



EDINBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Promoting public interest in geology and the advancement of geological knowledge

Autumn Newsletter 2022

We have a busy year ahead of us, the Society's 189th session. I look forward to seeing you in-person at our lectures once again, although we will continue to record them for our YouTube channel, and broadcast them live on Zoom, which we know is appreciated by members living further away. We are very grateful to Tom Challands for his extended stint as President.

I've taken the reins for now but we would welcome any volunteers, for this and other upcoming Council vacancies. I hope you enjoy an autumn full of geology, and we look forward to seeing the results of our first Members' Challenge!

Mike Browne, Acting EGS President,
president@edinburghgeolsoc.org

Public Lecture: Scotland's Fossils

Thursday 6 October, 6.30pm at Dynamic Earth



Crinoid and bryzoa fossils from Fife. *Photo: Katie Strang*



Our public lecture will explore the amazing variety of fossils in Scotland, covering hundreds of millions of years of evolution from the corals and sharks of the Carboniferous to the dinosaurs and pterosaurs of Skye. Our expert panel of palaeontologists will guide you through the history of life recorded in Scotland's sedimentary rocks with time to ask questions and look at specimens.

The lecture celebrates the first UNESCO International Geodiversity Day: a worldwide celebration, bringing people together on 6th October each year, to promote all the many aspects of geodiversity.

Tickets £5, free for EGS members and young people. Book at www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/public-lecture/

Autumn Members Challenge – Visit an Important Geo-site

In the run up to this year's Fellows' Night, we invite EGS Members to visit somewhere new this autumn and share what you find! Did you know that Scotland has nearly 900 Geological Conservation Review Sites? Or that in the Lothian and Borders area there are 150 Local Geodiversity Sites, with more on the way? It is not always easy to find information about these sites, so we've brought together some resources to get started – visit www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/autumn-challenge. Together, these sites represent the best of Scotland's local and national geology, and there is sure to be a site, perhaps very nearby, that you haven't visited before! So we encourage you to go and explore locally, share what you find on social media, and volunteer to report back at Fellows' Night on 14 December.

Lothian and Borders GeoConservation Volunteer Group will meet at 7pm on Wednesdays 28 September, 26 October, 23 November, 25 January, 22 February, 22 March. All welcome, contact Mike Browne or Angus Miller for meeting details.



The Keltie Water at Braeleny near Callander. The waterfall is formed where a microgranite dyke is intruded into sheared black shales – an example of a Geological Conservation Review site that is currently unprotected. *Photo: Mike Browne*

The Scottish Geology Festival – 1 September to 9 October 2022

Scotland's iconic landscapes and rugged coastlines have been shaped by the elements over countless millennia. The rocks beneath our feet hold the secrets of our planet's past and this year, the Scottish Geology Festival will host numerous events unlocking these stories. The Scottish Geology Trust and partners are delivering another packed programme of activities.



The Rock and Spindle near St Andrews. You can visit here with Geobus on a guided walk on Sunday 11 September. Photo: Angus Miller

Here are our top picks that will especially appeal to EGS members:

Saturdays 3, 10, 24 September and 8 October
Open Saturdays at the Scottish Mineral & Lapidary Club, Leith

Sunday 11 September
Arthur's Seat volcano trail

Sunday 11 September
Guided walk: Geology highlights of St Andrews

Sunday 18 September
Rocks in Roslin Glen: a record of a swampy past

Sunday 18 September
Doors Open Day at Fossil Grove, Glasgow

Monday 19 September
Meet the scientists at Dynamic Earth

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 September
Collecting, cutting and polishing rocks and fossils, Leith Lapidary Club at Edinburgh Palette

Wednesday 28 September
Boat trip from Arbroath to Elephant Rock

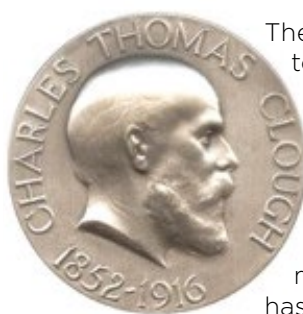
With a fantastic spread of events on all across Scotland, as well as online, this year's Festival will provide a great day out and experience for all ages. For details of all festival events visit <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/festival>.

