



OPROLITE

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DROPPINGS FROM THE GEOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

Coprolite is compiled and produced by Tom Sharpe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP (tel 029 20 573265, fax 029 20 667332, e-mail Tom.Sharpe@nmgw.ac.uk). It is published three times a year in March, June and November. Any material for inclusion should be sent to Tom Sharpe by the first of the previous month, i.e. by 1 February, 1 May or 1 October.

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Chairman: Patrick Wyse Jackson, Department of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland tel +353 1 608 1477, fax +353 1 671 1199, e-mail wysjcknp@tcd.ie

Secretary: Giles Miller, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD tel 0207 942 5415, fax 0207 942 5546 email G.Miller@nhm.ac.uk

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Susan Cooke, Leicestershire County Museum Service, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8TB tel 0116 2656843, fax 0116 2656788, e-mail scooke@leics.gov.uk

GCG website: <http://www.geocurator.org>

From the incoming Chairman

I was very honoured that the Group elected me at the AGM in Oxford to serve as your Chairman for the next 3 years. Flicking back through old issues of *Coprolite* past-Chairmen all without exception remark on how quick their term of office passed. In one way this is no harm - if impressed on members, then perhaps more would be willing to serve on Committee. On the other hand three years could pass, and nothing would appear to have been achieved in that time. I hope that this will not be the case in the next triennial session. My predecessors have all put a great deal of effort and time into the workings of the GCG - indeed the efficiency of Tom Sharpe will be hard to beat. Perhaps I need to purchase a computer the size of a cigar case.

This year saw the retirement from Committee of Mandy Edwards as Secretary and Andy Newman as Treasurer. Both served the GCG in these onerous positions for at least a decade, and they deserve our many thanks. Replacing them are Giles Miller of the Natural History Museum, London and Susan Cooke of the Leicestershire County Museums Service.

What are my priorities for the next three years?

We will still endeavour as always to provide good quality meetings, literature and study visits, and hope that members will avail of the expertise provided. Old problems still persist and always need addressing. Continued monitoring of orphan, at-risk collections, and all collections is required. Even those collections seen to be safe need to be monitored. Already, in the space of three months, I have written on your behalf to the administrators and others in positions of 'power', regarding five collections under threat of 'rationalisation' (whatever that may mean - we know it bodes badly for the well-being of the collections; funding authorities feel somewhat relieved by the process as it removes a perceived headache from their responsibility).

We need to find time to work on the collections in our care. Staff and other meetings have drastically reduced the time I can spend actually working as a geological curator, and I'm sure that this is the case for many of us. I would be interested to see the effect on personal productivity if one could persuade management to cancel for a month, all staff and other meetings and 'essential' courses (particularly those on time-management etc), and let us just get on and do what we enjoy doing best.

I look forward to comparing the forthcoming Status report being prepared by our Recorder Glenys Wass, with that produced by Phil Doughty some years ago. The Group is also undertaking a revision of the *Guidelines for the Curation of Geological Materials* which will be published by the Geological Society.

The most recent issue of *The Geological Curator* carried the papers from the Manchester meeting on Ethics, and these present considerable differences of opinion relating to aspects of specimen acquisition. The Group needs to be a forum for debate, and needs to be confident to tackle sticky and controversial issues, and to present its own recommendations. We have an experienced membership, and have been around for long enough so that as a Group we should have some clout. To this end members should use the GCG discussion forum which is accessible via the GCG web page [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/geo-curators.html]. Equally my in-tray (either via snail or e-mail) is always open for your comments, suggestions, criticism and/or praise.

Finally the Group needs to address its membership. Historically the bulk of the membership has been drawn from UK-based curators, and we do have a number of non-UK personal and institutional members. In recent years membership has fallen slightly as subscription-defaulters were axed from the mailing lists. I would like to see membership increase, and for the proportion of non-UK members to rise. To this end I shall soon be embarking on a recruitment drive, and would appreciate if members could try to persuade colleagues and their institutions to become members of the GCG.

Membership forms are available on the web [www.geocurator.org]. What you get for your paltry subscription is remarkably good value!

Patrick Wyse Jackson

Musical curators

Will Watts, formerly at the Yorkshire Museum has been appointed Dinosaur Coast Project Officer; **Dale Johnston**, formerly Museums Outreach Officer for Cambridge University Museums has taken up the post of Events & Temporary Exhibitions Officer at the new museum in Banbury where, as well as organising programmes of special events and exhibitions, he will be developing rural outreach in North Oxfordshire.

