

HOGG

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

CELEBRATING

*25
years*

1994–2019

**Number 67
October 2019**



Correction



The cover image of the last newsletter (No. 66) showed the celebratory cake marking the centenary of the first female fellows of The Geological Society. The details of the cake-maker were given incorrectly. She was, in fact, Coral Rigden of Green Land Estate, Sealand, Chester. Apologies to all concerned.

Editorial subcommittee

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

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

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

HOGG NEWSLETTER 67

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



It is official—HOGG has been in existence for 25 years, and we should celebrate!

In good historical tradition, the exact date of HOGG's formation is rather vague—actually it was in fluctuating gestation before finally taking the plunge into being as a formal group in October 1994. By all accounts, when the idea of history of geology was mooted as the subject of one of the

specialist groups of The Geological Society, it seems there was a mixed reception. Hugh Torrens, who was one of the founder members, relates his recollections of the birth of HOGG in his article in this newsletter issue. I am very glad that Hugh and his fellow protagonists pursued their proposals.

Item 7 in the notes of the meeting of the HOGG Organising Committee (which met in 1993 before the Group was officially inaugurated) states that “It would also be mentioned that the Group could play a part in the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal.” For those who are not aware, the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal was established as an award of the Geological Society in 1987, by the gift of the Northeastern Science Foundation (Inc) of Troy New York, for distinguished contributions to the recording of the history of geology. The Medal, the award of which is not confined to those with a geological background or to Fellows of the Society and is open to all regardless of nationality, is normally awarded annually or at any appropriate interval determined by the Geological Society Awards Committee. And there have been gaps—it was not awarded in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2018 or this year.

True to the spirit of HOGG's founders, in our 25th year, the HOGG Committee have put forward two nominations that we consider are worthy of the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal in 2020, and we look forward to the outcome of the deliberations of the Awards Committee, who meet in early November. By the time of the next Newsletter, we may be able to relay news of a winner—although this may not necessarily be a HOGG nomination. Nevertheless, I think the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal should be an opportunity not only to give recognition and reward to whoever has been deemed to have made a distinguished contribution to the understanding of the history of geology, but it should be used as a platform to raise awareness of the value of the history of geology to a much wider audience. I'm sure you'll agree that the history of geology, with its human 'touch', is an excellent way to engage the wider public in understanding geological science and the way it has developed. We should celebrate and share that—and perhaps we should make more in publicising the award of this medal? Nominations should not be confined to people suggested by the HOGG Committee. If you consider someone is worthy of the Sue Tyler Friedman Medal, then please get in touch with your suggestion (e mail duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com). However, do check the list of previous winners on the Geological Society webpages <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/History/Award-Winners-Since-1831/Sue-Tyler-Friedman-Medal>—you might find your favourite contender has been awarded it on a previous occasion!

In my last letter, I mentioned that we were aiming to gather together all the Abstracts from past HOGG meetings as part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations, and make these available on the HOGG website. If you haven't visited the website recently, then I suggest you take a peek at <https://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/>—there is a new Archive tab on the banner. We have begun to list past meetings showing the 'notice and description' of each meeting as it appeared on the website; the list currently goes back to December 2012 but we hope to add earlier meetings soon. As I type, the 'Abstracts Archive' has only six downloadable booklets, but the aim is to add more over this coming year. And the appeal is still out for copies of Abstract booklets, particularly for meetings between 1985 and 2004, so if you can help with Abstracts from these earlier HOGG

meetings then please contact the HOGG Secretary John Henry at john@geolmaps.com listing your available copies (title and year).

HOGG has undertaken around 75 meetings since 1994 (a few more if you include those field trips organised under the guide of INHIGEO), with about 20 of these being co-convened efforts. I think working with other societies or groups can be a very fruitful way of harnessing ‘local’ expertise (local as in topic knowledge and/or geographical knowledge). Recently, we have had very successful collaborations with the Royal Society of Arts, the Geological Curators’ Group and, for our last meeting in July, with the Edinburgh Geological Society. Our next meeting in York on 23rd and 24th October has been jointly organised with York Philosophical Society and York Museums Trust. This collaboration has enabled access to historical geological material and locations that we would not have had an opportunity to view if we were running ‘solo’. And relationships are synergetic—at the York meeting, HOGG members will be adding new knowledge about Yorkshire Museum’s William Smith map that was bought by the early Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) for a series of lectures given by Smith and his nephew, John Phillips. From these, John Phillips went on to have a very fruitful collaboration with the YPS and the Yorkshire Museum—indeed they became the bedrock of his early career as a professional geologist. Registration fees are low, the programme is excellent and it includes our AGM. I would encourage everyone to register and come to York—check it out on the HOGG website <https://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/october2019-york/>

Looking to future collaborations: the Greenough Geological Map Bicentenary event in May 2020 is being organised with UCL (see notice of this important meeting later in the Newsletter). Another successful collaboration has been with the British Geological Survey who have generously helped HOGG to produce a high quality facsimile copy of the Greenough 1820 map and accompanying memoir. This will be issued as a subscribers’ edition with an introductory commentary (limited to 200 copies) in a period-style clamshell box. Details will be announced later this month. In the pipeline, there are meetings with Haslemere Museum on the prolific work of Archibald Geikie, the Geological Curators’ Group on ‘Polar Geology’, and a ‘field’ meeting in 2021 with the Mid-Wales Geology Group on geological mapping pioneers.

This is just the start of much to look forward to in the next 25 years of HOGG!

Duncan Hawley
e mail duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com

October 2019

HOGG COMMITTEE 2019

Chairman Duncan Hawley **Vice Chairman** Geoffrey Walton **Secretary** John Henry
Treasurer/Membership Secretary David Earle **Ordinary members:** Cynthia Burek,
Beris Cox (**newsletter**), Jill Darrell, Cherry Lewis (**website**), Nina Morgan, Peter Riches

HOGG WEBSITE

Our main website at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/> is up and running again after a hiatus last year, and continues to be upgraded. 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 <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg> where you will find some useful resources.

SOCIAL MEDIA



You can follow HOGG updates, history of geology news and selected items of interest through our Twitter feed where our username is @HOGGGroup. If you don't have a personal Twitter account, you can read all our latest tweets on the home page of our website <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/>, and past tweets by clicking on the Twitter icon at the foot of that page. All our tweets also appear on the home page at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg>

Please direct any HOGG Twitter queries to Duncan Hawley
(e mail duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com).

HOGG NEW MEMBERS

HOGG welcomes the following new members

Malcolm Birtle (Billingham, Co. Durham)

Peter Davidson (Edinburgh)

Helen Handoll (Penicuik, Midlothian, Scotland))

Hugh Pedley (Brough, East Yorkshire)

John Saul (Halifax, West Yorkshire)

Donald Southall (New Earswick, York)

Hilary Southall (New Earswick, York)

Anne Spurgeon (London)

Ian Stead (York)

Donald Stewart (Aberdeen)

Patricia Ward (North Berwick)

OBITUARY

Ian Elliott Higginbottom BSc, CGeol, FGS, CICE
19/9/1926–29/7/2019

HOGG member Ian Higginbottom was born in Harrow in 1926. He attended Sutton Grammar School for Boys prior to moving to Brighton where he completed his secondary education at Vardean Grammar School for Boys. He graduated from Imperial College London in 1948 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Geology, specialising in its application to engineering. He then worked for three years as a member of the academic staff at Imperial College, six months of this period was spent geological mapping in Kenya, where he worked with Louis Leakey, the distinguished palaeoanthropologist and archaeologist. In 1951, he worked for Howard Humphreys and Partners on hydrogeological reconnaissance in Libya.



He joined Wimpey Laboratories in November 1952 and remained with them until retirement. In his early days with the company, he worked in Australia. He later became Chief Geologist for Wimpey and spent many years of his career in the Middle East. A former colleague has described him as “a pleasure to work with.”

He lectured extensively on topics in engineering geology and site investigation, and wrote many papers in these fields; he often wrote with Professor Peter Fookes who also studied at Imperial College. In 1992, he was awarded the George Stephenson Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers for a joint paper (with D J Mallard, R Muir Wood and B O Skipp) on *Recent developments in the methodology of seismic hazard assessment*. His special professional interests were in the fields of construction materials, ground subsidence due to mining, seismic hazard assessment, and the engineering consequences of surface geological processes. These included the dissolution of soluble rocks, the effects of glacial and periglacial environments, and desert weathering regimes.

In addition to being a Chartered Geologist, he was an Associate of the Royal College of Science, a Fellow of the Geological Society of London (where he was Vice President from 1987-8), a Fellow of the former Institution of Geologists, a Companion of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a member of the British Geotechnical Society, and a Member of the Society for Earthquake and Civil Engineering Dynamics. He was also a member of various other committees and working parties related to geology and engineering. He was an external examiner at several universities and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Luton. Post retirement, he became a consultant; one of his assignments in this capacity was advising the CEGB on assessing earthquake hazards at the sites of nuclear installations in Britain.

As well as his lifelong passion for geology, Ian had many other interests. He was an accomplished pianist with a profound love of classical music. In 1976, he was a founding committee member of the British Vintage Wireless Society. A fellow enthusiast commented that “Ian was a wonderful person to have on the Committee to steer the BVWS through its very early days—thoughtful, intelligent, kind and with a vast knowledge about practically every subject”. He was a member of Sussex Archaeological Society and also a member of Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society until his death. Alongside his fascination with the past, Ian retained an interest in current affairs into his early 90s.

