promote earth science in education at all levels, and to bring together all relevant organisations across industry and education, in the pursuit of the above.' Similar bodies exist in Scotland (the Scottish Earth Science Education Forum (SESEF)) and in Ireland (Earth Science 2000 (ES2K)). The latter was established in Northern Ireland and now covers geological issues across the whole of Ireland. It is likely that closer links will be established among the three organisations.

Member organisations within ESEF include the British Geological Survey, the Geological Society of London and the Geologists' Association, mineral industries organisations and those involved directly in the teaching of Earth Sciences such as the Earth Science Teachers Association and CHUGD (Committee of Heads of University Geosciences Departments). Earth science is seen in its broadest context and it is pleasing that the forum also brings together representatives from the Geographical Society, Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Meteorological Society among others. ESEF is funded by industry and the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, allowing administrative support and covering conference costs without requiring contributions from member organisations.

The forum is chaired by Allan Rogers, the Parliamentary Adviser to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences. In addition the ESEF Development Officer, Cally Oldershaw is also Administrative Secretary of the All-Party Group. Members of GCG may know her from her time in the Mineralogy Department at the Natural History Museum. The involvement of members of the forum's secretariat in the All-Party Group and the very broad membership of the forum give it strong political respect, and indeed Allan Rogers is now regularly meeting with the Secretary of State for Education. The forum has also received good support from the Minister of State for Higher Education and the Science Minister. Companies, and organisations like English Nature, the Environment Agency and Countryside agencies are also keen to work with ESEF. This 'clout' allows the forum to encourage greater political support for earth science education, which is to the

benefit of all organisations involved in this.

Last October ESEF held its first annual conference with the title 'Improving the Effectiveness of Education Resources for Earth Science and Industry.' Themes included industrial requirements from the education system (including concerns about the decline in take-up of sciences post-16), resources provided by industry to earth science education, and the funding available for earth science education. Proceedings from the conference will be published later this year but abstracts of the presentations are available on the ESEF website, [www.esef.org.uk](http://www.esef.org.uk). The website also contains useful links to many of the member organisations' own sites (including GCG's).

Out of the conference has come increased political support for earth science education as well as bringing earth science organisations and industry into greater contact. The conference report will be submitted to the Minister of State for Higher Education this February suggesting various actions on some of the conference findings, including increasing provision for the needs of earth science education in the UK. Bringing industry and earth science education closer together certainly has the potential for increasing financial support from industry for education initiatives. Depending on how this develops, it may be beneficial for museums. Any upturn in the appreciation of earth science education generally may create opportunities for raising awareness of the value of geological collections.

This year's ESEF conference will take the theme of public engagement in earth science, which clearly has strong relevance to museums. There are also plans for 'Raising the awareness of earth science education in Wales', especially amongst high level decision-makers and opinion-formers. The proposal is to have a briefing for the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff within the next few months. Bringing organisations together for the sharing of news and for collaborative work is one of the major benefits of ESEF. Member organisations are encouraged to work together, for example inviting relevant organisations to provide a speaker or have a stall at events/seminars, where appropriate. The forum will not however interfere with the work of member organisations.

Museums can promote exhibitions/events/education resources that may be of interest to teachers through the magazine and website of the Earth Science Teachers' Association (ESTA). *Teaching Earth Sciences* goes to all teachers involved in earth sciences and is edited by Cally Oldershaw. She would welcome articles or information. (email to [esef@iom3.org](mailto:esef@iom3.org)). Items (in electronic form) for distribution to other member organisations of ESEF can be sent to Cally Oldershaw at [esef@iom3.org](mailto:esef@iom3.org) or via me at [dale.johnston@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:dale.johnston@cherwell-dc.gov.uk). An example use would be sharing news that is of relevance to many of the member organisations. For contacting specific member organisations it is probably easier to send it to me and I'll relay it to the relevant person/people. For ideas of collaborative projects the proposal should be in writing for inclusion in the ESEF meeting agenda.

Dale Johnston Banbury Museum (and GCG representative on ESEF)  
[Dale.johnston@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Dale.johnston@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

**GCG Seminar: Geology in Partnership**  
**National Museum of Wales, Cardiff**  
**21 October 2004**

The subject of partnership working, with particular reference to the care and conservation of geological collections, was addressed by the recent GCG seminar held at the National Museum of Wales (NMW) in Cardiff.

