

HOGG

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



**Number 64
October 2018**

Front cover

Coal Miners—Everyday Life in a Midlands Colliery, England, UK 1944.

Imperial War Museum; Ministry of Information Second World War Official Collection D18872.

(Wikimedia Commons)

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Past newsletters are available at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/newsletter/> and <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg-newsletters> .

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The Geological Society has 22 specialist groups of which HOGG is one. The Chairs of these groups meet once a year at Burlington House to share and compare notes and issues with the Society, and from time to time we organise meetings jointly with another group. We've met in the past with the Engineering Group, and most recently with the Geological Curators' Group (GCG) with whom we have much in common. Arranging joint meetings is a challenge, especially with groups which have an active events programme. Matthew Parkes who is Chair of GCG and I met several times last year before we could find a mutually convenient date, venue and theme that would fit both our programmes. Bath and its Royal Literary and Scientific Institute (BRLSI) proved to be an ideal location for a joint HOGG-GCG seminar, with its significance to the history of our science and the close involvement GCG had, in its early years, with the varying fortunes of the geological collections under Avon County Council. The collections have come a long way since then and we were fortunate to have the help and support of the current collections' manager, Matt Williams, who hosted the meeting. I was, unfortunately, unable to attend but I hear it was a great success, not least in attracting a large number of delegates to hear a wonderful range of presentations. Congratulations are due to all involved in putting the programme together and bringing the meeting to fruition.

Some of the Society's specialist groups are less successful and have succumbed to extinction. Notable amongst these is the Coal Geology Group whose perhaps unsurprising demise last year prompted the Society to ask HOGG if we could organise a meeting on the history of coal geology. Geoff Walton, HOGG Vice-Chair (who was himself involved in the industry) has risen to the challenge and developed an interesting programme of talks on aspects of the history of coal and its mining. This will be held at Burlington House on Thursday 22nd November and I hope to see many of you there.

That event will also include our Annual General Meeting. We have several committee members standing down this year: Stephen Cribb and Sabina Michnowicz have both completed their three year terms, as have I as Chair. Chris Duffin also wishes to step down after five years on committee, the last three as Secretary. We therefore have four vacancies this year and you will find a call for nominations on P. 4 of this newsletter.

I would like to record my great thanks to Stephen and Sabina for their contributions to the work of the HOGG Committee and especially to Chris who, as Secretary, has kept me on the (relatively) straight and narrow (although occasionally we are called to order by Beris who has a greater knowledge of our Group and its workings). I very much appreciate the help and support of all the members of committee over my three years as Chair and for their patience while I disappeared to colder climes from time to time. It has been a great honour to serve as HOGG Chair and I wish my successor, who will be chosen by and from the incoming committee, every success.

If you sought details of our Bath meeting on our website, you were no doubt disappointed; for this I apologise. It had become necessary to move our website to a new host and this has now been done, so I hope things will be up and running again shortly. We hope that over the course of the next year you will see significant development and redesign of the website, with an expansion of its content and its functionality.

We are also exploring an interesting idea of our Secretary that we publish brief, popular biographies akin to the '*Very Short Introduction*' series of Oxford University Press. Aimed at a general audience, these would summarise the lives and work of some the geologists who shaped our science, some well-known, others less so. Many had fascinating lives which could appeal to a

general readership. William Buckland, Henry De la Beche and Archibald Geikie may be our guinea-pigs. Watch this space over the next year or two for more on these.

Our meetings programme for 2019 is coming together but some events have yet to be finalised. We have a meeting at Burlington House to mark the centenary of the admission of women as Fellows of the Geological Society on 21st–22nd May, and another in York on 23rd–24th October. The York meeting will include our AGM and is also of significance as October 2019 is the 25th anniversary of HOGG's foundation. Look out on the website, in the Newsletter, and on JISCmail for further details of these and other meetings.

However, before any of these, we hope to see you at the Geologists' Association's Festival of Geology which takes place on Saturday 3rd November at University College London. For the first time at this event, HOGG is planning to have a stand, and Stephen Cribb has been developing a new membership leaflet and banners to this end. We hope that having a presence at the Festival of Geology and other events will help raise awareness of our existence and our work, and perhaps bring us a few more members.

And with that, I bring my final Letter from the Chair to a close. I look forward to seeing you all on 22nd November when we will welcome in a new committee and Chair. Thank you.

Tom Sharpe
e mail tom.sharpe1@me.com)

October 2018

HOGG COMMITTEE 2018

Chairman Tom Sharpe **Vice Chairman** Geoffrey Walton **Secretary** Chris Duffin
Treasurer/Membership Secretary David Earle **Ordinary members:** Beris Cox (**newsletter**), Stephen Cribb (**publicity**), Duncan Hawley, John Henry, Sabina Michnowicz (**web officer**), Nina Morgan, Leucha Veneer (co-opted).

HOGG WEBSITE

Our main website <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/> will soon be up and running again. This provides easy access to all aspects of HOGG including details about our meetings and the facility for online registration and payment, as well as subscription renewal. We also have a presence at www.geolsoc.org.uk/ where you will find some useful resources.

HOGG AGM 2018

This year's AGM will be held at 12.50 hrs on Thursday 22nd November 2018 in the Janet Watson Lecture Theatre at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

NOMINATIONS FOR HOGG COMMITTEE 2019

There are four vacancies on the HOGG committee for 2019. Ordinary committee members normally serve for three years, starting on 1st January following the AGM at which they were elected. Committee meetings, which committee members are expected to attend (travel expenses paid), are held at Burlington House three or four times each year.

If you are willing to assist in the general running of HOGG, have an idea for a future meeting, or would be interested in convening a meeting, then please contact the HOGG Chair Tom Sharpe (email tom.sharpe1@me.com)

Alternatively, any member may nominate another member for election; nominations, with the nominee's written consent, should be sent to the HOGG Chair (Tom Sharpe, 4 Abbey Mains Cottages, Garleton, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3SB; e mail tom.sharpe1@me.com)

If there are more than four candidates, a postal or electronic vote will be held prior to the AGM.

Names of those prepared to stand for election must be received at least 14 days before the AGM (i.e. by 7th November 2018).

COLLECTORS, COLLECTIONS AND THE GEOLOGY OF SOUTH-WEST BRITAIN

John Henry¹ reports on the joint HOGG-Geological Curators' Group (GCG) meeting held in Bath 18th–19th September 2018

The eighty attendees at the meeting on *Collectors, Collections and the Geology of South-West Britain* enjoyed a well-organised event with good speakers and posters on a remarkable range of interesting topics under this heading. We thank the organisers from Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute (BRLSI) on Queens Square (*picture right*), Geological Curators Group (GCG) and HOGG—Matt Williams, Matthew Parkes and Nina Morgan—for this very enjoyable event. Behind the scenes, the staff of BRLSI ran the day with smooth efficiency which was very much appreciated. The first day was held in the BRLSI's spacious Elwin Room. The second day comprised three alternative field trips in and near Bath.



Image: Barrie Chacksfield

The keynote speaker, **Steve Etches**, spoke of the realisation of the new Museum of Jurassic Marine Life in Kimmeridge, Dorset which houses and displays his huge collection of fossils, several unique and very many stunning. Steve has collected locally over the past 35 years. I visited the collection on a HOGG weekend based in Weymouth many years ago, and was deeply impressed when it was crammed into an extension of his home. The museum has been open for two years now and Steve's presentation persuaded the audience that it is worth a (repeat) visit. See <http://www.theetchescollection.org/home>



Image: courtesy of the Etches Collection



Image: courtesy of Matt Williams (BRLSI)

Chris Duffin, HOGG secretary, then spoke about the collector *Charles Moore and Late Triassic Vertebrates*. It was Moore (1815–1881) who recognised deposits of Rhaetian age at the Triassic–Jurassic boundary in Britain by comparing sequences which he had measured and described with those reported from the Alps. Moore pioneered bulk collecting when, in 1858, he purchased three tonnes of Rhaetian fissure-fill from the Carboniferous Limestone at Holwell, Somerset. By sieving and sorting this material over three years, he recovered numerous specimens which are now holotypes; remains of neoselachian and hybodont sharks, lepdiosaur and placodont reptiles, and mammaliamorphs are particularly important. His finds continue to provide research material today. The BA field trip to Holwell in 1864 (*picture above*) was attended by Charles Moore (*main figure 1st left*), the explorer David Livingstone (*main figure 2nd left*), Sir Roderick Murchison (*main figure 2nd right*) and John Phillips (*main figure 1st right*).

Matt Williams, BRLSI Collections Manager, continued the Charles Moore theme by describing a locality in Lower Jurassic limestone, collected by Moore in the 1840s, known as Strawberry Bank. The shallow marine fauna was remarkably preserved, with negligible compression, and retained many soft tissue features. The fossils were often contained within large nodules which, on field trips for the public, Moore would strike to reveal the fossils, in what one observer recorded as acts of seemingly ‘geological clairvoyance’. The Leverhulme Trust is funding research of the Strawberry Bank material at the University of Bristol where CT scanners are revealing stunning 3D images. The precise location of the Strawberry Bank locality is not known but is thought to lie under a modern suburb of Ilminster. The BRLSI is collaborating with the University of Bristol to locate other sites in the same discontinuous stratum. The collaboration is known as JESBI—Jurassic Ecosystem of Strawberry Bank Ilminster—see <https://www.brslsi.org/museum-collections/jesbi>.

