# GEOSCIENTIST VOLUME 25 NO 4 \* MAY 2015 \* WWW.GEOLSOC.ORG.UK/GEOSCIENTIST

The Fellowship Magazine of the Geological Society of London

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## **BEATING PLAGIARISM**How journals can do more

How journals can do more to prevent academic fraud

#### **DIVERSE FIELDWORK**

Constructing accessible academic field programmes

#### **NEW STONE FOR OLD**

Finding suitable replacements in restoration projects



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**10 Finding our marbles**Gordon Walkden marvels at the Devonshire marbles now mostly to be seen adorning beautiful buildings all over the world



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Douglas Palmer on re-roofing the Round Church, Cambridge, and the difficulties experienced in locating acceptable substitutes

#### **FEATURES**

#### **Getting out more**

Designing accessible field programmes for disabled students by Alison Stokes and Christopher Aitchison

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# The William Smith Map **Bicentenary (1815-2015)**



























aring anna o projection	nistory
DATE/VENUE	EVENT/ORGANISER
14 February 2015 University of Nottingham	William Smith lecture – by Hugh Torrens East Midlands Geology Society
03 March 2015 Yorkshire Museum	'William Smith, Father of English Geology: his maps – lecture by John Henry' Yorkshire Philosophical Society
19 March 2015 University of Oxford	William Smith lecture – by Hugh Torrens Oxford Geology Group
23 March 2015 Geological Society	William Smith birthday celebrations – plaque unveiling & reception Geological Society
21 April 2015 Cardiff University	William Smith (1769-1839): 200 Years of the 1st Nationwide Geological Map – lecture by Tom Sharpe Southern Wales Regional Group
23-25 April 2015 Geological Society	William Smith Meeting I: 200 Years of Smith's Map – GSL flagship conference Geological Society
<b>01-03 May 2015</b> Lyme Regis Fossil Festival	Mapping the Earth – Lyme Regis Fossil Festival Lyme Regis Fossil Festival
from 22 May 2015 The Yorkshire Museum	The story of the rocks: William 'Strata' Smith's geological map – exhibition The Yorkshire Museum
04 June 2015 Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution	William Smith's Earliest Careers to 1810 – lecture by Hugh Torrens Bath Geological Society
06 June 2015 tbc	Bath fieldtrip Geologists' Association
13 June 2015 tbc	Bath fieldtrip Bath Geological Society
26 June 2015 Natural History Museum	The Map That Changed the World – lecture by Simon Winchester Natural History Museum
26 June 2015 Rotunda Museum, Scarborough	Poetry Reading at the Rotunda Museum, Scarborough Scarborough Museums Trust
mid June – mid October 2015 Natural History Museum	'William Smith: his maps, rocks & fossils – exhibition' Natural History Museum
<b>03 July 2015</b> The Geological Society	William Smith Lecture by Tom Sharpe Geologists' Association
06 September 2015 St Peter's Church, Marefair, Northampton	William Smith's Last Resting Place – field trip East Midlands Open University Geological Society
<b>08 September 2015</b> TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany	Commemorating William Smith: 200 years of Geomodelling International Association for Mathematical Geosciences
26 September 2015 – 28 February 2016 National Museum Wales	Reading the rocks: the astonishing map by William Smith – exhibition National Museum Wales
30 September – 3 October 2015 Dorset	William Smith event & fieldtrip Geologists' Association
07 October 2015 University of Bristol	'Visualising Landscapes & Geology, Past, Present & Future – commences with lecture by Iain Stewart' University of Bristol
October 2015 – January 2016 Oxford University Museum of Natural History	Handwritten in Stone: the life & legacy of William Smith – exhibition Oxford University Museum of Natural History
05 November 2015 Geological Society	William Smith Meeting II: 200 Years & Beyond: the Future of Geological Mapping – GSL flagship conference Geological Society

For further information about any of the events, please visit www.williamsmith2015.org

North Staffordshire GA Group

William Smith lecture - by Hugh Torrens



19 November 2015

Keele University









#### Geoscientist is the Fellowship magazine of the Geological Society of London

The Geological Society,
Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London W1J 0BG
T +44 (0)20 7434 9944
F +44 (0)20 7439 8975
E enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk
(Not for Editorial - Please
contact the Editor)

**Publishing House** 

The Geological Society Publishing House, Unit 7, Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Brassmill Lane, Bath BA1 3JN T 01225 445046 F 01225 442836

Library

**T** +44 (0)20 7432 0999 **F** +44 (0)20 7439 3470 **E** library@geolsoc.org.uk

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **Professor Peter Styles** 

Dr Ted Nield E ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk

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ART EDITOR Heena Gudka

DESIGN & PRODUCTION **Sarah Astington** 

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# BERRY HEAD, NEAR BRIXHAM DEVON. THE LIMESTONES WERE QUARRIED INTO THE 1950S, BARELY STOPPING SHORT OF THE NAPOLEONIC FORTRESS AT THE TOP

Front cover image: Courtesy of Southwest Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

## **Enabled bodies**

y graduation group photograph (1978) reveals a vanished world in which nearly all geology graduates were white and male (and not overweight). 'Successful applicants to Geology', it said in the Prospectus, 'will be physically fit, able and willing to undertake strenuous fieldwork in all weather'. Subtext – the halt and lame can forget it.

We were also not colour-blind, having been told on day one that that disability definitely debarred us from a successful career in geology, and they would find something else to do for anyone who owned up. The rest of us were forbidden to wear sunglasses on fieldwork, because they might interfere with the correct appreciation of colour.

It was nonsense of course; and one geology graduate, of that less selective institution the University of Oxford, has recounted the tale of how his own colour-blindness turned the Royal Navy's loss into geology's gain. His name – Simon Winchester FGS. Happily, these days are over, and the only acceptable policy is one that tries to include rather than exclude people.

Later, as a research student I organised my first scientific conference, and devised a questionnaire for registrants that, for the first time, asked about dietary and other special needs, including physical

disability – though I recognised at the time that the question 'Are you a wheelchair user?' actually meant 'Are you Howard Brunton?'. Nonetheless, all the venues I chose were selected with his possible participation in mind. In the end Howard stayed away; but that is not the point.

Having to think is trouble. But the effort is repaid, as our second feature this week - on the subject of designing accessible field activities - clearly demonstrates. And if the Society's recent signature on the Science Council's Declaration on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (*Soapbox*, *Geoscientist* 24.11) is to mean more than a photo op and a certificate on the mantelpiece, we must ensure that we, and all schools, universities and those who teach in them, make that effort.

One person in that old student photo, however, suffered a condition that no amount of legislation could or indeed perhaps should - assist. Never seen in lectures, sporadically on field trips, he was once knocked unconscious when his head was shunted between two stage-apron boxes, which he was helping porters to shift in the Student Union. He then tried (unsuccessfully) to sue the University for 'brain damage'. Medics who examined him (just like the rest of us) found they were unable to tell whether his brain was damaged or not. He was just a white, fit, healthy, noncolour-blind idiot.

DR TED NIELD, EDITOR - ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk @TedNield@geoscientistmag

# **SOCIETY** *NEWS*

What your society is doing at home and abroad, in London and the regions



#### Election results

The ballot for President-designate and Council closed on 31 March.

#### **President-designate**

A total of 935 valid votes were cast in the electronic and postal consultative ballot for President-designate and the result was:

Malcolm Brown 589 (63.0%) Bruce Levell 346 (37.0%)

Malcolm Brown will go forward to the AGM for election as President-designate.

#### Council

A total of 982 valid votes were cast for the seven remaining vacancies on Council. There were 20 invalid votes. Results are shown in the table below. The seven candidates receiving the most votes will go forward to the AGM for election as Council members.

COUNCIL RESULTS			
Name	Votes	Name	Votes
Tricia Henton Graham Goffey Liv Carroll Rick Brassington Christine Peirce Katherine Royse Jennifer McKinley	633 (64.5%) 581 (59.0%) 538 (55.8%) 534 (54.4%) 518 (52.7%) 510 (52.0%) 465 (47.3%)	Ralph Sibley Stuart Jones Philip Hirst Gavin Gillmore Harry Doust	461 (47.0%) 385 (39.2%) 289 (29.4%) 256 (26.0%) 209 (21.3%)

#### **Notification of officers for 2015/2016**

At the AGM, Fellows will be asked to elect the following members of Council as Officers for 2015/16. **President:** Prof David Manning **Vice-Presidents:** Mr Chris Eccles, Mr David Jones **Secretaries:** Mrs Natalyn Ala, Dr Marie Edmonds, Dr Colin North **Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs:** Mr Michael Young **Treasurer:** Mr Graham Goffey

# Image: Maksym Gorpenyuk/ Shutterstock.com

#### **LONDON LECTURE SERIES**

#### **River Dredging**

Speaker: Neville White (Environment Agency)

Date: 13th May

#### **Programme**

- ◆ Afternoon talk: 1430 Tea & Coffee: 1500 Lecture begins: 1600 Event ends.
- ◆ Evening talk: 1730 Tea & Coffee: 1800 Lecture beains: 1900 Reception.

#### **Further Information**

Please visit www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsllondon lectures15. Entry to each lecture is by ticket only. To obtain a ticket please contact the Society around four weeks before the talk. Due to the popularity of this lecture series, tickets are allocated in a monthly ballot and cannot be guaranteed.

Contact: Annie Sewell, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG, T: +44 (0)20 7432 0981 E: Annie.Sewell@geolsoc.org.uk

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The library is open to visitors Monday-Friday 0930-1730. For a list of new acquisitions click the appropriate link from http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/info



### President's Day

President's Day (Burlington House, 3 June) will begin with the Annual General Meeting (11.00) followed by a buffet lunch with the award winners (members with ticket only – £27.50 per head). As in previous years, recipients of the major medals have been invited to give short talks, and the Awards Ceremony will be followed by presentations by the Lyell, Murchison, William Smith and Wollaston medallists (see below).

The timetable for President's Day and the agenda for the AGM are below.

