

## Shell London Lecture Series:

Stranger than Fiction: Worlds around and beneath us

www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures13

Geological Society of London

## Dwarfism in Animals on Islands



SPEAKER: Victoria Herridge, Natural History Museum

The extinct dwarf elephants of the Mediterranean are remarkable. They evolved many times, on many islands, from large mainland species such as the 4-metre tall straight-tusked elephant. Some of these dwarf elephant species were just 1-metre tall as adults, making them the smallest elephants to have ever existed. But although we know that dwarf elephants evolved in response to the island environment, we still don't fully understand the causes. A big part of this problem is that we simply do not know how old these elephant fossils are: some of the best fossil evidence was collected over 100 years ago, before modern geological dating techniques were available. To change this, I've been seeking out sites excavated by Victorian and Edwardian naturalists such as Thomas Spratt, Andrew Leith Adams, Hugh Falconer and Dorothea Bate, so that we could bring modern methods to bear on their discoveries. In this talk, I will tell the story of those pioneering researchers, and how I came to follow in their footsteps with a team of geochronologists, and what our new findings might mean for our understanding of dwarf elephant evolution.

Date: Wednesday 11 September 2013

Timings: This lecture will be given at 3pm and 6pm on this day (with tea/coffee served for half an hour before each), so please let us know, when requesting a place, which talk you would like to attend.

Venue: The Geological Society of London, Burlington House

Entry to this lecture is free to all, but places are allocated on a ballot basis. Please call at reception (to your right) or contact the Society by post, phone, fax or email (see below).



serving science & profession

For further information, please contact: Conference Office, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J oBG T: 020 7434 9944 F: 0207 439 8975 E: registrations@geolsoc.org.uk W: www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures13 Follow us on twitter #shelllecture







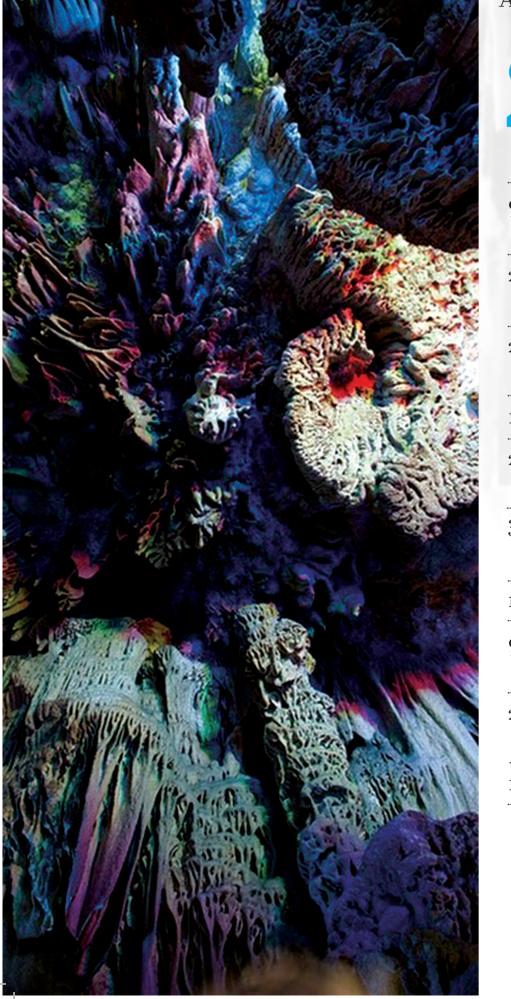
Stranger than Fiction: Worlds around and beneath us

All past lectures can be viewed on our website at www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures13

Page 11: arms at and fatures are 1 de la Chinner

## 2013 Programme

9 January	Reconciling past and future worlds: Geology and ground engineering	Jackie Skipper, Geotechnical Consulting Group
27 February	Landslides and subsidence: Engineering geology in an age of austerity	David Shilston, GSL President
27 March	Exceptionally preserved fossils: Windows on the evolution of life	David Siveter, University of Leicester
17 April	Rivers under the sea	Jeffrey Peakall, University of Leeds
29 May	CCS - Capturing Global Opportunities	Paul Garnham, CCS Project Manager, Shell
3 July	Life at deep-sea hydrothermal vents: biodiversity in a new resource frontier	Adrian Glover, Natural History Museum
11 September	Dwarfism in animals on islands	Victoria Herridge, Natural History Museum
9 October	The Mars Science Laboratory mission: The Curiosity Rover's exploration of Gale Crater	John Grotzinger, Caltech
20 November	Shearwater: Geology Under Pressure	Caroline Gill, Senior Production Geologist, Shell
18 December	Lakes Beneath the Ice	Martin Siegert, Edinburgh University





For further information, please contact: Conference Office, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J oBG T: 020 7434 9944 F: 0207 439 8975 E: registrations@geolsoc.org.uk W: www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures13 Follow us on **twitter** #shelllecture