New members

GCG is pleased to welcome the following new members: **Mrs A Hanks**, University of Birmingham; **Olle Hints**, Geological Institute at Tallinn Technical University; **Paul Shepherd**, British Geological Survey; **Pauline Taylor**, British Geological Survey; Dr **John K. Wright**, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College; **Daniel Pemberton**, Dinosaur Isle; **Susan Martin**, BGS Corporate Collections; **Jonathan Gregson**, University of Leicester; **Sandra Pratt**, British Geological Survey; **Sarah Tuft**, Plymouth; **Leslie Noe**, Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge; **Sandra Chapman**, The Natural History Museum; **Jill Darrell**, The Natural History Museum

Exhibitions 2002

Walking with dinosaurs National Museum of Wales, Cardiff until 30 June.

Shark! Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne from 13 July.

Claws! Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro 10 August – 28 September. The last chance to see this superb touring exhibition from the Hancock Museum, which explores the natural history of cats. From tabby to tiger and sabretooth to Siamese, a combination of specimens, graphics panels, interactives and animatronics are used to provide an accessible and enjoyable introduction to the Felidae.

Launch of the website for museums working with young people

The Young People and Museums website has been created to keep you up to date with the progress of a national project called Opening the doors, a three-year programme of work aimed at encouraging young people outside of formal education to visit museums and galleries and use the resources they offer.

The site also provides an information resource for any museum worker interested in working with young people outside of formal education. It features guidelines to working with young people, information on fundraising, and links to useful organisations and publications. We aim to keep you up to date with events and training opportunities as they arise. We have also provided a collection of reports and evaluation materials that may be of interest to you if you are thinking of embarking upon a project.

We hope that by sharing ideas, experience, models of good practice and advice, we can help you to run successful and rewarding projects with young people.

We are keen to include details of other projects taking place with young people outside of formal education, independently of the Opening the doors project, on a national and international level. If you would like to add details of a project to the

website or if you have any information you feel would be useful to post on the website, we'd love to hear from you. For further information, please visit the website at www.youngpeopleandmuseums.org.uk or contact Suzanne Rider, 38 Rosemont Close, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4XR tel 01462 642018, email info@youngpeopleandmuseums.org.uk

Dudley Rock and Fossil Fair 2002

One of the UK's largest and most varied festival of fossils, minerals, rocks and the wonders of the solid Earth returns to Dudley Museum and Town hall complex on the weekend of the 21-22 September 2002.

Bigger and more ambitious than ever, it will include displays and exhibitions of dinosaur, fossil and geology clubs and societies; loads of hands on-activities for young and young-at-heart alike; fossil hunting walks and trips into the dark underworld of caverns; the launch of the Dudley Town Geological Walk/Trail; Junior rockhounds 'Discovery Room'; Puppet theatre; large exhibitions on art and geology in the town; creation of works of art by sculptors during the weekend; Ask-the-expert sessions; lectures and film shows; fossil, mineral & rock identification; updates on Dudley's World Heritage Bid and geological conservation; web demonstrations and browsing for dinosaurs, fossils and volcanoes; many stalls selling fossils, gemstones, videos, books and maps. This will be a spectacular celebration of the treasures of the Earth and the dramatic stories that they tell.

For more information of how to book a stand or become involved in the fair or other museum activities visit our website on www.dudley.gov.uk or contact us at Dudley Museum on 01384 815575.

Going Dutch

Scott Engering, himself of Dutch extract, would be interested to hear from anyone who has experience or knowledge of geological or mineral collections or related matters in Holland, other than at Leiden, Haarlem or Maastricht, as he would like to explore some of these during a visit later in the year. Scott can be contacted at 54 Wood Lane, Treeton, South Yorkshire S60 5QR, tel 0114 2699167, email scott@sengering.fsnet.co.uk

New staff for the Dinosaur Coast

The hugely successful Dinosaur Coast Project has received a boost in the form of new funding and two new members of staff. The project, which is run as a partnership between Scarborough Museums and Gallery, North York Moors National Park, Whitby Museum, English Nature and the Yorkshire Museums Council, was recently awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to continue the previous work and develop new areas of the project, under the title 'Making the Dinosaur Coast Accessible for All'.

