



DROPPINGS
FROM THE
GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP

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Musical Curators

Martin Munt has left the NHM after 8 and a half years, to take up a post nearer home at Dinosaur Isle, Isle of Wight.

John Cooper: Ex GCG Chairman John Cooper has retired from the post of Keeper of Natural Sciences at the Booth Museum of Natural History, part of Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove. He is staying on as "Keeper Emeritus" as "they can't get rid of me that easily". John arrived as Keeper of Geology in 1981 after seven years in the Earth Sciences Section at Leicestershire Museums (as was). Since then he has had many job roles and titles in Brighton but was glad to end up back at the Booth where it all began. "Greetings to all other fellow retirees".

Peter Tandy: After an incredible 44 years at the Natural History Museum, Peter Tandy retired last year as curator from the Earth Sciences Department, Mineral and Planetary Sciences Division.

Bob Symes: It is with sadness that we report the death of GCG member Bob Symes, OBE. Bob was a mineralogist at the Natural History Museum and co-author of the excellent mineralogy text "Minerals of Cornwall and Devon"

GCG Chairman's update

Arts Council England bid with NatSCA

On 5th May we submitted a full application following a successful expression of interest, to Arts Council England to their Museums Resilience Fund as part of a joint application with NatSCA. The main objective is to set up a Natural History Wiki to raise awareness of good practise in the management of collections and show the diversity of skills and collections in museums around the country. Part of this will involve creating short videos highlighting various key issues and focussing on curators and collections about the UK. These will point to the Wiki and to our respective societies to enable us to show leadership in the sector. Funding requested is for hiring a consultant to run the project and to cover filming costs. As part of the bid we liaised with museum directors throughout the UK to gain support for our bid. This would mainly be "support in kind" where museums would be prepared to waive filming fees and allow free access to their staff to appear in these short videos. We managed to raise about 59K of support in kind and the figure will be higher as offers of support are still coming in. So far we have only approached members of the Natural History Museums Consortium, a group that we have been working closely with over the last couple of years. Should the funding be forthcoming, I see this as an excellent opportunity for us as a group to highlight the expertise we possess and to make sure that this knowledge and skill set are passed on to the collections managers of the future. We would also be able to showcase the work that the GCG has undertaken and published over the last 40 years.

Geological Society Specialist Group Committee meeting

I gave a short 5 minute presentation at this meeting on 25th May. At the meeting we heard an update from all of the specialist groups, reviewed the new specialist group family structure and discussed future funding available from the Geol. Soc. for specialist groups. At the meeting I thanked Sally Thompson who has been attending our committee meetings as a representative of the Geological Society Science committee as liaison between us and the Geol. Soc. Science Committee. It would appear that the GCG have been one of the groups that have found the new structure beneficial. We have already made use of the Geological Society Insurance cover to help us deliver "Be a curator" at fossil festivals and there is great potential for us to request funds to help us to continue to deliver outreach projects in the future. The meeting also gave us the opportunity to liaise with other Specialist Group Chairs such as Tom Sharpe who is now Chair of the History of Geology Group (HOGG). We plan to hold a joint meeting with them sometime in 2017.

Geological Society Geoconservation Committee

On 26th April I attended the Geoconservation Committee meeting. I report to this committee on a regular basis. They have asked us to publicise various events including the Annual Geoscience Gathering that will be held in Edinburgh on Friday 28th October. Details of this meeting are included later in this edition of Coprolite. The group have also been working towards a Geological Society Policy Statement on the value of museums and collections. This can be found on the Geological Society website and they have asked us to circulate this widely.

Future committee positions

This is a quick reminder that at the next AGM I will be at the end of my term as Chairman. We are therefore looking for a new chair. I should note that all positions on the committee are open to the membership at each AGM, apart from the ordinary committee members who, like the chairman, serve a three year term. As a result anyone is free to stand as Secretary, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary, Programme Secretary, Collections Officer, Journal Editor, Coprolite Editor, Web Officer or Membership Officer. If you are interested to take up a position on committee then please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you require further details. A list of committee responsibilities is included later in this edition of Coprolite if you are interested to see what a committee position entails.