#### **Timetable**

- ◆ 11.00 Annual General Meeting (members only)
- ◆ 12.30 Lunch with Award winners (members with tickets only)
- ◆ 14.00 Awards Ceremony
- ◆ 15.15 Talks by Lyell, Murchison and William Smith medallists
- ◆ 16.30 Tea
- ◆ 17.00 Talk by Wollaston Medallist
- ◆ 17.30 President's closing remarks
- ◆ 17.40-19.30 Drinks reception

#### AGM Agenda

Apologies; Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 June 2014; Appointment of Scrutineers for the ballots for Council and Officers; Ballot for Council; Annual Report and Accounts for 2014; President's Report; Secretaries' Reports; Treasurer's Report; Comments from Fellows; Formal acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014 and approval of the Budget for 2015; Annual

Fellowship subscriptions for 2016; Deaths; Report of Scrutineers on the ballot for Council; Ballot for Officers; Appointment of Auditors; Report of Scrutineers on the ballot for Officers; Election of new Fellows; Any other business; Provisional date of next Annual General Meeting.

#### **Talks by medallists**

- ◆ Colin Ballantyne (Lyell Medal), Professor, School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews: Catastrophic landslides in Scotland and Ireland: timing, causes and implications
- Geoffrey Wadge (Murchison Medal),
   Professorial Research Fellow, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading: Volcanoes and Radars
- ◆ Anthony Doré OBE (William Smith Medal), Senior Advisor to Exploration Management at Statoil: The Arctic, and the dark art of regional geology
- ◆ James Jackson, (Wollaston Medal) Head of Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge: Probing the continents: how deep structure affects surface geology.
  - For luncheon tickets please send cheques (made payable to 'The Geological Society') to Stephanie Jones at Burlington House, or email stephanie.jones@geolsoc.org.uk. Please also contact Stephanie if you wish to attend the afternoon events for which there is no charge.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates for meetings of Council and Ordinary General Meetings until June 2016 will be as follows:

- OGMs: 17 June 2015; 22 September 2015; 25 November 2015; 3 February 2016; 6 April 2016
- ◆ Council: 17 June 2015; 22 and 23 September 2015 (residential); 25 November 2015; 3 February 2016; 6 April 2016



#### FELLOWSHIP **ELECTION**

The following are put forward for election to Fellowship at the OGM on 17 June 2015:

**ABU MAHFOUZ** Isra'A; **ADAMS** Abigail Louise; **ALI** Nezamul; **AMAIRA** Benjamin; ANAND Paresh; ARES Ana; ARMITAGE Stephen; ASHFORD Lucretia; ASSADI LANGROUDI Arya; AUGUSTINE Anil; BARKLEY Craig; BARLEY Brian; BECKER David; BEKMASHEVA Natalya; BINNIE James; BLACK Kenneth Thomas; BOND Matthew; BOSWELL Lee; BOYLAN-TOOMEY Justin; BROOKFIELD Anna; BROWN Lucy; BRUINVELS Charles Ronald George; BURNHILL Tim; BUTT Alice; BYERLY Matthew; CAMPBELL lan CANNON Scott; CHAMBERLAIN Anthony; CHAPMAN David; CHENG Ting Cheung; CHEUNG Wing Yee; CLARK Holly; CLENT Thomas; COKER Gertrude; COLLINS Andrew; COOK Nick; COOMBS Harris Michael; COOTE Vanessa Jean; COPUS Jonathan Michael; COWLEY Lawrence; COX Alex; COY Gordon; CROSS Nigel Edward; DAVIES Tomos; DAVIS Brennig Jonathan Bryan: DAVIS Jennifer: DE SIENA Luca: DERRY James; DICKINSON Nicholas Alexander; DICKSON Joanna; DREW Stephen Alexander; DURRANT Joe; DYER Joao; EASTWOOD Laura Ann; EMBILE Rodrigo Jr; EVANS Marcus Ellwyn; EVANS Nicholas; FAKINLEDE Akintola; FLAHERTY Lucy; FLATTERS Lucy; FLEETWOOD Robert; FLEMING James; FORREST Kenny; FULOP Anna; GARVEY Philip Michael; GEER Melanie; GENT Lesley; GLAISTER Chris; **GRANT** David Alexander: **GRANT** Hanna: GRESTY Amy; GRIFFITHS David; GUNN Kathryn Louise; HAGEMAN Wouter Bastiaan; HALKER Anthony; HALL Thomas David; HARRISON Catherine; HAZELL Samuel; HEILBRONN Gloria; HILDER Jevon Marc; HINTZKE Michael; HOWDEN Freya; IACOVIELLO Francesco; IQBAL Javied; JACOBSON Christopher; JAMES Nicholas Trevor; JOHNSON Trevor; JONES Chris; JORDAN Naomi; KEEGAN Holly; KORTEKAAS Stella; KRISCH Ryan; LANGFORD Sarah; LAVI Jonathan Josef; LAW Suneel; LOEB David; LOMBARDO Luigi; MACAULAY Euan; MACRAE Calum lain; MANNERS Hayley; MARIEN Christian; MARTIN Luke; MARTIN Nicholas; MASON Alexander; MATHEW George; MCCAFFREY William Dale; MCCAUGHEY Laura; MCCUAIG Rebecca; MCDONALD Liam; MCFADDEN Brendon; MCINTOSH Scott; MCLAVERTY Rob: MELLERS Sarah: MIDDLEHURST Anthony; MOODY Loren; MUTCH Euan James Forsyth; NEHAL Rakesh; NEWALL Mark; NG Stephen; NORWOOD Paul; O'DONNELL Darina Marie; O'NEILL Aisling; O'REILLY Kay Louise; O'SHEA Keara; O'TOOLE Ryan OKEGBEMIRO Temitayo; PAGE Daniel; PALMER Michael Scott William; PAXTON Richmal; PENNEY Camilla Emily; PHILLIPS Ellen; PLUMMER Rhys; POUJARDIEU Romain; PRICE Gavin; PROSSER David Jeremy; PUGH Robert Colin; REHFELD-KIEFER Ursula; REINHARDT Ashley REYNOLDS Daniel; RIFAAT Leith; RIZZO Roberto Emanuele; ROBBINS Benedict; ROBERTS Daniel; ROBERTS Gavin; ROBERTS Jen; ROBERTS Patrick; SALT Keith Edward; SARDISCO Lorenza; SAUNDERS Martin; SCHOFIELD James; SEMPERS Danielle Elizabeth; SHEPARD Grace Margaret; SIDES Isobel; SMITH Edward; SOUTHAM Carolyn; SPARKES Cate; SREEVES Elizabeth; STEPHENSON Simon; STEVEN Christopher; SWEETING Elizabeth Nawila; SWINNERTON Robert TAHA Mohamed; TAYLOR Kathryn; THEW Ciaran; TIMSON Victoria; TRIBICK Helen Maria; TUCKER Richard; TURNBULL Colin Barclay; TURNBULL Scott; VALLANCE Steven; VAUGHAN Sam; WALKER Jessica; WALTERS Gregory; WARNER Jack; WEBB Richard; WELLS Steven; WILLIAMSON Zoe; WOOD Bill Laurie; WOODS Jennifer; YOULE Oliver; YOUNG Thomas; ZARREBINI Sara

## **SOCIETY***NEWS...*

### Fellowship subscriptions for 2016

The Finance & Planning Committee (FPC) was asked by Council to consider how Fellowship fees might more fairly reflect changes in the membership profile of the Society, sensitivities over fee rises, and the underlying principle that fees should cover the costs of services provided. FPC recommended to Council a model which addresses a current disparity in fee bands, defers a general rate rise for one year, and establishes a transparent mechanism for future fee increases. At its meeting on 8 April Council agreed to recommend to the Fellowship for approval at the Annual General Meeting the subscription rates for 2016 shown below.

#### New discounted fee band for 60 – 64 age range

The original purpose of fee bands was to reflect ability to pay at different stages in Fellows' careers with discounts provided to those in education, those at the start of their careers as well as to those who have reached retirement. But there are changes in working practices and retirement laws and increasingly Fellows are either continuing to work in senior positions beyond the age of

60 and/or are taking on consultancy-type roles. It is recommended that a new fee band be introduced from 1 January 2016 for Fellows in the 60 – 64 age range. Those moving into this range will pay a reduced fee of 66% (£130) of the total instead of the 50% rate (£99) as would have previously been paid. Those already in the band will continue to pay the lower rate.

# One-year freeze on general fee increases and mechanism for future fee increases

To link future fee increases to Consumer Price Index (CPI) in February of the preceding year as the default measure. Consequently fees for 2016 will rise by 0.0% unless FPC advises Council that there is reason to doubt it provides a reasonable basis for the coming year's fee increase.

As previously reported, Chartership validation and annual registration fees no longer cover the full cost of providing those services and it was agreed at the Annual General Meeting in 2013 to raise the validation fee incrementally over a three year period to £85 (2014), £95 (2015) and £100 (2016) and the annual registration fee to £35 (2014), £42 (2015) and £48 (2016).

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016				
Subscription type	2015	2016		
Junior Candidate Fellow	10.00	10.00		
Candidate Fellow	15.00	15.00		
Candidate Fellow full course fee	40.00	0.00		
27 and under	70.00	70.00		
28-33	130.00	130.00		
34-59	198.00	198.00		
34-59 (Overseas)	152.00	152.00		
60-69	99.00	99.00		
60-64	-	130.00		
65-69	-	99.00		
70+	68.00	68.00		
Concessions	70.00	70.00		
Full time postgraduate MSc	28.00	28.00		
Full time postgraduate PhD	41.00	41.00		
Supplement (to payer) for Joint Fellowship	58.00	58.00		
CGeol supplement payers	42.00	48.00		
CSci supplement payers	25.00	25.00		



#### **CHARTERSHIP NEWS**

Bill Gaskarth, Chartership Officer, has news of more accredited company training schemes and university courses.

Recent additions to the list of companies having Accredited Training Schemes are GRM Development Solutions Ltd, ERC Equipoise and Fugro Seacore. The ERC Equipoise scheme is the second from the Oil and Gas sector joining that of RPS Energy.

This brings the number of Accredited Schemes up to 15, though when we count company offices in Hong Kong and Australasia that have adopted a scheme first accredited in the UK, or whose scheme has been adopted in the UK, the number climbs to 19. The list of companies with their logos are shown on the Society's web pages. In addition we have received an application from Listers Geotechnical, which is presently being reviewed.

