



OPROLITE

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November
2015

DROPPINGS
FROM THE
GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP

Coprolite is compiled and produced by Helen Kerbey, Production Editor, *Mineralogical Magazine*, 12 Baylis Mews, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, TW1 3HQ. (e-mail hkgeology@btinternet.com, tel +44 (0)2920 513901). It is published three times a year in March, June and November. Any material for inclusion should be sent to Helen Kerbey by the first of the previous month, i.e. by 1 February, 1 May or 1 October.

Chairman: Giles Miller, Senior Curator, Micropalaeontology, Department of Earth Science Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Email: g.miller@nhm.ac.uk

Secretary: Sarah King, York Museums Trust, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7FR. Email: Sarah.King@ymt.org.uk

Treasurer: John Nudds, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL Tel 0161 275 7861 Email: john.nudds@manchester.ac.uk

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please note that the **42nd Annual General Meeting** of the Geological Curators' Group will be held at the Natural History Museum, on **Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 4.00pm**. Nominations for the posts of Officers and two Committee Members must be made by two members of the Group and submitted in writing or by email to the secretary Sarah King, by 9th November 2013.

Member list of e-mails: The newsletter is now sent round by email and/or post. Please keep your email and address up to date with the Membership Secretary. People who have contact me to say they have no email account (and those people who have no email account registered with us) will continue to receive Coprolite by post for the foreseeable future.

News

Redevelopment of the Market Hall Museum, Warwick

'Heritage & Culture Warwickshire have been awarded £900,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to re-develop the Market Hall Museum in Warwick. The existing displays of geology, natural history and archaeology will be removed, and replaced with themed galleries that will include objects and artefacts from across the diverse collections. There will also be a commitment to a frequently changing programme of temporary displays, and community input in terms of display, activities and the new community heritage website 'Our Warwickshire'. County geology will remain represented throughout in the new displays, and the service is committed to maintaining its geological remit online.

The Market Hall Museum closes its doors at the end of September 2015, with a view to re-opening in late Spring 2016. In the meantime, geological enquiries can be sent to the Curator of Natural Sciences; jonradley@warwickshire.gov.uk.'

Meeting reports

'Be a Curator' at the Yorkshire Fossil Festival, 19-20 September 2015

This is the second year that the Yorkshire fossil festival has been running at the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough, and the first time that the GCG has been involved. Just like other fossil festivals, Yorkshire hosts lots of family activities, fossil walks and amazing fossils on display. This is all organised by different groups and institutions who are keen to get people excited about fossils.

This year there was a special emphasis on William Smith for the 200th anniversary of the publication of his ground-breaking geological map. This was particularly relevant to Scarborough as he lived there in his later life and contributed to the building of the Rotunda. We were lucky that the weather lived up to the occasion, which certainly added to the bustling, excited feel of the festival!



Luanne and Dimuthu Meehitiya and Lukas Large were running the new "Be A Curator" activity for the GCG, encouraging people to understand curation and to curate their own finds. We recorded finds brought in during the festival on Twitter using the hashtags #Yorksossilfinds15 and #YorksFossilFest.

Events

William Smith Bicentenary

200 years since William Smith published the first edition of his Geological Map of England and Wales. A list of exhibitions and events is hosted by the Geological Society at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Events/William-Smith-Bicentenary>. Also of interest Smith's map is now freely available to view on mobile devices through the BGS's iGeology app !

Exhibitions:

Date: March 2015 - September 2015

Venue: Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre, Oxfordshire

Date: 22 May - 30 November 2015

Venue: The Yorkshire Museum, York

William Smith: Colours Beneath your Feet

Date: 23 May - 19 September 2015

Venue: Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

Mapping a Nation: Uncover the story of Smith and Britain's first geological map

Dates: 17 September to 31 October 2015

Venue: The Natural History Museum, London

The Man who put Scarborough on the Map

Dates: 28 July 2015 - 31 December 2015 Scarborough

Venue: Rotunda Museum, Scarborough Museums Trust, Scarborough

Reading the Rocks: The Remarkable Maps of William Smith

Dates: 26 September 2015 - 28 February 2016

Venue: National Museum Wales, Cardiff

Visualising Landscapes & Geology, Past, Present & Future

Date: October 2015

Venue: University of Bristol

Handwritten in Stone: the life and legacy of William Smith

Dates: 9 October 2015 - 31 January 2016

Venue: Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Sedgwick Museum: William Smith Map Exhibition

Dates: Opened August 2015

Venue: Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge

Other events

Festival of Geology Saturday 7 November 10.30 – 4.30

University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

A day of geological family fun! Stalls and displays as well as four lectures. Visit Rockwatch in the Discovery Room to race trilobites, make a Jurassic diorama, sift

sand for sharks' teeth, make your own fossils and more. Bring your mystery rocks and fossils to be identified. FREE EVENT. No need to book – just come along. Suitable all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. There is also a Photographic Competition which you can enter and win big prizes! Details of the day and the photographic competition:

Erdkunde: The Study of the Earth 19 Sept 2015 – 3 Jan 2016

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

EXHIBITION: Artists John Wood and Paul Harrison present Erdkunde: The Study of the Earth, a new video work inspired by the museum's geology collections.

14 November 2015 Behind the Scenes: Geology Stores

TOUR: Join us for an alternative exploration of our geology stores to see what inspired and excited John Wood and Paul Harrison in their new video work.

29 Nov 2015, **Oxford Mineral Fossil Shows**

Exeter Hall, Kidlington, north Oxford, OX5 1AB

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

HOGG - History of Geology Group Meetings - open to GCG

Details on events may be found at www.historyofgeologygroup.co.uk.