A fundamental aspect of partnership working (that of loans between national and non-national museums) was the subject of the opening address by Ray Barnett. Currently the Collections Manager at Bristol City Museums, Ray was a member of the Loans Working Group which was commissioned by the National Museum Directors' Conference (NMDC) in 2001 to produce a document which would aim to facilitate the loaning of objects between National and non - National museums. The NMDC publication *Loans Between National and Non-national Museum*, published in 2003, was the result. Ray emphasized that the objective of the working group and the publication was to achieve its aim in a very practical sense, and formed part of a larger initiative to release more national collection objects to the regions. The 14 standards contained within the final document represent a commitment by National museums and galleries to ease the often difficult object loan negotiation process. In no way do the standards compromise the security or conservation requirements of objects or collections. Instead they offer clearer lines of communication and advice, greater transparency in administration and help create an environment in which loans can more readily take place. Clearly a practical and useful publication, the document is a must for regional museums wishing to secure loans from their national partners.

In a change to the published schedule, Alistair Taylor (Biodiversity Liaison Officer, Natural History Museum) discussed partnership schemes at NHM with particular reference to Natural History collections. The benefits were easy to gauge with increased access not just to collections but also expertise, experience and academic facilities. Partnership processes (seen as a two way process at all levels) help to build longer term relationships between institutions whilst fulfilling many of the current government agendas with respect to wider access and regeneration. However, Alistair commented that several challenges were yet to be fully met. These included the necessity to improve the coordination of loans procedures, develop more easily transferable exhibitions, extend the current sphere of influence of the NHM and balance regional and internal objectives - all this set against the background of a reduction in funding for the NHM. However, there seemed to be a genuine desire to continue and develop partnership initiatives, regionally, nationally and internationally.

A delay in the arrival of the northeast England contingent resulted in Caroline Buttler (Geological Conservator, NMW) presenting *Partnership working - the conservators perspective* earlier in the day than was billed. In order to place her case studies for partnership working in context, Caroline outlined the development of geological conservation, emphasizing its relative youth as an area of conservation study and practice. Using regional (Royal Cornwall Museum and

Lapworth Museum), national (British Geological Survey) and international (Uppsala University Museum) case studies, Caroline highlighted not just the value but the *necessity* of partnership working. Advising, mentoring and training are the key areas in which geological conservation 'outreach' occurs at the NMW, with external practical conservation only carried out in exceptional circumstances. There is clearly a limit to the extent of 'outreach' that can take place alongside the internal responsibilities of the Geological Conservator at the NMW. However, the current 'enabling' or facilitating attitude taken by the Geology and Conservation Departments at the NMW is to be welcomed.

Freshly-arrived from the Newcastle-Cardiff vomit comet (it was a very windy day), Steve McLean from the Hancock Museum in Newcastle-upon-Tyne outlined the tangible benefits to audiences of developing long-term partnerships with national and regional organizations. The production of attention-grabbing exhibitions at the Hancock is a key activity, and the presence of national objects on loan in support of such exhibitions gives huge 'added value' to these events. Exhibition audiences in northeast England have benefited from the well-established links between Tyne & Wear Museums and the Natural History Museum, National Museums of Scotland, National Museum of Wales, Liverpool Museums, the Shark Trust and Blue Reef Aquarium. Steve also highlighted the *Sharing Museum Skills Millennium Awards Scheme* as a very productive skills-sharing initiative and the *Museum in Britain/UK Partnership* scheme which facilitates object loans and touring exhibitions between national and regional Museums. Both initiatives have resulted in key national objects being displayed in several museums within the NE.

Bill Griffiths, North East Regional Hub Manager discussed partnership working with a *Renaissance in the Regions* focus. After providing background on MLAC's *Renaissance* initiative and its aims, Bill devoted most of his talk to outlining how the key Renaissance targets of reaching a wider community, building capacity in collections care and other access issues have been addressed in a coordinated, regional context. A strong network of the regions' museums benefits from shared (and increased) conservation provision, emergency treatment procedures, and student training placements. An initiative to second external specialists into the region for short, fixed periods of time to work on previously under-developed collections has also proved very successful. Perhaps one of the most successful initiatives is IMAGINE (*Images, Museums and Galleries In the North East*). Eleven regional museum partners cooperate to provide a single web-based point of access to explore the museum collections of the Tyne & Wear region. The NE Regional Hub clearly leads the way in cooperative working and 'joined-up' thinking.