The two new members of staff, Will Watts and Cath Brason, have recently taken up their posts. Will replaces Alistair Bowden as the Project Officer. A geologist by

training, Will was brought up in the North York Moors National Park before going to Leeds University and then to York to work at the Yorkshire Museum. Having spent many years exploring the natural heritage of the area, he is keen to help others experience the same enjoyment.

The other post reflects a change in direction for the new project. Cath Brason as the Dinosaur Coast Community Officer, is looking at ways to involve groups with no ready access to the region's natural heritage. Cath, from Brighouse, West Yorkshire, is an ecologist with over 5 years' experience of working with people in the environment. The project has funding for 32 group projects over the next three years.

Newish publications

Geology and building stones in Wales (north) by Graham Lott and Bill Barclay, 2002.

Keyworth: British Geological Survey, ISBN 0 85272 423 3.

Geology and building stones in Wales (south) by Graham Lott and Bill Barclay, 2002. Keyworth: British Geological Survey, ISBN 0 85272 422 3.

The geologist's directory 2002. Geological Society of London, ISBN 1 86239 104 1, £79.00

Hugh Miller in context. Geologist and naturalist: writer and folklorist edited by L Borley, 2002. Cromarty Arts Trust in association with the National Trust for Scotland and the National Museums of Scotland, ISBN 0 901625 74 4, £7.50.

Stratigraphical procedure edited by Peter F Rawson et al, 2001. Geological Society Professional Handbook, 64pp. ISBN 1 86239 094 0, £16.00.

The practice of British geology 1750-1850 by Hugh Torrens, 2002. Variorum Collected Studies Series CS736, 372pp. ISBN 0 86078 876 8, £59.50.

Naturalists and society. The culture of natural history in Britain 1700-1900 by DE Allen, 2001. Variorum Collected Studies Series CS724, 308pp. ISBN 0 86078 842 3, £55.00.

Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Bid

Hot on the heels of The Dorset and East Devon Coast's successful bid to become a World Heritage Site, preparations are well underway to nominate Cornish Mining for World Heritage Site Status. In contrast to England's first natural World Heritage Site, the bid for Cornish Mining is based on how man has interacted with the geologic and natural environment, resulting in a revolution in mining methods which had repercussions not simply county, but world -wide.

Remarkable advances in hard rock mining and engineering technologies during the 18th and 19th centuries transformed the landscape, economy and society of Cornwall and West Devon and placed the region at the forefront to the industrial revolution. These technologies quickly spread to every corner of the globe as the international migration of Cornwall and West Devon's highly skilled workforce forged distinctive cultural links between mining communities world-wide.

Abundant, distinctive physical reminders of this important past persist within the Cornish and West Devon landscape: imposing engine houses and extensive relict mine sites, industrial harbours and tramways, foundry and fusework buildings, mining settlements, technical schools, miner's institutes and geological collections established for the aspiring student.

All aspects of this rich mining heritage are being drawn together to form the fabric of a bid to place Cornish Mining among the most important industrial and archaeological sites in the world.

The bid is being prepared by Cornwall Archaeological Unit on behalf of a Cornish Mining WHS bid partnership of over 160 organisations and individuals who are experts in mining history and the management of sites today. Research and preparation has been underway since April 2001 with submission of the nomination to UNESCO due by February 1st 2004. After evaluation by ICOMOS, the bid should progress to the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO) for final consideration in June 2005. Further information on the bid and its progress can be found on the Cornish Mining WHS web site (www.cornish-mining.org.uk).

Sara Chambers, Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro

**GCG seminar and field trip to Dinosaur Isle Museum,
Sandown, Isle of Wight
8 – 9 March 2002**

In March 2002 GCG ventured overseas again, but this time only as far as the Isle of Wight to view the new museum, *Dinosaur Isle*, built to house many of the island's superb dinosaurs, and opened in August of last year. Despite the "barrier" of the sea crossing, the island is a very easy place to get to (you simply book a rail ticket from your local station to Sandown), and it was yet again disappointing that only a few of us made the journey to enjoy a superb couple of days.

As we walked the short distance from our hotel on the Friday morning we were suddenly impressed when the museum came into view. The exterior design is based on the shape of a pterosaur and from the front it is certainly convincing – at last a modern building with clever design – although I am not sure why a pterosaur was chosen for a dinosaur museum ?