Society Medal, Grants and Awards

The Society recognises excellence in geology by making two prestigious awards, the Clough Medal and the Clough Memorial Award, and supports geological fieldwork with small grants from the Clough and Mykura Funds. Nominations for the Clough Medal and Clough Memorial Award for 2023-24 and applications for fieldwork grants are invited by 31 March 2023. Full details are on our website at <https://www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/home/grants-and-awards/>.

The **Clough Medal** is the Society's premier award, presented to a geologist whose original work has materially increased the knowledge of the geology of Scotland and/or the north of England, or any geologist working in Scotland or the north of England who has significantly advanced the knowledge of any aspect of geology. The **Clough Memorial Award** is a monetary award, given to an early-career geologist, normally under 35 years old, whose research on some aspect of the geology of Scotland or the north of England is considered as having outstanding merit. It is awarded biennially.

Fieldwork Grants from the Clough and Mykura Funds are normally of the order of a few hundred pounds, and support geological field work at home or abroad.



The Society also makes **Project Grants** to support projects that encourage public interest in geology or advance geological knowledge. Applications may be from organisations or individuals, and requests of up to £1,000 will be considered. The next submission deadline for Project Grants is 31 October 2022.

The Clough Medal for 2022-23 will be awarded to Professor David Evans in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the understanding of the Quaternary geology of Scotland and Northern England, and especially his innovative work on glacial geomorphology which has provided a highly regarded evidence base on which many international researchers have drawn. He has also played a critical role in engaging with the engineering community to enable the translation and communication of glacial geomorphological research for engineering investigations. His scientific output, textbooks, maps, teaching, dedication to fieldwork and organisation of conferences and research groups have led the way for generations of glacial scientists. His contribution and achievements make him a worthy recipient of the Clough Medal, in recognition of his novel research, inspiration of future glacial scientists, and great dedication in advancing and communicating glacial geomorphology.

Dave will give the Clough Medal lecture on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Lecture Programme 2022-23

Our varied programme of illustrated lectures runs from October to Easter, on Wednesday evenings. These meetings are open to the public, there is no charge, and visitors are most welcome.

The lectures take place in the Hutton Lecture Theatre of the Grant Institute, The King's Buildings, James Hutton Road, Edinburgh EH9 3FE. We intend to also continue to broadcast our lectures online via Zoom and also record them for later viewing on our YouTube channel.

Contact Angus Miller for details of how to access the lectures online: promotion@edinburghgeolsoc.org

For information about each lecture, including more detailed abstracts where available, visit <https://www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/lectures/>.

The Geological Society of London are producing a new (5th) edition of The Geology of Scotland, which is due to be published next year. In the 20 years since the last edition, there have been many significant steps forward in understanding the geology of Scotland. To celebrate this significant milestone, the new edition forms a prominent thread through this year's lecture programme. Following an overview talk from the editors in November, we will have lectures delivered by key authors contributing to several chapters of the new book.

Graham Leslie, Lectures Secretary agle@bgs.ac.uk

2022

Thursday 6 October, 6.30pm

Public Lecture: Scotland's Fossils – see page 1 for details

Wednesday 19 October, 7pm

Prof Bryne Ngwenya, Professor in Microbial Geochemistry and Head of the School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh
To be confirmed

Wednesday 2 November, 7pm

Dr Tom Dodd, British Geological Society
New insights into deep-lacustrine sedimentary processes and products: examples from the North Falkland Basin, offshore Falkland Islands

Wednesday 16 November, 7pm

Prof Rob Strachan, University of Portsmouth and Dr Martin Smith, British Geological Survey (retd)
The Geology of Scotland – a new 5th edition

Wednesday 30 November, 7pm

Dr Maarten Krabbendam, British Geological Survey
Geology of Scotland, chapter 4: The Moine Supergroup no more!

Wednesday 14 December, 7pm

Fellows' Night

This meeting, close to the anniversary of the foundation of the Society, is a chance to meet other members informally, with refreshments served from 6.30pm, followed by a series of short talks given by members. If you would like to give a short talk on a subject of interest to members, please email Chris Lofthouse on fellowsnight@edinburghgeolsoc.org.