Working geology into non-geological displays was the subject of the day's two final presentations. Tom Sharpe of the NMW Geology Department discussed his experience of working on the geological content of new displays at the coal mining museum of Big Pit in Blaenavon in the South Wales Coalfield, which formed part of a £5.3M Heritage Lottery-funded redevelopment project. In what was clearly a difficult project, Tom emphasized the importance of good communication with colleagues in other disciplines and thorough, early consultation when developing

and implementing display-centred partnership projects. Steve Howe (Exhibition Coordinator for the National Waterfront Museum (Swansea) Project) showed his true geological colours in a presentation designed to highlight how to deliver geology to the museum-going public in a variety of ways from the obvious to the downright subliminal! Having outlined the key themes of the new displays at the National Waterfront Museum, he then highlighted their potential geological content in a way that mirrored the fundamental importance of geology in all our lives: always present but often overlooked.

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Overall the meeting gave a broad overview of differing types, methods and objectives in partnership working. It is clearly a method of working that will continue to expand and reap large rewards for curators and users alike.

Sara Chambers, Royal Cornwall Museum

### **Trilobites, stratotypes and dumplings GCG study trip to Prague 29 October – 1 November 2004**

It was not the ideal start to my first GCG study trip. I'd expected to arrive for supper in Prague but the budget airline bmibaby had other ideas and one o'clock in the morning was the best I could do. The next morning Tom Sharpe, Ros Gourgey, Paul Clasby and John Nudds greeted me at breakfast in our hotel, which was the only one I've ever stayed in where the lights in your room magically switch off while you are having a shower. The first stop on the trip was the Czech Geological Survey where we met up with Mandy Edwards, her husband Paul and local guide Petr Budil.

In his introductory remarks, Petr told us how the Czech Geological Survey was founded in 1919 with the primary aim of producing geological maps of Czechoslovakia to aid the exploitation of mineral and water resources and the construction of dams, railways and buildings. Since then, German occupation during the Second World War and later Soviet influences have shifted the focus of the Survey. In the 1960s there were heavy mining activities particularly to exploit iron ore and to produce uranium for Soviet bombs. The resultant mines produced a great deal of pollution hence the current trend towards Geological Parks and monitoring of biodiversity and geodiversity around geological sites. During the 1960s there were an estimated 2,000 geologists in the country and the majority of the geological mapping was carried out. Now the number is somewhere between 400 and 500 but geology still has a very important place in the country's history and future. An ideal subject for a GCG study trip!

Petr then took us down to the small corridor museum set up to showcase some of the activities of the Survey and to provide for the educational needs of visiting schoolchildren. The exhibition centred on the Bohemian massif, the Proterozoic basement and a number of overlying sedimentary basins. The focus of the exhibition and our study trip was the local Ordovician to Middle Devonian Prague basin named after the famous geologist Joachim Barrande. The first display case produced a ripple of acknowledgement when it was realized that the displayed

meteoritic glass (moldavites) was probably the result of the impact that caused the Miocene Ries Crater, the subject of a previous GCG study trip. Petr had a warning for us. The moldavites have been analysed and have almost the same composition as local beer bottle glass. Some of the moldavites sold in kiosks in the main square certainly looked like they were bits of beer bottles that had been dunked in hydrofluoric acid to produce the characteristic pitted surface! Highlights of some of the other cases were the lower Cambrian chelicerate *Kodymirus vagans*, and a fake trilobite carved from local limestone. Barrande employed locals to find his specimens and paid them according to the number and quality of the specimens they found. One enterprising soul obviously thought it easier to make his own rather than spending hours wielding his geological hammer in pursuit of complete specimens.

