

HOGG

**Newsletter of the History
of Geology Group of the
Geological Society
of London**



**Number 46
October 2012**

Front cover

Discussion on the Piltdown Skull. Oil Painting by John Cooke RA (1915).

Left to right, rear: Frank Barlow, Grafton Elliot Smith, Charles Dawson, Sir Arthur Smith Woodward.

Left to right, front: Arthur Underwood, Sir Arthur Keith, William Pycraft, Edwin Ray Lankester.

The supposed early human remains, first published in the Geological Society's Quarterly Journal, were exposed as a fraud in 1953 by Dr Kenneth Oakley of the Natural History Museum. Despite the conspiracy theories that have emerged since, the prime suspect has always been Charles Dawson, a pretender to academic distinction and the known perpetrator of several similar missing-link-style frauds in the field of archaeology.

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Don't miss the HOGG meeting

Piltdown: 100 Years On

on December 18th (see pages 10 and 25 of this newsletter).

Editorial subcommittee

Beris Cox (e mail: beris.cox@btinternet.com)

David Earle (e mail: daearle@btinternet.com)

The HOGG newsletter will be issued in February (copy deadline 31st January), June (copy deadline 31st May) and October (copy deadline 30th September).

HOGG NEWSLETTER 46

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



As we enter the last quarter of 2012, HOGG members can look forward to two meetings – *Appreciating Physical Landscapes: 1670 to 1970* in October, and *Piltdown: 100 Years On* in December. Programme information and registration forms follow in this issue and I look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

Your committee is actively planning meetings for 2013. The big international event is the INHIGEO conference in Manchester in July. While not an exclusively HOGG event, the INHIGEO conference is central to our historical interests and directly involves past and present committee members in the week's programme of lectures and events, and in the pre- and post-conference fieldtrips (see page 11 of this newsletter).

On 31st May 2013, the maps of Henry De la Beche and the early Geological Survey will be the subject of a joint meeting of HOGG and the Charles Close Society (CSS) of which I am also a member. The CCS is named after a Director General of the Ordnance Survey of the 1930s. CCS members are interested in OS maps and the history of the OS. The embryonic Geological Survey existed, from 1835 to 1845, as the Geological Office of the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey, and OS maps were the base for geological mapping, so this early period is of interest to members of both societies. The meeting will include a visit to the Geological Society Map Library and the inspection of De la Beche's and early Geological Survey maps from the archive.

The AGM will take place during the Piltdown meeting on December 18th. Committee members are elected at the AGM and join for a term of three years. They are expected to be involved in developing meetings as advisors, organizers or speakers, and in the day-to-day running of HOGG (see page 4). Whether or not you are a committee member, your ideas for topics or locations for HOGG meetings are welcome. Please pass on any ideas to a committee member.

An issue of huge importance to the history of geology is the recent proposal to build a sewage outfall pipe adjacent to Siccar Point where James Hutton's unconformity is so well exposed in the sea cliff. An avalanche of objections to the planning application has landed on the Scottish Borders Council from around the world (see page 15 of this newsletter). Thanks to Cherry Lewis for alerting HOGG members to this issue via our JISMAIL list. This e mail forum is a valuable tool for circulating news, ideas and questions to our membership so do make sure your name is on it (see page 3).

John Henry (e mail john@geolmaps.com)

October 2012

HOGG COMMITTEE 2012

Chairman John Henry **Vice Chairman** Bob Symes **Secretary** Leucha Veneer

Treasurer Beris Cox **Membership Secretary** Cherry Lewis

Ordinary members Tony Brook, David Earle, Tom Hose, Richard Howarth, Tom Sharpe

NEW POST OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Cherry Lewis has taken on the new role of Membership Secretary. She will maintain the membership and JISC mailing lists (previously undertaken by the HOGG Secretary), and also be responsible for collecting the annual subscriptions and processing new memberships (previously undertaken by the HOGG Treasurer). All membership and subscription enquiries should be directed to her. **Most importantly, please remember to advise her of any changes in contact details, particularly e-mail addresses.**

Dr Cherry Lewis
e mail: cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk

HOGG JISCMail LIST

It appears that not all HOGG members are on the HOGG JISC mailing list. As pointed out by John Henry in his Letter from the Chair, this e mail forum is a valuable tool for circulating news, ideas and questions, as well as advising when the HOGG newsletters are issued, circulating information about meetings and raising urgent matters of concern. If you do not currently receive messages from HOGG@JISCMail.AC.UK and would like to do so, please advise Cherry Lewis of your e mail address.

e mail: cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk

2013 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription renewals are due on 1st January 2013.

If you do not already pay by standing order, please consider doing so as it helps save HOGG's precious resources. Complete a standing order mandate (on Page 26 of this newsletter) and set one up in time for your 2013 payment in January. Alternatively, if you bank online, please contact the Treasurer (beris.cox@btinternet.com) about setting up the standing order yourself.

HOGG WEBMASTER NEEDED

HOGG is in the process of building its own website which will be live by the end of this year. The site will provide easy access to all aspects of HOGG including details about HOGG meetings and the facility for online registration and payment. It will also include links and latest news from elsewhere. If you would like to be involved with this new initiative by becoming the HOGG webmaster, please contact Cherry Lewis at cherry.lewis@bristol.ac.uk.

HOGG AGM 2012

The HOGG AGM will take place at Burlington House at 12.45 on Tuesday 18th December within the Piltdown meeting (see page 10 of this newsletter). Committee members are elected at the AGM. Committee members join for three years and are expected to be involved in developing meetings as advisors, organizers or speakers, and in the day-to-day running of the group.

If you are interested in joining the committee or making a nomination, please contact the Chairman (john@geolmaps.com) or Secretary (leucha.veneer@manchester.ac.uk) to discuss. Nominations must be received by 18th November.

FUTURE HOGG EVENTS

*** APPRECIATING PHYSICAL LANDSCAPES: GEOTOURISM 1670 -1970**

22nd – 23rd October 2012

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

Geological Society-supported meeting.

See pages 5 – 9 and 27 of this newsletter.

*** PILTDOWN 100 YEARS ON**

Tuesday 18th December 2012

Burlington House, Piccadilly and Natural History Museum , South Kensington, London

Geological Society-supported meeting.

This meeting will celebrate the centenary of the presentation of the original Piltdown paper at the Geological Society on 18th December 1912.

See pages 10 and 25 of this newsletter.

*** 2013 INHIGEO CONFERENCE**

MANCHESTER

Monday 22nd – Sunday 28th July 2013

All HOGG members are invited to attend or participate in the 2013 INHIGEO Conference which will take place as part of the 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine (iCHSTM). See page 11 of this newsletter.

..... ALSO COMING UP

- We are in the early stages of planning a meeting at the National Museum of Wales in **Cardiff** in **early Spring 2013**. Full details in the February newsletter.
- On **May 31st 2013**, a joint meeting with the Charles Close Society (see Letter from the Chair on page 2). Full details in the February newsletter.
- We are in the early planning stages of a joint meeting in **Autumn 2013** with the Linnean Society, whose premises are also in Burlington House.
- In **2015**, we are looking towards a year-long, country-wide celebration of the bicentenary of William Smith's ground-breaking map of 1815. If you have an interest in or ideas for this Smith event, please contact John Henry (john@geolmaps.com).

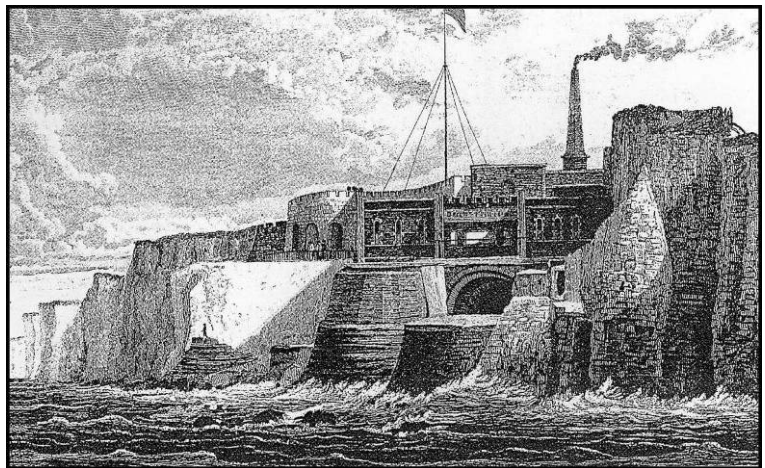
APPRECIATING PHYSICAL LANDSCAPES: GEOTOURISM 1670-1970 – COMET, SPA AND NEXT!