NatSCA annual conference and AGM

21 - 22 April 2016, The Silk Mill and Derby Museum & Art Gallery

The Nature of Collections - How museums inspire our connection to the natural world

Lyme Regis Fossil Festival

The 2016 Lyme Regis Fossil Festival will take place 29 April - 1 May, 2016.

Rock and gem shows 2015

14-15 November 2015. Cheltenham Pittville Pump Rooms

21-22 November 2015. Brighton Racecourse

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

Don't see your event here? Email the newsletter editor: Helen Kerbey hkgeology@btinternet.com

Forthcoming seminars and workshops

Check our website www.geocurator.org for updates to our seminar programme or contact the Programme Secretary at k.j.riddington@bham.ac.uk or write to Kate Riddington, Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

**GCG Seminar and 42nd AGM
1st and 2nd December 2014**

**Not just rocks in the cupboard: communicating geoscience
through collections**

Speakers for this will include:

Richard Fortey, Natural History Museum (subject to filming commitments)

Matthew Parkes, National Museum Ireland

Chris Jarvis and Sarah Lloyd, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Tim Ewin, Natural History Museum

The full programme will be circulated nearer the time, and is anticipated to start around 10.45am, with the AGM at around 4pm.

We are arranging a meal for the evening of Tuesday 1 December at a venue close to the NHM.

On Wednesday 3rd December there will be a trip around the stores at the Natural History Museum in the morning and in the afternoon a visit to see the Crystal Palace dinosaurs – with a guide from the Friends of Crystal Palace Dinosaurs – has been arranged.

The fee for Tuesday will be £25 for members and £35 for non-members, and for Wednesday £10 for members and £15 for non-members (you can join GCG for just £20). The Wednesday cost includes a fee that GCG will pass on to the Friends of Crystal Palace Dinosaurs to help fund their outreach activities. Lunch and travel is not included either day.

See the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Publications and resources of interest

Please let me know of any publications of interest, particularly those in journals we may not normally keep up to date with.

The Geology of Oxford Gravestones

Written by geologist and science writer, Nina Morgan and Phil Powell (former curator of geology at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History).

This recently published highly illustrated, all-colour 140-page book designed to highlight the wide variety of rock types and geological features that can be seen in graveyards throughout Britain outlines geological trails in six Oxford cemeteries. Copies cost £14.99 + postage and are currently available ONLY from the authors.

See www.gravestonegeology.uk for sample pages and information about how to purchase. Kindle versions of individual chapters are also available. Geological Press, ISBN 978-1-91058-53-1

Geoheritage in Europe and its Conservation

40 €, ISBN: 978-82-426-2476-5

A comprehensive overview of geo-conservation in Europe including contributions from 37 countries focussing on legislation and geoconservation practices

Footsteps Through Time - The rocks and landscape of Anglesey explained

This book contains around 200 pages with illustrations, maps and diagrams and has been designed to stimulate interest in the Island's Geology and to help visitors and inhabitants alike understand the complex geological history of Anglesey's vast array of rocks and their fascinating and exciting origins. Written by Dr Stewart Campbell (NRW). Dr Margaret Wood (GeoMon) and Professor Brian Windley, (University of Leicester) with contributions from Robert Crossley (Fugro Robertson Ltd) David Jenkins (University of Bangor) Michael Roberts (University of Bangor). It has been a joint project by GeoMon and Isle of Anglesey County Council.

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Obituary. Roger Frank Vaughan 31st August 1948 – 8th June 2015

It is with sadness that we report the death of long-time GCG Member Roger Vaughan. Roger was the Curator of Geology at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery until his retirement in 2013. Roger had a lifelong love of geology and was well respected within the geological community, especially in the west of England where he spent most of his geological career. In 1989 he became the Keeper of Collections at the 'Geological Museum' in Bath, (now the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute) and produced an essential catalogue of the specimens in the collections highlighting their importance. He then joined Bristol in 1993, as Geological Conservator at first. Over the years he worked with many museums including Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, Swindon Museum and Dudley Museum and more recently Stroud and Gloucester. A full obituary will be published in the Geological Curator.

**Booking Form - GCG Seminar and 42nd AGM
1st and 2nd December 2015
Not just rocks in the cupboard: communicating geoscience through
collections**

Title Name

Job title / Institution.....

Address

.....Postcode

Telephone E-mail

Any Special Dietary Requirements
(Mid-morning and afternoon refreshments are included in the cost, but lunch is not provided.
Lunch can be obtained at a variety of local establishments.)

Any Mobility Difficulties

I will be attending the Seminar on December 2nd	GCG member	<input type="checkbox"/> £25
	Non member	<input type="checkbox"/> £35

I am interested in attending the AGM only

I am interested in attending the evening meal (venue to be confirmed)

I would like to attend the visit to the NHM stores and Crystal Palace Dino- saurus on Wednesday 2 December	GCG member	<input type="checkbox"/> £10
	Non member	<input type="checkbox"/> £15

Are you happy for these details to be shared with other delegates at the workshop? Yes/No

I have enclosed a cheque to the Geological Curators Group for
£.....

Please send me an invoice (please send details and/or purchase order with this form)

Bank details can be sent, on request, for BACS payments

Unfortunately we're unable to accept card payments. Please return form by email to k.j.riddington@bham.ac.uk or to Kate Riddington, Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

For more details on joining the Geological Curators' Group contact Cindy Howells (E-mail: cindy.howells@museumwales.ac.uk) or write to Cindy Howells, National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

For more details about Coprolite contact Helen Kerbey (E-mail: hkgeology@btinternet.com) or write to Helen Kerbey, c/o National Museum Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

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