Following the first break, **Tom Cotterell** of the National Museum of Wales spoke of an early collector, Francis Basset (1757–1835), 1st Baron de Dunstanville and Basset. Known as one of Cornwall’s ‘Mineral Lords’, in reference to his mining activities, his mineral collecting was relatively unrecorded and eclipsed by that of neighbouring land owners and major collectors, Philip Rashleigh and Sir St John Aubyn. Twenty-four mineral specimens of a donation made to BRLSI survive (*picture right*) and include “classic



Image: courtesy of Matt Williams (BRLSI)

Cornish minerals such as liroconite, pharmacosiderite and olivenite undoubtedly derived” from mines at St Day owned by the neighbouring Williams family. Tom’s continuing research explores the associations between the several land- and mine-owning families in order to establish the extent of Basset’s estate; he uses evidence provided by mineral labels, joint investments and ownerships of mines and lands, marriages, and the very source-specific minerals in the collections.

Maurice Tucker of the School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol then spoke about his detective work in tracing the source of the stone used in the Roman Baths of Bath. Its characteristic oolitic-bioclastic grains, cross-bedding, rare bioturbation and common fractures infilled with calcite cement are typical of the Combe Down Oolite. The stone from the different quarries varies in its mineral (silica, aluminium, iron and manganese) content which could be diagnostic; however, the same method of surficial testing as used on material fresh from the quarries fails in the Baths due to contamination by the thermal springs. Present archaeological opposition to drilling to sample the Baths’ masonry prevents more conclusive analysis. At Brown’s Folly Quarry in Bathford, and some others in the Combe Down Oolite, rectangular holes for ‘Lewis’ bolts, and 44 mm diameter circular holes cut by Roman chisels, match holes found in masonry at the baths. However, until archaeologists on the Bath restoration project are persuaded that small samples from below the weathered surface are necessary in order to answer their question about the source of the stone, the best answer is Combe Down Oolite. Maurice led a field trip to Brown’s Folly Quarry the following day.

Owen Green of the Department of Earth Sciences, Oxford, next described the volcanic deposits first described by Charles Moore in 1867 as a basaltic dyke. Subsequently exposed by quarrying as the core of the pericline forming Moon’s Hill (*picture right*), these deposits comprise andesitic lavas, tuffs, ‘agglomerates’ and intercalated volcanoclastic sediments.



Image: courtesy of BGS website

Brachiopod fragments in the sediments suggest the volcanic source was active approximately 485 million years ago.

Palaeogeographical reconstruction suggests the source, named the Beacon Hill Silurian Volcano, was “part of a 2500 km long NE–SW trending island arc–deep-sea trench marking the boundary between the subducting Rheic oceanic plate and the overthrusting Laurentia and/or Avalonia plates.” The agglomerates were part of a large submarine debris flow akin to similar features observed offshore at Montserrat today. Owen led a field trip to Moon’s Hill Quarry the following day.

Ending the morning session, **Jan Freedman**, Curator of Natural History at Plymouth Museum spoke about Plymouth’s lost Pleistocene sites. Cave sites discovered in the nineteenth century at Stonehouse, The Hoe, Oreston and Cattedown have been lost due to bombing, quarrying, and harbour and urban expansion. Collections of human and mammalian bones from these localities are documented and, where they were shared or exchanged with other museums, partly remain. The destruction of Plymouth’s museum during WW2 destroyed the bulk of local finds. New research conducted and encouraged by Jan, based on contemporary documentation of Plymouth’s lost collections, is linking these finds to surviving collections in Leeds, Oxford and London.

After lunch, **Geoffrey Warrington**, University of Leicester, related the twentieth century history of palynology through microphotography. Clear and detailed micrographs of the bryophyte *Naiadita*, published in 1901 by Igerna B J Sollas (daughter of the eminent Victorian geologist William J Sollas), show spores from the late Rhaetic deposits (now Cotham Beds) of the Bristol region. They measure 60–80 microns across in thin sections. Considering the photographic technology of the day, these images are remarkable. This ‘Bristol Spore’ was subsequently investigated by Harris (1938), Clarke (1965), Scheuring (1970) and Orbell (1973) establishing that it flourished in a

freshwater aquatic environment, was geographically widespread—from the Middle East, North Africa and across Europe—throughout the Triassic. It is now known as *Porcellispora longdonensis*.

Simon Harris, Collections Conservation and Digitisation Manager at the British Geological Survey, then described the lagerstätte of Christian Malford, discovered in 1841 during the construction of the Great Western Railway near Chippenham, Wiltshire. Workers exposed a series of clays with exceptionally well-preserved Jurassic fossils including fish and squid with clearly visible soft tissues. Gideon Mantell and Richard Owen were involved in the interpretation of the finds but could not agree. The location may have been kept secret because of the prize quality of the fossils; it was certainly not explicitly recorded and appeared lost, although Christian Malford remains as a hamlet. Many fossils from the locality were lost during WW2 and the remainder ‘over conserved’ thereby reducing their research value. Simon’s colleague at the BGS, Philip Wilby, using snippets of information from surviving specimens and records in collections at Northampton, Bath, Cambridge, Devizes, Keyworth, Milton Keynes and York, rediscovered the site of the Christian Malford lagerstätte in 2006, although the location remains confidential.

Roy Starkey, secretary of The Russell Society, next introduced us to Richard Talling (1820–1883) whom he claimed was the greatest Cornish mineral dealer of all time. He was the right man in the right place at the right time. His birthplace of Lostwithiel was near mines, such as Herodsfoot, in a period of great exploration and maximum mining activity. He began buying and selling minerals at the age of 17 and the earliest record of his activity is a donation to the Royal Institution of Cornwall Museum four years later. He cornered the market on fabulous mineral material and was directly responsible for the discovery of churchite, langite, botallackite, tavistockite, liskeardite, andrewsite and ludlamite. Roy showed, through surviving correspondence to the great collectors Henry Ludlam and John Ruskin, his persuasive ‘bed-side’ manner which made him so successful as substantiated by invoices.

Ending the first half of the afternoon session, **Mike Howe**, Chief Curator and Head of the National Geological Repository of the British Geological Survey, recounted briefly the decline of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (RGSC) and the rescue, in 2005, of its rock, mineral and fossil collections. The RGSC was founded in 1814 and is the second oldest geological society in the world. It opened its museum in 1867 in Penzance and attracted donations, collected actively and was an important visitor attraction for 130 years. In later years, the building fabric decayed and despite a substantial Heritage Lottery Fund grant in 1995 to repair the building and improve displays, the withdrawal of its annual grant by the local council precipitated its closure. Negotiations with the BGS led to the RGSC’s invitation to the BGS to take possession of the collections and transfer them to Keyworth. The collections included: Charles Peach’s donation of 2200 Devon and Cornwall fossils; local, British and international minerals, including display quality specimens; and important petrological material collected by, among others, Humphrey Davy, J Forbes and W A E Ussher. Approximately 4000 tonnes of material were transferred and the collections are very much open for study and research. See <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/palaeosaurus/>; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/britrocks/britrocks.cfc?method=searchBritrocks> and <https://geoscenic.bgs.ac.uk/asset-bank/action/browseItems?categoryId=1544&categoryTypeId=1>.

After the break, **Karen Cook**, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, described a rare “Map of 24 Miles Round the City of Bath: Coloured Geologically by the Rev’d W D Conybeare FRS etc and H T De la Beche, Esq, FRS etc.”. Published in 1823, at present only four copies are known to survive, all in institutions. Karen described its pioneering use of colour separation to produce patterns in red overlaid on the black lithograph, and compared it to a contemporary map by Georges Cuvier and Alexandre Brongniart of the Paris Basin first published in 1811. Despite differences in scale and topography, and method of printing, similar colours and symbols were used. Following the conference, I had the pleasure of visiting the Bath Record Office to examine their copy of the first published geological map of Bath by Conybeare and De la Beche.

Deborah Hutchinson, Geology Curator of Bristol Museum, then spoke about William Sanders (1799–1875) and his Map of the Bristol Coalfield. In fact, the map consisted of 19 sheets published as an atlas in 1862 and also issued as separate sheets (*picture right*). It was a remarkable feat of detailed field mapping at four inches to the mile covering 720 sq. miles. Sanders compiled the base map, with the assistance of a surveyor and draughtsman, from more than a hundred parish plans at various scales. He worked independently and published his map before the Geological Survey completed the first of their six inch to the mile maps of the area.



Image: author's collection

Concluding the day of talks, **Brian Rosen** presented a joint paper, prepared with Jill Darrell (both in the Earth Sciences Department of the Natural History Museum), on fossil corals referring to NHM specimens collected by William Smith (1769–1839) and Arthur Vaughan (1868–1915). They highlighted a problem noted by others of Smith's difficulties in classifying pre-Jurassic limestones. Brian and Jill are preparing an edition of Smith's *Strata Identified by Organised Fossils*, with photographs of Smith's fossils photographed and digitised by Peter Wrigley and arranged as in *Strata Identified*. In this work, they have discovered sketches of corals that match specimens in the NHM's Smith collection and unpublished notes, by Smith, that indicate he was grappling with the classification. With respect to the Carboniferous, Smith's map was not so much in error as a work in progress. Nearly a century later, Arthur Vaughan drew on and developed Smith's principles to produce a detailed classification of the Lower Carboniferous based on his work in the Bristol area.