Tom Hose

It is now less than a month away from the conference paper-reading day; this is packed with two excellent keynotes, twelve interesting papers and some eight posters. Presenters are coming from as far south as Australia and as far east as Russia. Northern interests are catered for with a paper on Norwegian geotourism and western interests should be assuaged with papers on geotourism in Wales and the Borders. Confirmed posters include those on the Cheesewring and Portmeirion, whilst for cultural buffs, Dante and the poet Adam Mickiewicz. With three coffee sessions and a wine reception included you might reasonably ask where and who else could provide such a packed and interesting day for a mere £45.00!

Then, likewise for the following day's field excursion to the Margate area and the Kent coast by train with a snack luncheon and an afternoon tea included. Whilst in the 19th century: "*During the summer, Ramsgate is much frequented by visitors from London, who come by the daily steam-packets to enjoy the benefit of sea-bathing, for which the beach to the southward of the pier affords excellent opportunity. Powerful steam-packets ply every day between London and Ramsgate, and the passage up or down is usually made in seven hours.*" (Bartlett, Harding & Creswick, 1842). We shall be progressing there by land, by rail and in 90 minutes. It would be nice if our stroll along the coast benefitted from the delightful warmth and brightness of a late 'Indian summer' but . . . at the very least it could be bracing – in the marketing speak of past and present tourism, the coast is never windy or gale lashed. Dependent upon the prevailing weather, the intention is to examine the Pegwell Bay area and coast from around Botany Bay to Margate, with the last stop of the day probably spent gazing at the Sea Bathing Hospital. However, the itinerary will be adjusted to take into account the weather on the day and the state of the tides. We are partly following in the footsteps of earlier Geologists' Association excursions, such as that to Ramsgate in 1875 which took place: ". . . *shortly after 1 p.m. on Easter Monday, and proceeded at once towards Pegwell Bay. Arrived on the shore, Mr Dowker began the work of the day by pointing out, in the first place, an irregular mass of gravel and brick-earth, generally believed to be of fluviatile origin.*" (Hudleston, 1875, p.254) Notwithstanding the now accepted aeolian origin of brick-earth (loess), their observations are still pertinent to today. Pegwell Bay was very accurately depicted in William Dyce's oil painting '*Pegwell Bay, Kent – a*

Recollection of October 5th 1858 which seems to epitomize both Victorian and more recent beach activities. Margate lays some, not undisputed, claim to being England's first seaside resort from the 1730s. It was at the forefront of sea bathing in the 18th Century. Then, bathers were taken into the sea in simple carts before a fully developed horse-drawn bathing machine was in use by 1753. By 1793, a guide to Margate mentions some 30 to 40 bathing machines in use at a time. Bathing rooms had been established at Margate in the 1750s, to the south-west of the harbour, from which the bather descended an external staircase on the seaward side into a waiting bathing machine to enter the sea. In 1791, the Quaker physician John Coakley Lettsom established 'The Margate Infirmary for the relief of the Poor whose Diseases require Sea-Bathing'; this had its own bathing machines and also it later had sea-water baths; elements of this establishment survive as the Sea Bathing Hospital, although converted to apartments, to the present-day near Margate Station. Sadly the more spectacular Clifton Sea Bathing Baths were demolished and overlain by a lido in the 1920s. However its underground elements survive, albeit in some state of dilapidation, to the present-day and there is an intention to have them listed for preservation. They were constructed at a cost of £15,000 between 1824 and 1828 by John Boys. The whole Clifton Sea Bathing Baths complex was excavated into the actual Chalk of the cliff north-east of Margate harbour. It had a Gothic style exterior of flint and stone well visible from the beach. Some 40,000 cubic yards (30,584m³) of chalk was excavated and removed from the site. An engraving of c. 1829 (*see right*) shows a Gothic style fort-like structure with a massive arch at sea-level, with the buildings having lancet windows and a crenellated parapet, with the whole topped by an obelisk-shaped chimney. Contemporaneously with that engraving, one Joseph Mallord William Turner was semi-resident in Margate and happily interpreting the seascapes from near his lodging, the site of which was built over by the Turner Contemporary art gallery - another venue on the excursion's itinerary.



Now just in case you thought from the sub-title that we're also looking at retailing during the day – despite the several large new retail parks near Ramsgate – the connections are a little more natural and, of course, historical. William Dyce's painting includes an image of Donati's Comet that had reached its perihelion (the point where it is closest to the Sun) just a few days before; incidentally, this comet, discovered by Giovanni Donati on 2nd June 1858, was one of the brightest to be seen during the 19th Century. For Spa(s) we have the choice of at least the sea bathing establishments at Cliftonville and Margate. And for 'next', well just remember to look out for details of the post-conference and field excursion book that will encompass the history of geotourism!

References

- Hudleston, W.H. (1875) Excursion to the Isle of Thanet – Easter Monday, March 29th, 1875, and following day. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, Volume 4, Issue 4, October 1875, pp. 254-260.
- Bartlett, W.H. , Harding, J.D. & Creswick, T. (1842) *The Ports, Harbours, Watering-Places And Picturesque Scenery of Great Britain Illustrated By Views Taken On The Spot With Descriptions, Historical and Topographical*, Vol.II. London: James S.Virtue.



Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Geotourism 1670-1970 22nd-23rd October 2012



**Monday 22nd October 2012
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London**

PROGRAMME

08.30 REGISTRATION and tea, coffee & biscuits

09.20: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Thomas A. Hose (Conference Convenor)

09.30: KEYNOTE: *Reason to Believe: Dragons, New Science and Public Perceptions of the Prehistoric World* Prof. David Norman (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge)

10.10: Eugene von Guérard: a geognostic landscape painter in Australia Ruth Pullin (National Gallery, Australia)

10.30 - 11.00: POSTERS and tea, coffee & biscuits

11.00: Geotourism as documented and photographed by the Geologists' Association from 1858 Jonathan Larwood (Geologists' Association/Natural England)

11.20: The role of Local Societies in the Early Geotourism Movement, the Chester Society of Natural Science: a Case Study Cynthia Burek¹ & Thomas A. Hose² (¹Centre for Science Communication, University of Chester; ²School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)

11.40: Dovedale and J W Jackson's legacy Ros Westwood (Derbyshire Museums)

12.00: LUNCH (*not provided for delegates*)

13.00: KEYNOTE: *Appreciating geology and the physical landscape in Scotland: from the 'tourism of awe' to 'experiential re-engagement'* Prof. John E. Gordon (School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews)

13.40: Visitors to the Northern Playgrounds: Tourists and Some Science from North Norway Brian Whalley (University of Sheffield)

14.00: From tourism to geotourism, a glance to the French northern alps: historical cases Nathalie Cayla (Laboratoire EDYTEM UMR CNRS-Université de Savoie, France)

14.20: COMFORT BREAK

14.30: Appreciating Loess Landscapes through History: the Basis of Modern Loess Geotourism in the Vojvodina Region of North Serbia Djordjije A. Vasiljević¹, Tin Lukić¹, Slobodan B. Marković¹, Thomas A. Hose², Miroslav D. Vujičić¹, Biljana Basarin¹ (¹Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia; ²School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)

14.50: From the History of Geotourism and Geological Monuments of Russia (an Example of Geological Monuments of the Leningrad region) Maria Tsinkoburova (Department Historical and Dynamic Geology Faculty of Geological Prospecting, St. Petersburg Mining University, Russia)

15.10: *Rediscovering geoheritage, reinventing geotourism – 200 years of experience from the Sudetes, Central Europe* Piotr Migoń (Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Wrocław, Poland)