Geologists' Association initiative on teaching collections for schools

I've been corresponding with Haydon Bailey about this GA initiative which is in its embryonic stages. They plan to launch it to schools later this year probably in the Berkshire area and are working on a planned budget for 200 boxes. The second area they have had good interest from is Dorset. This could be supported by the GA alone; however they currently have an application for sponsorship from the PESGB. A partnership with BRE will supply many of the specimens. I offered support to help source conservation grade materials for the boxes. Initially the GA are just looking for us to publicise that they are on the look-out for good specimens. The rocks they currently looking for are granite, basalt, sandstone, chalk, slate and schist (stipulated in edexcel syllabus). In addition to these they have a good supply of limestone and will add an ammonite and an echinoid (depending on supplies) plus a couple of minerals, currently galena and calcite. They are short on schist and want to use real fossils rather than plaster casts, so they would be interested to hear from anyone who could supply these.

Giles Miller, 6th June 2016

Important information

Meeting pricing and speaker expenses

A number of our members attending the AGM meeting have raised questions about registration fee pricing and some have recently requested support by either waiving this fee or claiming travelling expenses. The committee thought it would

be useful for us to outline how we decide on meeting pricing and the payment of expenses to speakers. The historical position is that we have not paid expenses or waived the meeting fee for members attending or presenting at AGM meetings and have put out a general request to members to offer talks at these meetings. Over the last couple of years we have deliberately deviated from this and have, in advance of the call for speakers, identified one or two key people to speak. On the occasion that these have not been members of the GCG, we have offered travel expenses and to waive the meeting fee. This has been done so that we can advertise the meeting and make it more attractive for members to attend and present, knowing that a key person in the field is presenting as part of the meeting and that the meeting has a theme that is applicable to a wide audience. As a result of this and the choice of more easily accessible venues, the attendances at the last two meetings have increased. To set the registration fee, we have to make sure that we do not make a loss should attendances be lower. Catering and room hire costs, if applicable, have recently been high and make up almost the entire costs of hosting these meetings. The accounts show that we have made a slight profit on the last two meetings because of raised attendances at successful meetings. These additional funds will be ploughed back into GCG activities like supporting members to present the "Be a curator" activities at forthcoming festivals. The committee are also discussing offering bursaries for attendance to those who would not normally be able to attend. We also intend to arrange invited speakers early so that we can be in a better position to price registration fees before advertising meetings to the wider membership. In the meantime we would be very interested to hear feedback from the membership on any of the issues we have raised. Thank you also for the increased support for our AGM meetings and training courses.

Committee 2016 and beyond

Every year at the AGM members are entitled to stand for positions on the committee. Only rarely do people put themselves forward without being approached. In recent years we have struggled to fill some posts, and in fact, all the positions apart from Chairman and rolling ordinary committee members are up for re-election every year. To encourage new members we have put together a list of the committee's responsibilities below. If any of these roles interests you then please contact us for more information. We are happy for people to come to our committee meetings to find out more and for members to be involved with specific projects. A good way to join is to become an ordinary committee member for three years.