Once inside we were welcomed by Mike Bishop the Museums Officer and a good friend of GCG. He explained that *Dinosaur Isle* is a fully registered museum and is working towards designated status and as such is not to be regarded simply as just another visitor centre. As such it has replaced the old IOW Museum housed above the library in Sandown, last seen by GCG in 1995. Mike explained that the project had been funded by the Millennium Commission at a total cost of £2.7 million, and in the 7 months since opening has received 65,000 visitors, surpassing all expectations, resulting in a financial surplus which will stay with the project for future developments.

The first presentation of the day was by well-known TV star Steve Hutt, who

described the filming of the recent BBC series, *Live from Dinosaur Island*. Steve amused us with his tales of BBC expectations versus scientific reality ("Steve, will the doors be big enough to get in the skeletons that we collect?"), but concluded that the project had been a success as it had proved to be a huge publicity shot for the opening of *Dinosaur Isle* just one month after filming. It had also provided an excellent opportunity for large-scale excavation, had amassed much scientific material, still being assessed, and, with viewing figures of c. 4 million, had been enjoyed by the public.

Darren Naish, colleague and co-author with David Martill of the recent book, *Dinosaurs of the Isle of Wight*, continued this theme by explaining the contributions to science made by the BBC series, and also described some of the "lost" dinosaurs of the Isle of Wight as detailed in the book. The main benefits of the series were to palaeontomology, palaeoecology and sedimentology, but Darren amazed us by revealing that the BBC were apparently not interested in some exciting finds made during filming if they didn't fit in with their pre-determined story-line. For example some theropod hand bones found at the *Iguanodon* site, some baryonychid teeth found at the *Hypsilophodon* site, and a crocodile (*Bernissartia*) found at the sauropod site were ignored by the BBC !!! Other important finds made during filming include microvertebrates (salamanders, frogs and mammals) from the *Neovenator* site.

The "lost dinosaurs" include an oviraptorosaur (known from a single vertebra described in 1882, the earliest in Europe), a *Calamosaurus* (described in 1890, also known from a cervical vertebra, which is a compsognathid, possibly similar to *Sinosauropteryx*), a *Sauroposeidon* (at 25 metres long, Europe's largest sauropod), and other giant sauropods such as titanosaurs, camarasaur, brachiosaurs and *Diplodocus*. Fascinating stuff !

Oliver Mattsson, representing the island's other dinosaur attraction, *Dinosaur Farm*, described the establishment of this venue over the last ten years and reviewed the future for the next ten. This volunteer-run attraction was set up in 1993 to house and conserve the "Barnes High Sauropod" discovered the previous year by Steve Hutt. Funded entirely by entrance fees, *Dinosaur Farm* has attracted over 22,000 visitors and is considering changing from private to public ownership and applying for registered status.

Ed Jarzembowski talked on "*New insects, old dinosaurs*", and described some of the Cretaceous insect inclusions in Isle of Wight amber, much of which was recovered during the filming of *Live from Dinosaur Island*. These represent the oldest amber inclusions in the northern hemisphere and include snipeflies, parasitic wasps, leafhoppers, beetles, the world's smallest midge ! (0.6mm wing), and the first Wealdon spider. We all wondered what the "old dinosaurs" part of Ed's talk was going to reveal, and he certainly didn't let us down. Maidstone Museum has recently acquired the notebooks of W.H.Bensted, the original finder of the Maidstone *Iguanodon*, sold to Mantell in 1834. Ed illustrated some drawings and

sketches from this notebook which may well reveal previously unknown details of this classic specimen.

Steve Sweetman described the painstaking techniques used to recover microvertebrate fauna of the Lower Cretaceous Wessex Formation of the I.O.W. He is also looking at theropod dinosaur teeth recovered from these samples as a tool for taxonomic purposes. Amongst specimens illustrated were a possible dromeosaur tooth, a baryonychid tooth, gastropod eggs, seed pods and a possible bone fragment from a flightless bird, which if confirmed would be the first record of a Cretaceous bird on the island.

Dan Pemberton, Documentation Officer for *Dinosaur Isle*, described the museum's documentation system which currently uses MODES for windows. Of the 30,000 specimens in the collections, about one third are currently databased. He described and addressed some of the problems of this system and of museum documentation in general.

Finally Martin Munt, Curator of *Dinosaur Isle*, described the design and building of the new museum and galleries, a subject close to the hearts of those of us who have gone through similar experiences recently. Later we were able to tour the museum. Sponsors for the project were the Millennium Commission, the IOW Council and Wight-Link, the local ferry operators. The impressive "pterosaur" building was designed by local architects, while the main gallery designers were Hayley Sharpe of Leicester, known to many GCG members and with an impressive track record in geology gallery design. We were amazed to hear that only £680 K was spent on the gallery production (fees, cases, lighting, models, etc. etc.) and were impressed with the value for money of the two separate exhibitions.