15.30: POSTERS and tea, coffee & biscuits

16.00: *Thomas Compton and the Hirnantian rocks of North Wales* Keith Nicholls¹ & Cynthia Burek² (¹Department of Biological Sciences, University of Chester; ²Centre for Science Communication, University of Chester)

16.20: *From Geological Travels between the 18th and the 19th Centuries to Modern Geotourism: the case study of the geohistorical trip of Carlo Amoretti in the Pre-Alps* Libera Paola Arena (Università degli studi di Bari, Italy)

16.40: *In the Shadow of Inspiration; Canada's National Parks and Beyond* Julian Ashbourn

17.00: CLOSING CEREMONY: John Henry (HOGG Chair)

17.15: POSTER EXHIBITION DISCUSSION SESSION

CONFIRMED POSTERS

- ***Adam Mickiewicz and hills of Vilnius and Kaunas – a poet's search for inspiration*** Simonas Saarmann (Vilnius University, Lithuania)
- ***Towards a History of Geotourism in Serbia: Marking Moments in Time*** Miroslav D. Vujičić¹, Djordjije A. Vasiljević¹, Tin Lukić¹, Slobodan B. Marković¹, Thomas A. Hose², Biljana Basarin¹ (¹Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia; ²School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)
- ***The Influence of Geology on the Work of Clough Willams-Ellis at Portmeirion, North Wales*** Jonathan Wilkins & Keith Nicholls (North Wales Geology Association)
- ***Geotourist by Chance: Dante's Commedia Between Politics, Religion and Geomorphology*** Antonio Raschi (CNR – IBIMET, Firenze, Italy)
- ***Antonio Stoppani: a life of geology, travel and science popularisation*** Matteo Garofano
- ***From Geological Travels between the 18th and the 19th Centuries to Modern Geotourism: the case-study of the geo-historical trip of Carlo Amoretti in the Pre-Alps.*** Libera Paola Arena (Università degli studi di Bari, Italy)
- ***The Cheesewring: much more than just another granite tor*** John Macadam (Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter)
- ***Geology and Geologists in the 19th Century field in Southern England*** Thomas A. Hose (School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)

18.00: WINE RECEPTION (in Lower Library)

19.00: Depart for CONFERENCE DINNER (*optional*)

Tuesday 23rd October 2012
FIELD EXCURSION

PROGRAMME

- 09.30** Meet at St Pancras Station to entrain for Ramsgate.
- 11.00** Arrive at Ramsgate Station for taxis and start of excursion to examine local coastal geology.
- 13.00** Snack Luncheon; return to Ramsgate Station.
- 14.00** Margate Station for start of excursion to examine local historical geotourism sites.
- 16.00** Finish at Turner Contemporary for afternoon tea.
- 17.00** Evening free (and hence return to London by 19.00) or possible return via Canterbury and evening walk around town.



All attendees will receive a souvenir excursion booklet and a luncheon pack; afternoon tea will also be provided. Some (3-5 miles; 5-8 kms) walking on roads, on slightly rough terrain, and along the beach is needed to see all of the excursion localities.

BOOKINGS ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE GSL
(see GSL website)

A BOOKING FORM IS ALSO INCLUDED AT THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

CONVENOR: Tom Hose
e mail: gltah@bristol.ac.uk



‘PILTDOWN: 100 YEARS ON’

Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London
TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2012

A meeting to mark the centenary of the reading of the Piltdown Man paper at the GSL on 18th December 1912



PROGRAMME

MORNING

10.00 - 13.30 Tours of the Natural History Museum’s “Piltdown Centenary Exhibition” of specimens, manuscripts and papers in the NHM Library.

Three tours will be held at 10.00, 11.10 and 12.20. They will be led by Karolyn Schindler and Paul Cooper; each tour will be restricted to a maximum of 15 delegates. £8 per person. See registration form.



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AFTERNOON

12.00 – 13.30 Group viewings of the Piltdown painting at the Geological Society.

Piltdown Centenary Meeting at the Geological Society

14.00 – 14.10 Welcome/Introduction

14.10 – 14.45 Anne O’Connor: *Piltdown and the Geological Society*

14.45 – 15.20 Dave Martill: *Arthur Conan Doyle and the Piltdown Forgery*

15.20 – 15.55 Miles Russell: *Charles Dawson: a career fabricating prehistory*

15.55 – 16.15 TEA

16.15 – 16.50 Christopher Dean: *The Anatomy of the Forgery*

16.50 – 17.30 Chris Stringer: *The Piltdown Forgery in context*

17.30 – 18.00 Questions/discussion

18.00 – 19.00 RECEPTION

19.00 - PILTDOWN DINNER £45.00



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Registration fees: GSL Fellows, HOGG, GA and OUGS members £40.00*
Students £25.00*
Others £50.00* (*Reception included)

BOOKINGS ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE GSL
(see GSL WEBSITE). A BOOKING FORM IS ALSO
INCLUDED ON PAGE 25 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Convenor: Prof. Richard T J Moody
e mail rtj.moody@virgin.net



2013 INHIGEO CONFERENCE

HOGG members were sent the Second Circular on 24th August via HOGG JISMAIL. The Circular is also available by following the links on the HOGG pages of the Geological Society's website (www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/hogg). For those who do not receive the HOGG newsletter online, the circular is enclosed with the current newsletter.

*** The deadline for submission of symposia abstracts is OCTOBER 15th ***

Send abstracts to Leucha Veneer (leucha.veneer@manchester.ac.uk) for *Geologists in the Field* (S113) or to Ralph O'Connor (ralph.j.oconnor@gmail.com) for *Geology in Art and Literature* (S112).

HUGH TORRENS WINS INAUGURAL IUGS TIKHOMIROV AWARD FOR THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY



Emeritus Professor Hugh Torrens has been awarded the inaugural V. V. Tikhomirov Award for the History of Geology. The Award is one of the new IUGS Scientific Awards of Excellence which have recently been established to reward outstanding original contributions or achievements that mark a major advance or contribution to the Earth Sciences. Each IUGS commission was invited to nominate a candidate within its specific field of interest/research. By secret ballot, involving numerous excellent candidates, the Board of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) decided to nominate Hugh to receive the inaugural award for the History of Geology. In Hugh's absence, the Award was presented to his daughter Rebecca on August 6th 2012 during the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia.

The Award is named after the eminent Russian historian of geology, Professor Vladimir Vladimirovich Tikhomirov (1915-1994). Tikhomirov was an active field and economic geologist but during a distinguished wartime military career in the Russian Air Force, he was severely wounded and, when demobilized in 1945, became almost totally blind. In 1951, he became foundation head of the newly founded History of Geological Sciences Section within the USSR Academy of Sciences. As historian of geology, he is widely recognized for two works: *A short essay on the history of geology* published in 1959 and the 2-volume monograph *Geology in Russia in the first half of the 19th century*, published in the early 1960s. He also edited the journal *Contributions to the history of geological sciences* from 1953 to 1991. During the early 1960s, he worked energetically to establish INHIGEO and he became its Foundation President.

Congratulations Hugh!

(With thanks to Barry Cooper (Secretary General of INHIGEO; University of South Australia) and Cherry Lewis for supplying information.)

BOOK and MAP NOTES

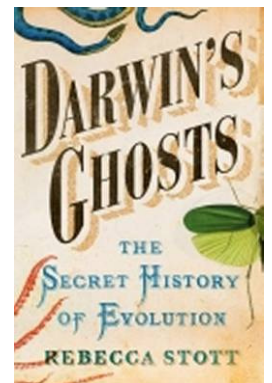
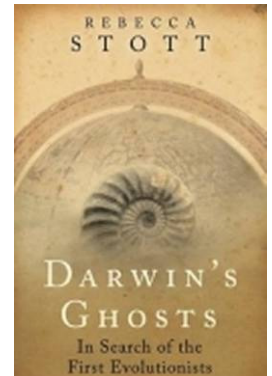
Darwin's Ghosts: In search of the First Evolutionists

Rebecca Stott. 2012. Bloomsbury(UK)/Spiegel & Grau(USA). xv + 383pp.
ISBN 978-1-4088- 0908-2 (hardback) £25/\$27

Also available as E book and Audio book.