In addition to the oral presentations, several excellent posters were displayed for view during breaks and lunch. They were

- *The Alfred Gillet Fossil Collection of marine reptiles from the 19th Century Quarries of Street, Somerset* by **David Hill** and **Natalie Watson** (see <https://alfredgillettrust.org/collections/geological-collection>)
- *The South West's Greatest Mineral Collectors* by **Jan Freedman**
- *Geology and hydrology of the Limpley Stoke valley and Somerset Coal Canal* by **Graham Hickman**
- *J W Tutcher (1858–1951)—Geologist and pioneer of scientific photography* by **Deborah Hutchison**
- *The Geology of Gravestones* by **Nina Morgan** and **Philip Powell**.



Images: Barrie Chacksfield

In the Abstracts booklet (circulated as a pdf file and now available at <https://www.geocurator.org/swmeeting>), there were also notes with web addresses and/or maps and sections for the three field trips organised for the second day. These were

- *Field trip to Haycombe Cemetery, Bath* led by **Nina Morgan**
- *Field trip to Brown's Folly, Bathford, Bath* led by **Maurice Tucker**
- *The 'Somerset volcano' and the geology of the Beacon Hill Pericline* led by **Tony Watts** and **Owen Green**.

¹ e mail geol.maps@virgin.net

As a break with tradition, we are including a second report on the Bath meeting. This has been written by Nadine Gabriel who describes herself as “a recent UCL geology graduate and an emerging museum professional”.

COLLECTORS, COLLECTIONS AND THE GEOLOGY OF SW BRITAIN—A VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

Nadine Gabriel¹

On 18th September 2018, I attended the Collectors, Collections and the Geology of Southwest Britain meeting. This joint meeting between the Geological Curators' Group (GCG) and the History of Geology Group (HOGG) was held at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI), and it was also my first ever GCG event! If you have an interest in British geology, you probably know that the south-west of Britain has amazing geology, but this meeting—with around 80 attendees—also looked at the people who have dedicated their lives to exploring this geologically diverse region.

The day started off with a keynote speech from Steve Etches who spent over 35 years collecting fossils from the Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay of south-west England. In 2016, his collection of over 25,000 fossils found a home in the Etches Collection museum at Kimmeridge, Dorset. It was interesting to find out about the difficulties associated with starting a museum from scratch; despite the initial challenges, the museum looks incredible and is filled with a diverse array of scientifically important specimens.

Many of the talks focused on the enthusiastic collectors of the south-west. My favourite story was about Charles Moore (1815–1881), a palaeontologist from Ilminster, Somerset. In 1858, he purchased *three tonnes* of gravel from Holwell, Somerset for 55 shillings. This massive purchase turned out to be filled with Rhaetian (208.5–201.3 million years old) fish, mammal and reptile fossils. Moore also collected fossils from the Lower Jurassic limestone of Strawberry Bank in Ilminster, and these fossils are now cared for by the BRLSI. During the coffee break, Matt Williams (the BRLSI collections manager) showed us a selection of Moore's stunning fossils (*picture right*).



Image: Nadine Gabriel

As a mineral enthusiast, I really enjoyed the talks about the mineral collectors of the area. Sir Francis Basset (1757–1835) collected many minerals from Cornwall since his estate included several mines. Basset's collection contained classic Cornish minerals such as cassiterite, native copper, siderite and olivenite; some of these were donated to the BRLSI in 1826. Another Cornish mineral collector, Richard Talling (1820–1883), collected minerals when mining activity in Cornwall was high. Between the 1850s and 1860s, Talling sold some of his minerals to the British Museum for £20–100 per lot, which is a fortune because the annual wage at the time was just £40–90 per year.

Throughout the day, there were chances to view posters about fossil collectors, mineral collectors, scientific photography, hydrogeology and even the geology of gravestones!

Other talks covered a wide range of geological time periods. Around 435 million years ago, Beacon Hill in Somerset was a volcanic arc similar to the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean. During the Late Triassic, spores of *Naiadita sp.* (a type of liverwort) floated across the Bristol region. Then we learnt about the ice age caves of Pleistocene Plymouth where humans, hyenas, cave lions, wolves and woolly rhinos roamed.

The relationships between geology and architecture were discussed with presentations about the geological origins of the limestones used as building stones in Bath (if you look closely at the stones, you'll find fossils and sedimentary structures), and how the construction of Brunel's Great Western Main Line led to the discovery of exceptional fossils in 1841. For cartography fans, there were three talks about geological maps! In 1864, William Sanders (1799–1875) published a geological map of Bristol and surrounding areas (720 square miles) which would have cost £300 in today's money.

So what were the take-home points for the day?

- Many museums across the UK and abroad contain fascinating specimens from south-west Britain.
- You can explore the collections of the south-west from the comfort of your own home. The BGS have online catalogues of the rocks, fossils and minerals transferred from the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall.
- The geology of south-west Britain has influenced so many lives. People have been collecting from the south-west for centuries and many continue to do so today.

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FUTURE HOGG EVENTS

***HISTORY OF COAL GEOLOGY AND MINING**

22nd November 2018 (including HOGG AGM)

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

See P. 11 for more details and P. 28 for how to register.

***GEOLOGY AND GEO-HISTORY TRIP TO ARGENTINA/PATAGONIA WITH DARWIN IN MIND**

6th–27th March 2019 (Joint meeting with the Dinosaur Society)

See PP. 12–13 for more details.

***CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF GEOL. SOC. FEMALE FELLOWS**

20th–21st May 2019

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

See P. 14 for Call for Papers.

***MEETING IN YORK**

Wednesday 23rd October 2019 (with optional field day on Thursday 24th)

Joint meeting with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS)

The programme is yet to be confirmed but will likely include a talk on John Phillips' work in York, viewing of the YPS William Smith map (a late issue), specimens collected by John Phillips and talks on the contributions of other York-based geologists to the development of geology. Further details in future newsletters.

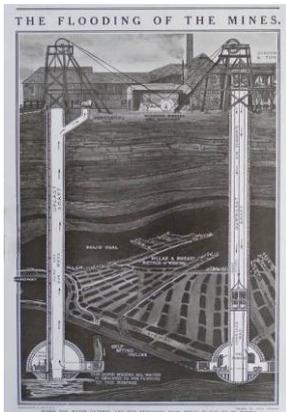
*GEORGE BELLAS GREENOUGH MAP BICENTENARY

May 2020

London

See P. 14 for more details and Call for Papers.

ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF COAL AND ITS MINING Thursday 22nd November 2018 (including HOGG AGM 2018) Burlington House, Piccadilly, London



The topics to be presented relate to coal mining and its exploration. The meeting also marks the end of the Geological Society's Coal Geology Group.

The registration fee for HOGG members, GA members and GS fellows is £45.00. The fee for non-members is £55.00. The fee includes a buffet lunch, teas/coffees, and abstracts of all presentations. For details of how to register, see P. 28.

Tea, coffee and pastries will be available before the start of the meeting.

The HOGG AGM will be held at 12.50hrs during the lunch break.

PROGRAMME

09.30 REGISTRATION

10.00 Introduction *Geoffrey Walton*

10.10 The Coal Acts 1938–1943; the forgotten nationalisation *Richard Trounson*

10.50 Development and decay in British opencast coal-mining *Geoffrey Walton*

11.30 The evolution of coal-mining in the Far East *Larry Thomas*

12.10 BUFFET LUNCH for registered attendees (including HOGG AGM at 12.50)

13.30 The mountain that moved—how Aberfan dethroned King Coal *Ted Nield*

14.10 Local geologists on the Great Northern Coalfield, 1790–1840 *Leucha Veneer*

14.50 TEA AND COFFEE

15.10 Coal mining subsidence: some aspects of its history *Alan Cobb*

15.40 James Bateman Longmire (1785–1858)—the mining engineer who went to Russia in 1817 to look for coal, instead of William Smith *Hugh Torrens*

16.25 GENERAL DISCUSSION to include long term legacies.

17.00 MEETING ENDS



GEOLOGY AND GEO-HISTORY TRIP TO ARGENTINA/PATAGONIA WITH DARWIN IN MIND

6th–27th March 2019



HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GROUP AND THE DINOSAUR SOCIETY

Day 1-2 (06–7/03/2019): Fly London Gatwick to Buenos Aires with BA-direct flight.

Day 2 (07/03/2019): Arrive Buenos Aires and transfer to 3* Hotel for 3 nights stay.

Day 3 (08/03/2019): Buenos Aires—sightseeing tour to include the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales de Bernardino Rivadavia which is now sited on the Rivadavia Av. Angel Gallardo, Puerto Madero.

Charles Darwin first landed on the southern shore of the Rio Del la Plata in the first week of November 1832 and spent time collecting geological specimens. He visited the Science Museum, first opened in 1812, on several occasions.

Other visits will include the Pink Palace where Eva & Juan Peron made their spell-binding speeches and La Recoleta where Eva Peron is buried.

Day 4 (9/03/2019): Trip to Estancia El Ombu de Areco in San Antonio de Areco on the Pampas. The trip will include horse and carriage riding, gaucho horsemanship, music & dancing and a traditional barbecue lunch. San Antonio is thought to be the prettiest town in the Pampas and is located 113 km north-west of Buenos Aires.

When Darwin rode out into the Pampas around Buenos Aires, he arrived in the middle of General Juan Manuel de Rosas's fiercest guerilla campaigns. He describes several occasions when he and his travelling party had to talk their way out of trouble. The passport was granted to 'El Naturalista Don Carlos.' (See Harvard University, Revista 2009).