"Exhibition One" is a time tunnel starting at the present and going back until the time of the dinosaurs. A series of wall cases illustrates typical fauna and flora in different periods with beautifully produced graphic panels giving in depth information as well as a general picture. I was disappointed not to see labels adjacent to their specimens, but at least the low number of objects per case meant that this system wasn't too confusing as it is in many "professionally-designed" galleries. A highlight of this gallery was the actual Ichthyosaur model that swam the Caribbean Sea in *Walking with Dinosaurs*, looking a bit battle-scarred, but an impressive film star.

"Exhibition Two", conceived by Steve Hutt, is the main dinosaur hall, 500 metres square and with good height. Two life-sized flesh reconstructions of *Iguanodon* and *Eotyrannus*, made by Spot-on designs of Glasgow, were superbly accurate, although the robotic *Neovenator* (built by Westgroup) was less impressive looking rather heavy and unfit! Skeletal models of *Megalosaurus* and *Hypsilophodon* produced by Steve had come from the old museum, but now took their place alongside the original skeletons of some of the Island's stars. The Barnes High sauropod and the "pink iggy" (*Iguanodon* also from Barnes High), both mounted in

a simulated rock face were stunning specimens, even though many of the skeletal elements were added casts. For me the real stunner was the articulated skeleton of *Neovenator*, which although less than 50% real bone, must be one of the UK's most impressive dinosaurs.

One popular feature of the exhibition is the open conservation lab, where Steve and his team prepare specimens under the gaze of the public. This also encourages visitors to bring in their finds for identification. The large murals are by Bob Nicholls, the young dino-artist who did such a superb job for us here at Manchester.

The only real disappointment for me was that no provision has been made for storage of the collections which are consequently housed offsite. There is talk of a possible "Phase Two", which might rectify this situation, and which would also allay Martin's fears that *Dinosaur Isle* is seen by some as just another visitor attraction and not as a *bona-fide* museum.

In the evening the Caulk Heads pub provided us with a couple of pints and enormous plates of chips to set us up for the field trip the next day. We are extremely grateful to Martin Munt, Dan Pemberton, Lorna Steel, and her dog Sheeba, for giving up their weekend to show us the superb section from Sandown to Culver Cliff exposing the sequence from the Wealden Wessex Formation through the Greensand into the Chalk. We found good specimens of the bivalves, *Sphaera*, *Perna* and *Trigonia*, a nice shark tooth, several specimens of *Micraster*, and examined recently exposed tracks of *Iguanodon*. It was only a pity that more of you were not there.

John Nudds, The Manchester Museum

Forthcoming GCG seminars and workshops

Tuesday 11 June 2002 National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

GCG Workshop: Identifying fossils 2: Ammonites

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

This workshop, led by Dr John Cope of Cardiff University, will give participants an opportunity to get to grips with the fundamentals in ammonite identification as well as reviewing the major ammonite groups, their biology and biostratigraphy.

1015 Coffee

1045 Ammonite biology, sexual dimorphism and biostratigraphy

1245 Lunch

1345 Ammonite taxonomy and practical ammonite identification

1600 finish

Course fee: £10.00

There is a limited number of places left on this workshop. If you wish to attend, please complete the booking form on page 15 and send it, with payment, to: Steve Howe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP tel 029 20 57363, fax 029 20 667332, email Steve.Howe@nmgw.ac.uk

by Friday 7 June 2002.

**21-24 November 2002 Humboldt Museum, University of Berlin, Germany.
GCG Study Visit: Note change of date and venue**

The planned study visit to Prague has been postponed this year because the collections at the national museum and the geological survey are both inaccessible as a result of various major re-developments. We have been able, at short notice, to arrange an alternative study trip to the world-famous Humboldt Museum in Berlin. The visit will consist of a tour of the collections on Friday 22 November and a tour of the galleries and exhibitions on Saturday 23 November. Check out the web site at www.museum.hu-berlin.de/

For further details and to register contact: Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT. Tel: 0191 222 6765, Fax: 0191 222 6753. E-mail: s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk

**27 November 2002 The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester
GCG Workshop: Identifying fossils 3: Corals**

The workshop will comprise two sessions. In the morning a review of cnidarian systematics and geological history will identify the various groups of corals which are commonly found as fossils. We will also briefly consider other fossil cnidarian groups such as the jellyfish, conulariids, hydrozoans etc.