This book, which was published in May-June this year, was widely reviewed in the UK national press (e.g. Guardian (01/06/12), Independent (02/06/12), Daily Telegraph (07/05/12)) and elsewhere (e.g. New Scientist 16/06/12).

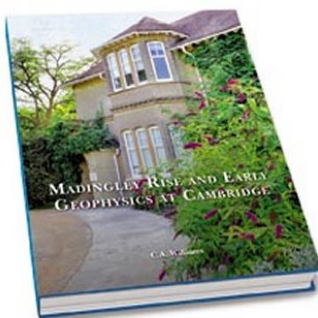
“During the Christmas celebrations of 1860 Charles Darwin sat down to try to assemble a list of his predecessors, the men who had held evolutionary ideas before him. But as he was such a poor scholar of history, he told his friends, he failed to find more than ghostly presences and vestiges of their lives. In this epic chronicle of scientific courage and insight, Rebecca Stott goes in search of those first evolutionists whose intellectual originality and daring have been lost to us and to Darwin. She rediscovers Aristotle walking the shores of Lesbos with his pupils and Leonardo da Vinci searching for fossils in the mine-shafts of the Tuscan hills; Diderot, in Paris, exploring the origins of species while under the surveillance of the secret police, and the brilliant naturalists of the Jardin de Plantes finding evidence for evolutionary change in the natural history collections stolen during the Napoleonic wars. Darwin's Ghosts is a tale of mummified birds, inland lagoons, Bedouin nomads, secret police files, microscopes and curiosity cabinets, as well as the history of a profoundly dangerous idea.” (from www.rebeccastott.co.uk)



(US cover)

Madingley Rise and early geophysics at Cambridge

C. A. Williams (ed.). 2009. London: Third Millenium Publishing. 208pp.
ISBN 978- 1906-5071-83 £40.00



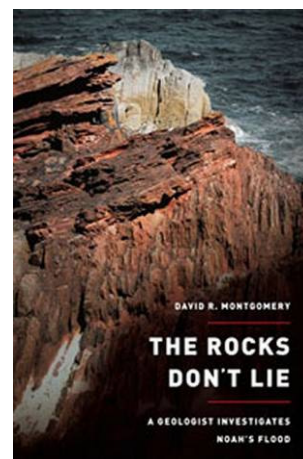
Wendy Cawthorne (GSL Library) drew our attention to this. She writes “It may have passed people by as it had us! A very interesting read and includes, as an appendix, brief biographies of the ‘main players’: Maurice Neville Hill (1919-66), Benjamin Chapman Browne (1911-68), Robert Stoneley (1894-1976), Sir Edward Crisp Bullard (1907-80), Sir Harold Jeffreys (1891-1989), Stanley Keith Runcorn (1922-95) and Drummond Hoyle Matthews (1931-97).”

The Rocks Don't Lie: a geologist investigates Noah's flood

David R Montgomery. 2012. W W Norton. 320pp.

ISBN 978-0-393-08239-5 Hardback £17.99/\$26.95

Also available as E book.



According to Martin Rudwick, whose review of this book featured in *New Scientist* (15/09/12), the author “wraps together the history of Earth with the story of those who have unravelled it, and shows how and why creationists are out on a limb, and a precarious one at that. Yet Montgomery doesn't fall into the trap of simply rubbishising their ideas. In refusing to pitch science against religion, he relates how scientific investigation and biblical interpretation have generally matured in tandem.”

THE GEOLOGICAL CURATOR

The latest issue of this journal (Vol. 9, No. 7, July 2012) includes some articles of historical interest.



Christian Baars

The Fossil collections of Sir Thomas Franklin Sibly (1983-1948), geologist and gifted administrator

ABSTRACT National Museum of Wales in Cardiff houses a collection of approximately 560 fossils from the Carboniferous Limestone collected by Sir Thomas Franklin Sibly during a five-year period when he was Professor of Geology at University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire in Cardiff. Throughout his career as a geologist, Sibly authored and co-authored almost a dozen publications on the Carboniferous geology of the Mendips, the Forest of Dean and South Wales. He worked with and learned from geologists such as Arthur Vaughan (1868-1915) and Charles Lapworth (1842-1920), and himself influenced the research choices of eminent geologists such as Frank Dixey (1892-1982), Arthur Trueman (1894-1956) and Thomas Neville George (1904-1980). Sibly later became a university administrator but retained a professional interest in geology and continued some of his research. He donated rocks and fossils to various British museums and universities although it seems that only a fraction of these survives to this day.

Jeff Liston

Pulling teeth: retrospective identification of William Hunter's fossil mammal material

ABSTRACT As an 18th century collector, the anatomist William Hunter had a collection reflecting a diverse range of tastes and interests, including palaeontology. His credentials as a classic Scottish Enlightenment figure are most powerfully expressed in his writings advocating the fossil record as a source of evidence for extinction. This lends a peculiar significance to his own palaeontological material above all of his other collections – yet paradoxically this was one of the few collections to be neglected by his Trustees who failed to produce a catalogue of his fossil material when they audited his objects prior to their transportation to the University of Glasgow. This paper examines the evidence for work by a previous generation of palaeontological curators at the Hunterian Museum in attempting to retrospectively identify William Hunter's original specimens from within the broad range of material present in the 19th century that survives in today's collections.

Lyll I. Anderson and Rob J. Theodore

Edward B. Tawney: an early geological curator

ABSTRACT The archival paper collections of the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences (University of Cambridge) have been the subject of recent cataloguing efforts (2010-2012). Within the Archive are 19 notebooks which formerly belonged to Edward B. Tawney (1840-1882). These span Tawney's early

field investigations of the south-west of England, his work at the Museum in Bristol, and his time in Cambridge up until his death in 1882. Distinctive printed paper labels accompany Tawney's personal fossil collection, now also incorporated into the Sedgwick Museum. Furthermore, some rock slices (thin sections) prepared for Tawney have been identified. Their later treatment in the collection catalogues of the petrologist Alfred Harker provided information on the beginnings of the building of the Petrological Collection at Cambridge. This paper lists the holdings of Tawney's notebooks in the Archive, identifies fossil collections attributed to him and augments our scant knowledge of this important early geological curator.

The Geological Curator often includes articles of historical interest. It is issued twice a year, and each volume comprises 10 issues. Back issues are archived on the GCG website www.geocurator.org and are available for free download two years after publication.

US HISTORICAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



In July, Cherry Lewis alerted us to the fact that the United States Geological Survey is about to complete a massive project to digitize its cache of approximately 200,000 historical topographic maps, previously only available in print, or out-of-print – and they are free!

<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/travel/2012/07/a-treasure-trove-of-old-maps-at-your-fingertips>

<http://nationalmap.gov/historical/>

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND 'MAPS OF SCOTLAND'



Roy Starkey then alerted us to an “incredible treasure trove of digitised maps of Scotland at <http://maps.nls.uk/> with a really user-friendly interface, and again free on-line access”.

You can access and view over 44,000 maps, dated between 1560 and 1961, as high-resolution, colour, zoomable images.



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (GSL) ARCHIVIST

HOGG is pleased to learn that Caroline Lam, who was appointed part-time Archivist/Records Manager of the Society in 2010, is now full-time. Caroline is responsible for managing the Society's archives, implementing records management procedures for the Society's administrative records, and provision of an archive reference and enquiry service. This is very good news particularly for those who have lobbied for such an appointment; see, for instance, Hugh Torrens' 'Hand of History' in *Geoscientist*, February 2010.

Contact email: caroline.lam@geolsoc.org.uk

INTERNET ARCHIVE (archive.org): A RESPONSE

Wendy Cawthorne (GSL Library, Burlington House) responds to Peter Austen's item in the last HOGG newsletter (No. 45, p.24)

Wendy writes "I agree that the Internet Archive is a wonderful resource. However, having been built up by IT 'guys' rather than librarians, the indexing leaves much to be desired! This is particularly the case with journals. Titles are sometimes abbreviated and it can take a while to identify particular volume numbers or years as these do not always form part of the searchable fields. In addition, illustrations, particularly fold-out plates and maps, will not have been scanned.