Next stop was an outbuilding where the Geological Survey has undertaken to produce an electronic archive of their data. On the way, Petr was corrected by one of his colleagues (the boss!) for pronouncing the word archive, "arkeef" which made us laugh. Petr's English was excellent and we found ourselves using some of his charming turns of phrase later on in the trip. We were given a very impressive tour of the electronic archive by one of Petr's colleagues. Three years of work scanning geological maps of the Czech Republic are available directly on the website of the survey with the entire series of 1:50,000 maps downloadable. We were all amazed by the amount of data that could be released in such a short time. Their web site at [www.geology.cz](http://www.geology.cz) is well worth a visit.

Before lunch we were taken to the basement compactor storage area where a series of numbered cardboard boxes were used to store the collections. The original German collections were moved to the Survey following the Second World War but 70% of the current collection originated in the 1950s-1970s. Amongst the 100,000 plus specimens in the basement were trilobites collected by Snajdr. Petr and his two colleagues certainly have their work cut out as they are responsible for the collections in the basement as well as 200,000 thin sections and the national collection of borehole cores stored at an outstation at Jeseník.

After lunch we were taken by metro to the National Museum (Národní Museum) that is a grand building situated at the end of Wenceslas Square. It was lovely to catch the metro and travel on a ticket that allowed 15 minutes of travel for 8K, the equivalent of 15 pence. I'd far rather take that journey than the London journey from Victoria to South Kensington that costs 2 quid. Petr took us round the back so we wouldn't need to pay and up a steep staircase to the palaeontological collections. He introduced us to the Head of Geological Collections Jíří Kraček who gave a short introductory talk and then left us to browse the galleries. Some of us went downstairs to view the minerals collection but I found it very difficult to leave the Palaeozoic, as there were so many glass cabinets with trilobites arranged stratigraphically along with many other significant fossils including - amazingly - ostracods and conodonts! (There is a slight bias here on my behalf!). Jíří then returned and coaxed us towards the post Palaeozoic and opened some of the cabinets to show us how the collections are stored beneath the glass display

cases. There is an alarm system that prevents the public from opening the cabinets that were designed by the famous Czech Palaeontologist Frič. 5 million specimens are curated by 10 curators who seal off parts of the museum display when collections need working on or when visitors require them. If at all possible they are carried behind the scenes to be worked on in privacy. After this we were left to wander through the collections where we saw some Palaeogene fossil frogs that were similar to ones on postcards that Petr handed to us on our arrival at the Geological Survey. We all then wandered through the minerals gallery where it was good to see some photosensitive minerals shielded from the light by cardboard shutters. On a personal note, I realized how much I had forgotten about mineral identification as all the labels were written in Czech and it wasn't easy to check my ids (no pun intended). On our way out of the museum there was a room of stone busts of famous scientists. Initially Mandy was disappointed with the lack of female scientists represented but we did spot a couple. During our quest for more female busts (of the stone variety) we came across a marble bust of a chap that had his head on one side in a rather drunken manner. His name on closer inspection was Nicholas Ales! That was the signal for us to find some ale for ourselves and so found a nice restaurant near the Geological Survey. After a few Czech beers and a small glass of Becherovka, the local aperitif we were ready for our goulash and dumplings, but we all declined the bricks that were on the menu.

We were greeted on the Saturday morning with very misty weather and were collected from our hotel by Petr in the Geological Survey minibus. We were taken to the SW of Prague to an area 6-7km SW of the town of Beroun to the Park of the Bohemian Karst. Our first stop was the Zlatý Kun (Golden Horse) Hill, which is situated on a core of Devonian reef limestones of the Koneprus facies. Through the mist, Petr outlined the local geological succession and the structures that we were standing on. We then descended the hill into a former quarry to look at some of the bioclastic limestones packed with corals and crinoids and viewed some neptunian dykes from a distance. Then it was back to the minibus and off to Plešivec Hill (pronounced Pleshyvets) following a 10-minute walk past some trees with tasty apples. There followed much wielding of hammers and the occasional "ooh" and "ahhh" when trilobite pygidia were found, usually followed by boasts that this was the best one found so far, then renewed activity by the other collectors to try to find even better specimens. After another short minibus trip we arrived at Klouk, international stratotype locality for the Siluro-Devonian boundary. The base of the Devonian System is defined at the base of Bed 20 and is co-incident with the base of the *Monograptus uniformis* Zone. The section itself is only accessible using climbing gear but can be seen on the hillside opposite the monument commemorating the first stratotype section to be agreed internationally. A big white arrow on the exposure marks the position on the rock exposure where the "golden spike" is placed.