The afternoon session will begin with a review of coral skeletal morphology and will continue with a practical session concentrating particularly on rugose corals, which usually form the major part of a museum fossil coral collection. We will look at the techniques of studying corals, including acetate peels and thin sections and will attempt to identify a variety of corals using identification keys.

There will be a chance to view the new galleries at Manchester Museum which are due to open in July.

For further details or to book a place contact: John Nudds, The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL tel 0161 275 2660 fax 0161 275 2676 e-mail john.nudds@man.ac.uk

**10-11 December 2002 Sedgwick Museum, Downing Street, Cambridge
GCG Seminar, AGM and study visit: A new look at geological displays**

There have been numerous museum redevelopments over recent years, many of which have included new interpretations of geology collections. New developments at the Sedgwick Museum, The Manchester Museum, Dinosaur Isle and Sunderland Museum are just a few of the examples. This seminar will give participants the opportunity to discuss and debate the trends, if any, in geological displays in museums. What is the audience that individual museums are trying to reach, and are there significantly different approaches and philosophies? How are collections interfacing with interpretative techniques and indeed how are these techniques changing? What is the role and function of technology? The seminar will be followed by the 29th GCG Annual General Meeting.

This visit will include an opportunity to view the new gallery redevelopment at the Sedgwick scheduled to open in summer 2002 and to view the collections (on day two). The full programme and booking details will appear in the November edition of Coprolite but please contact Leslie Noe now (details below) to register interest.

Local contact: Leslie Noe, Sedgwick Museum, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EQ tel 01223 333456, email : lnoe01@esc.cam.ac.uk To offer papers please contact: Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT. Tel: 0191 222 6765, Fax: 0191 222 6753. E-mail: s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk as the collections are being moved. Insterad, we plan to go to

27 November 2002 The Manchester Museum, Manchester

A workshop led by Dr John Nudds on the identification of fossil corals.

Contact: John Nudds, The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL tel 0161 275 2660 fax 0161 275 2676 e-mail john.nudds@man.ac.uk

**10-11 December 2002 Sedgwick Museum, Downing Street, Cambridge
GCG Seminar, AGM and study visit**

This visit will include an opportunity to view the new gallery redevelopment at the Sedgwick scheduled to open in summer 2002 and to view the collections.

Contact: Dr Liz Hide, Sedgwick Museum, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EQ tel 01223 766969, email eah17@esc.cam.ac.uk

Other meetings

23-26 August 2002 The Spa Centre, Scarborough, Yorkshire

Geologists' Association: Earth Alert 2. A festival of geology

Contact: Dr W French, Geologists Association Office, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 9AG

1-6 September 2002 Edinburgh International Conference Centre

18th Quadrennial Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association

For further information: email ima2002@ed.ac.uk or info@minersoc.org or see www.minersoc.org/IMA2002

9-13 September 2002 University of Leicester

British Association Festival of Science

Contact: The British Association for the Advancement of Science, 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2EZ tel 020 7973 3500, fax 020 7973 3051, www.the-ba.net

9-10 September 2002 Sedgwick Museum and Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge

11th Symposium of palaeontological preparation and conservation.

Contact: Leslie Noè, email lnoe01@esc.cam.ac.uk

11-14 September 2002 Sedgwick Museum and Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge

50th Symposium of vertebrate palaeontology and comparative anatomy

Contact: Alison Allen (SVPCA), Department of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, fax 01223 333450, email alison@esc.cam.ac.uk

10 October 2002 Crathes Castle, Banchory

Interpret Scotland: Hewn from the living rock

This workshop is for guides, curators, rangers and others who lead guided tours of historic places. It will introduce the range of exciting stories that lie hidden in the landscape and buildings that surround us, and which add depth to our understanding of historic and cultural heritage. It will introduce techniques for bringing geology alive through face to face interpretation, and provide participants with sources of further information to develop ideas for their own work.