GCG Committee responsibilities

All committee members are Trustees of the Registered Charity 'The Geological Curators' Group' (ask Secretary for details)

Chairman

Chair AGM and committee meetings

- Represent GCG at Collections Consortium Meetings
- Represent GCG on Geol Soc committees
- Write letters of support for funding applications and collections/staff at risk
- Bid for funds to support GCG activities
- Co-ordinate choice for Brighton Medal committee and make informed choice
- Liaise with chairs of other groups eg NatSCA/HOGG

Secretary

- Make arrangements for room bookings for committee meetings
- Set and distribute agendas for meetings (committee and AGM)
- Chase officers for reports before meetings
- Collate and print reports for committee meetings and AGM
- Maintain the committee e-mail distribution list
- Maintain details of committee for Charities Commission and pass to Treasurer
- Update GSL for their newsletter and website
- Collate updated committee details for our website and Geol Curator
- Administer GeoCurator JISCmail list
- Administer GCG Advisory JISCmail list
- Liaise with SPNHC

Minutes Secretary

- Take minutes at committee meetings and AGM

Programme Secretary

- Represent GCG at Geodiversity Forum Meetings
- Organise or co-ordinate workshops, meetings and the AGM
- Contact potential speakers
- Liaise with SPPC or co-opted local organiser of any other meetings/workshops
- Co-ordinate with local venue regarding arrangements (room hire, food)
- Circulate details of travel, accommodation, lunch details
- Liaise with Treasurer over setting registration fees and other costs
- Take bookings for meetings
- Provide list of participants to Membership Secretary to create labels
- Evaluate meetings by carrying out on the day surveys

Collections Officer

- Provide updates on list of Geological Collections on website and co-ordinate with #NatureData
- Publish State and Status review at appropriate intervals
- Update committee on national and international guidelines for Digital Collections Infrastructure

Treasurer

- Manage £, \$ and Euro accounts
- Provide end of year accounts for auditors
- Send annual Gift Aid return
- Report to the Charities Commission

Manage PayPal account
Send invoices and receipts

Membership Secretary

Invoice members and institutions
Chase up non-payment of subs
Maintain GCG membership e-mail list for Coprolite circulation
Maintain details of those requiring paper copies of newsletter and/or journal
Co-ordinate arrangements so GCG banner can be at relevant meetings
Maintain SOs
Maintain Archive at Cardiff

Web Officer

Update website (jobs, meetings, news) as required
Provide web stats reports for committee meetings

Journal Editor

Publish two editions of Geol Curator a year
Instigate electronic publication of Journal
Publish Guidelines for Geological Curation

Newsletter Editor

Publish electronic version of Coprolite three times a year
Send paper copies to those requesting them

Co-opted NatSCA Rep

Social Media; Facebook, Twitter
Attend and report back from NatSCA committee meetings
Liaise with SPNHC

Committee Member Tim

Skills sharing networks and specialist curators
Follow up survey?

Committee Member Isla

Maintain Blog
Outreach events organisation

Committee Member Luanne

Outreach events organisation

Keep in contact

Web site: Geocurator.org
Facebook: Geological Curators' Group.
Twitter: OriginalGCG and hashtag #GCG.

Meeting reports

Lyme Regis Fossil Festival 2016

British Antarctic Survey (with funding from the British Ecological Society), The Scott Polar Research Institute & Polar Museum and the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust sent a joint team to the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival this year. The venue had changed from previous years and we were allocated a prime position in the Pavilion on the sea front.

The weekend began with the Schools Day on Friday 29th April and continued with public days on Saturday and Sunday. With more than 10,000 visitors (we counted them) to our displays over the weekend, we were extremely busy. For many visitors, the diversity of marine life and the abundance of fossils from Antarctica came as a complete surprise, whilst the Polar Museum's origami penguins and polar play area proved extremely popular.

The good weather over the weekend and the dedication of the volunteers and supporters helped to make the event a resounding success.

Hilary Blagbrough, Geoscience Laboratory and Collections Manager, British Antarctic Survey. Email: hibl@bas.ac.uk; fossils@bas.ac.uk

Publications of interest

M. A. Taylor and R. Bull 2015. A token found at Lyme Regis, Dorset, England, apparently associated with Mary Anning (1799-1847), fossil collector. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, **136**, 63-67.

L. I. Anderson and M. A. Taylor 2015. Tennyson and the geologists. Part 1. The early years and Charles Peach. *Tennyson Research Bulletin*, **10.4**, 340-356.