EGS members on this year's weekend excursion survey the landscape in the Coire Glas area, near the Great Glen. Chris Jack's lecture in March will explore the engineering challenges of the new hydro project. *Photo: Graham Leslie.*

2023

Wednesday 18 January, 7pm

Prof Tony Prave, University of St Andrews
Geology of Scotland, chapter 5: The Dalradian

Wednesday 1 February, 7pm

Clough Medal Lecture: Prof Dave Evans, Dept of Geography, Durham University
Quaternary glacial geology and geomorphology: applications of modern analogues to reconstructing glaciations



Dave Evans, Clough Medallist, on fieldwork in Iceland *Photo: Dave Roberts*

Wednesday 15 February, 7pm

Dr Steve Hollis, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh
The Tyrone Ophiolite

Wednesday 1 March, 7pm

Dr Alison Monaghan, British Geological Survey and colleagues
Geology of Scotland, chapter 10: the Carboniferous

Wednesday 15 March, AGM 7pm, Lecture 7.30pm

Prof Bruce Levell, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford
Snowball Earth? The broader significance of recent work on the Neoproterozoic Port Askaig Formation

Wednesday 29 March, 7pm

Christopher Jack, COWI
The interplay of engineering geology and rock engineering in the development of the Coire Glas project.

Shetland Geological Society

EGS welcomes the formation of the new Shetland Geological Society, set up by local enthusiasts, including Allen Fraser, who is well known to EGS members as a field trip leader. The society will support the public understanding and enjoyment of geology and other earth sciences through lectures, field trips, events, and the dissemination of information and publications. A successful inaugural meeting was held in August, and Individual membership will be £15 a year. For further information contact Robina Barton (robinarendallbarton@gmail.com / 07921 316251).

Ore body at Garth's Ness, Shetland Mainland, that was worked for copper in the 19th century. *Photo: Allen Fraser*

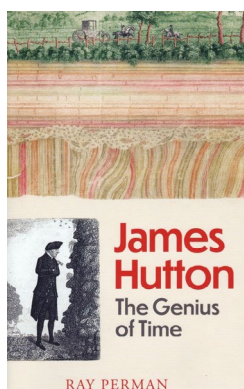


EGS Long Excursion to the Isle of Man, May 2023

David Quirk and Dr David Burnett have kindly agreed to lead the EGS Long Excursion to the Isle of Man in 2023, postponed since 2020. Leaving Edinburgh on Wednesday 10 May, returning on Tuesday 16 May 2023. Contact Anne Burgess, preferably by email to longexcursion@edinburghgeolsoc.org.

New book: James Hutton, The Genius of Time, by Ray Perman

In his *Theory of the Earth* (1788), James Hutton revolutionised the way we think about how our planet was formed and laid the foundation for the science of geology. But this giant of the Enlightenment who also wrote on such diverse subjects as rain and language and who was in his time a doctor, a farmer, a businessman and a chemist, remains a



mystery. His papers, library and mineral collection all vanished after his death. With reference to new sources and original documents, this book brings Hutton the man to life, explores his extraordinary contribution in many different fields and places him firmly among the geniuses of his time.

Published by Birlinn and retailing at £25, this new book is available from all good bookshops and at <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/james-hutton-and-the-evolution-of-the-earth/>

Membership Subscriptions

Our online membership database is hosted with WebCollect. If you pay by direct debit, you need to take no action – your subscription for next year will be taken automatically on 1 October and you will see it on your bank statement as “Gocardless Edinburghgeo”.

If you do not have a direct debit set up, please consider doing so – log in to <https://webcollect.org.uk/edinburghgeolsoc> to renew your subscription; contact our membership secretary, Euan Mitchell if you cannot remember your log in details or if you have any questions.

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The Edinburgh Geological Society is a friendly and informal organisation with a wide range of members of varied backgrounds and interests, united in an interest in rocks and the science of the Earth. This newsletter is published in September and March, with details of our lectures and excursions programme. ISSN 2399-7001

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