Days 5-8 (10–13/03/2019): Depart for Puerto Iguazu and the spectacular Iguazu Falls, and a spectacular volcanic terrain; our stay will include an optional boat trip around the falls and opportunities for a 4x4 drive through the local jungle or a helicopter flight over spectacular topography. We will use a coach from our hotel to the Iguazu Jungle Lodge and a possible trip into Brazil.



Image: Wikipedia. Cataratas Media

Days 8-11 (13–16/03/2019): Fly to Mendoza to study the Palaeozoics of the Andean Precordillera, the Tertiaries of the Cuyo Basin and the basement between Mendoza and San Juan, and the viniculture of the Malbec Wines.

Unlike our flight from Puerto Iguazu, Darwin hiked and rode to Mendoza from the Chilean Pacific Coast via the Portillo Pass located on the north-western border separating Argentina and Chile; the Andes Range is marked here by the presence of Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain at 6,960.8m.

The main Mesozoic Basins are located in the Uspallata–Potrerillo Valley in the Province of Mendoza and are rich in coal, bitumen, oil and gas.

Day 12 (17/03/2019): Take return flight from Mendoza to Buenos Aires and transfer to Trelew.

Days 13–16 (18–21/03/2019): Three full days in Trelew and Puerto Madryn to include a visit the Museum of Paleontology Egidio Feruglio and the Bryn Gwyn Geopark (20 minutes from Trelew). Field study of local stratigraphy and the fossils found in this region—including giant dinosaurs (see below) and a Bosque Petrificada (Fossil Forest). Locally, the names of the towns and villages show that the region is effectively Welsh.

The first group of settlers, almost 200, came mostly from north and mid-Wales. Sailed from Liverpool in late May 1865 aboard the tea-clipper Mimosa. Blessed with good weather, the journey took approximately eight weeks, and the Mimosa eventually arrived at what is now called Puerto Madryn on 27th July.

We will also visit Gaiman and other Welsh colonies, which are characterised by several traditional ‘Taff’ tea-houses. We will spend two nights in the more touristic town of Puerto Madryn (50 km from Trelew) visiting the Valdes Peninsula (including the Puerto Piramides), the home to a host of marine wildlife. Hopefully, we will have time for a Patagonian barbeque dinner. The Beagle is logged as docking at Puerto Deseado to the south of the Cabo Blanco, before it was lifted ashore for maintenance.

A survey crew from the Beagle led by Captain Fitzroy set out to navigate the valley of the Rio Santa Cruz on 18th April 1834. The expedition proved to be very difficult with rugged terrain and very strong currents. Darwin and Stokes first spotted the Andean Cordilleras range on the 29th April but Fitzroy signalled the end of the expedition on 4th May. The Rio Santa Cruz is a major component of the drainage system of the glacial lakes.

Day 17 (22/03/2019): Fly from Trelew to El Calafate on Lago Argentino.

Days 18–20 (23–25/03/2019): We will visit the Los Glaciers National Park and maybe the Torres del Paine across the border into Chile; and the Cueva de las Manos near Santa Cruz with wonderful prehistoric palm prints.

Days 21–22 (26–27/03/19): Return from Calafate to Buenos Aires and transfer to London.



Image: Wikipedia

Estimated costs including flights, car hire and 3* Hotels with breakfast: £2700.00; single room option: £400.00 supplement.

Expressions of interest or for more information, contact Dick Moody
(e mail rtj.moody@virgin.net)

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF GEOL. SOC. FEMALE FELLOWS

A two-day conference to be held at

The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

21st–22nd May 2019



CALL FOR PAPERS ON THE HISTORY OF FEMALE GEOLOGISTS

The conference welcomes proposals for research papers or poster presentations on the historical contribution of women in geology. It is hoped that the presentations will build on and expand the work achieved at an exploratory conference in 2005 *The Role of Women in the History of Geology* although this is not a necessity.

It is intended to hold a celebration conference dinner on the evening of 21st May and to publish the conference proceedings.

Please send abstracts to Professor Cynthia Burek and any enquiries to the convenors at the e mail addresses below.

Convenors

Prof. Cynthia Burek c.burek@chester.ac.uk

Dr Bettie Higgs b.higgs@ucc.ie

Veronica Cubitt Holmes FGS veronicaccubitt@hotmail.com

George Bellas Greenough Map Bicentenary

Event & Conference

London : May 2020



HOGG is planning an event to mark the bicentenary of the publication of Greenough's (Geological Society) Geological Map of England & Wales in May 1820.

The event will be a two-day conference with papers, presentations and incorporated visits on all aspects of the map, the context of its production and insights into the life of its chief architect, George Bellas Greenough. Plans are in hand to produce a high quality reprint of the 1820 Greenough map in association with the British Geological Survey as a special edition for HOGG members/subscribers; this will also include the Memoir with background notes.

Expressions of interest are invited for papers on the Greenough geological maps (1st, 2nd or 3rd editions) and their impact, or on any other aspect of Greenough's work and life.

Send expressions of interest to the convenor Duncan Hawley at duncan.hawley@gmail.com

RECENT HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS BY HOGG MEMBERS

Please let us know of your recent output so that we can publicise it in the Newsletter.

John Milsom. 2018. *The Hunt for Earth Gravity. A history of Gravity Measurement from Galileo to the 21st Century.* Springer. 402pp. [See Book and Map Notes, P. 16]

Nina Morgan. 2018. Distant Thunder: Show and tell. *Geoscientist*, **28 (6)**, 24. [on White Watson and methods of presentation].

_____ 2018. Distant Thunder: Explosive relationship. *Geoscientist*, **28 (7)**, 26–27. [on Sir William Hamilton and volcanoes].

_____ 2018. Distant Thunder: Soldiering on. *Geoscientist*, **28 (8)**, 26 [on William Lonsdale (1794–1871)].

----- 2018. Distant Thunder: Poetic license. *Geoscientist*, **28 (9)**, 26 [on Archie Lamont (1907–1985)].

Roy Starkey. 2018. *Minerals of the English Midlands.* British Mineralogy Publications. 432pp. [See Book and Map Notes, P.18]

Phil Stone. 2018. Rewarding geology, Scottish islands, and odd palaeontological furniture. Editorial in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, No. 64, pp.1–4 [available online at https://edinburghgeolsoc.org/eg_pdfs/edinburgh-geologist-64.pdf]

BOOK AND MAP NOTES

Wedded to the Rocks: The Life and Work of Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873)

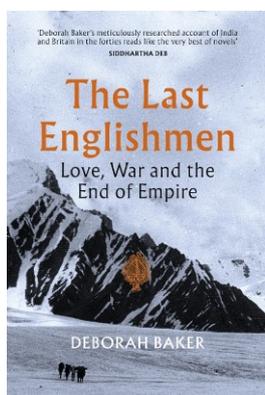
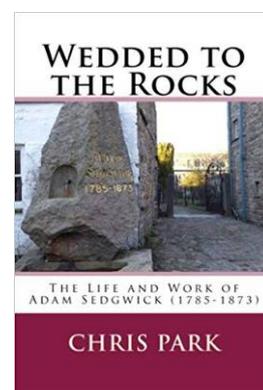
Chris Park

Published by Chris Park. 2017. 329pp.

ISBN 9781548851705 paperback

RRP £7.50

“Timed to coincide with the bicentenary of Adam Sedgwick’s election to the Woodwardian professorship, Chris Park’s *Wedded to the Rocks* is an eminently readable introduction to the life and work of one of the most famous geologists of the mid-19th Century.....” [Douglas Palmer’s review in *Geoscientist*, 28/7]



The Last Englishmen. Love, War and the End of Empire.

Deborah Baker

Chatto & Windus. 2018 384pp.

ISBN 978-1-55597-804-4 hardback

RRP £25.00

“John Auden was a pioneering geologist of the Himalayas. Michael Spender was the first to survey the northern approach to the summit of Mount Everest. While their younger brothers—W.H Auden and Stephen Spender—achieved literary fame, they vied for a place on an expedition that would finally conquer Everest, a quest that had become a metaphor for Britain’s efforts to

maintain power over India. To this rivalry was added another: in the summer of 1938 both men fell in love with a painter named Nancy Sharp. Her choice would determine each man's wartime loyalties.

From Calcutta to pre-war London to the snowy slopes of Everest, *The Last Englishmen* tracks a generation obsessed with a romantic ideal. As political struggle rages in Spain, the march to war with Germany seems inevitable, Communist spies expand their ranks and the fight for Indian independence enters its final bloody act, writers and explorers, Englishmen and Indians must pick their cause. *The Last Englishmen* is an engrossing story that traces the end of empire and the stirring of a new world order. It encourages us to look again at our national story, to seek out the viewpoints of those on the other end of unchecked power, and to question our own mythologies.” [publisher's notes]

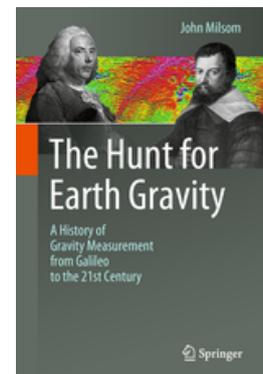
The Hunt for Earth Gravity. A history of Gravity Measurement from Galileo to the 21st Century

John Milsom

Springer. 2018 402pp.