Contributed by *Anne Callaghan* (Ian’s niece)



ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF GEOLOGY IN SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

*Joint meeting with the Edinburgh Geological Society
held in Edinburgh 11th–12th July 2019*



Thursday 11th July (reported by Jay Bosanquet¹)

The first day of this wide-ranging conference was held in the excellent venue of the Deacon Suite in Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh.

After welcoming introductions by the convenor Tom Sharpe and chairman of HOGG Duncan Hawley, the first talk was given by **Dr Beverly Bergman** on *James Hutton: the man and his family*.



Much new material about Hutton's family has been made available online recently, and this enabled Beverly to challenge some previous statements about him. His father was a wealthy man, and Treasurer of the City of Edinburgh. Although he studied medicine as a second degree in Edinburgh and then Leyden, he never practised; the main reason being that there was a medical clique in Edinburgh which Hutton felt he would be unable to join. Beverly shed new light on Hutton's supposedly 'illegitimate' son (also James), suggesting that the mother may have been Margaret Edington, and that Hutton may have travelled

to Europe with her in 1747. However, he never married. There was a wealth of information here which could not be contained within the time allocated!

Michael A. Taylor (National Museums Scotland) then spoke about Edinburgh Museum's dinosaur, the model of *Hadrosaurus foulkii* by Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins which was shown at the US Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia. This was a plaster cast on an iron armature, the first upright (bipedal) dinomount in Europe. It was subsequently brought to Edinburgh although it seems never to have been displayed, and its iron armature was scrapped in the Great War. One reason was probably the discovery of the Bernissart iguanodons in a Belgian coal mine in 1878. These skeletons were displayed, wrongly, in a bipedal position, which may have made the *Hadrosaurus* appear obsolete. The plasterwork was discarded in 1928. A photograph of the cast was recently discovered in the papers of Ramsay Traquair, keeper of natural history at the Museum of Science and Art—the precursor of the Royal Scottish Museum—from 1873 to 1906.

The next speaker, **Rachel Walcott** (also from National Museums Scotland) told us about their rock and mineral collections which number 70,000 specimens. For the first time, most of them are now stored in one building—the National Museums of Scotland Collections Centre. Among the early specimens are about 100 marble slabs collected by Rev. John Walker, professor of natural history at Edinburgh 1779–1803. However, some important items have been lost, such as the septarian nodule which appears in Raeburn's portrait of James Hutton. One of the largest collections is that of Professor Matthew Forster Heddle (1828–1897) who donated around 8000 specimens. Rachel and her staff are endeavouring to document some puzzling gaps in the early collections—missing items that should be present according to the records.

Phil Stone (British Geological Survey, Edinburgh) then spoke about *Robert Jameson's geology in 1830's Edinburgh as recorded by his students, particularly Robert McCormick, R.N.* Jameson was professor of natural history at Edinburgh from 1804 to 1854, and McCormick's detailed notes cover

the period 19th November 1830–15th April 1831. They show that Jameson, instead of always adhering to the Wernerian-Neptunist point of view, became increasingly accepting of Huttonian-Plutonist theories, for example stating that Salisbury Crags in Edinburgh were igneous in origin. Despite Darwin describing Jameson's lecturing style as dull, his courses were popular; the fact that McCormick and another anonymous student, whose meticulous notes are held by the National Library of Scotland, recorded Jameson's lectures so assiduously speaks of the esteem in which the students held him. McCormick was the original surgeon-naturalist on the second voyage of the *Beagle*, under the command of Captain Robert FitzRoy, but left the ship in Rio de Janeiro because he felt upstaged by Darwin.



After the lunch break, **David McIntyre** presented his father **Roy McIntyre's** paper on *Trap rocks on William Smith's maps*. Smith's famous 1815 map did not have a stratum marked "Trap". However, his reduced scale map of 1820 did show such a stratum in Scotland, Wales and England, marked as 'p' and coloured green. The Whin Sill was shown in Northumberland only, not County Durham and Westmorland, but his 1824 maps of these latter counties show the Whin Sill as Basalt (coloured green)—for example, Holwick Scars in Upper Teesdale. The Cheviots are labelled 'p' on the 1820 map

but the later map of Northumberland issued in 1824 shows them as granite. Smith was helped by his nephew John Phillips with the 1824 maps.

Tom Sharpe's subject was *Henry de la Beche's 1816 tour of Scotland* on which he was accompanied by Thomas Coulson Carpenter and George Holland, two friends from Lyme Regis. De la Beche's journal of the first six weeks of the tour is held in the archives of the British Geological Survey, and contains many sketches and watercolours which Tom showed. The trio travelled north through East Lothian, Edinburgh, Perth, Arbroath, Aberdeen and Inverness, returning south via Fort William, Oban, Staffa, Iona and the Trossachs, ending the period covered by the journal at Stirling. The second volume of the journal is lost, as is a separate larger sketchbook. The surviving journal demonstrates the young De la Beche's geological knowledge and his observational skills. I look forward to Tom's forthcoming biography of De la Beche.

Simeon Brown (Consultant Geophysicist, Edinburgh) gave an account of the leading role played by Scotland in UK onshore oil exploration, 1818–2018. He compared and contrasted the history of the West Lothian Midland Valley oil shale field with the Formby field in Lancashire. Both have had oil seeps known since medieval times. James 'Paraffin' Young started the world's first commercial oil production on an industrial scale in West Lothian from 1851. Production peaked during the First World War and continued until 1962. The Edinburgh area was a significant source of oil in the UK until World War II; the total production from the Midland Valley was equivalent to a medium-sized North Sea oilfield. The Formby oilfield (known from oil seeps since Camden's *Britannia* in 1586) was only rediscovered in 1939; almost 100 wells were drilled but it was discontinued in 1965. 3D seismic data has been obtained in this area and, at Preston New Road not far from Formby, Cuadrilla are engaged in exploratory hydraulic fracturing. I noted that Simeon avoided the word 'fracking'!

Tom Cotterell (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) spoke on the early history of the barium carbonate mineral, witherite. Alston Moor, Cumbria, has traditionally been regarded as its type locality, but Tom presented evidence to show that it was not known to produce any witherite specimens until early in the nineteenth century. By contrast, the other main early locality, Anglezarke Moor, Lancashire, was known to produce witherite from about 1700. It was used both as rat poison and as a treatment for cancer. Because of demand in Europe, there was an illicit trade in witherite, and information about its source was withheld or even falsified. It is possible that the industrialist Matthew Boulton, one of the 'Lunar Men' in Birmingham, was involved in this trade but the extent of his complicity has not yet been determined.

Following a tea break, **Andrew McMillan** spoke about the *City of Edinburgh—Landscape and Stone*. He showed maps of the quarries and formations which produced the building stone used in Edinburgh. Most of the buildings in the Old and New Towns are constructed with sandstones which were deposited in the Midland Valley both before and after the volcanic episodes which formed Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock. For example, the post-volcanic Gullane Formation includes the exceptional Craigleith Sandstone which was quarried to the west of the city. The late nineteenth-century railway network enabled the importation of more distant building stones such as Permian red sandstone from Dumfriesshire. After the First World War, building stone was increasingly replaced by brick and concrete, and Andrew lamented the prevalent contemporary use of stone as 'geological wallpaper'.

Finally, **David McClay** (Philanthropy Manager for Library and University Collections at the University of Edinburgh) gave an update on the campaign to save Charles Lyell's notebooks for the nation. The sum needed has been reduced from £1.44m to £966,000, through the Treasury foregoing tax, and the export ban has been extended to 15th October. If the campaign is successful, the university has ambitious plans for public access via digitisation. To date, about 2000 people have pledged financial support.

Tom Sharpe is to be congratulated for organising such a stimulating conference, and producing the excellent programme book. Thanks are due also to the Edinburgh Geological Society for all their help. Let us hope that it will be the first of many such collaborations between HOGG and EGS!

Friday 12th July (reported by Peter Lincoln²)

On Friday 12th July, almost 30 of us gathered in bright sunshine on the pavement opposite the Scottish Government's St Andrew's House for the first of our geological explorations of Edinburgh—Calton Hill and the New Town. We were fortunate to have as our guide, Andrew McMillan who had spoken on the previous day and whose intimate knowledge of the stones of



Edinburgh quickly became apparent. Andrew began by taking us up the steps towards the summit of Calton Hill (*picture left*), explaining as we went that this iconic Edinburgh landmark is in fact a fault-displaced part of the cone of the Arthur's Seat Volcano. Dating from the early Carboniferous, it is made up of tuff formed from the ash of early lava flows overlain with the fine-grained basalt of later eruptions; exposures of both were pointed out as we made our way up the hill.

At the top, we found ourselves amongst the shades of the Scottish Enlightenment as we examined the impressive monuments to philosopher Dugald Stewart and mathematician John Playfair, the latter familiar to us for his 1802 *Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth*. Less admirable were the tufts of buddleia sprouting from some of the masonry joints of the monuments—small reminders of nature's ever-present power to disrupt. Turning to the buildings, we noted how the rough rubble walls of architect James Craig's Old City Observatory (1776), built from local volcanic stone, contrasted starkly with the smooth sandstone walls of its later extension and those of the much later New Observatory next door. Andrew explained how the surface treatment of the sandstone often varied across the façade of a building, with textures ranging from the emphatically rusticated patterns used at basement level via a chamfered ashlar to the smooth ashlar of the upper storeys. The stone for the building of the New Town came from a number of quarries around the city, with Craigleith amongst the most important. The stone—generally more porous than the Portland Stone

common in London—does not take kindly to aggressive cleaning techniques but has, to a degree, been self-cleaning since regulation has deprived ‘Auld Reekie’ of its smoke. The Craighleith Sandstone of Edinburgh has weathered so well because of the silica-rich, rather than the more usual carbonate, matrix. However, a sombre note was struck by a discussion of the frighteningly high mortality rate from silicosis amongst the masons who worked with this stone.