Before lunch we were taken to Beroun where we visited the Museum for the Czech Karst. We were immediately struck by the newly refurbished entrance and were even more impressed when we saw the photograph on the wall in the entrance that showed that less than two years ago, where we were standing had been

underwater following the terrible floods that hit the Czech Republic. At the back of the building was an eye-level mark on the wall showing the height the water had reached when the area had been submerged. Dr Irena Jančaříková showed us the galleries that stressed the importance of the Bohemia Karst area to local history. Geological and geomorphological features were a constant theme from the early inhabitation of local caves, the use of local materials to make characteristic pottery to Beroun's more recent position as a strategic stronghold on the Bavaria to Prague Road. The geological gallery showed the importance of Barrande's studies to knowledge of the geology of the area. There were some particularly impressive trilobites of the genus *Radioscellutum* that were of course way better than the scraps we had picked up in the morning. To me, the highlight of the museum was the back garden where a geological theme park had been sculpted from the devastation of the recent floods. A stratigraphic section of the area was constructed with examples of each of the rock formations present in the area. There were many different aspects of the local geology portrayed in corners of the garden with one of my favourites being a small pile of rock chippings where children were encouraged to search for scraps of fossils. As a child it would have taken my parents hours to drag me away from an exhibit like that. An incredible 14,000 people have visited the museum in the first year since it opened, a real testament to the work of Dr Jančaříková and her colleagues. Finally before we left we were shown a new exhibit that was a test to see if you could remember the names of all the rock types that you'd been taught about in the garden. A small sliding door could be removed so that the rock name was shown underneath. I'm afraid I only got one correct, but that was because it was "ryolit", the only rock type that had a Czech name that sounded remotely like the English equivalent! Finally on the way out we were drawn to a beautiful metal gate with an iron trilobite on it that just begged to be photographed.

A packed morning programme meant a late lunch, but things had been so fascinating that we didn't have time to get hungry. Before we set off on our return journey to Prague, we thanked Petr for being such a wonderful host and gave him the customary two years free membership of GCG along with several books, including the recent book on Lägerstätten by Nudds and Selden. Once back in Prague, which was only 25 minutes away, we all met up in town again and sampled gluhwein in the main square which is apparently a common theme on GCG study trips according to the regulars. After wandering back across Charles Bridge we again found ourselves in a restaurant where I was finally dumplinged out. Not normally being one who can't managed to eat his supper, I preferred to choose the explanation that we had our supper shortly after having lunch, but the consensus of the party was that the three innocuous looking dumplings served with my pork had simply defeated me with their stodginess. I did manage to make it for a swift nightcap in the bar at Mandy and Paul's hotel, The Imperial. It had the most beautiful porcelain-tiled walls and a huge pile of doughnuts on the bar. House rules say that if you buy the entire plate for 1,450K (about £50), then you are entitled to throw them at anyone in the bar! So we kept a cautious eye on the doughnut pile.



The following day the party split and went their separate ways. Paul and Mandy went back to Manchester; Ros, Tom and Paul visited the nearby town of Kutná Hora, famous for its silver mines, its magnificent Cathedral of St. Barbora (patron saint of miners) and the startling Ossuary of All Saints in the district of Sedlec. Paul posed an interesting ethical question: given that you have disinterred the bones of 30-40,000 plague victims of 1318 as a consequence of some municipal redevelopment - what to do? Put them in an ossuary? - good idea; arrange them tidily? - of course; use some of them to construct a chandelier and armorial bearings and assorted decorations? - hmm, what do you think? -----

Meanwhile John and I set off on a walking tour of Prague, taking in the castle area and a walk through the park past the funicular railway before heading back into town to see the famous clock strike 12. But this we were cruelly denied as we misinterpreted a sign that said "passageway to clock tower and main square" and set off on a massive circular detour. Ten minutes later we arrived back where we started, having missed the clock strike, only to discover that we been, in fact only one minute away! We were left to reflect on what it would be like to be the curator of the nearby "sex machine museum". In the afternoon I set off on a mission to find some Blaschka glass models on display in a Prague museum. Unfortunately trips to the National Museum and the Museum for Creative Arts failed to satisfy my search apart from a single glass octopus on display at the National Museum.