ISBN 978-3-319-74958-7 hardback RRP £22.50

ISBN 978-3-319-74959-4 E book £17.99



“The author of this history of mankind's increasingly successful attempts to understand, to measure and to map the Earth's gravity field (commonly known as ‘*little g*’ or just ‘*g*’) has been following in the footsteps of the pioneers, intermittently and with a variety of objectives, for more than fifty years. It is a story that begins with Galileo's early experiments with pendulums and falling bodies, progresses through the conflicts between Hooke and Newton and culminates in the measurements that are now being made from aircraft and satellites. The spectacular increases in accuracy that have been achieved during this period provide the context, but the main focus is on the people, many of whom were notable eccentrics. Also covered are the reasons WHY these people thought their measurements would be useful, with emphasis in the later chapters on the place of ‘*g*’ in today's applied geology, and on the ways in which it is providing new and spectacular visions of our planet. It is also, in part, a personal memoir that explores the parallels between the way fieldwork is being done now and the difficulties that accompanied its execution in the past. Selected topics in the mathematics of ‘*g*’ are discussed in a series of short *Codas*.” [publisher's notes]

History of the European Oil and Gas Industry

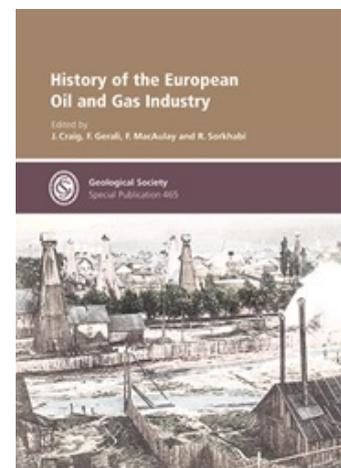
edited by J. Craig, F. Gerali, F. MacAulay and R. Sorkhabi

GSL Special Publication 465

GSL Publishing House. 2018. 472pp.

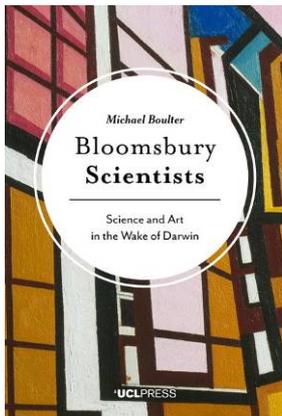
ISBN 978-1-78620-363-2 hardback

List price £125 Fellows' price £62.50 Other societies price £75



“The history of the European oil and gas industry reflects local as well as global political events, economic constraints and the personal endeavours of individual petroleum geoscientists as much as it does the development of technologies and the underlying geology of the region. The first commercial oil wells in Europe were drilled in Poland in 1853, Romania in 1857, Germany in 1859 and Italy in 1860. The 23 papers in this volume focus on the history and heritage of the oil and gas industry in the key European oil-producing countries from the earliest onshore drilling to its development into the modern industry that we know today. The contributors chronicle the main events and some of the major players that

shaped the industry in Europe. The volume also marks several important anniversaries, including 150 years of oil exploration in Poland and Romania, the centenary of the drilling of the first oil well in the UK and 50 years of oil production from onshore Spain.” [publisher’s notes]



Bloomsbury Scientists: Science and Art in the Wake of Darwin

Michael Boulter

UCL Press, London 2017 188pp.

ISBN 978-1-78735-004-5 open access PDF Free

ISBN 978-1-78735-006-9 hardback £35.00

ISBN 978-1-78735-005-2 paperback £15.00

ISBN 978-1-78735-007-6 Epub £5.99

“*Bloomsbury Scientists* is the story of the network of scientists and artists living in a square mile of London before and after World War I. This inspired group of men and women viewed creativity and freedom as the driving force behind nature, and each strove to understand this in their own inventive way. Their collective energy changed the social mood of the era and brought a new synthesis of knowledge to ideas in science and art. Class barriers were threatened as power shifted from the landed oligarchy to those with talent and the will to make a difference.

A time of unexpected opportunities, from the new disciplines of Genetics and Ecology to Post-Impressionism and beyond, Michael Boulter seamlessly weaves together the stories originating from Bloomsbury’s laboratories, libraries and studios. He narrates the breakthroughs of scientists such as Ray Lankester and Marie Stopes alongside the creative outputs of H. G. Wells and Virginia Woolf, among many others, and intricately connects them all through personal friendships, grievances, quarrels and affections. *Bloomsbury Scientists* offers a fresh and crucial perspective on this history at a time when the complex relationship between science and art continues to be debated.” [publisher’s notes]

Too Big to Walk

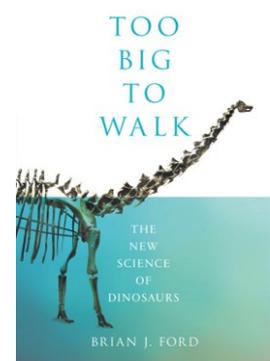
Brian J. Ford

William Collins 2018 528pp.

ISBN 978-008218904 hardback RRP £25.00

“Ever since Jurassic Park we thought we knew how dinosaurs lived their lives. In this remarkable new book, Brian J. Ford reveals that dinosaurs were, in fact, profoundly different from what we believe, and their environment was unlike anything we have previously thought.

In this meticulous and absorbing account, Ford reviews the latest scientific evidence to show that the popular accounts of dinosaurs’ lives contain ideas that are no more than convenient inventions: how dinosaurs mated, how they hunted and communicated, how they nursed their young, even how they moved. He uncovers many surprising details which challenge our most deeply-held beliefs such as the revelation that an asteroid impact did not end the dinosaurs’ existence.



Professor Ford’s illuminating examination changes everything. As he unravels the history of the world, we discover that evolution was not Charles Darwin’s idea; there were many philosophers who published the theory before him. The concept of continental drift and plate tectonics did not begin with Alfred Wegener a century ago, but dates back to learned pioneers hundreds of years before his time. Ever since scientists first began to study dinosaurs, they have travelled with each

other down the wrong path, and Ford now shows how this entire branch of science has to be rewritten.

A new dinosaur species is announced every ten days, and more and more information is currently being discovered about how they may have lived: locomotion, hunting, nesting behaviour, distribution, extinction. Ford brings together these amazing discoveries in this controversial new book which undoubtedly will ruffle a few feathers, or scales if you are an old-school dinosaur lover.” [publisher’s notes]

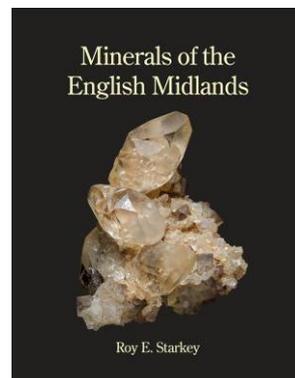
Minerals of the English Midlands

Roy E. Starkey

British Mineralogy Publications. 2018 432pp.

ISBN 978 0 9930182 3 7 paperback £35 + P&P

ISBN 978 0 9930182 2 0 limited edition hardback £50 + P&P



Roy (email roy@britishmineralogy.com) has provided the following notes about his book for the HOGG newsletter:

The English Midlands, as defined for the purposes of this book, extend from the Welsh border in the west, northwards to the boundary of Derbyshire and Yorkshire, across to the eastern margin of Northamptonshire and southwards, roughly to the line of the M4 motorway. Included, are the counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire, a total area of some 30,000 square kilometres (11,600 square miles). It is an area of diverse geology, varied landscape and steeped in industrial history.

Mining and quarrying have been of pivotal importance to the economy of the English Midlands. As a consequence of this, the area has produced a wide range of interesting mineral specimens. Examples of these are to be found in local and regional museum collections, and especially at the Natural History Museum in London. However, such was the importance of Britain in the development of mineralogy as a science that specimens from the English Midlands are to be seen in collections all over the world.

The Derbyshire lead mining industry will, of course, be well known to HOGG Newsletter readers. More recently, baryte and fluorite—minerals formerly considered as waste products—became economically important, baryte in the production of drilling mud, and fluorite as a flux for steelmaking. Many small-scale opencast operations enjoyed a brief resurgence during the latter years of the 20th Century, but today only Milldam Mine, under Hucklow Edge remains in production. Elsewhere, the gypsum mines in Staffordshire and Leicestershire, and Winsford Rock Salt Mine in Cheshire continue to keep the mining tradition alive in the Midlands.

There are many excellent publications which document the industrial heritage and mining history of the Midlands, but few of these include any significant mention of the wealth of fine mineral specimens which have resulted from centuries of extraction. We are fortunate indeed that thanks to the efforts of miners, mineral dealers and collectors over the past few hundred years, many interesting and beautiful specimens have been preserved for us to enjoy today.

The book has been professionally typeset and is a high quality production on 150 gsm silk paper. Running to 432 pages (276 x 218 mm) and with more than 900 images, almost all of which are in full colour, it is a substantial volume. You can find out more about the book, and order a copy at <https://britishmineralogy.com/wordpress/> If you are attending the Bakewell Rock Exchange on 13th and 14th October, you will be able to pick up a copy and save the postage.



The Scientific Journal
Authorship and the Politics of Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century

Alex Csiszar

University of Chicago Press. 2018. 368pp.

ISBN 9780226553238 clothback RRP £34.00

Also available as E book.

“Not since the printing press has a media object been as celebrated for its role in the advancement of knowledge as the scientific journal. From open communication to peer review, the scientific journal has long been central both to the identity of academic scientists and to the public legitimacy of scientific knowledge. But that was not always the case. At the dawn of the nineteenth century, academies and societies dominated elite study of the natural world. Journals were a relatively marginal feature of this world, and sometimes even an object of outright suspicion.