Having admired the panoramic view, and marvelled at the erosion that many years of visitors’ feet had caused around the summit Trig. Point, we made our way down through the Royal Terrace Gardens, an area that had itself been the site of a quarry right up until the 1820s. On the Royal Terrace, as well as William Playfair’s splendid buildings, we noticed with satisfaction the hand-fashioned basalt setts that paved the roadway—so different from the characterless blocks of Chinese granite often used today! We walked, via Blenheim Place and Leith Walk to York Place, where the different finishes applied to the façade of the artist Henry Raeburn’s home and studio were duly admired. The morning’s tour ended outside the striking New Red Sandstone of the 1890 National Portrait Gallery where we gazed up at the fine statues adorning the façade—paying particular attention, of course, to that of James Hutton.



After the lunchbreak—during which several of us ventured inside the Portrait Gallery to see, amongst other treats, the well-known Henry Raeburn portrait of Hutton—our guide for the afternoon, Dr Beverly Bergman (another of Thursday’s speakers), met us outside the National Library to begin an exploration of some geologically interesting sites in the Old Town. We first made our way towards James Hutton’s final resting place in the Greyfriars

burial ground, passing *en route* the Elephant House café where, in the 1990s, a penurious customer wrote the first of a series of books that would become a publishing sensation. A little later, in the Kirkyard itself, we would see graves that inspired some of the characters in J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books, including that of Thomas Riddell, the innocent Berwickshire man who gave his name to the villainous Lord Voldemort. Riddell’s tombstone is now venerated by Rowling fans from around the world and we encountered groups of teenage pilgrims on their Potter trail—but the object of our own pilgrimage lay in another corner of the cemetery.

At Beverly’s request, a kindly custodian unlocked the heavy gate to the ‘Covenantors’ Prison’, a section of the burial ground that contained several large family burial ‘lair’s’, including that of the Balfours, James Hutton’s mother’s family. We filed in to pay homage before the modest 1947 plaque commemorating our hero: “James Hutton, M.D. F.R.S.E. 1726–1797. The Founder of Modern Geology” (*pictures right*).

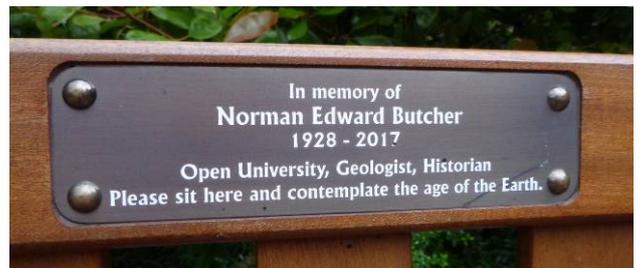


There followed much discussion about the durability of gravestones and it was remembered that Archibald Geikie himself had remarked on the irony that the marble memorial to Joseph Black, discoverer of carbonic acid, should have been so ravaged by that very substance. Black’s memorial, also in the Covenantors’

Prison, has since been replaced with a more durable sandstone, but we were able to examine a sorry, but apparently typical, case where a thin marble inset had bowed, lost its inscription and finally been completely perforated by the ravages of acid rain (*picture left*).



From the Kirkyard, we walked to the National Museum of Scotland, stopping *en route* to examine and photograph the well-preserved fossil fish in the new pavement’s dark grey Devonian Caithness flagstones—an activity that prompted Duncan Hawley to provide an impromptu geology lesson to an astonished, but very appreciative, passer-by. Despite appearances, the Permian sandstone of the elegant 1991 extension to the museum was revealed to be merely a decorative cladding, dismissed by Andrew McMillan as nothing more than ‘geological wallpaper’. After a few ‘free’ minutes to look at the excellent *Our Dynamic Earth* display in the museum, we were led to the small memorial



garden created by Edinburgh University on the site of James Hutton’s home on St John’s Hill—from where, fittingly, Hutton would have enjoyed a view of Salisbury Crags. The garden included a seat dedicated to the late Norman Butcher who had been a long-standing member of HOGG.

The day ended with a welcome and appropriately named pint of the locally brewed ‘Volcano’ bitter in the very bar where James Hutton, Adam Smith and Joseph Black had once gathered for the



weekly meetings of their “Oyster Club”. We had enjoyed a wonderful and fascinating day. The sunshine had stayed with us and, as convenor Tom Sharpe and HOGG chairman Duncan Hawley toasted our two excellent guides, we all joined in a heartfelt round of applause.

Our thanks must go to everyone involved from HOGG, our hosts at the Edinburgh Geological Society and, especially, to Andrew McMillan and Beverly Bergman, whose infectious enthusiasm and deep local knowledge made this second conference day so special.

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Images courtesy of Barrie Chacksfield,
Peter Lincoln and Tom Sharpe



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOGG

Hugh Torrens¹

“An old man forfeits one of the greatest of human rights; no longer is he judged by his peers” GOETHE

4th October 2019 sees the 25th anniversary of the Inaugural Meeting of our Group. Sadly, as I am now nearly the only survivor, I thought I should try and reflect on how this event had unfolded. Alan Bowden has already recorded—after the death of John Fuller (1926–2012)—how it had taken us 10 years of preliminary negotiations after John’s first letter to me dated 6th November 1984². Our first idea then was that we should try and affiliate with the newly formed History of the Earth Sciences Society (HESS) then based in the US, which had just been established in 1982, and of which I was then UK representative. But the international nature of HESS had to preclude any such link with the Geological Society (GSL), and we had to wait to try again.

Throughout all this time another John—Thackray (1948–1999)—archivist to the GSL (unpaid) and the Natural History Museum London (paid), had been central to all our activities on this front³. I still miss him deeply, and I can only suggest you read his *Confessions of a geological book-collector*, published in 2000, to learn more about him and what he did⁴. He had narrowly escaped becoming my research student on ammonites in 1968 or 1969...., but he became instead our central HOGG figure and chairman.

Our first break-through came when (Alan) John Martin (1933–2006)⁵, John Fuller and I wrote a formal letter to the GSL, dated 28th September 1992, proposing that HOGG be established (see GSL Archives CM 43/92). John M., like John Fuller, was an oil industry expert and we should acknowledge how vital their joint inputs were. John M. was an outstanding petroleum geologist. His 1958 London PhD had been on Bathonian sedimentary petrology, and I got to know him after his paper outlining Bathonian exploration in the south of England for BP was published in 1967⁶ (and which work eventually led to the extraordinary story of Wytch Farm—but by Vic Colter of British Gas). John M. had long had an interest in the history of geology ever since he had attended Victor Eyles’ London MSc course, while he was a University College London postgraduate student in 1957.

John F. on the other hand, after his 1954 Cambridge PhD, had immediately gone off as a petroleum geologist to Canada. His interests in history really arose in 1961 when he took up a research fellowship under Fred Shotton at Birmingham University, and started to research the history of exploring strata, and the work of John Strachey and William Smith. This he continued after he returned to the UK when he became Chief Geologist at Amoco Europe’s office in London in 1971. We soon after met, when we together tried to locate the Somerset Coal Canal’s unique Caisson lift, whose failure had led to Smith’s dismissal in 1799⁷.

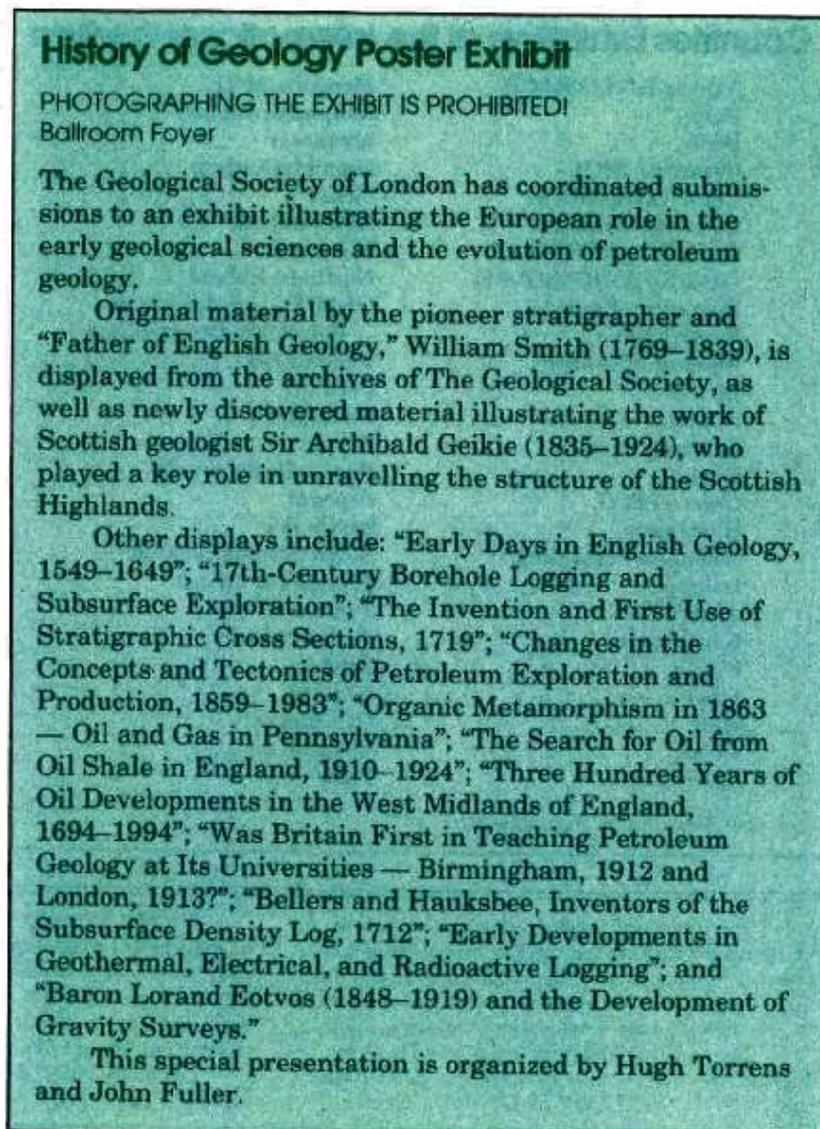
The years 1992–1994 proved a propitious time at which to try again with founding HOGG. The GSL’s Council response of 20th January 1993 (see GSL Archives CM 1/36) noted that we three proposers “now wished to defer any decision until after the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) meeting later that summer”. John F. and John M. next asked me to be their guest speaker at the Petroleum Group’s annual black-tie dinner in London. This was to be on April Fool’s Day 1993, and so I took the chance to thank this Group for previous help to me, pointed out how much we might learn from history, and tried to make them laugh. Then on 31st August 1993, we jointly held our John Mason Conference on the history of oil at the BAAS meeting in Keele. This unexpectedly led the GSL to publish the lectures by John Fuller, Crispin Tickell and myself which gave us welcome publicity to what we were trying to achieve⁸. A letter dated 7th September 1993 from Richard Bateman, then the GSL’s Executive Secretary (see GSL Archives SG-HOGG-1-