One of the joys of geology in the Barrandian Prague Basin is the proximity of many of the major localities to the centre of Prague. So using public transport - tram, metro and bus - we visited another classic site. It is ten years since I last visited the international stratotype for the base of the youngest series of the Silurian, the Příklad, but for the rest of the group this was significant as the second international stratotype section for the trip. A debate was started about how many international stratotype sections had been visited and Ros was happy to realise that she had now seen the Cambrian-Ordovician, Ordovician-Silurian, and Silurian-Devonian stratotypes. The section was a joy to sample as all the beds are numbered in white paint so you are left in no doubt as to where the boundary is and which level you are sampling. The section covers exactly the same level that I studied in the Welsh Borderland for my thesis so I was keen to take some samples. A little too keen it seems. I was told off on the way home by Easyjet as my bag weighed 13kg more on the way home than it did on the way out and tipped me over the 20kg limit. My excessive collecting became a bit of a burden when I managed to get off the tram one stop too early on my way back to the airport. That didn't detract from what had been a fascinating GCG study trip. Many thanks once again to Petr Budil and his colleagues for guiding us so expertly and to Ros Gourgey and Andrew Ross for making the arrangements for the trip. Giles Miller (with some contributions from Paul Clasby)

**GCG Seminar, 31<sup>st</sup> AGM and field trip: Planning for disaster,  
rescue and specimen relocation  
Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne  
18-19 January 2005**

The focus of this well-attended GCG meeting was to share expertise in planning for the worst; from museum threatening disasters to building refurbishment, and moving out.

Caroline Rendall (conservator with the National Trust) was the first speaker and gave an excellent example of up-to-date emergency plans. These were devised in response to a series of devastating fires which the Trust suffered in the late 80's and early 90's including Uppark House on the South Downs. Caroline detailed the Trust's emergency procedures document. The complexity of the buildings and items in the Trust's care required thorough planning, with the first priority being the safety of people living and working in the properties. She stressed the importance of briefing the local emergency services on building layouts, and gave some examples of image-based salvage documents that would allow teams to quickly locate and remove 'star items'. Also highlighted was the need to create links with local facilities for post-salvage storage and conservation needs (eg freezer storage for water damaged books). Training to familiarise staff with emergency procedures should be given highest priority or careful planning may go to waste! Many of our questions on what museums should be doing were answered by Caroline's presentation.

Mark Simmons (Perth Museum and Art Gallery) spoke on the events of 17 January 1993, when flow in the River Tay increased almost 15-fold and flooding caused about £1 million of damage to Perth Museum and its collections. The speed of the flooding made the museum's old disaster plan irrelevant. This event and its clean-up showed that action taken within 48 hours of a flood warning is critical, and that updating the plumbing of old buildings is of high importance. The flood did have some positive effects in that 1970's shelving was replaced and that several conservators were employed in the clean-up! New disaster plans were put into place just days before this GCG meeting when floods again threatened Perth Museum and collections on basement level had to be moved to the first floor. Mark provided a vivid illustration of the need to be prepared for an increased risk of flooding in the future.

Chris Collins (Natural History Museum, London) showed how large national institutions have business recovery plans to counteract potential loss of income in the wake of a disaster. Risk-versus-impact assessments for potential incidents are incorporated into corporate strategies. The NHM, British Library and the American Museum of Natural History in New York were used as examples. Chris described how such large institutions with multiple buildings need different levels of response tailored to different incidents; with the aim of keeping the front-of-house operating. Chris noted that such plans also take the safety and salvage of collections into account as museums view their collections as a core resource for

their business. Again, a good relationship with the local emergency services was emphasised, so that museum staff know when safe windows of opportunity for salvage exist. Staff need to have recognised emergency roles which come into operation at different levels of response.

Chris also made us aware that UK museums can exchange support with the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). This committee works to protect the world's cultural heritage at risk from wars and natural disasters; a timely reminder in view of the recent looting in Iraq, earthquakes in Iran, and the Asian tsunami.