Fee: £50.00

Contact: Sharing Good Practice Administrator, Awareness and Involvement, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW

10-13 October 2002 Cromarty

Cromarty Arts Trust: International Conference to celebrate the bicentenary of Hugh Miller

This conference, arranged by Cromarty Arts Trust in association with the University of the Highlands and Islands and the University of Aberdeen, with the support of Scottish Natural Heritage, celebrates the bicentenary of the birth of Hugh Miller, geologist and naturalist, writer and folklorist. The opening plenary session will begin at 3.30pm on Thursday 10 October with keynote papers from Prof David Lowenthal of Berkeley, California, Prof Christopher Harvie of Tübingen University, and Prof Eric Richards of the Flinders University of Adelaide, South Australia. On the morning of Friday 11 October, an excursion will be made to the Eathie foreshore, site of Miller's early fossil discoveries. On Sunday 13 October there will also be an excursion to Morayshire to visit the outstanding Elgin Museum collection and other sites explored by Miller's contemporaries.

On Friday and Saturday 11 and 12 October, the conference will divide into three subject themes: Geology and natural history, Ethnography and folklore, and Church and Society. Speakers in the geology theme will include Hugh Torrens (University of Keele), Simon Knell (University of Leicester), Michael Taylor (National Museums of Scotland), Prof Michael Collie, Ralph O'Connor (St John's College, Cambridge), Nigel Trewin (Aberdeen University), Phillipe Janvier (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris), John Hudson (University of Leicester) and Alison Morrison-Low (National Museums of Scotland).

At the full plenary session on Saturday 12 October, the main speaker will be Jim Secord of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Cambridge.

Contact: Dr Lesley Borley, Cromarty Arts Trust, 4 Belford Place, Edinburgh EH4 3DH

15-16 October 2002 Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris

Are Earth science collections still meaningful?

The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle is organising this meeting on behalf of the French Ministry of Research, the National Museum of Natural History, the French Geological Society, the French Society for Mineralogy and Crystallography, the Office for Museums Cooperation, and UNESCO. Earth sciences collections, as all other natural sciences collections, are the result of the inventory of nature during more than two centuries. The evolution of scientific ideas and communication media raise the question of the rationalization, if not the utility of Earth science collections. This meeting aims to assess, together with the different supervision authorities and organisations responsible for the collections, why they are still relevant for research and education.

Contact: Annie Cornée, Géologie Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 43 rue de Buffon, 75005 Paris, France fax 01 40 49 37 39, email cornee@mnhn.fr

14-18 July 2003 Department of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland INHIGEO International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences 28th Symposium: Geological travellers

The programme will comprise 4 days of talks and poster sessions on the theme of Geological travellers. The symposium language will be English.

The optional post-symposium field trip will take place between Saturday 19th – Saturday 26th July 2003 and will involve an anticlockwise circumnavigation around Ireland during which some classic areas of Irish geology will be examined. A number of these sites hold particular significance in the history of geology. Sites to be visited may include the Giant's Causeway in north east Ireland; the Donegal granite upon which much of the debate of the granite controversy of the 1950s was debated, Cregg Castle the ancestral home of the celebrated mineralogist and chemist Richard Kirwan; the Burren in County Clare a site of exceptional beauty in karstic limestones; Cashel, Co. Tipperary - an important early Christian site; the River Blackwater valley where J.B. Jukes examined the nature of Tertiary river drainage patterns; and Hook Head in the southeast corner of the country where Captain Thomas Austin described wonderful Lower Carboniferous crinoids. The trip will be led by Patrick Wyse Jackson and will be joined by Gordon Herries Davies for part of the trip. Numbers will be limited to 3 persons.

Estimated costs are: Registration fee: c.€380, Accompanying members: €100. Accommodation: c. €58 per night. Field trip: €500 per person.

Further details including the 1st Circular, Registration Form, Details of abstract submission, and the Post-Symposium excursion are available on the Web site: www.tcd.ie/Geology/ or from the convenor, Dr Patrick N. Wyse Jackson, Department of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 353-1-6081477; Fax: 353-1-6711199; e-mail: wysjcknp@tcd.ie.

24-26 September 2003 Centre Alexandre Koyré, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Université Paris I-Sorbonne

Correspondence and the history of biology (18th-20th centuries)

Contact: Nicholas Robin & Josquin Debaz, Laboratoire de cryptagamie, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 12 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France email corresponances@voila.fr

GCG ammonites workshop, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
11 June 2002
BOOKING FORM

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I will be attending the workshop on 11 June
I enclose a cheque for £10.00

*Please return this booking form with your payment (cheques payable to GCG) to Steve Howe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP by **Friday 7 June 2002***

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