1), had noted how previous “Council views had been somewhat divided as to the extent of the support there would be” for HOGG. But it now added “that the recent John Mason Conference had attracted an audience of over 70”. This letter was copied to Richard Howarth who soon, happily, was to become our official link person with the GSL.

At a similar time, on 24th August 1993, the late Norman Butcher (1928–2017)⁹ in Edinburgh, had independently written to Professor Charles Curtis, GSL President, urging that “the GSL ought to seriously consider establishing HOGG”. Eric Robinson at UCL, who had attended the Mason meeting at Keele, also wrote to the President of GSL, on 27th September 1993, demanding that the Society must now “accept History of Geology as a specialist group (at least). Rebutted by Council to the amazement of many, I think we ought to risk a second try. I say this in sequel to a resounding success at the BAAS at Keele for History of Science subjects”.

John Fuller’s printed recollections claim that the second HOGG organizing committee meeting on 17th November 1993 was to discuss “the GSL’s response to an invitation from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists to mount 10 or 12 poster displays on the subject of the history

of geology, particularly British contributions, at their annual meeting in Denver”. John Fuller eventually took the display to America, which included the original [1799] William Smith Table of Strata!! The long lost Geikie archive had recently been discovered at Haslemere Educational Museum by my former student Diana Mary Hawkes.



As it happens, John F. here proves an inadequate historian as the list of other displays shown here (*see left*) demonstrates. Of the eleven posters listed, nos 6, 7, 8, as well as much of the Smith display, were by or much involved me, and I should gratefully now record how British Gas Exploration helped me to produce adequate poster presentations for this important event.

Finally, on 10th February 1994, we learned that the Council of the GSL had agreed to the formation of HOGG and that crucially it was to be open—

like the Geological Curators’ Group—to outsiders and not just to GSL Fellows. John T. was to be Chairman, John F., our very effective Treasurer, and me Secretary, as best I could. The establishment of HOGG was duly noted by Eric Robinson in *Geology Today* (Vol. 10, no. 2, March/April 1994, p 43) and then *Geoscientist* (Vol. 4, no. 5, Sept./Oct. 1994, p. 45) announced the inaugural meeting was to be on 4th October 1994, and asked for ‘expressions of interest’.

Our inaugural meeting on 4th October 1994 duly dawned and was, as far as I can remember, a great success. The programme is shown here (*see right*). John T. took centre stage, and spoke first. I gave a version of a paper first published in 1988 (given at the BAAS meeting in Belfast in 1987)¹⁰. John F. talked about his experiences in the oil industry and, finally, the late Gordon Craig (1925–2014)¹¹ from Edinburgh, who had been INHIGEO's president from 1984 to 1989, and had published James Hutton's amazing *Lost Drawings* in 1978, showed us what we could, and should, learn from history. HOGG was on its way and it has been a real delight to see how well and widely it has since operated.

My thanks to Wendy Cawthorne and Caroline Lam at GSL for kind comments and sending vital news from the GSL archives.

NOTES

¹ e mail

h.s.torrens@keele.c.uk

² *HOGG Newsletter* **45**, 5–6.

³ *HOGG Newsletter* **10**, 2–3.

⁴ *Archives of Natural History*, **27**, 17–22.

⁵ *HOGG Newsletter* **29**, 2–4.

⁶ *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, **78(3)**, 473–488.

⁷ The Somersetshire Coal Canal Caisson Lock. *Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society Journal*, **8**, 4–10.

⁸ Torrens, H. S., Fuller, J. C. G. M. & Tickell, C. 1994. *The British Association lectures 1993*. Bath: Geological Society [ISBN 1897799020]

⁹ <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/History/Obituaries-2001-onwards/Obituaries-2017/Norman--Edward--Butcher-1928-2017>

¹⁰ Hawking History—a vital future for Geology's past. *Modern Geology*, **13**, 83–93.

¹¹ <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/About/History/Obituaries-2001-onwards/Obituaries-2014/Gordon-Younger-Craig-1925-2014>

Geological Society
History of Geology Group Inaugural Meeting
Tuesday 4 October 1994
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London

Programme

- 2.00 Founding fathers in the history of geology
by John Thackray, Natural History Museum
- 2.30 Hawking the history of geology, the last 20 years
by Hugh Torrens, University of Keele
- 3.00 Discussion on the format and purposes of the group
chaired by John Thackray
- 3.45 Tea and display of posters on the history of geology
prepared for the recent AAPG Conference in Denver, Colorado
- 4.30 Inaugural General Meeting
an agenda will be available on arrival
- 5.00 An untutored scholar's experience of industry
by John Fuller, AMOCO
- 5.30 Learning from history
by Gordon Craig, University of Edinburgh
- 6.00 Wine and savouries
tickets available on arrival, price £2

To J C Thackray, History of Geology Group, Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0JU

I will be attending the inaugural meeting on 4 October

I will be staying for wine and savouries afterwards

I will not be at the meeting, but wish to join the Group

Name

Address

.....

25 YEARS OF THE NEWSLETTER

Beris Cox¹

At HOGG's inaugural meeting in the autumn of 1994 (see previous article by Hugh Torrens), those present considered having a newsletter to be essential in order to keep members informed. Peter Tandy of London's Natural History Museum was appointed as editor and continued in that post until the end of 2008. He produced 34 newsletters, initially two per year then, from 2003, three. Newsletter 23 (January 2005) included an editor's eye view of HOGG's first ten years (1994–2004)² from which it is clear that the newsletters are a valuable resource for following the ups and downs of HOGG's membership, activities and management. From the beginning of 2009, when I took over as editor, we have fixed the issuing of newsletters to February, June and October each year. All past newsletters are archived at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/newsletter/> and <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg-newsletters>

As well as the programme of meetings, the newsletters track certain administrative changes—the rise in subscriptions from initially £7, to £10 (from 2001), to £15 (from 2008), and from 1998, the option to pay by standing order. As John Henry, then Chair, wrote in Newsletter 45 (June 2012), “The committee has to address the realities of rising costs with each meeting that we organize. Our aim is to keep membership affordable to as wide a group as possible, and for each meeting to break even on cost”. In 2005, HOGG set up an electronic mailing list and in 2006, members were given the choice of receiving the newsletter by mail or email (thus saving postage and paper). Today, new members are not offered this choice and, currently, less than 10% of the membership is provided with hard copy. Although some members may print off their own paper copies, I remain unconvinced that the newsletter is as well read when distributed in digital format. In 2009, by which time I was also Treasurer, HOGG opened a PayPal account and overseas members were invited to pay their annual subscriptions by this means. From 2011, all members were offered the option to make payments by credit/debit card via PayPal.

In October 2009, a call went out to help with a new independent HOGG website which we hoped would give us more scope and flexibility than that offered by the Geological Society's site, including taking online payments (for subscriptions and our meeting registration fees). This proved to be a lengthy process but, thanks to Cherry Lewis and associates, HOGG's own website was successfully launched in October 2012, when an appeal went out for a webmaster. HOGG also opened a Twitter account at this time. I think it is fair to say that on the whole, the HOGG membership is not ‘naturally digital’, largely due to our age profile and, for many, there has been a steep learning curve.

Throughout its 25 years, HOGG has organised meetings (2–4 per year) on a range of historical themes. These have been mostly indoor and lecture-based, and often held in the splendid headquarters of the Geological Society in Burlington House, London. Other venues in the London area and in the English provinces, such as at Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Dudley, Lyme Regis, Manchester, Oxford and Scarborough, have featured. Weekend ‘field’ meetings have also been regularly held outside London, and we have also ventured into Scotland and Wales with both indoor and ‘field’ meetings. A complete meetings inventory will soon be completed on the HOGG website.