After lunch, a tour of the Hancock's stores was arranged. We saw the work of Russell Society volunteers who curated the extensive mineral collection which came from the University of Newcastle's old Geology Department. It is now available again for teaching and research. We also viewed some of the museum's type specimens of reptiles from the North-East along with dinosaur bones collected by Gideon Mantell.

Presentations continued with Henry McGhie, Curator of Zoology at Manchester Museum, who explained how their entire collection, which accumulated over hundreds of years into every conceivable space, was moved out whilst the buildings were extensively remodelled. He explained how a tracking inventory system was set-up, the use of risk assessment (including radioactive contamination left behind by Rutherford), and how storage was dramatically improved. Henry noted that tracking photographs were extremely useful in working out the area required for temporary storage of objects, and in working out how objects were originally related to each other. The museum remained open throughout the move, and access to the collections was radically improved as a result of the project.

Gill Comerford (Natural History Museum, London) showed us how another approach to coping with building renovation can work: protecting collections in-situ by wrapping. She explained how a storage and condition survey identified the main risks to objects, namely dust, varying temperature and relative humidity, and theft. Tests on wrapping of cabinets was performed, and telemetry installed so that environmental conditions inside the cabinets could be monitored without having to access the building site. It probably helped that the wrapping was undertaken by asbestos removal contractors experienced in keeping dust particles out. Gill then showed a comparison of the relative humidity and temperature trends through time from inside and outside the wrapped cabinets during the building works; impressive proof that the strategy worked! She noted that protecting collection in-situ is less viable if building work is likely to overrun.

John Old of Tyne and Wear Museums, described various recent movements of collections in the region; a varied lot from costumes to steam engines, including how to get a boat through a first floor window! John described how the consolidation of several collections into Tyne and Wear's Regional Resource Centre has greatly improved access to the collections. This is a long term storage facility

for industrial collections as well as natural history, so condition-checking was important in choosing the optimum environmental conditions for a wide range of materials. Feasibility studies were performed before each move; considering the size of objects, space available, packing materials (and how to dispose of them), and risk assessments. Moving objects provides a good opportunity to update their documentation and conservation, all aiding in better access and use of the collection in their new home.

Before tea, GCG Chairman presented Professor Hugh Torrens with the Group's Brighton Medal in recognition of his life-long promotion of collections research. The full citation will be published in *The Geological Curator*.

At the GCG Annual General Meeting, Patrick Wyse Jackson was thanked for his work as outgoing chairman, and Mandy Edwards (University of Manchester) was elected to the chair.

Steve McLean revealed why he was listening so carefully to the afternoon's talks when he gave the final presentation on Tyne and Wear's current bid for funding the 'Great North Museum Project'. The proposed renovation and extension to the Hancock Museum would create more space for natural history collections, bring more disciplines into one place, and create a new education facility.

A large group of us then headed out to Newcastle's Chinatown for an enjoyable meal, then on to admire the Quayside. A quick photo-opportunity was had on the Millennium Bridge (the North-East's non-wobbly version), and then straight into the nearest pub.

The next day Steve McLean led a field trip to the Permian outcrops of Sunderland and South Tyneside. We saw an entire an entire cycle of the flooding and evaporation of the Zechstein basin. Highlights included 3D-preservation of bryozoans at the base of a Zechstein reef; a cross-section through the reef where the modern topography mirrors the ancient sea floor; a flooding event where fish-bearing marls overlie cross-bedded dune sands on a knife-sharp contact; spectacular deformation of limestone resulting from the dissolution of 100m of underlying evaporites leaving a millimetre thick residue.

Our thanks go to Steve McLean and the staff of the Hancock Museum for a very informative and enjoyable meeting.  
Trevor Bailey, National Museum of Wales

### **Forthcoming GCG seminars and workshops**

**28 April 2005 National Museum of Wales, Cardiff**

**GCG Workshop: Identifying fossils 4. Trilobites**

An overview of our current knowledge of trilobites by Dr Bob Owens, drawing on specimens from the extensive collections at the National Museum of Wales.