Internet Archive is, however, only one of a number of possible websites where you can search for free e-books and you will find some of the other sites that we in the Geol. Soc. Library find most useful within the Library and Information pages of the Geological Society's website under the heading **Virtual Library** www.geolsoc.org.uk/virtuallibrary."

SICCAR POINT

Visitors come from all over the world to visit Siccar Point on the Berwickshire coast of Scotland where, in 1788, local landowner James Hutton first recognized the temporal significance of the unconformity exposed there (since known as Hutton's Unconformity) and its implications for the understanding of Earth history. Recently, the site, which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, has been threatened by a proposal to construct a waste water pipeline from a vegetable processing plant across the adjacent foreshore. Further details of the proposal are given on the Geological Society website www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/policy/policy_statements/page12181.html.

Comments on the planning application (12/00929/FUL) were invited by the Borders Regional Council with a deadline of 23rd September. HOGG chair John Henry wrote, on behalf of the HOGG membership, requesting the application be rejected. He highlighted the international historical importance of the site as well as the potential detrimental effect of the proposed effluent outfall, the lack of adequate engineering advice and environmental modelling, and possible better alternative solutions.

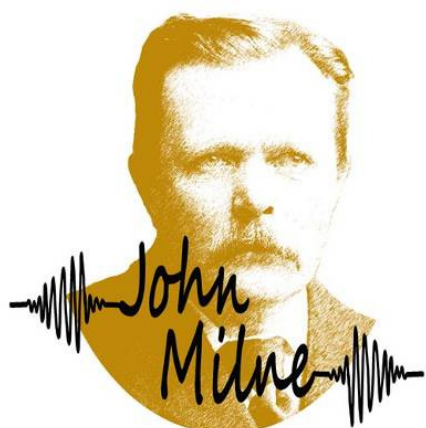
The Geological Society itself stands ready to advise on matters of geoscience relating to this planning application and will monitor its progress.



Hutton's Unconformity at Siccar Point
(from GSL website; Dave Souza, Wikipedia)

Over 400 objections were submitted to the Scottish Borders Council. Links to letters of objection from HOGG and the Geological Society can be found at, <<http://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=M7M1C3NT02Q00>>. Scroll down to 21st September to find the HOGG letter; the Geological Society letter is a few below it and the BGS consultation report is near the bottom of that page.

CELEBRATING JOHN MILNE (1850-1913)



COMMEMORATIVE YEAR
2013

The 100th anniversary of the death of Professor John Milne 'The Father of Modern Seismology' will be celebrated on 31st July 2013. As part of the celebrations, the Isle of Wight Society has prepared some dedicated pages on its website (<http://www.isleofwightsociety.org.uk/jmilne.aspx>).

The purpose is "to bring together events and material held not only on the Isle of Wight where he lived and worked from 1895 until his death in 1913 but from elsewhere around the world to celebrate the achievements of a man who can only be described as one of the world's most outstanding Victorian/Edwardian polymaths".

The web pages include

- Isle of Wight, National and International Events Calendar
- Bibliography, Chronology, Associated Societies, Institutions and Places
- Links to museums, archives, publications and related websites
- The Shide Earthquake Observatory 1895-1919
- An opportunity for feedback and to add further information.



James Bateman
(courtesy Stoke Museum)

BIDDULPH GRANGE GARDENS

The gardens at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire are now owned by the National Trust which for the last 20 years has been working to conserve and restore them according to the vision of their creator James Bateman (1811-1897). Bateman lived at Biddulph Grange from 1840 to 1871. He was a horticulturalist and landowner whose plant collection came from all over the world. As a contemporary of Charles Darwin, Bateman created his garden not only to display his collection of plants but as an extension of his beliefs and scientific interests. At the entrance to the garden, he built a geological gallery designed around the seven days of creation in the walls of which were mounted a display of fossils. Many of

these specimens have been removed from the wall and a number are thought to have been lost. Those that survive, along with the rest of Bateman's geology collection, have recently been cleaned up and conservation work begun by the collections manager at Biddulph Grange and staff from The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery with funding from the Geologists' Association Curry Fund. According to Holly Sievwright, Assistant Collections Officer at The Potteries Museum, restoring the gallery is currently a long term goal for the National Trust with the focus now on stabilizing the structure of the gallery buildings and conserving the remaining specimens in storage.



The Geological Gallery at Biddulph Grange
(courtesy The National Trust)

By using the impressive fossils in the collection for small displays and events at the garden over the next few years, it is hoped that geology will remain a central aspect of Bateman's legacy at Biddulph Grange, inspiring visitors, volunteers and staff, and connecting natural displays in the garden with the history and development of ideas in the nineteenth century."

Members may remember that in HOGG Newsletter 34 (September 2008), Graham Worton (Keeper of Geology & Manager at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery) asked readers for any information about the gallery and if they knew of any historical accounts of visits or reviews.

SOURCES

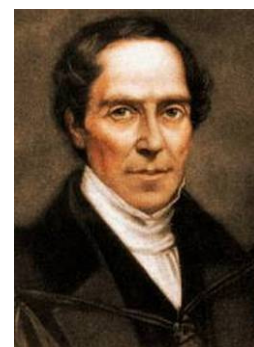
Sievwright, H. 2012. Curating James Bateman's geology Collection, *Magazine of the Geologists' Association*, Volume 11, No. 3, p.18.

National Trust Handbook 2012, p. 219.

ON THE BIRTHPLACE OF GIDEON MANTELL

Anthony Brook¹

Gideon Mantell, the great Sussex pioneer geologist, was born on 3rd February 1790 to Thomas and Sarah Mantell, their fifth child and third son, presumably at home as was the custom in those days. But where, exactly, was the parental home?



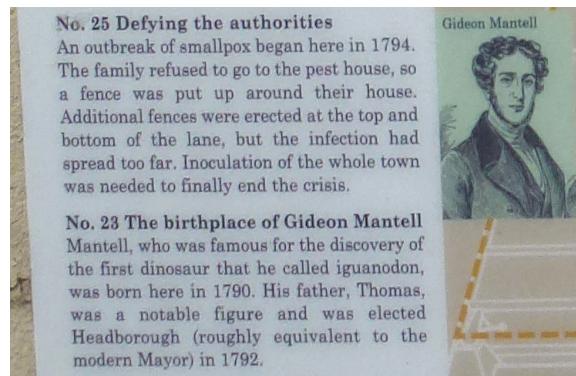
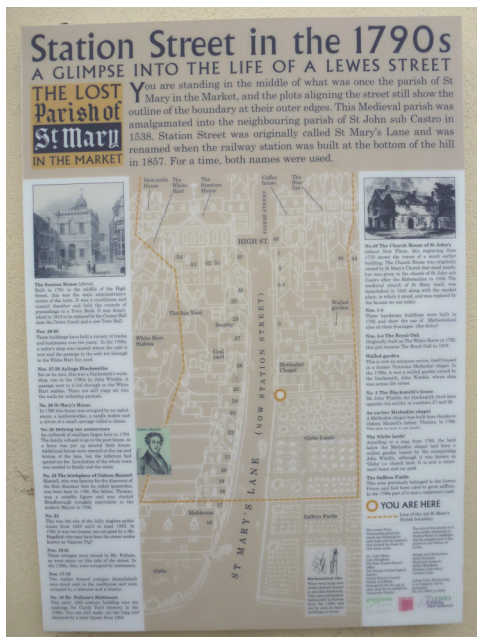
(Wikimedia Commons)

Sidney Spokes, in his inaugural biography of 1927 (see page 19 of this newsletter), wrote simply that Thomas Mantell was a cordwainer living in St Mary's Lane, with his business in Fisher Street. Dennis Dean, in his highly-acclaimed biography of 1999, mentions how, as a child, Gideon lived in St Mary's Lane 'in an unpretentious but comfortable home that paternal shrewdness and hard work had provided' (p.7). In the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004, Vol. 36, p.559), Dean starts his entry on Mantell by stating that Gideon was born on 3rd February 1790 'at his family's home in St Mary's Lane, Lewes, Sussex'. Deborah Cadbury, in her best-selling *The Dinosaur Hunters* (2000), wrote that Gideon and his siblings 'were brought up in a cottage in St Mary's Lane, a steep narrow road that ran off the High St.' (p.35). Most recently, Edmund Critchley, in his *Dinosaur Doctor* (2010), states that Gideon Mantell was born on 3rd February 1790 (p.31) but only later (p.230), does he comment that 'the house [where Gideon was brought up] in the steeply-sloping St Mary's Lane was probably quite small and congested'. Although all rather vague on the details, these authors seem to agree on a residence in St Mary's Lane.