Interest has been expressed, with an intent to apply, by a number of other companies and it is expected that numbers of Accredited schemes will increase substantially over the next few months. The Chartership Officer continues to visit companies to advise and support applications for Accreditation of schemes and also to make presentations to early career geologists who are preparing for Chartership. Similarly visits to Regional Groups to give talks on Chartership continue to increase in number.

#### **Cardiff MSc**

The MSc in Applied Environmental Geology at Cardiff University has just been Accredited. This brings the number of Accredited MSc courses up to 15. These are at the following universities; Newcastle (4), Manchester (2), Leeds (2), Portsmouth (2), Imperial (2), Heriot Watt and Derby. The list of courses can be found on the Society website, by going to 'Education', 'Careers' and then 'Course Accreditation'.

For further information go online www.geolsoc.org.uk or email chartership@geolsoc.org.uk

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CLUB

New diners are always welcome! Dinner costs £57 for a four-course meal, including coffee and port. There is a cash bar for the purchase of aperitifs and wine.

◆ 2015: 6 May (Athenaeum Club).

Fellows wishing to dine or requesting further information contact **Caroline Seymour** via email **carolineseymour554@hotmail.com**. *DR* 

# Fast-track fast one

Fast-tracking publications leads to quick pecuniary gain, but also opens the floodgates to fraud or plagiarism, and publishers should take appropriate countermeasures says **John Buckeridge\*** 

ramatic increases in university enrolments, and the extra graduates that result, have resulted in increased competition for tenure in universities. Tenure and promotion are dependent upon research grants and publication record; hence 'publish or perish'1.

But with this comes increasing incentive to purloin the ideas of others. In a recent article in *Nature*, Praveen Chaddah extolled the acceptability of some forms of plagiarism, stating 'copied text in a paper's introduction or concluding paragraph' may simply reflect the author's poor English<sup>2</sup>. He implies that this is only unacceptable if it is extensive; Chaddah believes that 'scientists are not writers' and concludes: 'we value the originality of ideas more than language'<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Missed point**

He has missed the point. Non-citing of another's text is theft. Even if simply text, it is nonetheless plagiarism. All that's required is a citation that the text is from another's work. Rather than diminish the article, citation may well enhance it.

On the same day as Chaddah's paper appeared, an article by Henry Fountain in the *New York Times* described an ingenious mechanism to reduce the time to publication<sup>2</sup>. Many journals ask authors to nominate potential reviewers. Provision of suitable referees speeds up the process and ensures that appropriate reviewers are selected for complex topics. On the surface this seems perfectly reasonable.

However an entrepreneurial academic, Chen-Yuan Chen, of National Pingtung University in Taiwan, decided to facilitate the process by inventing 130+ fake reviewers whose email accounts he owned<sup>3</sup>. These he recommended to editors, and his manuscripts were duly sent for assessment. In reality, these fictitious pseudonyms permitted rapid self-review of his own work and positive response to the editor with few recommended changes. Papers were published in remarkably short order. The saga concluded when an editor became increasingly concerned and contacted Chen's university, leading to Chen's exposure.

#### **Penalties**

This leads us to contemplate the penalties for plagiarism and the role of reviewers. To suggest that intellectual theft may be 'culturally acceptable' is obfuscation. If there is confusion in the minds of students (and staff) we must move to a mandatory code of practice for researchers. This can be underpinned by knowledge that one infringement is one too many and will impact very negatively on one's future career.

As to reviewers... many of us spend considerable time in reviewing manuscripts. But reviewing can be tedious indeed and often goes beyond assessing science, and into editing the manuscript. A fair manuscript becomes a good manuscript following sound, professional review.

In light of this, why not name reviewers with each publication? This will acknowledge their work and neatly diminish opportunities to invent fake referees.

References - 1) Buckeridge & Watts, 2013. On ethics, the pursuit of knowledge, truth and status in the hallowed halls of academe. Integrative Zoology 8: 223-231. 2) Chaddah, P., 2014. Not all plagiarism requires a retraction. July 10. Nature 511:127. 3) Fountain, H., 2014. Science. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/11/science/science-journal-pulls-60-papers-in-peer-review-fraud.html?\_r=0

\* John Buckeridge is Professor of Natural Resources Engineering, RMIT University, Melbourne and Chair, IUBS Ethics Commission.



# SOAPBOX CALLING!

Soapbox is open to contributions from all Fellows. You can always write a letter to the Editor, of course: but perhaps you feel you need more space?

If you can write it entertainingly in 500 words, the Editor would like to hear from you. Email your piece, and a self-portrait, to ted.nield@geolsoc. org.uk. Copy can only be accepted electronically. No diagrams, tables or other illustrations please.

Pictures should be of print quality – please take photographs on the largest setting on your camera, with a plain background.

Precedence will always be given to more topical contributions. Any one contributor may not appear more often than once per volume (once every 12 months).

NON-CITING
OF ANOTHER'S TEXT
IS THEFT. EVEN IF
SIMPLY TEXT, IT IS
NONETHELESS
PLAGIARISM. ALL
THAT'S REQUIRED IS
A CITATION THAT THE
TEXT IS FROM
ANOTHER'S WORK
John Buckeridge

# FINDING OUR MARBLES



Gordon Walkden\*
tells the story of a
long-forgotten but
quite exceptional
range of ornamental
marbles

Above: Berry Head, near Brixham Devon. The limestones were quarried into the 1950s, barely stopping short of the Napoleonic fortress at the top

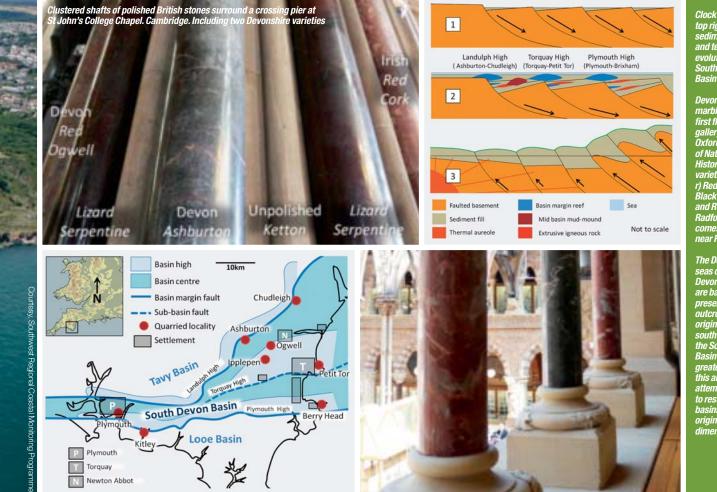
eologists tend to overlook ornamental stone, but all of geology can be there sometimes at its most challenging. Perhaps our difficulty is that we see so much in a polished stone, yet often have no idea where the stone is from. Devonshire marbles are a fine example. Their colour and diversity brought them to prominence in the Victorian era, fully at ease in aesthetic competition with foreign rivals, and yet in the 20th Century they slipped into obscurity and are now probably the least recognisable of all widely-used ornamental stones.

Devonshire marbles tell a great story, geologically and historically. Their 'Britishness' was branded on them by the great Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott when he used them in his Foreign Office building (1861-75) on Whitehall. We can now 'map' more

than 70 buildings up and down Britain, and a few more abroad, with significant examples of Devonshire. There may be North American, South African and Pacific examples. Devonshire marbles are in Melbourne Cathedral.

Produced from the same marble works in Plymouth and Torquay, south Devon were vases, tazzas, inlaid desk sets, dressing-table sets and some magnificent stone-inlay specimen marble tables. While Devonshire marble shafts and panels became standard finery in Gothic Revival buildings, these artefacts became mansion 'must-haves', in direct competition with a very similar stoneinlay industry in Derbyshire. Thanks to Trevor Ford and others1 we know a lot about the Derbyshire industry, but of the Devonshire one precious little is recorded.

# DEVONSHIRE MARBLES TELL A GREAT STORY, GEOLOGICALLY AND HISTORICALLY



Clockwise from top right: The sedimentary and tectonic evolution of the South Devon Rasin

Devonshire marbles in the first floor gallery at Oxford Museum of Natural History. Marble varieties are (Ir) Red Ogwell, Black Chudleigh and Red Radford which comes from near Plymouth

The Devonian seas of South Devon. Outlines are based on present day outcrop. The original north-south extent if the South Devon Basin was far greater than this and no attempt is made to restore basins to their original dimensions

#### **Competition**

Much of the British and foreign competition faced by Devonshire marble is well documented by Monica Price<sup>2</sup>, and sadly, for many of these marbles (especially Devonshire ones) the best outcrops are now the buildings they adorn, the marbles characteristically rich in fossils, often veined and stylolitised.

George Gilbert Scott brought together all his favourite British ornamental stones in a single building at St. John's College Chapel, Cambridge (1869), using granite, serpentine, Irish and Devonshire marble. The Oxford Museum of Natural History's (1861) ground floor and first floor arcades are supported by a whole collection of British ornamental stone shafts, including Devonshire examples.

Until the start of my Devonshire marble project, perhaps a dozen building interiors were known, mostly anecdotally, and most without detail of variety or provenance. Now over 70 UK examples are recorded and documented, with a further dozen or more unvisited 'probables'. These buildings contain columns, panels, reredos, chancel screens, pulpits, fonts, pavement, stairways and whole galleries executed in Devonshire. Some use Devonshire on the outside (e.g. County Chambers, Queen Street, Exeter, a charming mid to late 19th Century building). Two of the finest examples of interior use are St. John's Church, Torquay (1885, mainly varieties of Ashburton, Petitor, Lummaton and Ogwell.) and Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum (1885, mainly varieties of Ogwell, Ashburton and Petitor. Many more remain to be discovered.

#### The rock

Marble, to most of us, means a recrystallised limestone; but this is certainly not what the mid- to Late Devonian Limestones of Devon are like. These 'marbles' still retain their original fossil and sediment detail, even down to some of the original radiaxial-fibrous marine calcite cements that precipitated in empty reef cavities.

Sedimentary basins started to develop across what became south-west Britain in the early Devonian<sup>3</sup> some 410 million years ago, in response to stretching, thinning and faulting of the crust - all attributable to a complex interplay of plate tectonic movements during the final stages of the assembly of NW Europe<sup>4</sup>.