As a Specialist Group of the Geological Society, HOGG prides itself in the relatively large number of our meetings (some held jointly with other societies) which have resulted in a Geological Society Special Publication; these include the William Smith Millenium Meeting *Celebrating the age of the Earth* (2000), *History of palaeobotany* (2001), *200 years of British hydrogeology* (2002), *Fireballs and stones from the sky* (2003), *The role of women in the history of geology* (2005), *History of Geoconservation* (2006), *Celebration of the bicentenary of the Geological Society* (2007), *Dinosaurs—a historical perspective* (2008), *Military uses of hydrogeology: past and present* (2009), *Dinosaurs—their kith and kin: a historical perspective* (2011), *Geology and medicine* (2011), *In the footsteps of Geikie* (2012), *Appreciating physical landscapes: Geotourism 1670–1970* (2012), *Geology and medicine: exploring the historical links and the development of public health and forensic medicine* (2014) and *Military aspects of engineering geology, past and present* (2016). The

meeting held this year to celebrate the centenary of Geological Society female fellows is also scheduled for a Special Publication.

Almost all HOGG meetings are reported on in subsequent newsletters. So for those unable to attend our 25th anniversary meeting in York later this month (see P.16), you will be able to read all about it in the next (February) newsletter!

¹ email beris.cox@btinternet.com

² Tandy, Peter. "And then we were 10...". A retrospective look at HOGG & the Newsletter over 10 years. HOGG Newsletter 23, pp.4–6.

FUTURE HOGG EVENTS

* THE GENESIS OF GEOLOGY IN YORK AND BEYOND

Joint meeting with Yorkshire Philosophical Society and York Museums Trust

23rd–24th October 2019 including HOGG AGM

Marriott Room, York Explore, Library Square, York YO1 7DS

See P. 16 for further details and P.29 for registration form.

* GEORGE BELLAS GREENOUGH MAP BICENTENARY

6th–8th May 2020

University College and Burlington House, London

See P. 17 for further details.

ALSO IN THE PIPELINE:

- Joint meeting with the Geological Curators' Group on **polar geology** at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge
- Joint meeting with Haslemere Museum on **Archibald Geikie** at Burlington House (sequel to the meeting held in April 2012)
- Field-based meeting in **mid-Wales** (with Mid-Wales Geological Group)
- Field-based meeting in **Norfolk**
- Open Meeting.

Watch out for further details in future newsletters and on the websites.



THE GENESIS OF GEOLOGY IN YORK AND BEYOND
HOGG 25th ANNIVERSARY MEETING
in association with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and
supported by York Museums Trust
23rd–24th OCTOBER 2019



Venue: Marriott Room, York Explore, Library Square, York YO1 7DS

Convenors: Duncan Hawley duncan.hawley@gmail.com and
John Henry john@geolmaps.com



PROGRAMME

Wednesday 23rd October

- 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.30 Welcome and Introduction (house arrangements)
- 10.40–11.20 **KEYNOTE TALK Roger Osborne** *Follow the reptile: Fossil trading on the Yorkshire coast and what it tells us about science and money*
- 11.20–11.40 **Peter Hogarth** *Geological connections in the early Yorkshire Philosophical Society*
- 11.40–12.00 **John Mather** *The Harrogate wells case of 1837 and a gathering of the scientific elite*
- 12.00–12.20 **Margaret Leonard** *Scripture and Science: The Dean of York's critique of Buckland and Sedgwick's riposte.*
- 12.20–12.40 **John Henry** *John Phillips and the first chromolithograph geological map in Britain*
- 12.40–13.00 **Duncan Hawley** *The Yorkshire Boulder Committee—an erratic affair.*
- 13.00–14.00 **LUNCH**
- 14.00–14.20 **HOGG AGM**
- 14.20–16.50 **Viewing tours and discussions: Yorkshire Museum collections**
4 x 30 minute sessions + 10 minutes swap-over.
1. ***Kirkdale Cave specimens—fossils from Buckland's Reliquiae Diluvianae***
YMT Assistant Curator Stuart Ogilvy & YPS volunteers
 2. ***Yorkshire Museum's William Smith map of England and Wales***
YMT Curator Sarah King & Duncan Hawley
 3. ***Mosaic Smith's map of Yorkshire+Calotype of De La Beche***
Rod & Margaret Leonard, Project Coordinators
 4. ***Yorkshire Jurassic World Exhibition***
Self-guided tour with specially produced collector/provenance leaflet on exhibits.
- 19.30 **HOGG 25th Anniversary Dinner** (Optional)

Thursday 24th October **Field Day** (Optional) with shared car transport

- AM **Kirkdale Cave, Vale of Pickering:** visit and virtual tour of the site (inside the cave) of Buckland's main source of evidence for 'Reliquiae Diluvianae'
- PM **Rosedale Ironstone Mines**

Registration form on P.29 of this newsletter or book online at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/>

**GEORGE BELLAS GREENOUGH MAP BICENTENARY MEETING
6th–8th MAY 2020**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE and BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON

Conference Organisers: Duncan Hawley (HOGG), Professor Ian Wood (UCL)

The Geological Map of England and Wales by G. B. Greenough (also known as ‘the Geological Society’s map’) was published on 1st May 1820. An event to celebrate the bicentenary of this important map will take place on Wednesday 6th May and Thursday 7th May 2020.



The first day (Wednesday 6th) programme will be a conference held at the newly-refurbished Department of Earth Sciences of University College London. The Department are generously hosting the event, which will also be attended by a number of their alumni who are former members of the Greenough Society—the UCL student geological society, named after GBG. Greenough was instrumental in the founding of UCL—he was a subscriber (shareholder) in the original College alongside a number of other prominent early Geological Society colleagues who were involved in its set up in 1826 and in its early governance.

Call for Papers

The History of Geology Group welcomes submission of abstracts for oral presentations or posters at the conference on topics that engage in any aspect of Greenough’s 1820 map and subsequent associated maps, or any other aspect of Greenough’s life, work, collaborations, achievements or the context in which he worked.

Submissions should include:

- Title
- Abstract (300 words max.)
- Author name and affiliation (if appropriate)

Please indicate if a presentation or poster, and send by email to Duncan Hawley (Convenor) by **Monday 6th January 2020** (duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com)

A bicentenary celebration dinner will be held in the splendid Jeremy Bentham Room at UCL, with the UCL Vice-Provost, Professor David Price (a geologist) in attendance.

The second day (Thursday 7th) programme will be held at the Geological Society (Burlington House) and will provide an opportunity to view and discuss original specimens and materials that belonged to GBG. The aim is to help understand the process by which GBG collected information, and compiled and edited the map. There will be a rare opportunity to view the maps he used to collate geological information, and his annotated drafts of the 1820 and subsequent maps.

Material will be drawn from the archives of the Geological Society and materials held at UCL, the British Geological Survey and the National Museum of Wales. This will be the first time these materials have been gathered together in at least 150 years.

It is planned to offer an optional 'field' day for Friday (8th), with the opportunity to visit a range of sites around central London associated with GBG, including his residence and his tomb.

The Department at UCL have a bust of GBG that has been scanned to high resolution, enabling smaller scale 'mini-Greenough' busts to be produced (using a 3D printer) for all those attending the meeting.

HOGG will be offering a high quality facsimile of the 1820 Greenough map (produced by the Geological Survey) in a limited number (200) subscription issue, with a reproduction of the map memoir plus accompanying explanatory commentary, presented in a contemporary-style clamshell box. The subscription offer will be launched at HOGG's 25th Anniversary Meeting in York on 23rd–24th October (see P. 16 of this Newsletter) and subscription application details will be sent to HOGG members.

Registration for the George Bellas Greenough Map Bicentenary meeting will open in January 2020.

For further information or enquiries, contact Duncan Hawley email duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

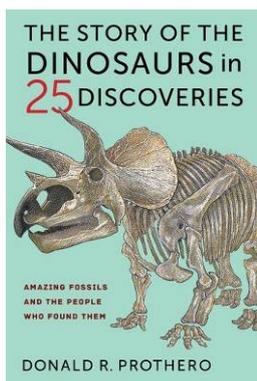
As part of the Geological Society Centenary Celebrations in 2007, Nic Bilham began an oral history project on behalf of HOGG. The aim was to record memories of the life, times, geological careers, and especially the voices of longstanding members of the Geol. Soc. A number of very interesting recordings were made by volunteers, who visited interviewees at their homes or offices. These are now stored in the Geological Society's archives, a permanent public reference resource for use in research, and for use by the Society for publication, education, lectures, broadcasting and dissemination on the internet. In 2019, the Geological Society relaunched the project as part of the centenary of female Fellows of the Geological Society, with a view to interviewing longstanding female members of the Society.

The Society is working with HOGG to establish a network of volunteers to conduct interviews, and to get in touch with longstanding members (both male and female) who are interested in sharing their memories and experiences. If you would like to help with either, or would like to be interviewed yourself, please let us know and we can help to match potential interviewers and interviewees.

Further information about what's involved—including information for potential interviewees, tips for conducting interviews and suggested questions—will be available shortly on the HOGG website. Recording equipment will be provided!

Contacts are Nina Morgan nina.morgan@cooptel.net and Sarah Day sarah.day@geolsoc.org.uk.

BOOK AND MAP NOTES



The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 discoveries

Amazing fossils and the people who found them

Donald R. Prothero

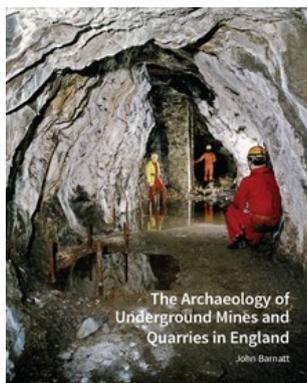
Columbia University Press. 2019. 488pp.