Although there are steeply-sloping streets and narrow lanes leading off the High Street, such as cobbled Keere Street, none are known today as St Mary's Lane and the name does not feature on the modern map of the town of Lewes. However, this problem is readily resolved when it is realized that, like many streets in many towns, it has changed its name during the course of history. The change of name relates to the railways in Lewes. As Helen Poole wrote in *Lewes Past* (2000, p.120), 'it was all change at Lewes Station on 1st November 1857 when the Friar's Walk station closed, although it remained in use for goods traffic, and the new one opened in the Ham Fields. The street bringing road traffic [from the High St.] to the new station was extended and renamed Station Street, rather than St. Mary's Lane, from the church of St Mary in Foro'. The name change was expanded upon in *The Street Names of Lewes* by L.S. Davey, revised and expanded by Kim Clark (2010, pp.34-35). Confirmation comes from Colin Brent, the acknowledged authority on the history of Lewes, who in his *Historic Lewes and its Buildings: Lewes Town Council Official Guide* (1985; revised 1995), begins the second of his walks (p.33) thus: 'Begin near the Town Hall, at the corner of Station St., once St Mary's Lane'. He specifies some of the houses in the street,

including 'No.23, with the barge-boarded gable, the birthplace of Gideon Mantell'. The fact that No. 23, Station St., a narrow, gable-fronted, three-storey, rather nondescript dwelling in a row of old houses, was the birthplace of one of the greatest geologists of his time, seems to have avoided official recognition.

However, while walking slowly up the steep incline of Station Street one day in the spring, I noticed, for the first time, an information board that had recently been affixed, by the Lewes Town Partnership, to the hoarding of an old archway, in the grounds of the old church now an Antiques Centre. It provided details of the curtilages and households in Station Street in the 1790s, the decade of Mantell's childhood, and affirms that 'Station Street was originally called St Mary's Lane and was renamed when the railway station was built at the bottom of the hill. For a time, both names were used'. No. 23 is clearly specified as the birthplace of Gideon Mantell. The house lies well within the Lewes Conservation Area but appears neither to be listed nor specified as a building of historic interest. Perhaps it should be so recorded, with



The information board in Station Street, Lewes and enlargement of Mantell detail..

a simple plaque on the frontage to record the fact that it was the birthplace and childhood home of one of this country's great pioneer geologists. There is already a plaque to Gideon Mantell by the front door of Castle Place, in Lewes High Street, where Mantell lived from 1816 until he left the town for good in 1833. It was placed there by Dr Sidney Spokes in 1923 when he owned and resided in the property but a plaque on the house where Mantell was born in the town would surely also be appropriate.

Photographs © Roger Cordiner



No. 23 Station Street (formerly St Mary's Lane)

¹e mail: anthony.brook@btinternet.com

A LITTLE KNOWN REVIEW OF SIDNEY SPOKES' 1927 BIOGRAPHY

A Life of Gideon Mantell Sussex Pioneer of Science

Anthony Brook¹

The following lengthy review occupied the most prominent position on the front page of *The Worthing Herald Magazine* of Saturday 14th January 1928: it was meant to be noticed. The initials V. T. at the end of the review probably stand for Harold Van Tromp, who was a regular contributor and reviewer for *The Worthing Herald* (est. 1920) and *The Sussex County Magazine* (est. 1926), whose General Editor was Arthur Beckett, proprietor of several local Sussex weekly newspapers and an ardent advocate of everything and anything to do with Sussex. The review contains significant mistakes and fallacies, for example concerning Mantell, Buckland and *Megalosaurus*, which have been transcribed below uncorrected so as to preserve the integrity of this historic document. The reviewer seems to have greatly underplayed one of the major virtues of this first biography of Mantell: the extensive use of the voluminous correspondence between Mantell and his American confidant, Professor Benjamin Silliman, of Yale - a serious omission, considering the light they shine on Mantell's opinions, feelings and problems. Nor does the reviewer emphasize the national scientific importance of Mantell's fossil discoveries, during his lifetime and well beyond; that was what makes Mantell a 'Sussex Pioneer of Science'. This seems to be the only review of this 'admirably-arranged and well-written account of Mantell's life and activities'. It does not seem to have been noticed or commented upon in any other geological or Sussex media of the time.

"No full-dress life of Gideon Mantell had been written, as far as I am aware, until the admirable biography by Mr Sidney Spokes, of Lewes, which has just come out (John Ball, Sons and Danielsson Ltd., London 12/6d). There is a short, colourless notice of this pioneer of science in the D.N. B. - and a few references here and there among Sussex essayists. This admirably-arranged and well-written account of Mantell's life and activities is, therefore, all the more welcome for being overdue. It is a great pleasure to congratulate Mr Spokes on the completion of a work that, evidently, has been a labour of love.

Sussex has a real reason to be proud of the memory of Mantell. He was not only an enthusiast in a science which has firmly established itself as one of the most important and fascinating branches of human study, but he was an extremely able and plucky man who fought a stiff battle against a great many odds—ill-health, misfortune and, I think there is no doubt, jealousy on the part of other adventurers and theorists who were looking, with penetrating intellects, into the mysterious origins of life. Mr Spokes hints at some of these obstacles and speaks clearly of the irritations that accompanied a life devoted to broadening the vision of mankind and dispelling ignorance and prejudice.

With memories of Huxley and Wilberforce standing, with unsheathed rapiers, over the body of dogmatic theology - not many years after Mantell was laid to rest - and with the recollection that he died seven years before *The Origin of Species* startled the world with its unorthodox proposal, it is only natural that we should turn to see what account Mr Spokes gives us of public opinion in Mantell's day; or, more to the point, what sort of reception he met with when he unearthed those monstrous playthings, *Iguanodon* and *Megalosaurus*. On the whole, it would appear that his discoveries and his theories, surprising and disturbing as they must have been to the unruffled equanimity of the majority, were received with interest tempered with incredulity. He was apprehensive, but was reassured by the communication of an *Essay on the Mosaic Account of the Creation*, to be included in a volume which Mantell was publishing entitled *The Fossils of the South Downs* (1822). He was, he said, 'gratified....since the arguments he has

adduced must effectually silence the clamour that has been raised against geological speculation, from their supposed tendency to scepticism’.

The question which Mantell pertinently raised in this book was: ‘At what period, and under what circumstances, did turtles and gigantic crocodiles live in our climate, shaded by forests of palms and arborescent ferns?’ We have long since passed the age when such questions were the cause of conscientious heartburnings. We talk glibly now of trillions: trillions of ‘light years’ at one end of the scale of Nature, and trillions of electrons at the other end. All our years seem to have lighted someone, or something, the way to dusty death. But science is also utilitarian. Mantell points a moral when he quotes—in his *Geology of the Southeast of England* (1833)—an instance in which ignorance of the first principles of geology led to an expenditure of £80,000 on sinking a shaft in an attempt to establish a colliery in Sussex, when every geologist would have at once declared its impracticability.

Of ancient lineage, and counting among his ancestors two who assisted in making history, by suffering execution as a result of the Wyatt Rebellion (1552), Gideon was born in 1790, at Lewes - ‘a feeble, antiquated presentment of civilisation itself’ - so runs a description of the old town - ‘the residence of nobles and squires; at their death, of their relicts, for the women always survived the men’. Port and mortality went hand in hand; the best lives seldom exceeded three score and ten. Here, in 1812, Mantell ‘commenced doctoring’. In those early days, he appeared to have displayed a flamboyant love of display: ‘His gig and groom were models as they waited at his door; his coat of arms embraced your vision as it shone in the fanlight and whispered of greatness within. He was tall, graciously graceful and flexible, a naturalist, realising his own lordship of creation’. But his heart was in Geology. He was the first to prove that the Wealden was a fluviatile formation, and was a great collector of fossils. It was in 1824 that Dr Buckland announced to the Geological Society Mantell’s discovery, at Tilgate Forest, near Cuckfield, of the thigh-bone of a gigantic creature—the *Megalosaurus*. An *Iguanodon* also fell to his bag, and hundreds of weird and wonderful fossils of ages long gone.