M. A. Taylor 2016. 'Where is the damned collection?' Charles Davies Sherborn's listing of named collections and its successors. In Michel, E. (ed). Anchoring biodiversity information. From Sherborn to the 21st century and beyond. *ZooKeys*, **550**, 83-106. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.550.10073

M. A. Taylor and L. I. Anderson 2016. Additional information on Charles W. Peach (1800-1886). *The Geological Curator*, **10**, 159-182.

M. A. Taylor and S. Levitt. 2016. Mary Anning (1799-1847) and the photograph 'The Geologists' taken at Chudleigh in 1843 and ascribed to William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877). *Geoscience in south-west England*, **13**, 419-427.

Latest Geol Soc books:

Arthur Smith Woodward: His Life and Influence on Modern Vertebrate Palaeontology. Edited by Z. Johanson, P.M. Barrett, M. Richter and M. Smith
Special Publication **430**, ISBN: 978-1-86239-741-5

Arthur Smith Woodward was an unwitting victim of the famous Piltdown fraud, which overshadowed his important scientific contributions. The aim of this book is to honour Smith Woodward's contributions to vertebrate palaeontology, discuss their relevance today and provide insights into the factors that made him such an eminent scientist.

Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Three Hundred Years of Geotourism. Edited by T.A. Hose. Special Publication **417**, 978-1-86239-724-8

Geotourism, as a form of sustainable geoheritage tourism, was defined and developed, from the early 1990s, however, the late seventeenth century Grand Tour was also arguably the start of travel by 'geotoursits'. This volume covers historical geotourism and the modern day situation.

Devonshire Marbles: their geology, history and uses. Author: Gordon Walkden

GA Guide 72, volume 1, ISBN: 9780900717765

GA Guide 72, volume 2, ISBN: 9780900717819

Volume 1: Understanding the marbles, highlights the discovery, characteristics and uses of Devonshire marble, its origin amongst the Devonian Coral seas of Devon and the formation of its rich textures in the geological upheavals that followed.

Volume 2: Recognising the marbles, there are guides to the best outcrops of the limestones, to the 30 best buildings up and down the country that contain the 'marbles', to the fossils, once collector's items, and of course to the marbles themselves, of which there are at least 20 distinct varieties.

Global Heritage Stone: Towards International Recognition of Building and Ornamental Stones. Edited by D. Pereira, B.R. Marker, S. Kramar, B.J. Cooper and B.E. Schouenborg. Special Publication **407**, ISBN: 978-1-86239-685-2

This Special Publication is dedicated to heritage stone: those natural stones that have special significance in human culture. Some stones that have had important uses in the past are now neglected because they are no longer extracted. Others are still commercially important, but their heritage uses have not been well documented in widely available sources.

Minerals of the English Midlands - information requested

GCG member Roy Starkey has written to say that he is hard at work researching material for a new book. The book will be similar in format to Crystal Mountains – Minerals of the Cairngorms, and the other titles in the occasional series of British topographic mineralogy publications such as Minerals of Northern England, Minerals of Cornwall and Devon and Minerals of the Lake District (Caldbeck Fells), and will be a joint venture between Roy and Chris Stanley of the Natural History Museum.



Quartz – Calton Hill, Derbyshire

For the purposes of the project the authors have defined the English Midlands as being the counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland; Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, West Midlands and Staffordshire (see map below).



Roy will be pleased to learn of important specimens, documents, photos and other archival material which may be of relevance to the project. Target publication is late 2018, and further updates will be issued as the project progresses. To contribute information, or for more details about the scope of the project please contact Roy by email - roy.starkey@gmail.com

For Sale

Following my retirement, I am now longer in need of my set of "Mineralogical Record" and wish to dispose of it as a full set. It consists of approx. 230 issues from vol.1 no1. to about vol.38 no.6. It includes the rare Colorado editions, but not 2 editions which deal with historical subjects (?mineral books and microscopes). All issues are in good condition (some are mint as I never unwrapped them!), although one has minor water damage. There are also 2 issued indexes (one in poor condition due to poor binding). OIRO £750.