The Scientific Journal tells the story of how that changed. Alex Csiszar takes readers deep into nineteenth-century London and Paris, where savants struggled to reshape scientific life in the light of rapidly changing political mores and the growing importance of the press in public life. The scientific journal did not arise as a natural solution to the problem of communicating scientific discoveries. Rather, as Csiszar shows, its dominance was a hard-won compromise born of political exigencies, shifting epistemic values, intellectual property debates, and the demands of commerce. Many of the tensions and problems that plague scholarly publishing today are rooted in these tangled beginnings. As we seek to make sense of our own moment of intense experimentation in publishing platforms, peer review, and information curation, Csiszar argues powerfully that a better understanding of the journal’s past will be crucial to imagining future forms for the expression and organization of knowledge.” [publisher’s note]

Lyme Regis Monographs

Christopher Powell

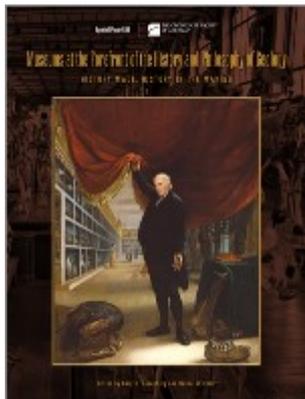
FeedARead.com 2018 302pp.

ISBN 9781788764391 hardback £10.49+p&p

Available from <https://www.feedaread.com/books/Lyme-Regis-Monographs-9781788764391.aspx>

“The nine monographs in this volume form a collection of newly-researched biographies of people well-known in Lyme Regis, Dorset in the nineteenth century. Three of the subjects of the monographs have an international reputation. Walter Parry Hodges was the most famous sporting artist of the 19th century, his monograph fills in details of his biography and family history hitherto unknown. William Daniel Conybeare is known as the father of the two sciences of geology and palaeontology, his monograph places his achievements within the context of his remarkable family and its connections with Axminster. Dr William Buckland, Conybeare's closest friend and a native of Axminster, was Oxford's first Reader in Mineralogy and another of the founders of earth science. His monograph fills in background details of his family unknown even to his own children. The other six monographs are focused on important members of the Lyme community in the nineteenth century. George Roberts was both a historian of national repute as well as a distinguished schoolmaster whose teaching methods were almost a century ahead of their time. George Holland was interested in meteorology and published a book on the rain in 1828. Henry Bennett Junior was important as an organist and composer of hymns warranting three entries in John Julian's 'Dictionary of Hymnology'. The Organs and Organists of Lyme Regis Parish Church over two centuries form the subject of another monograph. Walter Parry Hodges's son, Dr Frederic Parry Hodges, dominated Lyme in the 19th century from his pulpit in the parish church where a large, early 16th century tapestry of national importance still hangs that was the gift of Revd Edward

Peek, a member of the famous and wealthy family of London merchants and philanthropists, who is the subject of another monograph.” [publisher’s notes]



MUSEUMS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY: HISTORY MADE, HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Rosenberg, G. D. & Clary, R M (editors)

The Geological Society of America. Boulder, Colorado. 2018. viii, 348pp.

Special Papers Geological Society of America, 535

ISBN 9780813725352 GSA members \$62.00, non-members \$89.00

"Natural history museums have evolved over the past 500 years to become vanguards of science literacy and thus institutions of democracy.

Curiosity about nature and distant cultures has proven to be a powerful

lure, and museums have progressively improved public engagement through increasingly immersive exhibits, participation in field expeditions, and research using museum holdings, all facilitated by new technology. Natural history museums have dispersed across the globe and demonstrated that public fascination with ancient life, vanished environments, exotic animals in remote habitats, cultural diversity, and our place in the cosmos is universal. This volume samples the story of museum development and illustrates that the historical successes of natural history museums have positioned them to be preeminent facilitators of science literacy well into the future." [publisher’s notes]

.....ALSO OF INTEREST?

Kelling, Gilbert 2018. Arthur Holmes and continental drift: some personal recollections. *The Edinburgh Geologist*, No. 64, pp. 8–12.

OTHER RECENT ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IN RECENT *GEOSCIENTIST* (The Fellowship Magazine of the Geological Society of London)¹

Hall, David E. W. 2018. Karl Mayer-Eymar and Barton-on-Sea. *Geoscientist*, **28/06**, 16–19.

¹ Although described as “The Fellowship Magazine.....”, it is free to all online.

THE CONGRESS THAT WAS ALL BUT CANCELLED!

Wendy Cawthorne (Assistant Librarian at The Geological Society)¹ recounts the story of the 23rd International Geological Congress held in Prague in August 1968

Fifty years ago last August, the 23rd International Geological Congress had just started meeting in Prague. Over 4000 geologists were making their way to the capital of Czechoslovakia, which that year seemed to be enjoying a relaxation in the political regime. Although as the Congress approached, the political situation was becoming more tense with Russia threatening to tighten its grip again, the UK Foreign Office advised that travel to the country could go ahead. Many geologists arrived ahead of the opening ceremony on 20th August 1968 in order to attend the various pre-Congress field trips, which were a great success.



The Congress was opened by the Czechoslovak President, Ludvik Svoboda, at a meeting of the IGC Council on Monday 19th August, with the opening

ceremony, in what is now known as the Exhibition Centre, attended by delegates the following day. This was presided over by the President of the Congress, Josef Svoboda, with a welcome address being given by the Prime Minister, Oldřich Černík. Papers were presented and official meetings of the Congress and its sub-committees met as planned that day, but overnight Russian tanks rolled into Prague and put an end to the 'Prague Spring' and to the 23rd IGC.

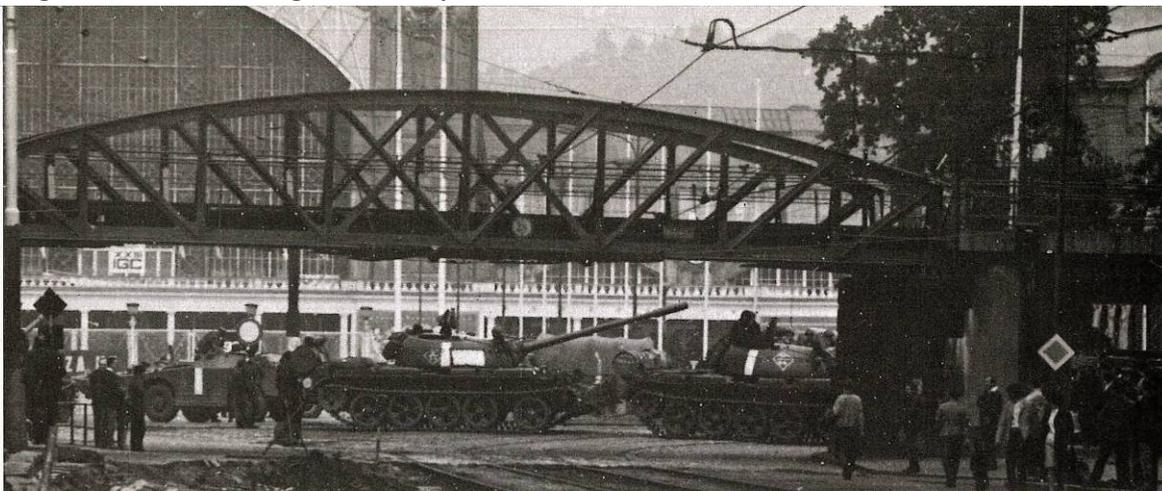
In the preface to the General Proceedings, published in 1970, Josef Svoboda wrote with understandable understatement given the ongoing political situation in Czechoslovakia "*The tragic events of August 21st strongly interfered with the successful course of the Session [Congress], which unfortunately had to be prematurely closed*". An attempt was made to continue for a couple of days but on 23rd August, the congress was formally closed.

Not everyone had arrived by Day 1, but a full list of delegates is given in the General Proceedings which shows that around 150 were due to attend from the UK, many staying in the massive International Hotel on the western edge of the city. A report in *The Times* the following day, about the battles on the streets of Prague, actually mentions the IGC—this would probably not have been the case if everything had gone according to plan!

Peter Kent and Peter Sabine along with Kingsley Dunham gave a report of the Congress to a meeting of The Geological Society in December that year, recounting the events and how arrangements were made to leave Prague. Most delegates were taken by coach from their hotel to the main station and were able to get on a train bound for Germany.

Other stories have emerged from those who attended the Congress and the present short account may encourage others to reminisce. For instance, Hugh Torrens recounted a tale of the late Peter Sylvester-Bradley—a Quaker and ardent pacifist—who, having driven to Prague in his old Land Rover, proceeded, at some personal risk given the nature of his vehicle, to drive round tossing roses, that he had managed to purchase, into the muzzles of the Russian tanks' guns!

In spite of the fact that very few papers were ever presented, the full set of proceedings, abstracts and field guides were published between 1968 and 1970; these can be consulted in many libraries, including that of The Geological Society.



In the background is the Palace of Culture, where the Congress was held. In the middle distance, the cause of its end.

(Source: *Geotimes* 13(9), Nov. 1968, p.11 © 1968 American Geosciences Institute and used with their permission.)

Meanwhile in London, the BBC's season of Promenade Concerts was in progress and on Wednesday 21st August the State Orchestra of the USSR was making its Proms debut with Mstislav Rostropovich as soloist. This was not good timing and Joan Chissell reported the following day in *The Times* that "... it was lamentable that a certain section of the audience chose to shout slogans at innocent Musicians no doubt just as sickened by Kremlin idiocy as we are". The soloist's encore, it seems, did much to diffuse the situation.