All this industry in the cause of science led to Mantell corresponding with world-famous men - Cuvier, Owen, Agassiz - as the years rolled on; later, Huxley’s name appears on the scene. When, in 1833, he removed to Brighton, his lectures were the means of introducing him to ‘all the first people in the town’, and his society - he writes to his [American] friend Silliman - ‘was courted by the fashionables, in fact I was the Lion of the Season. Hundreds of the nobility and gentry flocked to my Museum every Tuesday’. Horace Smith composed 15 stanzas in honour of his friend, but all this did not swell Mantell’s medical practice. A geological museum may be, under discreet guidance, an attractive proposition but it is not certain to be a paying proposition: people do not book six months in advance to gaze at the left toe-joint of an *Iguanodon*. Mantell said that Brighton was, without doubt, a town lacking the least taste for science. *The Lancet* of that day informs us that ‘ladies of rank and fashion were seen handing round glasses containing dissections of the eyes of sheep and goats with as much interest as the contents of caskets of jewels often excite. But *The Lancet* must have known that it was not the first time that the sight of sheep’s eyes had excited a passion for the science of comparative anatomy in the breasts of the fair ladies of Brighton.

But still, ‘pleasures are like poppies spread, you seize the flower - the bloom is dead’; the fact remained that rappers on the Mantellian knocker were few and far between. The year 1837 was his last in Brighton. It was the winter of the Lewes avalanche in which catastrophe, curiously enough, 13 or 14 people, former patients of Mantell, were killed. And so his last excursion was taken with the Sussex Royal Institution---closed by Mantell reciting a paraphrase of the concluding stanzas of ‘Childe Harold’; the Museum was threatened with dispersal - it was eventually saved for the nation - and, in 1838, he removed to Clapham.

Many social and Society scenes flit across the pages of this most interesting book. In 1849, Buckland, Agassiz and Mantell dine at Richard Owen’s. ‘Microscopes afterwards - the record is from Mrs Owen’s Diary - examining each other’s blood corpuscles. Mantell said he had a very slow circulation, and his

globules were decidedly larger than the others. Buckland was just insisting, with a droll look: ‘Why, Mantell, you see you have a good deal of the reptile about you!’ when news arrived of the birth of a little Princess Royal. So, from looking at blood when it is red, they turn to wine. The ‘little Princess Royal’ was to become the mother of the ex-Kaiser.

The ‘Old Duke’ [of Wellington] cuts a dreadful figure, if we accept Mantell’s estimate of him. Lord Brougham is a ‘renegado’ and, although (adds Mantell in a passage which requires some explanation) ‘he owes everything to the support which he received from the scientific world, he is now reckless about it.....Some time ago I sent him an elegant copy of my work, but he did not even notice its receipt’, the probability being that Brougham did not notice it himself.

Years before, King William IV had visited Lewes, and the Sailor King had accepted, graciously and condescendingly, the two volumes of Mantell’s *History of Lewes*. Mantell - perhaps to ensure their reception - had obtained permission to lay them at the King’s feet: at any rate, they were accepted, and doubtless His Majesty read the volumes aloud to Queen Adelaide in the privacy of the Brighton Pavilion.

Nothing is more curious than Mantell’s distrust of railways: ‘our railway nuisance has proved a serious injury to every intellectual pursuit, and will, I fear, bring us to a dreadful state of things at last’. The ‘railway nuisance’ certainly did one thing: it brought to light the leaden coffins of William de Warrenne and Gundrada, founders of Lewes Priory, and Mantell should have been grateful. Nor did he have any faith in the future of balloons, and declined to believe that any air-vessel independent of wind would ever be invented successfully. He was consistent in his love of science right to the end, even directing that a post-mortem should be made of his spine and right elbow: enthusiasm could not go much further.

‘Enough of this gossiping - my lamp is burning dim....’ I close this excellent biography of a Sussex worthy, and pioneer in science, with gratitude to Mr Sidney Spokes for the pleasure of reading an interesting and admirably-written book.
V.T.”

¹e mail: anthony.brook@btinternet.com

REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

THE PERENNIAL PERPLEXITY OF PILTDOWN

Anthony Brook¹ reports on the Sussex Archaeological Society’s Piltdown Centenary Conference

On Saturday 22nd September 2012, the Sussex Archaeological Society (hereinafter SAS), in association with the Lithic Studies Society, organized the Piltdown Centenary Conference, with the subtitle *Truth and Lies from the Deep Sussex Past*. The meeting was held in the Assembly Room of Lewes Town Hall, a fine heritage reception room but suffering badly from dreadful acoustics. This had the unfortunate consequence that the morning talks lacked clarity and coherence due to intermittent audibility, particularly in the back row, only halfway down the hall. This problem was largely rectified for the afternoon speakers, whose presentations were generally much better, as they were clearly audible and more to the point.



John Farrant began proceedings by outlining the awkward and ambivalent relationship between the SAS and Charles Dawson who, after moving to Uckfield in 1889, joined the Society and sat on the Committee between 1891 and 1897. He was an active member until 1903 when, after purchasing Castle Lodge in dubious circumstances, he evicted the SAS who had to move to Barbican House. The SAS denigrated Dawson's research methods and results, in terms of reliability and scholarship, and studiously ignored Piltdown for as long as possible: palaeoanthropology did not fall within the Society's stated ambit. There was also Dawson's aversion to long-serving Louis Salzman who had the last word with his famous 1946 jibe that "Dawson's name was given to Piltdown Man, the lowest-known form of human being, with the discovery of whose remains he will always be associated".

Beccy Scott and **Andy Shaw** set the hoax in its historical context and demarcated 1912 as a critical year for the nascent science of Palaeolithic archaeology, marking the watershed between the dominant issues of the preliminary period of the 1860s, and those concerns which still prevail today. Having established the 'Antiquity of Man' (Prestwich and the Somme gravels), the major issue turned to just how ancient the genus *Homo* really was, some respected authorities staking claims for Tertiary Man. The year 1912 witnessed the single most important field investigation ever undertaken by British palaeoarchaeologists (joint British Museum and Geological Survey). The first season of excavations at Swanscombe, in Kent, sought to establish, on the basis of a single stratified site, the basis of a British sequence to rival that proposed for the Somme valley. It set the standard for more and more interdisciplinary investigations. Acting as a fulcrum, Piltdown fulfilled late 19th Century expectations, but really had little to do with the creation of a standard British sequence; in retrospect, it was an irrelevant sideshow.

Robert Kruszynski of the Natural History Museum pointed out that the Piltdown Collection is far larger than most people realize, with over 120 specimens and known associated archives held in this country and abroad. Both artefacts and archives are currently undergoing a completely new series of modern examinations within a wide-ranging multidisciplinary programme, involving many researchers at many places. It is hoped thereby to shed new light, in the near future, on the perpetrator(s) of the Piltdown hoax. Preliminary results will be available shortly, and a selection of faked specimens, and some of the associated archives, will go on public display at the NHM at the end of November. An Inventory of the Piltdown Collection with specifications, compiled by the speaker, plus certain Tables of Analyses, was freely available.

John McNabb of Southampton University expounded upon the 'lying stones of Sussex' and the role of flint tools in the development of the Piltdown forgery, arguing that the Piltdown lithics have been neglected in favour of more dramatic human and faunal remains. They, nevertheless, represent a key element of the original forger's vision, whosoever that may be. A more precise and scientific re-analysis of the stone tools has revealed important clues about the original scope, extent and intention of this palaeoarchaeological fraud.