Also, I have an original copy of Dana's 6th edition System of Mineralogy, 1892, in original brown cloth binding, in good condition. This classic work is now dated, but no self respecting mineralogist should be without one! OIRO £50.

I am willing to haggle on prices, as finding new owners is more important than making money.

Please contact Peter Tandy, evenings on 01582-410356.

Events

'The ethics of UK fossil collecting: from the shore to the store'

43rd AGM and seminar - Bristol, 6-7th December 2016

Request for speakers: We'd like to hear talks from members who have had ethical issues with managing or acquiring collections made from UK sites. We would like to hear your case studies and practical experience in navigating this complex area of museum work. If you have examples relating to inland sites or non-fossil samples we'd also welcome your contribution. We plan to use this as a starting point for consultation and debate and aim to publish a special issue of 'Geological Curator' to bring these experiences together

Invited speakers:

Janet Ulph, Professor of Commercial Law, University of Leicester
Alistair Brown, Policy Officer, Museums Association

On Wednesday 7th December there will be a trip around the stores at Bristol Museum and another field trip – details to be announced. The full programme will be circulated nearer the time, and is anticipated to start around 10.30am, with the AGM at around 4pm. Fees will be as follows

Tuesday seminar and AGM (rate for GCG members)	£30
Tuesday seminar and AGM (rate for non-members)	£45

You can join GCG for just £20 per year – <http://www.geocurator.org/join/join.htm>

Wednesday museum stores trip	included in Tuesday fee
Wednesday visit to Redcliff Caves (TBC)	£10

Unfortunately there is a maximum number of 25 people on the caves trip, so places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Welcome refreshments and a light lunch will be provided during the seminar on Tuesday. On Tuesday evening, we hope to arrange a venue to meet where delegates are welcome to buy their own food and drink. No food will be provided on Wednesday, however there are a number of cafes and sandwich shops near the Museum.

11 October 2016 - Meteorite workshop, Cardiff

Hosted by Jana Horak (Amgueddfa Cymru | National Museum Wales) on Meteorites. The morning will concentrate on identification and curation of specimens, whilst the afternoon will discuss ways to make your outreach activities with meteorites "out of this world"!

Please direct any offers for future events to me at the e-mail address below. As always keep an eye on the JISCmail list for updates as they happen.

Simon Harris (simhar@bgs.ac.uk) Co-opted Programme Secretary

Other meetings

6 July - Take Good Care: Looking After Your Collection. Museums Association seminar, Royal College of Surgeons, London.

22 - 26 August - SVPCA and SPPC, Liverpool.

24-25 September - Lewes fossil festival, <https://gideonmantell.wordpress.com/>

27-30 September - 7th International Conference on Global Geoparks is being held at the English Riviera Global Geopark, Torquay.

28 October - Geoconservation Annual Gathering, Edinburgh

News

Museum refurbishment and redisplay in Warwick

The Market Hall Museum, Warwick, shut to the public at the beginning of October 2015 for a major HLF-funded refurbishment. Removing objects from the galleries (archaeology, geology, natural history) and getting them back into store took about a month. During this phase Nigel Larkin removed our vertically mounted Wilmcote plesiosaur skeleton, which is currently in his workshops for conservation and casting.

Since then, myself and colleague Sara Wear (Curator of Human History) have been working closely with Redman Design (Ilkley) on themes, objects and artefacts, texts, commissioned illustrations, photographs, interactives and more.

The Market Hall building itself is now out of bounds to all but a few, as contractors start to work on asbestos heating, flooring, stonework, air conditioning, paintwork etc. The new galleries will be fitted out by Workhaus (Wetherby) and their appointed mount-makers; this will commence in July and we will re-open in late October (half-term week). Soft launches will commence earlier, possibly as early as September.