By the Middle Devonian the 'South Devon Basin' was filling with carbonate sediments organised into reefs and lagoons. There was a worldwide trend to carbonates at this time, becoming one of our most important reef-forming periods<sup>5</sup>. Some basins were huge (the Canning Basin in NW Australia extending across more than 150,000 km²).

The great
Devonshire
specimen
marble table at
the Natural
History
Museum, South
Kensington,
London. This is
the largest of
just 10 such
specimen
marble tables
so far recorded

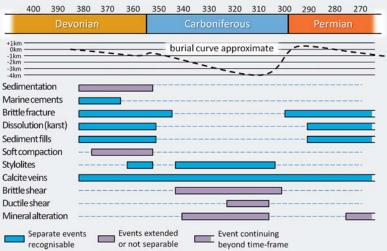
Sedimentary textures in a block of Red Petitor marble, Petit Tor Quarry, St. Marychurch, Devon.
Specimen 28, Watson Collection, Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge (Buildings Guide Group 6, E/CB/1)

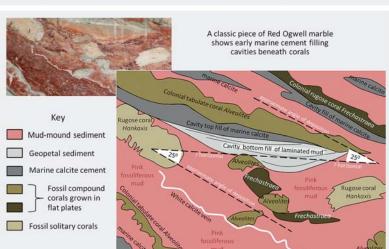
The textural evolution of Devonshire marble. Events/processes are based upon direct observation of polished samples, stone in buildings and rock at outcrop. No examples show all texturing events\*

Ogwell marble in a stair panel at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Plates of rugose and tabulate corals apparently lie parallel to the sediment. However, a geopetal fill\*

\* Please see online for full captions







▶ The South Devon Basin was a fraction of that, perhaps up 2000 km², allowing for later crustal shortening. It all came as a response to worldwide sea-level rise<sup>6</sup>, which drowned basin margins, inhibited the incursion of clastics and allowed carbonate-secreting organisms to get into full swing. Some areas sometimes shallowed to mudflats and even underwent subaerial exposure as minor sea-level cycles tussled with local tectonics.

A switch from basin extension and subsidence to compression and uplift began towards the end of the Devonian<sup>3,4</sup>. Carbonate reef and lagoon sediment was now a good few hundred metres thick. First it became exposed, cracked, fissured, weathered and injected with extraneous sediment; then it was entombed beneath a substantial thickness of clastic mud and sand, derived from the advancing tectonic slices.

The new compressional regime lasted well into the Carboniferous, during which time the limestones became buried, fractured, sheared, veined and stylolitised. Some even became cleaved as Variscan basininversion swept across, but burial was never sufficient to induce recrystallisation. The usual story is one of 'detail lost - marbles gained'; but in this region the nearest thing to that occurred after Permian erosion and intrusion of Cornubian granites had returned the thrusted and folded core of the orogen to surface. Locally, phreatic haematisation soaked the limestones in a mix of oxic and anoxic water to redden and alter them. In this shallow but intensely duteric environment, they began to lose detail. Radiaxial fibrous marine calcites, for example, became

first white, then red and blocky, and finally haematite. For the most part, limestones retained a mix of original sedimentary plus subsequent tectonic textures.

#### **Rock to block**

Panels of best Devonshire grace the interiors of some of the finest marble buildings in Britain. The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, for example, has stair panels (1875) that constitute the best outcrops of Ogwell mudmound facies to be found anywhere. Added to that, one of the specimen marble tables lay unrecognised on the first floor gallery there for years, before being identified during this research as the probable work of John Woodley, the south Devonshire master mason. Woodley managed to beat off some of the best Derbyshire marble-table crowd to a Prize Medal at the Great Exhibition of 1851. This was no mean feat, for the Derbyshire industry was heavily sponsored both by Aristocracy and Royalty. Confusingly, it was the 6th Duke of Devonshire who was behind the Derbyshire manufacturers and, judging by his own stone artefact collection, we could guess that His Lordship had never even visited Devonshire. What he must have said about Woodley's victory is not recorded.

Woodley tables are now prized possessions. A large one, exactly fitting the description of the Woodley table exhibited at the Great Exhibition, occupies the stairway mezzanine at the Cromwell Road entrance to the Natural History Museum Earth Galleries in South Kensington, London. Radialpatterned, fit for an Arthurian gathering, it is presented with no provenance history apart from its inscription 'DEVONSHIRE MARBLE' surely the mark of an assertive exhibition-piece. With the help of Colin Scrutton, a document now describes and identifies the marbles and fossils in this important table.

In the great entrance arch just below this mezzanine can be found the rare green *Kitley* marble, an unusual Devonian serpentine which probably is recrystallised (but look at it carefully). In the abutments there is also *Pink Petitor*. At nearby Brompton Oratory are magnificent Plymouth *Radford Red* marbles in columns, and a grey stromatoporoid-rich variety in the great pilasters. In the opposite direction from the museum is St. Augustines'

Church on Queen's Gate. Here you can find a wonderful William Butterfield interior (1876) featuring more of the *Petitor* range as well as *Red Ogwell, Black Ogwell, Ashburton* and a fine font bowl in solid Derbyshire crinoidal.

#### Marble industry

Devonshire's marble industry operated from works at opposite ends south Devon, Plymouth and Torquay. Buildings and artefacts are usually silent about their stones, so crucial in unlocking this information has been the building stone collection at the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge. Their 26 precious polished Devonshire marble specimens were mostly supplied by Plymouth and Torquay manufacturers. The Devonshire stones (along with hundreds of others) were catalogued and fully documented early last Century by John Watson<sup>7</sup>, with examples of where the stones were used. This collection was crucial in solving some mysteries. Several specimens, the Petitor varieties, come from just one area among the cliffs and beaches at Babbacombe near Torquay.

Were it not for the Rev. John Swete, dilettante West Country artist and writer, we might have missed the connection between Petitor marble and a man who, almost by chance, became the founding father of the Devonshire marble industry. Robert Fulton (1765-1815) was a promising American artist, inventor and engineer who came to Britain in 18877. Perhaps his ambition to study painting here was just a cover, for he had already established an interest in steam power. Indeed, it was not long before he moved on to France, dabbling in submarines and explosives for a certain Napoleon Bonaparte.

Swete crossed Fulton's path on one of his many Devon rambles. He describes descending into Petit Tor cove where "a Mr Fulton an ingenious gentleman" had erected "a large building, which contains a Machine for the sawing of blocks of marble.... by the means of a single horse turning a wheel". "This of his own invention", notes Swete, it would "saw as much stone in a day as a Labourer hath been accustom'd to do in fifteen".

Now visualise, by complete contrast, the urban splendour of the grand Adam brothers' neoclassical (Georgian) terraced development of The Adelphi, off the Strand, headquarters of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Commerce and Manufactures (SEACM,



Above: Ashburton marble. Typically dark grey with an abundance of fossils. The large grey banded ovate objects are stromatoporoids and some of the smaller white ones are corals. This is now compacted, stylolitised, veined and sheared. Together with its host formation, this dark organic-rich rock might once have made a fine hydrocarbon source rock!

DEVONSHIRE'S
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OPERATED FROM WORKS
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DEVON, PLYMOUTH AND
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ARTEFACTS ARE USUALLY
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INFORMATION HAS BEEN
THE BUILDING STONE
COLLECTION AT THE
SEDGWICK MUSEUM,
CAMBRIDGE

▶ now the Royal Society of Arts). Apparently, Fulton had sent them a model of his Devonshire horsepowered sawing machine, for he received in response their Silver Medal for services to 'mechaniks' in 17949.

The turn of the 19th Century was not a good time for coastal quarrying. With the Napoleonic threat increasing, Fulton soon departed to work for the French. Perhaps aware of this, and in any case to keen to promote the use of British marble over European competition, SEACM resolved (1804) to set up a long term reward, or 'Premium', for notable examples of British marbles. In 1809 a claimant is recorded; a Mr JP Hubbard, of Picket Street, Temple Bar<sup>6</sup>. He had a fine holiday home in the Cliffs at Babbacombe and was already active in the former Fulton quarry at Petit Tor. His account of the quarry, delivered to the Society in support of his submission, is a gem. The quarry was 12 acres in extent, on the beach and flooded at high tide. A specially-built wharf enabled the loading of stone directly into boats bound for Teignmouth. Hubbard had available panels and columns of marble five feet or more, with a sale price at four shillings per linear foot, half the price of 'foreign', and he believed that the number of workmen he could soon employ would be 60 to 100.

Certainly this impressed SEACM, for not only did it display his 60 polished samples in their Great Room, but they awarded Hubbard their Gold Medal for the session. Devonshire marble had come of age and, indeed, the competition was out of sight. Sadly, so now are those 60 polished samples of *Petitor marble*; nor is there any sign of Fulton's model.

Medal notwithstanding, Hubbard's Petit Tor enterprise failed to prosper, and he suffered big losses during a storm. The costal quarrying business must have remained difficult and Hubbard had to bring in families from elsewhere to work and supervise his ambitious enterprise. One such was that of Daniel Woodley, father of master mason John Woodley, later of marble table fame.

Despite the eventual British victory the economy was in a mess and marble was probably not in great demand. But gradually the East India Company, *inter alia*, breathed new life into Imperial Britain's economy and with the increased wealth the demand for marble embellishment burgeoned. The fame of Petit Tor quarry became assured for the

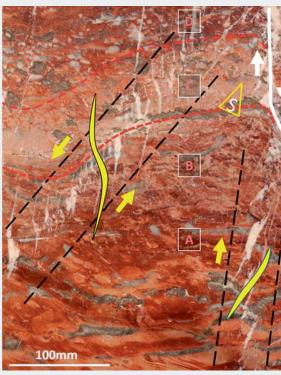
next 75 years or more and it even became a tourist attraction, as a contemporary print testifies. The Victorian building boom, especially in Gothic churches, arrived with the 1840s.

#### **Petit Tor enigma**

Nudist members of the Society, especially male ones, may know Petit Tor Cove in a more social context. Its geology, though, and that of adjacent Petit Tor Down and nearby bays, is dominated by mid-Devonian limestones and Permian breccias.