ISBN 9780231186025 hardback ISBN 9780231546461 E book

RRP £27.00

“.....In *The Story of the Dinosaurs in 25 Discoveries*, Donald R. Prothero tells the fascinating stories behind the most important fossil finds and the intrepid researchers who unearthed them. In twenty-five vivid vignettes, he weaves together dramatic tales of dinosaur discoveries with what modern

science now knows about the species to which they belong. Prothero takes us from eighteenth-century sightings of colossal bones taken for biblical giants through recent discoveries of enormous predators even larger than *Tyrannosaurus*. He recounts the escapades of the larger-than-life personalities who made modern paleontology, including scientific rivalries like the nineteenth-century “Bone Wars.” Prothero also details how to draw the boundaries between species and explores debates such as whether dinosaurs had feathers, explaining the findings that settled them or keep them going. Throughout, he offers a clear and rigorous look at what paleontologists consider sound interpretation of evidence.” [publisher’s notes]



The Archaeology of Underground Mines and Quarries in England

John Barnatt

Historic England 2019 144pp.

ISBN 9781848023819 paperback RRP £30.00

“.....This book presents a detailed introduction to the underground mining and quarrying heritage in England. It reviews the many types of mineral and stone taken from the ground over several millennia and also looks at the wide range of archaeological remains that survive today and are accessible to those who venture underground. It is designed to illustrate the many and varied wonders to be found underground and give the reader

ways forward should they wish to follow up their interest in particular types of extraction or what is present in their region.” [publisher’s notes]

The Art of Finding Springs Second Edition

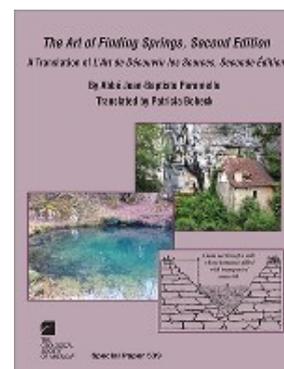
Patricia Bobeck (translator)

Translation of Paramelle, Abbé Jean-Baptiste. 1859. *L'Art de Découvrir les Sources*. Seconde Edition.

Geological Society of America Special Paper 539. 2019. 127pp. paperback
ISBN 978-0-8137-2539-0

List price \$58.00. GS bookshop (code USPE539) £48.50 (Fellows £33.50)

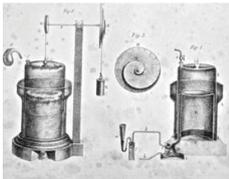
“Abbé Paramelle (1790–1875) published *The Art of Finding Springs* in 1856 as a how-to manual for finding groundwater. Paramelle began his field research into springs on a karst plateau in southwestern France. Between 1833 and 1854, upon request, Paramelle explored 40 of France's departments and found groundwater



in 10,000 places based on his observational method, which used geology and geomorphology, at a time when these sciences were in their infancy. Paramelle's method was used until the 1970s to find groundwater in the French Department of Lot. Although the book was translated into German and Spanish in the mid-1800s, this is the first English translation. The translator has included detailed notes and an introduction providing extensive historical background about this largely unknown hydrogeologist.” [publisher’s notes].



The Enlightenment
of Thomas Beddoes
Science, medicine, and reform



Trevor Levere, Larry Stewart, and Hugh Torrens
with Joseph Wachelder

The enlightenment of Thomas Beddoes. Science, medicine, and reform

Levere, T., Stewart, L., Torrens, H. S. & Wachelder, J.

Routledge.

2018. paperback 264pp. ISBN 9781138329980 RRP £35.00

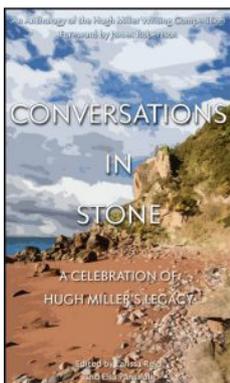
2016. hardback ISBN 9781472488299 RRP £120.00

2016. e book ISBN 9781315411934 RRP from £17.50

“Thomas Beddoes (1760–1808) lived in ‘decidedly interesting times’ in which established orders in politics and science were challenged by revolutionary new ideas. Enthusiastically participating in the heady atmosphere of Enlightenment debate, Beddoes' career suffered from his radical views on politics and science. Denied a professorship at Oxford, he set up a medical practice in Bristol in 1793. Six years later—with support from a range of leading industrialists and scientists including the Wedgwoods, Erasmus Darwin, James Watt, James Keir and others associated with the Lunar Society—he established a Pneumatic Institution for investigating the therapeutic effects of breathing different kinds of ‘air’ on a wide spectrum of diseases.

The treatment of the poor, gratis, was an important part of the Pneumatic Institution and Beddoes, who had long concerned himself with their moral and material well-being, published numerous pamphlets and small books about their education, wretched material circumstances, proper nutrition, and the importance of affordable medical facilities. Beddoes’ democratic political concerns reinforced his belief that chemistry and medicine should co-operate to ameliorate the conditions of the poor. But those concerns also polarized the medical profession and the wider community of academic chemists and physicians, many of whom became mistrustful of Beddoes’ projects due to his radical politics.

Highlighting the breadth of Beddoes’ concerns in politics, chemistry, medicine, geology, and education (including the use of toys and models), this book reveals how his reforming and radical zeal were exemplified in every aspect of his public and professional life, and made for a remarkably coherent program of change. He was frequently a contrarian, but not without cause, as becomes apparent once he is viewed in the round, as part of the response to the politics and social pressures of the late Enlightenment.” [publisher’s notes]



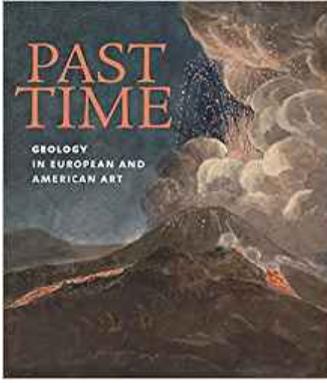
Conversations in Stone—celebrating the Life and Legacy of Hugh Miller

Edited by Larissa Reid & Elsa Panciroli

Edinburgh Geological Society 2019

ISBN 9781912804719 £7.99

“The writer, self-taught geologist and stonemason Hugh Miller (1802–1856) was one of Scotland’s finest nature writers. Born in Cromarty, his works made him a household name, and to this day his lyrical style transports readers to stand beside him at the rock-face. Celebrating his legacy, this anthology brings together prose and poetry inspired by Miller and his life, and his unwavering love of stone, landscape and palaeontology.”[publisher’s notes]



Past Time: geology in European and American art

Patricia Phagan

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College in association with D Giles Limited. 2018.

ISBN 9780999683705 hardback 144pp. £34.95

“This is a beautifully illustrated, interdisciplinary volume which explores how European and American artists of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries revealed a compelling interest in dramatic geologic phenomena--caves and natural arches, boulders and rock formations, mountains, glaciers, volcanoes, and cliffs. From a topographical, often strata-focused means to a later mode that evoked nature's great transformational powers over time, European and American artists pursued their cross-cultural travels in seeking geological wonders. The authors address the importance and history of geology, the most popular science of the 1800s.

Past Time features a combination of outstanding drawings, watercolours, and brilliant oil sketches and studies, with works by Asher B Durand, Frederic Church, John Singer Sargent, Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, J. M. W. Turner, Joseph Wright of Derby, and Thomas Rowlandson, amongst many others. This volume is a great addition to the currently available publications on the relationship between the growth of natural science and the interest amongst artists in capturing and presenting scientific phenomena and an ever-changing earth.” [publisher’s notes]

La collection de vertébrés jurassiques du Calvados de Pierre Tesson (1797-1874)

Arnaud Brignon

Published by the author, Bourg-la-Reine (France). 2018. vi + 82pp.

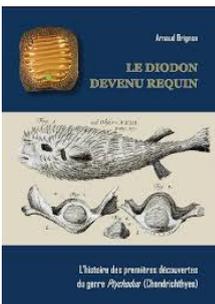
ISBN 978 2 9565479 0 7

Full text pdf available at

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328392222_La_collection_de_vertébres_jurassiques_du_Calvados_de_Pierre_Tesson_1797-1874



The Tesson Collection, acquired in 1857 by the British Museum (now held in the Natural History Museum, London) is the most important collection of fossils from the Jurassic of Calvados (Normandy, France) assembled in the first half of the 19th Century and still preserved today. The exile of this collection to England was considered at the time to be a considerable loss to the scientific community in Normandy. In hindsight, the transfer to London allowed the majority of the Caen palaeontological collections to be saved from the destruction of World War II. This is a study of the vertebrate fossils in the collection, many coming from quarries or sections no longer available or well exposed. The book also presents the first biography of Pierre Tesson and explores his relationship with other famous naturalists of the time, including Jacques-Amand Eudes Deslongchamps, Étienne Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, Henri-Marie Ducrotay de Blainville and Richard Owen. [based on book’s Abstract]



Le diodon devenu requin: l'histoire des premières découvertes du genre Ptychodus (Chondrichthyes)

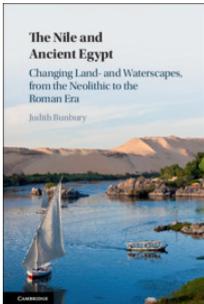
Arnaud Brignon

Published by the author, Bourg-la-Reine (France). 2019. 100pp.