Our newly themed approach will include many new exhibits, and some old favourites. The museum offer will also be complemented and enhanced by the Our Warwickshire community website, which, like the museum, is all about gathering and sharing stories about Warwickshire's natural and human heritage.

Dr Jon Radley, Curator of Natural Sciences

Exhibition of Chessy minerals

The Crystals Museum and the Mineralogical Society in Chamonix (for its 50th year) have the pleasure inviting you to visit an extraordinary temporary exhibition. Denis Boël has obtained the authorization from the Musée des Confluences in Lyon, to select in the Museum's reserves, Mineralogical Specimens issued from the Blue Mine in Chessy. These pieces were extracted within the period 1811-1835. As soon as they came to light, they were carefully preserved, and most of them were never presented to the public.

More than 60 specimens with sizable crystals, very fresh and of the best quality will surprise the connoisseurs and the public about the richness from this mine located in the Beaujolais area. Come and enjoy the symphony of blues and greens in every kind of nuance. That's an outstanding opportunity to discover azurite, malachite and cuprite. In one word, come and enjoy the original Chessylite.

Musée des Cristaux www.chamonix.com/musee-des-cristaux-espace-tairraz

Lapworth Museum of Geology (University of Birmingham) reopens

After several years of sustained effort, and a lot of hard work by many, many people, the Museum finally welcomed its first visitors on Friday 10 June. The end result looks superb - smart modern lines blending with the stylish Edwardian interior, all brought bang up to date by top class display cases, great graphics and



a diverse range of excellent displays. Visitors can explore life over the past 3.5 billion years, whilst enjoying displays of exceptional objects from one of the UK's most outstanding geological collections, with state-of-the-art galleries and a range of innovative and interactive exhibits - all completely free of charge.

From rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes, and even dinosaurs, the Museum will capture the imagination of all ages.

You can read a report, with pictures here -

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/2372/Lapworth+Museum+of+Geology+reopens+after+an+extensive+%C2%A32.7+million+redevelopment>

and find out more details about opening times, directions, access etc. on the Museum website here -

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum/index.aspx>

The Etches collection and Museum

The new museum to house the Jurassic Etches collection is well underway with recruitment taking place. The contents should be fantastic and it has already been listed as one of the top 12 new museums to visit this year - in the world! (Smithsonian Magazine). The Etches collection is the result of over 30 years of collecting in the local Kimmeridgian material by Steve Etches. See <http://www.theetchescollection.org/home> for more information.

New and old on display at the Manx Museum, Isle of Man

A new Geology Gallery along with a Cabinet of Curiosities and other rooms has been opened at the Isle of Man's national museum in Douglas. The geology gallery covers the 480 Myr geological history of the Isle of Man through the use of an interactive film. The centrepiece to the new gallery is a skeleton of an imposing Giant Deer (back on display after months of conservation).

If anyone visits any of these new displays please send us a review. A few paragraphs for *Coprolite* or a whole article for the *Geological Curator*.

SCHOOL ROCKS!! from the Geologists' Association

School Rocks! is an initiative being launched by the Geologists' Association to provide schools with the basic resources they need to teach and/or introduce geology to their students.

Initially targeting GCSE courses, the rocks and fossils, with their associated notes, will also be tailored to Primary and Junior school needs. Each Rock Box will contain six standard rock types, two fossils and two minerals. Plus - there will be a hand lens and a memory stick. This will contain all the teaching notes needed to go with the specimens.

This GA initiative is still in its early stages, but we have a partner in the Building Research Establishment (BRE) supplying us with good quality specimens. If you would like more information on this initiative, would like to help, or are a teacher looking for some assistance, contact the GA at: schoolrocks@geologistsassociation.org.uk

Carbon Mineral Challenge

The hunt is on for Earth's undiscovered carbon minerals. Scientists, using statistical calculations, now know how many are out there (at least 145 carbon minerals remain undiscovered). They even have some ideas about where to look. But to find them, they need the help of the world's mineral collecting community.