Miles Russell considered the curious case and career of Charles Dawson, who he pronounced to be an accomplished lifelong and time-served fraudster. Although there stands a veritable army of potential suspects for this hoax, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to foreign agents of Kaiser Bill, no one has quite the right combination of motive, means and opportunity as Dawson. Close examination of the research activities of the primary excavator of Piltdown Man show, quite clearly, that Dawson had been improving/manipulating/fabricating evidence to suit his own purposes for at least 20 years prior to his 'great discovery'. Most of his 'finds' have proved to be fakes in one way or another and he is the prime suspect in many more. Piltdown Man was to be the culmination of his life's work, and earn him that which he coveted most: FRS. Mystery still surrounds two aspects: Why would Dawson, a highly-respected solicitor, risk his hard-won reputation with long-term forgery and deception? How did he get away with large-scale antiquarian fraud for so long when so many had grave suspicions?

Professor Francis Thackeray, Director of the Institute of Human Evolution at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, nominated Pierre de Chardin, priest, palaeontologist and philosopher, who, in an essay published in a French Jesuit journal in early January 1913, wrote that: “There was a time when the study of prehistory deserved to be suspected, or deserved to be subject of jokes”, clearly with the recent Piltdown exposition in mind. He was greatly perturbed that English palaeontologists, including Smith Woodward of the BM (NH), should be so gullible, and deeply concerned by the potential adverse impact if the ‘Piltdown joke’ was taken seriously. Teilhard was renowned as a great joker, bearing in mind that, within the Jesuit Order, it was permitted to purposefully mislead, provided it was a joke. Several times during his long life, he intimated that he knew who was responsible, but he never actually named anyone – someone who might still be specified in his missing archive.

Matt Pope of the Institute of Archaeology at University College London emphasized the profound and radical changes in our understanding of early human occupation in Sussex since Piltdown in December 1912. At all scales and in all directions, knowledge has expanded exponentially, to produce a scenario of human development several orders of magnitude greater in scope and complexity. In Britain, the chronology of human occupation now reaches back almost a million years, and sites offer scenes of the life and behaviour of extinct hominid species. Palaeolithic research in Sussex was badly misdirected by Piltdown for most of the last century until, in the 1990s, the extensive excavations at Boxgrove, a coastal-plain raised-beach site, unexpectedly thrust the county to the forefront of British palaeolithic research, not only in terms of lithics, lifestyle and ecosystems but, more, importantly, in terms of verifiable bones of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Although the coastal plain has proved fruitful for palaeoanthropology, the Weald offers equally rich potential. Boxgrove consigned Piltdown to the mixen of history, where it belonged, only with the strong salutary warning to beware.

¹e mail: anthony.brook@btinternet.com

FUTURE MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

**THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDERS’ DAY LECTURE AND DINNER
THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2012
BURLINGTON HOUSE and LE MERIDIEN, PICCADILLY, LONDON**



To celebrate the Society’s inauguration in 1807, the GSL’s 2012 Founders’ Day Lecture will be given by Professor Jane Francis (University of Leeds) on ‘*Geology at the end of the Earth: exploring for Antarctica’s green history*’.

When Scott went to Antarctica to claim the South Pole 100 years ago, science, as well as adventure, was on the agenda. One of Scott’s objectives, prompted by palaeobotanist Dr Marie Stopes, was to hunt for fossil leaves of *Glossopteris* to support new notions of continental drift.

The fossils they discovered were brought back from Antarctica, even though the polar party themselves did not return home. The talk will be about the polar party’s discoveries of Permian fossil plants in the Beardmore region in the Transantarctic Mountains and more recent discoveries of fossil plants that have helped us paint a picture of life on land in past, warm climates when Antarctica was green.

Tea & coffee will be served at Burlington House from 18.00hrs. The lecture (18.30hrs) will be followed by a drinks reception (19.30hrs) and dinner (20.30hrs) at Le Meridien, Piccadilly, with an after dinner speech (at 22.00hrs) by Dr Rory Mortimore, President of the Geologists' Association.

Ticket price £80 per person. Dress: black tie.

Bookings are now being taken. To reserve your place, complete the online booking form on the GSL website (www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/events/listings/founders12) or contact Naomi Newbold (e mail naomi.newbold@geolsoc.org.uk).

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE PILTDOWN FORGERY – 100 YEARS ON
SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2012 6.00pm
University of Nottingham, Biology Building, Lecture theatre B3



Speaker: David Bate (BGS)

On 21st November 1912, the *Manchester Guardian* broke the news of a '*Remarkable discovery in Sussex – a skull millions of years old*'. The newspaper felt sufficiently confident to assert that '*There seems to be no doubt whatever of its genuineness, and more than a possibility of its being the oldest remnant of a human frame yet discovered on this planet*'. Thus was the tiny hamlet of Piltdown thrust rudely upon the world stage where it remains, if somewhat uncomfortably, to this day. In 1912, England would proudly claim to be the cradle of mankind for the Piltdown Man, the *Earliest Englishman*, was clearly the missing link between man and ape. Yet from the outset there were detractors who considered this creature's ape-like jaw to be at odds with his relatively well-developed cranial capacity, quite apart from his ability to fashion a cricket bat from the tusk of an elephant! Over the next forty years Piltdown Man became increasingly marginalized as finds of early man from Asia and Africa demonstrated that the evolution of the jaw, and thus the ability to vocalize, had preceded the development of the human intellect, rather than the other way round. Then, during 1953-55, the entire Piltdown assemblage was shown to be fraudulent. Piltdown Man found new fame as one of the world's greatest scientific forgeries, spawning a vast literature from experts and amateur sleuths in the quest to discover who it was, all those years ago, that made a monkey out of the scientific establishment.



Personal Details

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

Email: _____ Membership No (if applicable): _____

Registration Fees

GSL Fellow/ HOGG, GA and OUGS Members (Please delete as applicable)	£40.00	Students	£25.00	
Non-Members	£50	Optional Conference Dinner (limited places – first come, first served)	£45.00	
Registration fee includes:- All delegate materials, conference refreshments and wine reception				
Optional Visit to the Piltdown Exhibition at the Natural History Museum (limited places – first come, first served)		£8		

There are also a number of free places available at the afternoon event for secondary school students. These spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. School groups will also be considered. Please contact steve.whalley@goelsoc.org.uk +44 (0) 20 7432 0980 for further information

Payment Details

☐ I enclose a cheque for _____ made payable to The Geological Society

☐ Please debit my Visa/Master/Amex/Switch card _____

Card Number: _____ Issue number if maestro: _____

Start Date: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Security Number (last 3 digits on black strip on back of credit card): _____

Cardholders name and address if different from above: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

General Information

Full prepayment must accompany your registration form to guarantee a place. An email confirmation will be sent on receipt of your completed registration form. Notification of cancellation must be given at least 10 working days prior to the event for a refund to be given.

☐ We would like to keep you informed about future meetings and other Society and HOGG activities. Please tick here if you do not want to receive such information. **contd....**

...contd

Please return the completed form to: Laura Hayward, Conference Office, Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7434 9944 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7494 0579.

Email: laura.hayward@geolsoc.org.uk

HOGG STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Name of bank or building society.....

Branch address.....

.....

.....

Sort code.....Account number.....

Account name.....

Please pay the amount of £15 (fifteen pounds) to the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society (Santander Business Account, Sort code ____-____-____ Account number _____) on 1st January (or closest date thereto) following the date of this instruction and annually thereafter until terminated by me in writing. **[NB Account details will be inserted by the HOGG Treasurer.]**

Signed.....

Date.....

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED MANDATE TO

Dr B M Cox (HOGG Treasurer)

151 Browns Lane, Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5BN



Personal Details

First Name: _____ Surname: _____
 Organisation: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____
 Email: _____ Membership No (if applicable): _____

Registration Fees

GSL Fellow/HOGG & GA Members (Please delete as applicable)	£45.00	Non Members	£55.00
Non-Members plus 2012 and 2013 HOGG membership	£65.00	Optional Conference Dinner (limited places – first come, first served)	£45.00
Registration fee includes:- All delegate materials, conference refreshments and wine reception			
Optional field excursion to Kent coast - Tuesday 23 rd October 2012 (Limited places – first come first served)	£45.00		
Registration fee includes:- rail fare, snack luncheon, afternoon tea, and guide			

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 Email: naomi.newbold@geolsoc.org.uk