ISBN 978 2 9565479 2 1

This book reviews the early discoveries of *Ptychodus* teeth and their interpretation, prior to the recognition and description of this Cretaceous fish

genus by Louis Agassiz in 1834. Full text pdf available from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333728348_The_porcupinefish_that_became_a_shark_History_of_the_early_discovery_of_the_genus_Ptychodus_Chondrichthyes_-_Le_diodin_devenu_requin_l_histoire_des_premieres_decouvertes_du_genre_Ptychodus_Chondrichthyes



The Nile and ancient Egypt
Changing land and waterscapes from the Neolithic to the Roman Era
Judith Bunbury
Cambridge University Press. 2019. xvi + 182pp.
ISBN 9781107012158

Published online June 2019
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9780511997884>

.....**ALSO OF INTEREST?** (names in bold are HOGG members)

Howarth, R. J. and Aleguas, S. A. 2019. Through a glass darkly: Patients of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville, U.S. (1854–1880). *History of Psychiatry*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0957154X18821059>

Kölbl-Ebert, Martina. 2019. Geosciences in a religious setting—thoughts on history of the geosciences, interdisciplinary dialogue and geoethics. *Inhigeo Annual Record*, **51**, 67–70.

Morgan, Nina. 2019. Distant Thunder: Behind every good man.... *Geoscientist*, **29(06)**, 26. [on William Buckland's marriage]
_____ 2019. Distant Thunder: Credit where credit is due. *Geoscientist*, **29(07)**, 26. [on John and Anne Phillips, and 'Miss Phillips's conglomerate']
_____ 2019. Distant Thunder: Turning the tide. *Geoscientist*, **29(08)**, 26. [on women in the British Geological Survey]
_____ 2019. Distant Thunder: Get the picture? *Geoscientist*, **29(09)**, 26. [on Marie Stopes]

Noè, L. F., Gómez-Pérez, M. and Nicholls, R. 2019. Mary Anning, Alfred Nicholson Leeds and Steve Etches. Comparing the three most important 'amateur' fossil collectors and their collections. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, **130**, 366–389.

Taylor, M. A. 2019. Three memoirs of Hugh Miller (1802–1856) by his son Hugh Miller FGS. *Archives of Natural History*, **46**, 113–118.

Zalasiewicz, J. 2019. Positively palaeontological. *The Palaeontological Association Newsletter* **101**, 62–66. [discussion of von Humboldt, Darwin *et al.*] Available at <https://www.palass.org/publications/newsletter/archive/101/newsletter-no-101>

HOGG FIND AND TELL—A SHARING PLATFORM? Duncan Hawley¹

I suspect that, for many, a key reason for being a member of HOGG is belonging to a network of like-minded individuals with whom it is possible to share knowledge, ideas and work on the history of geology. This is certainly the case for me.

Recently, I have exchanged a few emails with members who asked how they might share something of their investigations into the history of geology. Two of the five stated aims of HOGG are:

- publishing papers and other communications, in such a way as may be found most convenient
- encouraging research and teaching in the history of geology

I think that presently HOGG fulfils these to an extent—especially when a *Special Publication* volume emerges from a meeting, but I wonder whether we could/should do more to provide a forum where members might share their work or work in progress on a ‘smaller’ scale.

This might help encourage those amongst us who do not feel confident to write an ‘academic’ article to contribute something about aspects of the history of geology they have studied or pondered. These might be ‘little’ projects, or parts of bigger studies, or papers that they want to ‘test’—that are maybe not yet ready to submit for full publication (it could be a place where HOGG members pre-publish their work without prejudice to publishing in a scholarly publication elsewhere). For example, HOGG members might write something about work they have done on the details of a geological map, or contribute a piece on their discovery of what lay behind a well-known geological illustration, or relay hitherto little known facts about a geologist. Contributions might be labelled ‘for discussion’ signalling invitation to comments from other HOGG members (an informal refereeing process). It might be called the ‘*HOGG Research Report Forum*’ or something like that.

I have contributed to forums in other ‘disciplines’ that operate successfully in this manner (in my professional capacity as an educator) and, in this day and age, there are platforms available that are not too tricky to set up as an online presence, and new contributions can be automatically notified to those who are interested.

One possible question might be ‘Isn’t this what the HOGG Newsletter does, in part?’ However, the *HOGG Research Report Forum* would have a different function, and I don’t think there is a reason why ‘digest’ abstracts of HOGG Forum pieces shouldn’t be put in the Newsletter.

I would welcome comments on this proposal from HOGG members. Please email me at duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com

MARY ANNING ROCKS



Mary Anning Rocks is a campaign, inspired by 11 year old fossil enthusiast Evie Swire and launched in 2018, to have a statue of Mary Anning (1799–1847) in Anning’s home town of Lyme Regis, Dorset.



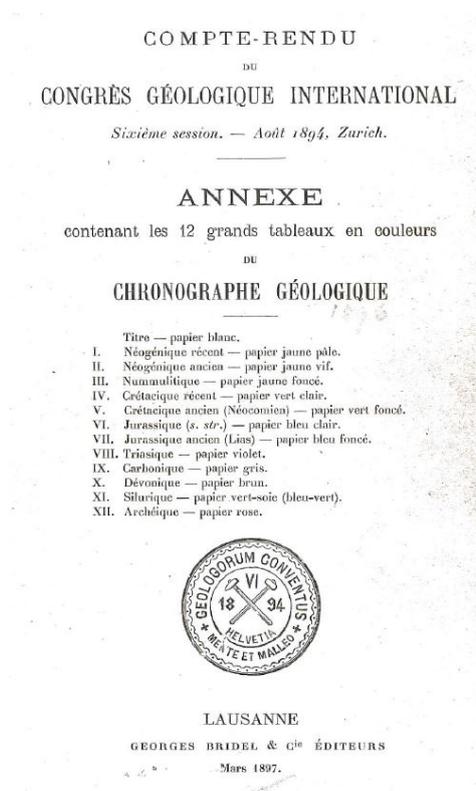
“From the start of this campaign we were adamant that no public money would be spent on this project, so fundraising is vital. We’re working closely with Lyme Regis Town Council on this because we want the process to be seen to be governed properly and with complete transparency.”

See <https://www.maryanningrocks.co.uk> for more information and how to donate.

AN EARLY GEOLOGICAL TIMESCALE ‘REDISCOVERED’ IN THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY’S LIBRARY

Wendy Cawthorne (Geological Society Assistant Librarian)¹

Under a pile of United States atlases that had not been consulted for a while, we recently discovered an early geological timescale that does not seem to be mentioned much these days by authors studying the history of geochronology/timescales.



This timescale was produced by Eugene Renevier (1831–1906)² and published as a supplement to the *Comptes rendus* of the 6th International Geological Congress (IGC) held in Zurich in 1894. Renevier was a professor in the University of Lausanne, President of the 6th IGC and a founder member of the Commission for the Unification of Nomenclature (the International Commission on Stratigraphy in its current guise <http://www.stratigraphy.org/>). Researchers refer to Renevier’s explanatory text accompanying the timescale chart³, which includes a fold-out ‘résumé’ following p.580, but the main chart on 12 sheets seems rarely mentioned. Possibly, like our copy, it is often separated from the Congress proceedings and overlooked.

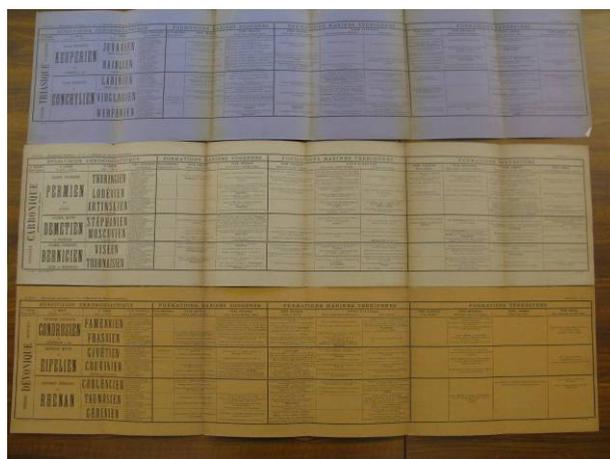
We have two versions of the chart, one where the 12 sheets have been mounted together as one sheet (219 x 98 cm, folded to 48 x 36 cm) which is in a rather fragile condition, and another, in its original format, viz. 12 sheets folded into a box matching the Congress proceedings. Each sheet was printed on coloured paper to match the standard colours for each geological period agreed for use by the IGC on its map of Europe. Details of each sheet and the colours used are

included in the Geological Society’s catalogue entry for the item:

[http://geolog.cirqahosting.com/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/relatedsearch?SearchTerm=~\[!C044768\]~&PlainTerm=C044768&Dispfmt=F](http://geolog.cirqahosting.com/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/relatedsearch?SearchTerm=~[!C044768]~&PlainTerm=C044768&Dispfmt=F) (see also title page, above left).



Twelve mounted sheets laid out on the floor of the Council Room at Burlington House.



Three individual sheets

Renevier had evidently been working on this for 20 years as it is essentially the second edition of his *Tableaux des terrains sédimentaires* published in 1874⁴; even then, the ‘tableaux’ were published on coloured paper.

The explanatory text is, I feel, significant for another reason, in that from p.585 onwards it is Renevier’s *Répertoire stratigraphique*, essentially a lexicon of stratigraphy (rock types, formations and stratigraphical periods), often noting first use of the word (date and geologist’s name).

NOTES

¹email wendy.cawthorne@geolsoc.org.uk

²Obituary in *Geological Magazine*; Dec.5, vol.3 (i.e. vol. 43) (1906), pp. 287–288.

³Renevier, E. (1897) Chronographe géologique In: *Congrès Géologique International : Comptes-rendu de la sixième session, en Suisse Août 1894, Zurich*. pp. 521–695. Available online courtesy of the Biodiversity Library at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/209716#page/549/mode/1up>

⁴Renevier, E. (1874) Tableaux des terrains sédimentaires qui représentent les époques de la phase organique. *Bulletin de la Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles*; 12, No. 70 Tableaux 1–3; 12, No. 71 Tableaux 4–7; 13, No.72, pp. 218–252+Tableaux 8–9.