The Carbon Mineral Challenge sets the stage for both professional and amateur mineral collectors to make their mark by discovering never-before described minerals. How many can collectors find by 2019?

See <http://mineralchallenge.net/> for more information.

Shows

10 July 2016 and 27 Nov 2016, **Oxford Mineral Fossil Shows**

Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB

www.oxfordshow.co.uk, email oxfordshow@gmail.com

3rd September - **Hampshire Mineral & Fossil Show**

Community Centre, Lyndhurst

Guest display for 2016 is yet to be announced.

Displays from the Dinosaur Isle Museum from the Isle of Wight and The Dorset Group of the Geologists' Association

See <http://www.sotonminfoss.org.uk/smfsshow.htm>

12 November - **Sussex Mineral Society Show**

Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, Sussex

Tours, workshops, displays

See <http://www.sussexmineralandlapidarysociety.org.uk/home/show>

Rock and gem shows 2016

2-3 July, The Hop Farm, Tonbridge, Kent

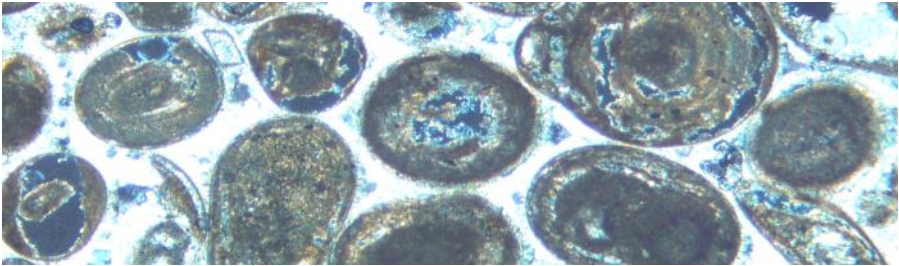
9-10 July, Newcastle Racecourse, Newcastle upon Tyne

6-7 August, Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury on Thames

20-21 August, Masonic Hall, Lymington

17-18 September Newark Showground, Newark.

Find further information on Rock & Gem shows at www.rockngem.co.uk email info@rockngem.co.uk.



Football related news !

Strangely all the 'extra' stories seem to have a theme this month. Maybe there is some sort of competition on?

University of Leicester install seismograph near football stadium

A few days after a seismograph was installed at a local school geologists from the University of Leicester noticed large peaks were occurring during football matches at the nearby stadium. A closer look revealed a strong correlation between Leicester scoring at home and the largest signals. A 'small earthquake' registering 0.3 on the Richter scale was recorded when Leicester City triumphed over Norwich last February with a late winning goal. Bets are now on to see which scorer gets the biggest quake.

Footballer quits to study geology

Chris Boyle, midfielder for Albion Rovers, has been in the news for leaving to concentrate on a Master's degree in Geology. A spokesperson said "It is a shame that Chris has been lost to football as he was a very tricky player. His education was always important to him and we used to go to great lengths to combine the two."

Sphere display

Under the heading "Auslage zur Fußball Europameisterschaft 2016" a fantastic selection of round stones from different countries currently engaged in the European football championship has been created. The display is the work of Maria Heinrich (Leiterin der Fachabteilung Rohstoffgeologie) and Gerhard Koch of Graz, also a geologist who made the balls.

Currently, the rocks are placed in the official line-up after the six groups. With the start of the European Championships, the balls will be relegated to the respective current results. The physical display is at the Geological Survey of Austria, Neulinggasse 38. Full details of each countries stone can be found can be found on our JISC mail recent archive. England is magnesian limestone while Wales is greywacke.

GEOLOGICAL
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GROUP



Affiliated to the
Geological Society of London
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