Geologists had to wait until 1972 for the next meeting of the IGC, held in Montreal when, if they kept to their promise given at the closing of the 23rd IGC, Czechoslovak geologists were invited to attend without payment of the conference fees in recompense for their suffering in 1968.

FURTHER READING

Dudek, A. (ed.) 1970. Report of the Twenty-third Session [International Geological Congress], Czechoslovakia, 1968: General Proceedings. 227pp.

Schneer, C. J. 1995. The geologists at Prague: August 1968. History of the International Union of Geological Sciences. *Earth Sciences History*; **14(2)**, pp. 172–201.

¹ email wendy.cawthorne@geolsoc.org.uk

BRAZIL MUSEUM FIRE

On the evening of Sunday 2nd September this year, a major fire gutted the 200 year old National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro. The museum was established in 1818 with the aim of promoting scientific research by making its collections available to specialists. The fire destroyed one of the largest anthropology and natural history collections—comprising 20 million scientific and historical items—in the Americas. Amongst the treasures housed at the museum, was the mineral and rock collection of the German mining engineer Carl Eugenius Pabst von Ohain (1718–1784); this had been catalogued by the German mineralogist Abraham Gottlob Werner (1750–1817) whilst at the Freiburg Mining Academy.

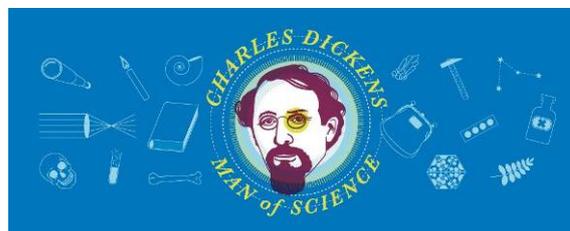


Journalists reporting the fire were pleased to note the survival, not surprisingly, of one of the world's largest meteorites. The Bendegó iron meteorite, weighing more than 5 tonnes, was discovered in the state of Bahia, Brazil in 1784.

© TwistedSifter.com

OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

CHARLES DICKENS: MAN OF SCIENCE
CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM
48 DOUGHTY STREET
LONDON WC1N 2LX
24th March–11th November 2018
Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm, last entry 4pm



“*Charles Dickens: Man of Science* aims to reveal Dickens not only as a scientific enthusiast, but as the key communicator of science in the Victorian age. Displaying his writings alongside artefacts, instruments, and texts of the developing sciences, we share the story of Dickens's friendships and scientific passions. Journeying through some of Dickens's favourite sciences—geology, thermodynamics, chemistry, and medicine—we reveal that what made him a great writer was precisely what made him a man of science.”

A number of items from The Geological Society Library's special collections—including Roderick Murchison's geological hammer—are on display, as well as the Library's copies of Henry De La Beche's drawings *Duria Antiquior* and *Awful Changes*, and William Buckland's *Bridgewater Treatise*. The Museum is offering Fellows of The Geological Society 2 for the price of 1 entry for the duration of the exhibition.



STRATA—ROCK—DUST—STARS
York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7EW
28th September 2018–25th November 2018

Strata—Rock—Dust—Stars, which showcases ground-breaking moving image, new media and interactive artwork, is inspired by William Smith's geological map of 1815,

which was key in the development of Geology as a science and transformed the way in which we understand the world.

Curated by Mike Stubbs (Director of FACT, Liverpool) in partnership with York Museums Trust and York Mediale, the exhibition features works by contemporary artists.

It examines not only geological strata, but also explores a timely and contemporary poetic layering of human curiosity, exploration and reflection on the universe.

The exhibition will be the most ambitious and large scale media art exhibition York has ever hosted. It is part of York's first Mediale, a citywide digital arts festival for the UK's only UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts (please note: this exhibition does contain flashing lights).

For more details go to <https://www.yorkartgallery.org.uk/exhibition/strata-rock-dust-stars/>

BREAKING GROUND—WOMEN OF THE NORTHERN COALFIELDS
MINING ART GALLERY, MARKET PLACE, BISHOP AUCKLAND DL14 7NP
13th October 2018–24th March 2019

Daily 10.00–16.00hrs last entry 15.30hrs
Admission: adult £5, concessions £4, under 16s £1

For more information, visit
<https://www.aucklandproject.org/events/mining-art-gallery/>



THE WIDER EARTH
JERWOOD GALLERY,
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,
SOUTH KENSINGTON
LONDON SW7 5BD
13th October–30th December 2018



Tickets £17.50–£79.50 www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/the-wider-earth.html

“A new theatre in the Jerwood Gallery at the Natural History Museum has been unveiled for the award-winning drama *The Wider Earth*. The play, about the story of young Charles Darwin, is running for a limited season. Join the 22-year-old Darwin on HMS Beagle's daring voyage to the far side of the world, and discover the gripping story behind one of the most important discoveries

in history. The Wider Earth features a cast of seven, remarkable puppetry, an original score and cinematic animations to bring to life uncharted landscapes in the theatrical event of 2018.”

INHIGEO 43rd CONFERENCE MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

12th–22nd November 2018 2nd circular now available on INHIGEO website

CONFERENCE THEMES

- History of vulcanological studies
- Humboldt's influence in earth sciences
- Werner's neptunists in America
- History of mining and oil research
- General contributions on the history of geology



CONFERENCE VENUE

The Palace of Mining, one of the masterpieces of Neoclassical architecture in the Americas, was built between 1797 and 1813 by the renowned architect Manuel Tolsa, to house the Royal School of Mines and the Royal Court of Mining. Currently, it is part of the heritage of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

The Closing Ceremony will be held at the Geological Museum. It was built by the architect Carlos Herrera, under the guidance and collaboration of geologist José G. Aguilera, to house the Geological Institute. This building was the seat of the 10th International Geological Congress and it operated as a research institute until 1956, when it became the Museum of the Institute of Geology of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

MID-MEETING FIELD TRIP

Mid-Meeting field trip to Tepoztlan, devoted to crossing one of the most impressive Quaternary volcanic fields of the Transmexican Volcanic belt in central Mexico. This field comprises 250 monogenetic cinder cones, the youngest created in the last 2000 years, when there were already human settlements in the region. The field trip includes a visit to the scenic Miocene volcanic succession near Tepoztlan, which is a beautiful village with traditional architecture.

POST-MEETING FIELD TRIP

Post-Meeting five-day field trip to Oaxaca, with the goal of travelling along a representative section of central Mexico stratigraphy, from the Quaternary volcanic successions to the Proterozoic high-grade metamorphic terranes. The trip includes a visit to palaeontological-rich Cretaceous sites and emblematic archeological centres. Overnights will be in Puebla, Tehuacan and Oaxaca. Important geological landscapes to see during this trip are the highest stratovolcanoes in Mexico (Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl and Pico de Orizaba), the Tehuacan Valley, the Juarez range and the colourful Jurassic units of Oaxaca.

REGISTRATION FEES

400 US\$ for Conference and Mid-Meeting Trip (early bird registration)

Fee will include *coffee breaks and lunch during the Conference, transportation and lunch during Mid-Meeting trip, as well as the Conference dinner at the Geological Museum.*

400 US\$ for Post-Meeting Trip (early bird registration)

Fee will include *transportation, hotel, breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

250 US\$ for special programme for accompanying participants (early bird registration)

Fee will include *special tours during the Conference, Mid-Meeting Trip and the conference dinner at the Geological Museum.*

N.B. Registration fees will not include hotel costs during the Conference.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 15 July 2018 closure of early bird registration for Conference, Post- Meeting trip, and accompanying participant's registration
- Registration fees for Conference and Post-Conference trip after 15 July will be 450 US dollars, and 300 US dollars for accompanying participants.

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr Manuel Suárez Lastra (Director of the Institute of Geography, UNAM)
Dra Elena Centeno García (Director of the Institute of Geology, UNAM)
Dr Hugo Delgado Granados (Director of the Institute of Geophysics, UNAM)
Mtro Luis Espinosa Arrubarrena (Head of the Geological Museum, UNAM)
Dra Luz Fernanda Azuela (Institute of Geography, UNAM)
Dr Dante Moran Zenteno (Institute of Geology, UNAM)
Dra Lucero Morelos Rodríguez (Institute of Geology, UNAM)
Dr Enrique González Torres (Faculty of Engineering, UNAM)

QUERIES Any queries should be sent by email to the organizing committee at inhigeo@igg.unam.mx

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ONCOLOGY AND THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY-UK AN INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON PALAEO-ONCOLOGY. THE ANTIQUITY OF CANCER THE HELLENIC CENTRE Friday 16th November 2018

Internationally recognised speakers will present palaeo-pathological evidence on cancer and will discuss the written testimony of the disease afflicting populations in societies and cultures of antiquity.

There will be no registration fee but prospective participants are invited to declare their intention to attend. email sretsas@msn.com ; email kardim@med.upatras.gr <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/palaeo-oncology-the-antiquity-of-cancer-tickets-48777192897>

3RD BIENNIAL SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE KINGS CHURCH CENTRE, BROOKS ROAD, LEWES, EAST SUSSEX Saturday 24th November 2018 Conference Organiser: email anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

HERITAGE AND RESOURCES IN SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

PROGRAMME

8.30–9.40 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

9.40–10.20 *The Hastings Coast: where the High Weald meets the Sea.* Ken Brooks (Hastings and District Geological Society)

10.20–11.00 *Haunt of the Hippo: Quaternary Mammals of South-East England* Danielle Schreve (Royal Holloway, University of London)

11.00–11.30 COFFEE AND BISCUITS

11.30–12.10 *The Roman Heritage in South-East England: Real or Overrated?* David Rudling (Sussex School of Archaeology)

12.10–12.50 *The Roman Military and the Saxon Shore Forts* Simon Elliott (University of Kent at Canterbury)

12.50–2.00 BUFFET LUNCH (including 1.10–1.40 Performance of South Coast Songs and Shanties)

2.00–2.40 *The Industrial Archaeology of Sussex* John Blackwell (Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society)

2.40–3.20 *Smuggling in the South-East, 1740–1840: Myth or Reality?* Chris Hare (History People U.K.)