THE FIRST WOMEN EXHIBITION EXTENDED

The Geological Society Library's exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the election of female Fellows has been extended until the end of the year. *The First Women* highlights a few of the firsts achieved by women in both the science and the Geological Society, illustrated with material from the Society's archives. One of those featured is **Janet Watson (1923–1985)**, Professor of Geology at Imperial College and first female President of the Society. The Society's archive includes the papers relating to her life and work, principally notebooks and maps covering her geological research in the Scottish Highlands and Islands from the 1940s–1980s. The exhibition can be viewed in the Lower Library and Lyell Room at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG. Please contact the Library before making a special trip, and if you would like to consult the archive collections please make an appointment with the archivist (e mail archivist@geolsoc.org.uk).

SELECTED DOCUMENTS FROM THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ARCHIVES

The series *Selected Documents from the BGS Archives* was instigated c. 2000 by Graham McKenna, the then Chief Librarian and Archivist at BGS, with the aim “... to disseminate more widely, interesting or valuable research material contained in the BGS Library Archive collections. In some cases, the contents of the reports will consist of reproductions of manuscript text, in other cases the reports will consist of indexes to significant single collections such as the Bell Papers or Murchison materials held in the Archives. New technology will allow access to both the text of reports in the series and, where relevant, scanned images of archive manuscript material via the Library’s on-line catalogue. The series will cover both official papers and the records of individual geologists dating back to the commencement of Survey activity in 1835.”

The series did not progress, is incomplete and now discontinued, with only seven documents (nos 1–5, 11 and 12) having been issued. These are

No. 1. *Henry de la Beche. 22nd May 1845. Instructions for the local Directors of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland.* edited by G. McKenna. c. 2001. (available at

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=2697>)

No. 2. *Biographical notes on Geological Survey staff* by Miss E. M. Guppy, edited and lightly updated by G. McKenna and R. P. McIntosh. 2000. BGS Archives GSM1/718. BGS Technical Report WO/00/004.

No. 3. *W. H. Henderson, R. P. McIntosh, M. G. Petterson & C. T. Clough. Explanation of Sheet 38 Loch Lomond [1901]* by E. H. C. Craig. 2000. BGS Technical Report WO/00/05

No. 4. *The Geological Survey in Scotland: papers on the history and the works of the Survey* by A. G. MacGregor, R. P. McIntosh, G. McKenna & K. Fergusson. 2000. BGS Technical Report IR/00/27.

No. 5. *The work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain in relation to mineral resources: papers on the history and work of the Survey* by A. G. MacGregor, R. P. McIntosh, G. McKenna & K. Fergusson. 2000. BGS Technical Report IR/00/28.

No. 11. *The mineral resources of the Lothians* by A. G. MacGregor & R. P. McIntosh. 2004. BGS Technical Report IR/04/017.

No. 12. *Earth science archives: a preliminary listing of the archives held at the British Geological Survey* by R. P. McIntosh, G. McKenna, A. C. Disney, G. E. Gray, K. Fergusson & S. Greig. 2004. BGS Technical Report IR/04/068.

CHARLES LYELL'S NOTEBOOKS SAVED

As reported by John Henry in the previous newsletter, Charles Lyell's 294 notebooks were due to be sold abroad. A temporary export ban was imposed, giving the University of Edinburgh and supporters the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to purchase them. Over 1,100 supporters pledged to save these historic notebooks. The purchase price was originally set at £1,444,000, but reduced to £966,000 thanks to a restructuring of tax liability. Thanks to additional grants from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the University of Edinburgh, the required funds have now been pledged.



(Image: Wikimedia Commons)

Now is the time to convert those pledges into donations. To do so, please visit the fund-raising website at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/giving/save-lyell-notebooks>. If you are able to add Gift Aid, please do so as this will increase the value of your donation by 25%. Although the notebooks are secure, fund-raising will continue to support the work of scanning them and developing a website to make them, and much other Lyell material, more widely available.



THE MANUSCRIPT NOTEBOOKS OF SIR HUMPHRY DAVY: THE DAVY NOTEBOOKS PROJECT

The Davy Notebooks Project has recently launched on Zooniverse, the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research.

Sir Humphry Davy (1778–1829) was one of the most significant and famous figures in the scientific and literary culture of early nineteenth-century Britain, Europe, and America. Davy's scientific accomplishments include

- conducting pioneering research into the physiological effects of nitrous oxide (often called 'laughing gas')
- isolating seven chemical elements (magnesium, calcium, potassium, sodium, strontium, barium, and boron) and establishing the elemental status of chlorine and iodine
- inventing a miners' safety lamp

- developing the electrochemical protection of the copper sheeting of Royal Navy vessels
- conserving the Herculaneum papyri
- writing an influential text on agricultural chemistry.

Davy was also a poet, moving in the same literary circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey and William Wordsworth.

The notebooks selected for the pilot run of the Davy Notebooks Project reveal how Davy's mind worked and how his thinking developed. Containing details of his scientific experiments, poetry, geological observations, travel accounts, and personal philosophy, Davy's notebooks present a wide range of fascinating insights. Many of the pages of these notebooks have never been transcribed before. By transcribing these notebooks, we will find out more about the young Davy, his life, and the cultures and networks of which he was part.

All you need to contribute is a Zooniverse account—sign up today at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project>

If you have any questions, please send them to humphrydavyzooniverse@gmail.com, or post them on the Zooniverse Talk boards.

Project updates will be posted to the Twitter account <https://twitter.com/davynotebooks>

BLUE PLAQUE FOR SUSSEX GEOLOGIST MARTIN VENABLES (1901–1990)

As reported by David Bone in the recent *Magazine of the Geologists' Association* (Vol.18, No. 3, p.39), Bognor Regis Local History Society has installed a blue plaque commemorating Martin Venables, an amateur geologist and long-time curator of the original Bognor Regis Museum in West Sussex. Sited on Bognor Regis sea front, the plaque faces out across the foreshore where Venables studied intermittent exposures of the Eocene London Clay. He produced only a few formal publications (notably in the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*) but these included a complete description of the London Clay succession along 5 km of foreshore with a comprehensive faunal list. In addition, from 1940 until his death in 1990, he contributed c. 2500 articles to the natural history column of his local newspaper. For more information on Venables, see Bone, D. A. 2003. Edmond Martin Venables (1901–1990), an amateur geologist and natural historian. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, vol. 114, 139–150.



(Image courtesy Bognor Regis Post)

OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION
FESTIVAL OF GEOLOGY**
University College London, Gower Street, London WC1 6BT
Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November 2019

**Free Event for everyone interested in the Earth and its origins.
Children and families welcome!**

Exhibitors from the world of geology: fossil & mineral displays, stonecraft, books, maps, geological equipment, jewellery, beads, Tours of the UCL Earth Science Laboratories and more
Geological talks and much more....

Festival field trips on Sunday 3rd November

Further details at www.geologistsassociation.org.uk



45TH INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM
NEW DELHI, INDIA (in association with the 36th International Geological Congress)
2nd–8th March 2020

The Symposium will be part of Theme 1 Geoscience for Society.

1.6 The History of Geology and the Dissemination of Geological Knowledge organized by
Barry Cooper barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au (Australia)
Marianne Klemun marianne.klemun@univie.ac.at (Austria)

Abstracts are invited on

- i) Dissemination of geological knowledge including networking, collecting, accumulating and printing
- ii) Evolution of handbooks and textbooks
- iii) Legacy of a continent in contributing to the history of geology
- iv) Development of geological concepts
- v) History of mining or mineralogy
- vi) Understanding fossils and stratigraphy
- vii) Understanding of landscapes
- viii) Understanding of volcanoes and earthquakes
- ix) Relevance of historical understanding in geology.

Abstract submission has been extended to 31st October 2019

Visit <https://www.36igc.org/> and Go to “Science Program”

Future INHIGEO symposia

2021 46th INHIGEO Symposium, Krakow, Poland, 18th–24th July

2022 47th INHIGEO Symposium, ?Russia

2023 48th INHIGEO Symposium, location to be decided

2024 49th INHIGEO Symposium, South Korea (in association with 37th IGC)



THE GENESIS OF GEOLOGY IN YORK AND BEYOND
HOGG 25th ANNIVERSARY MEETING
in association with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS)
and supported by York Museums Trust (YMT)
23rd–24th OCTOBER 2019



REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

.....

.....

E mail Phone no.

Member of HOGG @ £25.00 per person (includes entry to Yorkshire Museum) = £.....

Member of YPS or HOGG member with a YMT card @ £20.00 per person = £.....

Non-member @ £30.00 per person (includes HOGG membership for current calendar year) = £.....

Non-member with a YMT card @ £25.00 per person
(includes HOGG membership for current calendar year) = £.....

TOTAL= £.....

Registration fee includes abstract booklet and refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits and finger buffet lunch).

I am interested in attending a group dinner on Wednesday evening 23rd October Yes / No

I am interested in attending the field visits on Thursday 24th October (no extra charge) Yes / No

Transport will be on a car share basis. Will you require transport? Yes / No

Will you be able to provide transport? Yes / No

If yes, for how many?

Please make cheques payable to HOGG and write 'York 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 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payment by standing order saves HOGG's resources so, if you are willing to make future payments by this means, please complete the form below *ensuring your mandate gives instructions for the appropriate amount.*

HOGG STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Name of bank or building society.....

Branch address.....

.....

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

Account name.....

Please pay the amount of £15 (fifteen pounds) / £5 (five pounds) (*please delete as appropriate*) 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**