Petit Tor marbles (Petitor) are the most spectacular and varied in the Devonshire palette. They are usually distinguished by the abundance of grey banded early marine cement and some show a long history of early- to late fracturing, stylolitisation and multiple veining. Petitor can be haematised, dolomitised or limonitised giving a range of colours from pink to red or vellow. In fact, to a limestone lover it is often a complete mess. In 1832, De la Beche<sup>11</sup> saw it as "a breccia composed of large blocks (some many tons in weight) ...the cementing matter is sometimes a red sandstone, at others a reddish clay. The marble (known as Babbacombe marble) is wholly derived from these blocks". It is not a bad description of





what we see today, and no other Devonshire marble matches this confused geology.

The mess at both specimen and outcrop scale has dogged interpretation at Petit Tor for a good while. In the 1830s, De la Beche<sup>12</sup> first interpreted it as a rubble layer positioned above the main limestone in the cliffs; later he suggested it was at the same level but on the other side of an anticline. Even the main mass of limestone at Petit Tor Down has an unclear basal relationship, sheared and thrusted against the younger Saltern Cove Formation. More recently, Brian Leveridge and co-workers<sup>13</sup> discounted any direct link between the Breccia and the main limestone body, mapping it as a rubble of Devonian limestone that arrived with the breccias and sands of the Late Permian.

My own picture confirms the separation. Made of Mid Devonian limestone, the Petit Tor Breccia (the *Petitor marble* horizon) rests on the Late Devonian Saltern Cove formation; but perhaps we should take this relationship at face value. The Breccia could be a Devonian mass flow deposit of 'Saltern Cove age' rather than Permian. As such it would be a Devonian rubble layer brought to surface and then reburied in the late Permian, rather than arriving as

a thick debris layer in unknown circumstances during the Late Permian.

It could represent an Upper Devonian basin slope-failure for example, and there are examples elsewhere of big loose mid-Devonian limestone boulders within the Late Devonian Saltern Cove formation so that bits were certainly falling off at the appropriate time. If the Breccia is a submarine mass flow deposit of Late Devonian age, then the unconformity needs to be above it and its arrival predates tectonism. If it is a landslide of Permian age then the unconformity must be beneath it and the marble rubble will have been tectonised before it arrived. Easy to say; difficult to tell. The present state of outcrop and accessibility makes it a very hard call now there's a challenge! ◆

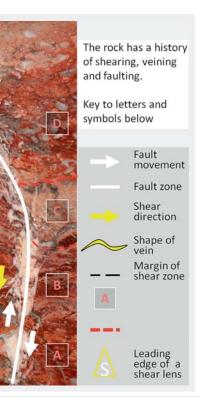
#### > FURTHER READING

The story of Devonshire marbles, featuring great geology, spectacular buildings and some unexpected historical and architectural associations, is explored in a new 2-volume book to be published by the Geologist's Association in the Autumn.

\* **Gordon Walkden** is Emeritus Professor of Geology in the University of Aberdeen, UK

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# GETTING OUT NEW YORK OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR



### Alison Stokes and Christopher Aitchison\* present diverse perspectives on accessible geoscience fieldwork

Il learners, regardless of their stage of education, should see geoscience as an accessible academic subject offering viable career opportunities. For those with disabilities, however, the often rigorous programme of fieldwork required by undergraduate degree programmes can present physical and psychological challenges that deter participation<sup>1</sup>.

By signing the Science Council's 'Declaration on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion', the Geological Society of London (GSL) has committed to enhancing the diversity of talent attracted into the geosciences. One key to achieving this is to provide greater opportunities for learners with disabilities to participate in accessibly designed field experiences.

A recent one-day fieldtrip conducted during the 2014 Geological Society of America (GSA) annual meeting in Vancouver was attended by 35 geoscience students and academics, almost half of whom (17) self-disclosed a physical, sensory or cognitive disability. Together they explored the feasibility and potential for both designing and conducting accessible fieldwork.

This particular fieldtrip successfully demonstrated that, with the necessary planning and organisation, it is possible to develop and deliver geology fieldwork that is inclusive of learners with a wide range of disabilities, while retaining a high degree of intellectual rigour and the capacity to deliver learning outcomes similar to 'traditional' fieldwork.

The idea of delivering a fully accessible field experience for both students and academics with disabilities was developed by Christopher Atchison (University of Cincinnati), whose 2011 study² involved mobility-impaired undergraduate and postgraduate students in a cave and karst field experience at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky. The 2014 'Sea-to-Sky Highway' accessible field course was modified from a one-day introductory-level fieldtrip originally developed by

Brett Gilley at the University of British Columbia, and focused on exploring the geology exposed along British Columbia's famous Highway 99. The critical difference between these two excursions was the inclusion of academics as co-participants. This enabled students and instructors to work together in partnership, and explore first-hand how learners with different disabilities can be accommodated in a geological field setting.

#### Vancouver

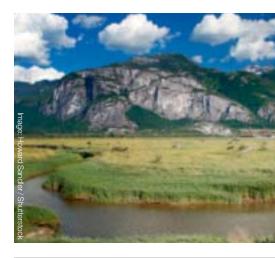
The geology of the Vancouver region is impressive and inspiring, characterised by dramatic landscapes shaped by glacial and volcanic processes, and prone to potentially destructive natural hazards. During pre-fieldtrip planning, Gilley and Atchison identified a range of field locations that were fully accessible (e.g. suitable for wheelchairs with sufficient loading and unloading clearance) and ensured that enough stops provided suitable toilet facilities. The locations selected between downtown Vancouver and Whistler included coastal and beach sections, road cuts, mountain viewpoints, and National Park hiking trails. Each site offered multiple means of physically accessing and engaging with the geological setting and featured spacious, flat areas that facilitated group participation and discussion, while enabling up-close access to specific outcrops as well as small-scale features like glacial striations.

This, coupled with the development of specific course materials (including tactile maps of key locations, and text and audio versions of the field guide) ensured that the day's activities were accessible to participants with a wide range of physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities (including limited mobility, visual and hearing impairments, learning disabilities and autism).

On the day, each student was paired with an instructor-partner, with at least one of each pair having a self-disclosed disability. Allocating partners before boarding the buses meant that everyone had someone to sit and chat with *en route* to the first location, and helped to initiate







Above top: Typical scenery of the Vancouver region
Above middle: Student participants share their
expectations and prior experiences during a pre-fieldtrip
focus group
Above lower: Stawamus Chief (702m) near Squamish,

British Columbia

**Left:** Hiking trail in British Columbia, Canada. Accessible to all?

GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON
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OF TALENT ATTRACTED INTO
THE GEOSCIENCES. ONE
KEY TO ACHIEVING THIS IS
TO PROVIDE GREATER
OPPORTUNITIES







▶ the social interaction that is such an important (yet often overlooked) aspect of the field experience<sup>3</sup>.

Activities were all designed to promote inquiry and to encourage participants to collaborate with, and learn from, eachother – not just in terms of their geologic knowledge, but also their personal experiences and perspectives of fieldwork, and the implications of sharing and discussing geologic content in the natural environment while focused on physical or sensory accessibility. All participants shared ideas about how to provide inclusive instruction outside the classroom for individuals with specific accommodation needs. Thus, by extending participation to both learners and instructors with disabilities - the first ever project to do so - the Sea-to-Sky Highway actively encouraged the development of a cross student-faculty community focused on the common goal of identifying guidelines for creating future opportunities for inclusive geoscience fieldwork.

#### **Outcomes, implications**

As well as experiencing a previously inaccessible geological environment, a critical outcome for participants in the 2011 Mammoth Cave study was the shared experience of being part of a group, and the creation of both a unique learning community and personal friendships, many of which have been maintained since the event. A key aim of

the current study was creating a similar, unique community - and both post-fieldwork evaluation and research data on the students' experience suggest that the 'Sea-to-Sky Highway' field course was successful in this. Significantly, the students overwhelmingly identified the social aspects, (i.e., having a shared experience and forming new friendships) as particularly memorable.

The creation of a fledgling community of learners and academics dedicated to moving the 'accessible fieldwork' agenda forward, with a view to creating a guidance document for designing and developing such inclusive undergraduate fieldwork, is one of the experience's most important and tangible outcomes. But it was not the only outcome. The opportunity was also of great personal significance to many, as demonstrated by this student:

"[My] over-riding memory? Lack of a cloud of panic. So, I was able to break through that barrier, and just be open to being an observational scientist without having that cloud of anxiety, with all the questions of: will I be judged? Will people think I'm 'playing up' my disability? Will they think I'm lazy? How am I going to access this? All those questions were gone. We were able to take a step back and be observational geoscientists, right?"

Learners with disabilities may not experience fieldwork in the same way as the more physically able, but they are perfectly able to participate, and by doing so, fulfil the requirements necessary to complete undergraduate geoscience degrees. The students on this fieldtrip were all highly intelligent, articulate, and deeply interested in and motivated by geology, with the potential to excel in whatever field they choose. That they should feel denied the potential to excel in geoscience – and that the geoscience profession should be denied their talent – simply because they possess a different set of abilities from the majority of their peers, is manifestly unjust.

What the project demonstrated is that fieldwork can indeed be inclusive, and that there are clear benefits when including both the learner- and instructor-perspective in designing it. To do this successfully requires a change in mind-set. Accessible fieldwork is not about achieving the impossible, but about what is possible - reducing those unnecessary aspects of fieldwork that are not directly aligned to learning objectives, and approaching design and delivery so as to enhance overall outcomes for *all* learners.

#### **Getting involved**

If you want to learn more about participating in or providing an accessible geoscience field course, please contact the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD) at info@theiagd.org or visit www.TheIAGD.org. The IAGD are





All group discussions and activities were designed to be accessible and inclusive for all participants





Tactile maps created for participants with visual disabilities

particularly keen to encourage international collaboration in guidance aimed at higher education institutions.