3.20–3.50 TEA AND BISCUITS

3.50–4.30 *The Kent Coalfield: Discovery, Development and Closure* Geoff Turner

4.30–5.10 *Offshore Wind Farms as Renewable Energy* David Shilston (Atkins)

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

CONFERENCE FEE for the day is still only £25, including coffee/tea/biscuits, buffet lunch and Conference publication. CONFERENCE FEE for Full-time Students is only £20!

Please make your cheque payable to *Anthony Brook* and forward, with this completed Registration Form, to:

Anthony Brook, 15 Cambourne Court, Shelley Road, Worthing, BN11 4BQ

JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE YORKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, UNIVERSITY OF HULL AND HULL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HULL UNIVERSITY

Saturday 23rd March 2019

YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY, LANDSCAPES AND ART

Call for papers and suggestions for readings

Following the very successful 2016 Yorkshire Geology and Art conference organised by the Yorkshire Geological Society and the Hull College of Art, the Society is planning a similar one day event, this time on Yorkshire Geology, Landscapes and Literature, in cooperation with the Hull University English Department and the Hull Geological Society, on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

Over the centuries, the many very different landscapes across Yorkshire and the geology beneath these have inspired and influenced writers and observers—poets including at least two Poets Laureate (Wordsworth and Ted Hughes), significant novelists (e.g. the Brontës, Winifred Holtby), writers on geology (e.g. Adam Sedgwick and John Phillips) and travellers, with many contemporary poets and writers continuing this tradition.

The preliminary plan for the day is to allocate around half of the time to approximately six papers on topics related to the theme, and the other half of the day to readings from a wide range of relevant literature. The organisers are therefore inviting proposals (with just brief summaries at this stage) for conference papers of 20–30 minutes, and also your recommendations for possible readings of individual writings or extracts of up to 5 minutes.

Please send your proposals and suggestions by 5th December 2018 to:

Prof. Valerie Sanders, English: School of Arts, Faculty of Arts, Cultures and Education, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX

Email: V.R.Sanders@hull.ac.uk

**ICMG19—THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MILITARY
GEOSCIENCES PADOVA (ITALY)
24th—28th JUNE 2019**

Conference Theme:

Peace Follows War: Geosciences, Territorial Impacts and Post-conflict Reconstruction

The Conference will be held between Monday 24th June and Friday 28th June 2019, at the University of Padova in northern Italy. The Conference is being organised on behalf of the IAMG by the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA).

Location

The University of Padova is located in north-eastern Italy, 20 minutes from Venice. It is close to the beaches of the Adriatic Sea and to the Dolomites, one of the most scenic regions of the Alps. Conference delegates and accompanying guests have easy access to the historic cities of northern and central Italy such as Milan, Verona, Bologna, Florence and Rome (ranging from 30 minutes to 3 hours train journey) with their many artistic treasures. The recommended port of arrival is the International Airport Marco Polo in Venice.

Provisional Program—Conference

- **Sunday 23rd June:** Icebreaker: 1800–2000hrs at the Geographical Section of the DiSSGeA Department. Wine tasting and food for which Italy is justifiably famous.
- **Monday 24th June:** Opening Ceremony & Key Notes 0900–13:00hrs; Scientific Session 1400–18:00hrs; evening visit to the Cappella degli Scrovegni and/or Padova City Center.
- **Tuesday 25th June:** Scientific session 0900–1300hrs; Poster Session 1430–1600hrs; evening visit to S. Pelagio Air Museum (via bus transfer at 1600hrs); Conference Dinner at the Euganean Hills winery and restaurant; return to accommodation at 2300hrs.
- **Wednesday 26th June:** Mid-conference excursion—Venice fortifications: the Naval Arsenal and WW1 forts. Transfer by bus or train to Venice. Visit of Forte Marghera. Provisionally, a boat tour in the lagoon with lunch on a lagoon island. Visit to the Naval Arsenal of Venice. Free evening in San Marco Square and return to Padova by group bus or independently by train (30 minutes).
- **Thursday 27th June:** Bus transfer to Montello Hill. Scientific session 1000–1300hrs. Field trip to the battlefield and visit of the WW1 Sacramentum (military cemetery). Visit and evening dinner at the Great War Memorial.

- **Friday 28th June:** Scientific sessions 0900–1500hrs. IAMG Biennial General Meeting 1500–1700hrs.

Themes

The following themes have been identified as being of significant interest. Other topics may be considered upon receipt of abstract. This list will be updated in the next circular and potential attendees are encouraged to contact the organisers with thoughts on additional themes.

- The Alpine operational environment
- WW1 era history of northern Italy
- Post-conflict reconstruction
- Military tunnelling
- Venetian military history
- Conflict archaeology

Abstracts

Abstracts are limited to 1,200 words and may contain references and up to three illustrations.

Details regarding submission, including a submission template, will be provided with the second circular. Deadline for abstract submission: 31st January 2019.

Conference Committee

- President—Prof G.L. Fontana
- Secretary—Prof Aldino Bondesan
- Members—Roberto Francese, Marco Mondini, Francesco Ferrarese, Ted Rose

The Conference Committee will be supported by members from the Council of the Association, including:

- The Association President—Cdr (Dr) Hennie Smit (South Africa)
- The Association Secretary—Maj Drew Craig (UK)
- Representative from ICMG 2015—Annapolis, USA—Prof Peter Guth
- Representative from ICMG 2017—Stellenbosch, South Africa—Cdr (Dr) Jacques Bezuidenhout

Post-Conference Excursion: Italian Alps from WW1 to Cold War (5 days)

During the tour, participants will visit the battlefields, museums, memorials and cemeteries of the Italian Alps and Piave frontline. The tour includes several WW1 glacial ‘White War’ sites, including high mountain emplacements (up to 3,000 masl), mine warfare sites, fortresses, military tunnels, and the largest Memorials and Military Museum of Northern Italy. Most of the battlefields are in the Dolomites, probably the most famous mountains of the alpine range which is, in turn, reflected in its status as a UNESCO World Heritage area.

Provisional Excursion Program

- Day 1 **Saturday 29th June**—Transfer from Padova to Trento. Cogollo del Cengio war track; Thunder Base (Cold War American base); War Museum of Rovereto; overnight in Trento. Museo della Grande Guerra di Rovereto.
- Day 2 **Sunday 30th June**—Air Force Museum “Caproni”, Trento; transfer from Trento to Marmolada Glacier. Cableway to Mount Marmolada. Serauta defensive Italian positions (field excursion). Passo Fedaia War Museum. Overnight in Cortina d’Ampezzo.
- Day 3 **Monday 1st July**—Transfer from Cortina d’Ampezzo to Lagazuoi. Cableway to Lagazuoi high mountain battlefield. Descent by cableway or by foot through a system of WW1 galleries and fortifications. Visit of the Forte Tre Sassi museum. Overnight in Cortina.
- Day 4 **Tuesday 2nd July**—Transfer from Cortina d’Ampezzo to Monte Piana open air museum. 4-wheel-drive mountain trip to Italian and Austrorungarian fortifications. Visit to the 3 Cime di Lavaredo and Monte Croce Comelico Pass. Overnight in Auronzo di Cadore.

- Day 5 **Wednesday 3rd July**–Transfer from Auronzo di Cadore to the Cold war bunkers at Savogna. Then, Redipuglia (Biggest WW1 Memorial; Memorial of Redipuglia. Transfer to Caorle beach or to Trieste.
 - Day 6 **Thursday 4th July**–Transfer to the Venice International Airport, to Venice or to Padova.
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Key Dates

- First circular: May 2018
 - Second circular: October 2018
 - Third circular: December 2018
 - Abstract submission deadline: 31st January 2019
 - Abstract acceptance notification: 15th February 2019
 - Registration deadline: 28th February 2019
 - Fourth and final circular: March 2019
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INHIGEO SYMPOSIA 2019–2021

- **2019** 44th INHIGEO Symposium Como/Varese, Italy
- **2020** 45th INHIGEO Symposium New Delhi, India (in association with the 36th International Geological Congress)
- **2021** 46th INHIGEO Symposium Krakow, Poland and 25th International Congress on the History of Science and Technology (25ICHST), Prague





HISTORY OF GEOLOGY GROUP COAL MEETING

22nd NOVEMBER 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

.....

.....

E mail Phone no.

Member of HOGG or GA or GS fellow @ £45.00 per person = £.....

Non-member @ £55.00 per person = £.....

Become a HOGG member @ £15.00 per person = £.....

TOTAL £.....

Please make cheques payable to HOGG and write 'Coal Meeting' on the back.

Send the completed form and cheque to:

David Earle (HOGG Treasurer)
61 Straight Road
Old Windsor, Berkshire
SL4 2RT

Alternatively, if you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact

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

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

**David Earle (HOGG Treasurer)
61 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2RT**