1000 Coffee

1030 Morphology, taxonomy, evolution and palaeobiogeography of trilobites

1230 Lunch in a nearby pub (payable locally).

1400 Practical identification session, using appropriate monographs

1600 Close

Meeting fee: £5.00.

Contact: Tom Sharpe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff  
CF10 3NP tel 029 20 573 265, fax 029 20 667332, email  
Tom.Sharpe@nmgw.ac.uk

### **16 June 2005 Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London**

#### **GCG session at the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Annual Conference: Standards for geological collections**

GCG will be hosting a session of talks on standards for geological collections as part of the SPNHC conference from 0900-1100 on Thursday 16 June. For further information see [www.nhm.ac.uk/spnhc2005/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/spnhc2005/)

Contact: SPNHC Conference 2005, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD email [spnhc2005@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:spnhc2005@nhm.ac.uk)

### **7 October 2005 Venue to be confirmed**

#### **GCG Workshop: Gemstone Identification for Natural Science Curators.**

After popular demand, this is a repeat of a training session first held in 2000 at Weston-super-Mare. Led by Dale Johnston, Fellow of the Gemmological Association and Events and Temporary Exhibitions Officer for Banbury Museum.

this *practical* workshop will cover the basics of gem identification from the perspective of natural science curators. Participants will get the opportunity to use most of the simpler and more affordable instruments employed by gemmologists and will see close-up some of the more commonly encountered gemstones and synthetic gemstones.

Meeting fee: To be confirmed, but probably about £20.00 (including buffet lunch and a small pack of gems to be used in the workshop by each participant).

Contact: Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT tel 0191 222 6765, fax 0191 222 6753, email: [s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk)

### **October/November 2005 Geological Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark**

#### **GCG Study Visit**

This year we plan to visit to Geological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, where we intend to spend one day looking behind the scenes with staff, and the second day looking at the exhibits. There may also be the possibility of visiting other geological institutions in the area and, if there is sufficient interest, doing some fieldwork.

The Geological Museum opened in 1772 as the "Universitetets Nye Naturaltheater" (The New Natural Theatre of the University) and contains specimens which have been in museum collections for more than 300 years. When it was first formed it was the only geological institution in Denmark and it has been the parent body for the Geological Surveys of Denmark (1888) and

Greenland (1946) and the four geological teaching institutes (1967), which were later joined to form the Geological Institute, University of Copenhagen (1991). Today the Geological Museum acts as a centre for Danish geology with special national responsibilities for keeping public records. The Museum consists of six major collections representing the branches of geology, a library (which also serves the *Geological Institute and the Danish Lithosphere Centre*) and an archive. The collections contain approximately 8 million specimens, which have been accumulated through the years from over 30 large collections, including royal, public and private collections together with material collected by the staff or obtained by donation, purchase or exchange. To find out more about the Museum visit their web site at: [http://www.nathimus.ku.dk/geomus/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.nathimus.ku.dk/geomus/index_eng.htm)

Ros Gourgey will be organising accommodation and coordinating transport arrangements, so please contact her to register your interest and to receive further details.

Contact: Ros Gourgey tel 01371 810832, email [ami\\_air-exel@msn.com](mailto:ami_air-exel@msn.com)

#### **5-6 December 2005 University College Worcester**

##### **GCG Seminar, Field trip and 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting: Geoparks**

Contact: Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT tel 0191 222 6765, fax 0191 222 6753, email: [s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk)

#### **Other meetings**

##### **12-18 June 2005 Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London**

##### **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**

Contact: SPNHC Conference 2005, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD email [spnhc2005@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:spnhc2005@nhm.ac.uk)

##### **28 November 2005 Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London**

##### **HOGG: The role of women in the history of geology**

Contact: Cynthia Burek, Environment Research Group, Centre for Science Communication, Department of Biological Sciences, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ tel 01244 375444 ext 3051, email [c.burek@chester.ac.uk](mailto:c.burek@chester.ac.uk)

**28 April 2005**  
**GCG Trilobite workshop**  
**National Museum of Wales**  
**BOOKING FORM**

Title.....Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

e-mail.....

I will be attending the workshop on 28 April

Please return this form with a cheque for £5.00, made payable to the Geological Curators' Group, to: Tom Sharpe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP **by 21 April 2005**

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