The Society is organising a one-day meeting at Burlington House, Friday 26 June, entitled Confronting barriers to inclusion: opening the gate to accessible fieldwork. The meeting is convened by Alison Stokes. To find out more, and to register, please go to

www.geolsoc.org.uk/Accessible-Fieldwork-Meeting. ◆

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This project was conducted with assistance from the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD) and supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) GEO-1441185, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), and the Geological Society of America (GSA) On to the Future Program. Photos courtesy, International Association for Geoscience Diversity (www.thelAGD.org)

#### **REFERENCES**

For references for this article please see Geoscientist Online www.geolsoc.org.uk

\*Alison Stokes is Lecturer in Earth and Environmental Science Education, Plymouth University (alison.stokes@plymouth.ac.uk). Christopher Atchison is Assistant Professor of Science Education, University of Cincinnati, and Executive Director of the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (atchiscl@ucmail.uc.edu)







A diverse range of tools were used to communicate – here a student with a hearing impairment is able to stay involved in the group discussion with the help of an assistant using a mobile phone



As the Year of Mud at the Geological Society gets underway, we are already starting to plan for 2016 — the Year of Water! Themed years are at the heart of the Society's science strategy, and throughout 2016 we will explore a wide range of water-related geoscience through research conferences, lectures, our education programme and other activities.

An understanding of groundwater and hydrogeology is crucial to addressing a wide range of societal challenges, from securing fresh water supplies and mitigating flood risk to extracting shale gas and other hydrocarbons and safely disposing of our nuclear waste. But water also plays an important role in

fundamental geological processes, many of which are the subject of continuing research. Dewatering is key to the formation of sedimentary rocks. Studying the isotopic signatures of ancient waters and the organisms that were formed in them can help us characterise and understand past environments. Hydrothermal systems are a rich source of mineral resources. Water also affects deep mantle processes, and is at the heart of our efforts to look for life on Mars and elsewhere.

The Year of Water will provide an opportunity to share and debate emerging research, and to communicate to policymakers and the wider public the vital role of water in how our planet works and how we can live sustainably on it.

Science Committee is now inviting proposals for Geological Society conferences to take place during the Year of Water.

#### **Get involved!**

To suggest a meeting topic or activity, or to find out more, please email Laura Griffiths. E: laura.griffiths@geolsoc.org.uk



Geoscientist welcomes readers' letters. These are published as promptly as possible in Geoscientist Online and a selection printed each month. Please submit your letter (300 words or fewer, by email only please) to ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk.

Letters will be edited. For references cited in these letters, please see the full versions at www.geolsoc.org.uk/letters

### New Executive Secretary must be a Chartered Geologist

Sir, Many Fellows will be as surprised as I am to read that the recruitment advertisement in *Geoscientist* (25.3, April 2015, p30) for a new Executive Secretary does not specify that the successful applicant will be a professional geologist; only that 'He/she will have a strong empathy for the membership, very likely with experience and professional credibility or academic credentials in a related field'.

In 1996 the Governance Committee recommended to Council, and Council concurred, that the post of Executive Secretary should be occupied by a professional geologist. These were the grounds for replacing Richard Bateman with Edmund Nickless. I was an Officer at the time and know what a traumatic experience this was for the Society. The change marked a 'seismic shift', as the profile of the

Society metamorphosed from 'ancient academicals' to 'professionalising moderns'1.

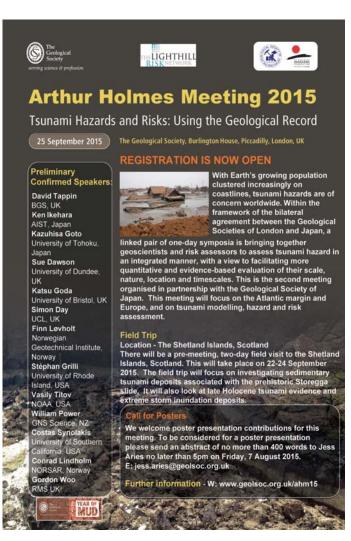
The wisdom of the change has been demonstrated over the last 18 years. Furthermore the Chief Executive Officers of our sister societies, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Society of Biology, are all members/fellows of their respective bodies, some even PhDs (Biology, Physics) and one even a professor (Physics).

Surely the Geological Society of London would exhibit retrograde metamorphism if it did not appoint a professional geologist to the high profile post of Executive Secretary. **DICK SELLEY** 

Reference - 1) Herries Davies G L 2007: Whatever is under the Earth. Geological Society of London. Bath. 356pp.



Professor David Manning, President, replied: We would be delighted to appoint a Chartered Geologist to this role, and look forward to receiving applications from those Chartered Geologists who feel qualified to meet the requirements of the position.





# BOOKS & ARTS

#### **Earthquake Storms**



Ever since the devastating 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, the San Andreas fault—first recognised by Andrew Lawson in 1895—has been the world's most famous geological fault.

Yet despite its celebrity, there are hardly any good recent books about the fault for the non-specialist: perhaps only historian Philip Fradkin's *Magnitude 8: Earthquakes and Life along the San Andreas Fault*, which gives more space to the fault's impact on Californian politics, economics and culture than to seismology.

Earthquake Storms, by California-trained geologist John Dvorak, is therefore a welcome addition. Its chief strength lies in combining the lives and personalities of key geologists and seismologists, such as Lawson, Charles Richter, John Tuzo Wilson and Kerry Sieh, with the theoretical essentials and practical details of their scientific work, so that the former really do illuminate the latter—notwithstanding the regrettable absence of a map of California or any seismological diagram. For example, we learn the inside story of the classic Edwardian photograph (reproduced in the book) of a woman, dressed in a dark ankle-length skirt and hat decorated with flowers, standing somewhat incongruously beside the 'mole track' ridge thrown up by the San Andreas fault as it ruptured 270 miles of northern California. The photo was taken by geologist Grove Karl Gilbert, a member of the 1906 earthquake commission; the woman is his lover Alice Eastwood, a leading botanist with a daredevil streak. Just weeks before, while her San Francisco apartment burned in the great fire started by the earthquake, Eastwood had twice scaled the iron banisters of the wrecked central staircase of the California Academy of Sciences so as to rescue her rare botanical collection from the sixth floor.

The book's title is taken from geophysicist Amos Nur, who suggested in 2000 that one earthquake may trigger another, causing them to cluster together in 'earthquake storms'. Several major earthquakes over a period of mere decades around 1200BC were responsible for the destruction of western civilisation (Knossos, Mycenae, Troy, etc) in the eastern Mediterranean, argues Nur. The same pattern has been occurring in southwest China along the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau since the 1890s, says

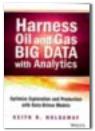
Dvorak. Might a seismic storm also occur in southern California in coming decades, following two puzzling Mojave Desert earthquakes in the 1990s? Conceivably. But given the mind-boggling complexity of California's faults—700 of which have ruptured over 10,000 years—earthquake prediction is currently impossible, as Dvorak finally has to concede.

Reviewed by Andrew Robinson

EARTHQUAKE STORMS: THE FASCINATING HISTORY AND VOLATILE FUTURE OF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT

JOHN DVORAK, 2014. Published by: Pegasus Books 254pp (hbk) ISBN: 9781605984957 List price: \$27.95 www.pegasusbooks.us

#### Harness Oil and Gas Big Data with Analytics



The title of this book intrigues. The text explains that big data are data sets that are so large and complex that they are difficult to process using current conventional processing methods,

and analytics is the process of finding meaningful patterns within these sets.

Data sets are growing in size, in part because of the ability of modern information-sensing devices to collect vast quantities of data, as with seismic acquisition. The sizes are mind-boggling, with single data sets going up to (maybe soon) exabytes (1018). 'Analytics' uses massive parallel-computer software to uncover hidden patterns. The output of 'hidden' knowledge is often visualised in tables and graphics.

The practical aspect of analytics is needed for the oil and gas industry because the new generation of managers and geoscientists who are replacing the retiring 'old school' lack their experience of vision, but have an appreciation of statistics and soft computing methodologies. Analytics can show otherwise hidden patterns and may be able to retain the lost experience and enhance decisions.

The book therefore provides a complete view of big data and analytics techniques as applied to the oil and gas industry. After two chapters outlining the processes, the book moves to chapters of specific

case-studies where data analytics have been used within exploration and production. Applications, using case histories of seismic attribute analysis, give guidance on reservoir characterisation, while other chapters explore drilling and completion optimisation, reservoir management production forecasting and optimisation, and exploratory predictive analysis. Analytics suggest betterinformed models of subsurface reservoir characterisation and decisions for drilling/production optimisation for conventional and unconventional fields.

This book, which is written by an industry practitioner, is a description of the subject rather like the technical information found in 'service company' literature. The text mentions, but does not detail, the mathematics or algorithms of the methods commonly applied - such as neural networks, decision trees, genetic algorithms, data mining and artificial intelligence. Unfortunately, many of the figures are disappointing and unhelpful, with many taken from papers which were originally in colour but printed in greyscale. Some are almost unreadable. I suspect too the vocabulary might be difficult for some. A fuller glossary giving more definitions of the acronyms and terms scattered within the text would be helpful for the 'old school'.

Harness Oil and Gas Big Data with Analytics is not going to turn the reader into a digital oilfield expert, but should give an idea of where/how analytics might be beneficial.

Reviewed by Richard Dawe

#### HARNESS OIL AND GAS BIG DATA WITH ANALYTICS

KEITH R HOLDAWAY, Published by John Wiley & sons, 2014. ISBN 978-1-118-77931-6 hbk; ISBN 978-1-118-91095-5 epdf; ISBN 978-1-118-91094-5 epub List price (hbk): £50.00 W: www.wiley.com

# **Introduction to Ocean Remote Sensing**



This book explains how remote sensing works; particularly remote sensing of biogeochemical properties, infrared and microwave retrieval of sea surface temperature and salinity etc., passive

microwave measurements, scatterometer wind retrieval, altimetry and SAR. The



book tells you how to understand observations from Earth-observing systems, and the observations' importance to physical and biological oceanography. The author presents all the necessary mathematics to support and understand the text.

The book contains a useful list of abbreviations, acronyms, mathematical symbols, references and an appendix giving technical details. Also included are descriptions of the online archives where data can be obtained (e.g. NASA and ICES) and online tools for working with the data. It is suitable for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in oceanography, remote sensing and environmental science, and a practical resource for researchers and professionals.

The author begins by talking of the oceans and how important they are, covering about 70% of the Earth's surface and containing most of the Earth's water. They are dynamic at several scales and contain important and productive ecosystems. They play a big role in climate change and are important for heat storage and transfer.

The book considers the emitted and reflected radiation from the open ocean and how the ocean properties modify them at the surface. Satellite images (e.g. radar) can be used to detect such things as oil slicks. The book relates how the atmosphere and its constituents (e.g. oxygen, nitrogen and especially water vapour) affect the transmission of radiation in the visible infrared and microwave regions of Earth observation.

Passive multi-frequency microwave imagers are very useful for sea surface temperatures and salinity, sea ice extent, scalar and vector wind speeds. Ocean winds are important for the way they drive ocean currents, transfer heat, gases, heat and moisture, energy and momentum. They can be examined in detail using a scatterometer, which are of great importance in weather forecasting.

The Radar Altimeter can provide much information about global variation in sea surface height, swell and wind speeds (all very useful measurements in oceanography). Side-looking radars are also discussed (powerful tools to examine ice and ocean surface backscatter properties at a high resolution).

This is a comprehensive text, well-written, printed and bound, containing many diagrams and colour photographs and well worth its rather modest cover price.

Reviewed by Steve Rowlatt

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO OCEAN REMOTE SENSING

SEELYE MARTIN, Published by: Cambridge University Press Publication date 2014 Hbk ISBN 978-1-107-01938-6 Edition: 2. 521pp List price: £45. www.cambridge.org

#### **Deformation Structures** and Processes within the Continental Crust



This Special Publication, a worthy contribution to its field, consists of 12 papers, presented in three themes, developed from a 'Deformation Mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics Meeting' held at the University of

Oviedo in late 2011.

The first four papers are presented under the theme of 'Structures: shear zones and folds' and provide novel and interesting approaches to quantifying, analysing, and differentiating strain within single and multiple generations of ductile structures. Lisle (2013) reviews new and existing methods for analysing finite strain in shear zones and presents a new algebraic and, graphical method to quantifying finite strain where volume change during deformation is considered.

Frehner & Exner (2013) apply a numerical approach when considering the refraction patterns in axial foliation (fans) to understanding the distribution of strain within buckle folds and make important observations regarding the rheological sensitivity of layers to recording strain. Calvín-Ballester & Casa (2013) employ geometrical approaches to differentiate the development of two superimposed thrust-fault - cleavage-forming events formed during progressive orogenic deformation in a foreland fold-and-thrust belt. Weisheit et al. (2013) utilise a range of thermochronological data coupled with structural analysis and reconstruction to demonstrate the development of a crustalscale fold occurred over two deformation cycles spanning ~200Ma.

The next five papers, presented under the theme of 'Magmatism and Structure', provide examples of how the development of structural features is frequently linked to magmatic activity and hence often amenable to geochronological dating. Rutter *et al.* (2013) use 40Ar/39Ar dating techniques on pre- and syn-tectonic volcanism to constrain the duration of the main

movement along a crustal-scale transform fault system. Similarly, Rodríguez-Méndez et al. (2013) date diabase dykes linked to basin-wide magmatism to better constrain the changing geodynamic regime heralding the break-up of Pangaea. Magma often utilises crustal-scale structures as conduits for ascent and emplacement and Oriolo et al. (2013) using detailed structural, kinematic, and geophysical data, show the importance of preexisting cross-strike structures associated with flat-slab segments as reactivated conduits for magmatism; a significant observation for economic geologists.

Caggianelli *et al.* (2013) model the thermal effect of a magmatic intrusion on the rheology of the host rocks suggesting that while multiple intrusions within the crust would be required to sustain mechanical weakening, a single intrusion maybe sufficient to nucleate a normal fault that could allow further thermal weakening through crustal extension. Morgan *et al.* (2013) highlight deficiencies in the 'Titanium-in-Quartz' geothermometry associated with Ti heterogeneity and its chemical activity during metamorphic conditions.

The final three papers are presented under the theme 'Microstructures and Rheology' and illustrate the effect of crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) of mineral grains and recrystallisation on mechanical behaviour of rocks at the micro-scale. Liana-Fúnez & Rutter (2014) experimentally explore the relation between CPO of calcite in limestone during ductile deformation and localisation of strain geometries. Similarly, Piazolo & Jaconelli (2013) consider the rheology of sillimanite aggregates in gneiss defined by slipsystems at high-temperatures related to the aggregates CPO. A numerical approach by Borthwick et al. (2013) explores the effects of recovery recrystallisation in rocks close to their deformation temperatures showing that microstructures can be modified at temperatures lower than experienced during peak deformation.

Reviewed by *Mark N Burdett* 

#### DEFORMATION STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL CRUST

S LLANA-FÚNEZ, A MARCOS, & F BASTIDA (Eds), 2014 Geological Society of London Special Publication 394 ISBN 978-1-86239-627-2 239pp (hbk) List price: £90 (Fellows £45; Other societies £54)







# The Geology of Geomechanics

28-29 October 2015

The Geological Society, Burlington House, London, UK

#### Keynote speakers

Dr Tony Addis (Baker Hughes)

Professor Terry Engelder (Pennsylvania State University)

Dr Julia Gale (University of Texas at Austin)

Professor Rick Sibson FRS (formerly University of Otago)

Dr Mark Tingay (Chevron)

Professor Mark Zoback (Stanford University)

#### Convenors

Jonathan Turner (BG Group)

Dave Healy (University of Aberdeen)

Richard Hillis (Deep Exploration Technologies CRC)

Michael Welch (Schlumberger)

#### Further information

For further information about the conference please contact: Jess Aries, Conference Office, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J OBG

T: 0207 434 9944

E: jess.aries@geolsoc.org.uk W: www.geolsoc.org.uk/ Geology-of-Geomechanics-15 This conference aims to bring together geologists and engineers from the petroleum, radioactive waste disposal, carbon sequestration, mining and geothermal communities to discuss the links between the geomechanical disciplines and mainstream geology.

We define geomechanics as the study of stresses in the crust, and their impact on the stability of rocks (e.g. reservoirs, seals, faults) and man-made features therein (tunnels, boreholes, repositories).

Stress leads to change and we need data, tools, models and workflows to understand and manage it. Geomechanics is a well-established sub-discipline but until recently has had relatively little airing across geology. However, geomechanical models depend critically on geological inputs. We are particularly interested in what geological observations can add to the predominantly present-day observations and analysis of geomechanics. Furthermore, what can geology learn from the unique observations of geomechanical datasets? Geologists and engineers therefore need to share their understanding of the key issues in geomechanics, and to develop a common language to describe our respective approaches to it.

### FINAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

For this meeting we encourage submission of papers that address the full spectrum of geomechanics applications. We aim to promote lively discussion and closer collaboration among and between geologists and engineers – both researchers and practitioners.

The deadline for oral abstracts is 1 June 2015. Please submit your abstract as a Word document to Jess Aries. E. jess aries@geoisoc.org.uk

# **PEOPLE** NEWS

**Geoscientists in the news** and on the move in the UK, Europe and worldwide



#### IN MEMORIAM WWW.GEOLSOC.ORG.UK/OBITUARIES

#### THE SOCIETY NOTES WITH SADNESS THE PASSING OF:

Adatia, Ruth Horman\*
Armstrong, David \*
Borg-Costanzi, Joseph A \*
Cater, Maxwell Clinton \*
Evans, J Russ\*
Foster, Michael \*
Fothergill, T \*
Heeley, Martyn \*
Hooper, P L \*
Hubbard, Julia A E B \*

Kosler, Jan \*

Lane, Alan\*
Leach, Bernard \*
Mills, J A \*
McSweeney, LJM \*
Morris, Richard Oliver \*
Quick, David \*
Rivington, John Blackett\*
Scott, Barry\*
Seymour, John
Watson, John S

Wright, Martin \*

In the interests of recording its Fellows' work for posterity, the Society publishes obituaries online, and in *Geoscientist*. The most recent additions to the list are shown in bold. Fellows for whom no obituarist has yet been commissioned are marked with an asterisk (\*). The symbol § indicates that biographical material has been lodged with the Society.

If you would like to contribute an obituary, please email ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk to be commissioned. You can read the guidance for authors at www.geolsoc.org.uk/obituaries.

To save yourself unnecessary work, please do not write anything until you have received a commissioning letter.

Deceased Fellows for whom no obituary is forthcoming have their names and dates recorded in a Roll of Honour at **www.geolsoc.org.uk/obituaries**.



#### **CAROUSEL**

All Fellows of the Society are entitled to entries in this column. Please email ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk, quoting your Fellowship number.

#### David Abbott



David Abbott is the recipient of the 2015 Ben H Parker Memorial Medal, the oldest and most distinguish award granted by the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). The Parker Memorial Medal is awarded to individuals who have long records of distinguished and outstanding service to the profession. Abbott is

best known for his *Professional Ethics & Practices* column in AIPG's *The Professional Geologist* that he has been compiling since 1995.

#### **◆ Drew Craiq**



Drew Craig, a geologist with Rocklore Exploration Services Limited, undertook a gruelling charity ultra challenge in April, attempting to complete the 250km Marathon des Sables (Moroccan Sahara), and another 42.2km in the London Marathon. Drew took on this challenge on behalf of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, which

provides a range of services to those with neuro-disabilities and injuries, ranging from long-term care to rehabilitation. Donations:

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DrewCraig

#### **◆ Ted Nield**

Ted Nield's book *Underlands – a journey through Britain's lost landscape* (Granta Books, 2014) is published in paperback this month, Price £10.00. "... a stunningly good book which combines beautiful writing with a passion for geology and the lost landscapes of Britain." *John Gribbin*. "In the minds of its practitioners, geology is a noble instrument of inquiry and conviction. It can be oracular still, fiercely warning us against the degradation of our planet, and in the hands of Ted Nield it edges its way towards art." *Jan Morris, Literary Review* 

#### DISTANT THUNDER

#### Glorious mud!

#### As geologist and science writer **Nina Morgan** discovers, geologists are not the only ones who love mud

In 2011 the Geological Society held a meeting to celebrate Poetry and Geology. This year the Society is waxing poetical about mud. "Mud represents both and end and a beginning – the end of the cycle of erosion and transport, and the beginning of the generation (through burial and transformation) of new materials of great value to society," reads the notice on the Events page of the website.

These are two topics close to the heart of Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954). As a child, Bailey apparently loved playing with stones – but he also loved plants. In the end, plants won. Mentored by American botanist Asa Gray [1810-1888], who corresponded with many in the Geological Society, Bailey went on to focus his prodigious talents on botany, and helped to create the science of horticulture. But his interests were very wide.

He corresponded with Darwin as a supporter of Darwin's Origin of Species, and once entertained Alfred Russel Wallace when Wallace visited the Michigan Agricultural College. Bailey was also a prolific writer, rural sociologist, philosopher and environmentalist. He wrote poetry too, and fully appreciated the importance of mud – a sediment he celebrated in verse in his collection of poetry entitled Wind and Weather, first published in 1916:

#### Mother Mud

Ye roils of mud! On slag and road On wallowed track and slipping yard Down millioned years of slash and goad, Ye be the earth's first honor-guard. [sic] Clean scurf and rain, by heaven mixed Forth-destined when the orb was flung -Within the quick'ning sludge transfixed Were all the songs the years have sung. No sprout of earth, no winnowed soul No singing sphere, no god of man Except from out your brooding shoal Had ever winged their master-span. Flush sloughs of mud! In fragrant dawn Is leaping spring and garnered fall I tribute bring to breed and brawn Nor dare defile one mire withal. Flow down ye rains to earth far-long Rise up ye lands to wind and rift When ye be strong then all be strong Full-free of doubt and stain and shrift For from the sleech the strong ones

And ev'ry bird and hoof and bud

Proclaim the kinship of the mud

In godly part and sacred sum

Though he could never be said to be a geologist sensu stricto, Bailey's celebration of mud must surely qualify him as an honorary geologist at least!

#### Acknowledgement

This vignette was inspired by the gift of a 1919 edition of Bailey's book Wind and Weather rescued from a box of his books recently rediscovered in storage near the orchards at Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. in Ithaca. New York, US. Other sources of information include an obituary of Liberty H Bailey, published in the New York Times on 26 December, 1954; and A Biographical Memoir of Liberty Hyde Bailey, 1858 -1956, by Harlan P Banks, published by the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC, 1994.

# **OBITUARY MICHAEL JOHN O'HARA 1933-2014**

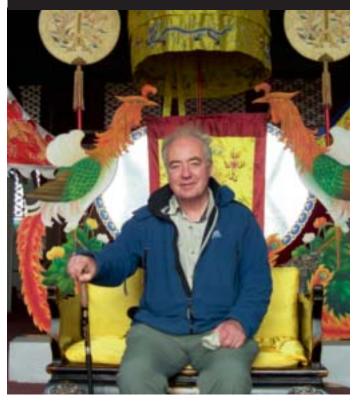
ike O'Hara was one of the leading petrologists of his generation. It has been said that modern igneous petrology and geochemistry would not be the same without Mike's many discoveries, creative efforts, and deep insights. He pioneered the use of experimental and theoretical petrology to unravel the processes involved in the formation of the ocean crust from the underlying mantle.

He was also one of the original Apollo scientists who investigated the rocks returned from the Moon. He was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society of London and both the N L Bowen and Hess Medals of the American Geophysical Union for his contributions to petrology and his "outstanding achievements in research of the constitution and evolution of the Earth and other planets".

#### **Passport**

Mike was born in Sydney, Australia in 1933. This led Ted Ringwood, his great Australian rival in subsequent debates on the origin of the Moon, to threaten "to get his passport revoked". The family moved to England when Mike was just one year old. At the outbreak of war in 1939, Mike's father was stationed in Pwllheli in North Wales, where he was brought up. On Good Friday 1945 his Mother took him to the funeral of David Lloyd George on the banks of the

Professor at Aberystwyth, Cardiff and Edinburgh, responsible for implementing the 'Oxburgh Review'



River Dwyfor near Llanystumdwy in Eifonydd, North Wales. This was to presage a long association with Wales and lifelong support for Welsh rugby.

Mike went up to Cambridge in 1952 and joined the Spitsbergen expedition in 1953. This started a life-long love of mountaineering. He was persuaded to follow a career in geology rather than becoming a mountaineering instructor by Stuart Agrell, and studied at Cambridge (under C E Tilley) for his PhD on the high pressure-high temperature Scourie gneiss.

He moved to Edinburgh in 1958 to continue his research with Arthur Holmes and Fred

Stewart. In 1962-1963 he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at the Geophysical Laboratory at the Carnegie Institute in Washington. He spent the year with Frank Schairer and Hat Yoder. He returned to Edinburgh in 1963 where he established a high pressurehigh temperature laboratory to study igneous petrology. He was awarded a personal Chair in Edinburgh in 1970 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

#### Aberystwyth

In 1978 he moved to Aberystwyth where he chaired the Geology Department. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1981. He spent two years at the Sultan Oaboos University, Oman in 1988-1990 before moving in 1994 to Cardiff where, as he wrote: "an outstanding latecareer opportunity... illuminated my last decade". As Distinguished Research Professor he spearheaded a new worldclass petrology group that included inter alia Julian Pearce, Yaoling Niu and Chris Macleod.

Mike O'Hara was a full member of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and chaired the UGC Earth Science Review National Committee during 1986-1988, which shaped the modern form of UK University geoscience. His contribution to the Cardiff School of Earth and Ocean Sciences helped establish the department as a major international centre for research and teaching in the Earth Sciences.

Michael John O'Hara's scientific success lay in his vision and an approach that did not follow bandwagons but continually challenged tradition and authority. He was a likeable and approachable man who hid his great scholarship and intense concern about the subject under a veneer of humour. Many Earth scientists worldwide owe much to his unstinting encouragement and advice. He will be greatly missed.

> By David Rickard

HELP YOUR OBITUARIST The Society operates a scheme for Fellows to deposit biographical material. The object is to assist obituarists by providing contacts, dates and other information, and thus ensure that Fellows' lives are accorded appropriate and accurate commemoration. Please send your CV and a photograph to Ted Nield at the Society.



ENDORSED TRAINING/CPD		
COURSE	DATE	VENUE AND DETAILS
Lapworth's Logs	n/a	'Lapworth's Logs' is a series of e-courses involving practical exercises of increasing complexity. Contact: info@lapworthslogs.com. Lapworth's Logs is produced by Michael de Freitas and Andrew Thompson.

DIARY OF MEETINGS MAY 2015		
MEETING	DATE	VENUE AND DETAILS
Mapping the Earth - Lyme Regis Fossil Festival	1-3 May	See website for links, details and registration.
RCMNS Interim Colloquium 2015, Mediterranean-Atlantic Gateways (Neogene-present). Medgate, IODP Expedition 339	5-8 May	Venue: Rabat, Morocco. See website for details and registration
Groundwater in Africa: Is There Enough to Go Around? Southern Wales Regional	12 May	Venue: Wallace LT, Cardiff Unviersity. Time: 1800 for 1830. Speaker: Prof. Alan Macdonald (BGS). E: swales.rg@geolsoc.org.uk
River Dredging Geological Society	13 May	Venue: Burlington House. Speaker: Neville White (Environment Agency). Society London Lecture. See p. 6 for details.
Modelling Groundwater in the Urban Environment - Processes and Problems. Hydrogeological Group	13 May	<b>Venue:</b> Priory Rooms, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham. <b>Time:</b> 0930-1600. See website for details and registration. Fees apply.
4th Annual Asia Pacific Small to Midscale LNG APAC	13-15 May	Venue: Singapore Marriott Hotel, 320 Orchard Rd, Singapore. See website for details and registration. E: info@apacIng.com
9th International Industrial Minerals Symposium 2015. TMMOB Chamber of Mining Engineers of Turkey & Dokuz Eylul University	14-15 May	Venue: Izmir, Turkey. See website for registration & details. E: indmintr@deu.edu.tr
Sedimentology of Paralic Reservoirs: Recent Advances and their Applications. Petroleum Group	18-19 May	Venue: Burlington House. Fees apply. See website for registration & details. E: laura.griffiths@geolsoc.org.uk
Canada LNG Export DMG Events	19-21 May	Venue: Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. See website for registration & details. E: neillhoward@dmgevents.com
Near Surface Geophysics as used in Geotechnical Site Investigations. Western Regional	19 May	Venue: Reynolds Lecture Theatre (Room G25), Earth Sciences, Bristol University.  Time: 1800 for 1830. Speaker: Dr. Simon Hughes - TerraDat UK Limited.  See website. E: westernregionalgroup@gmail.com
Urban Geology in Wales Southern Wales regional	19 May	Venue: Cardiff University, ROOM 1.25 Main Building. Time: 1730 for 1800. Speakers: Doug Nichols, Dr Richard Bevins, Sergio Solera and Ray Kenny. E: swales.rg@geolsoc.org.uk
Sustainable exploitation of the subsurface Geological Society. EGGS. IAEG	20-21 May	Venue: Burlington House. See website for registration & details. E: jess.aries@geolsoc.org.uk
The Quaternary of the Lake District QRA	21-24 May	Venue: Blencathra Field Studies Centre, Threlkeld, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4SG. See website for registration & details. E: d.mcdougall@worc.ac.uk
Implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste Northern Ireland Regional	21 May	Venue: Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast. Time: 1330 for 1400. Lecture. With Radioactive Waste Management Ltd. Contact: Mike Young E: GeolSocNl@gmail.com
The story of the rocks: William 'Strata' Smith's geological map at the Yorkshire Museum. The Yorkshire Museum, York	22-31 May	Venue: The Yorkshire Museum, York. See website for details, links & registration.
Finding Oil in Atlantic Basins Finding Petroleum	27 May	Venue: Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House. Fees apply – see website. Contact: Natalie Cronshaw E: natalie@findingpetroleum.com
Groundwater Modelling for Mining: two day training course EDUMINE	28-29 May	Venue: EduMine, 530 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC Canada. Training course. See website for details and registration. E: edumine-support@infomine.com



# OBITUARY JOHN CROOK 1933-2014

ohn Crook's career reveals a well-regarded geologist, who worked from 1955 on major geological mapping projects in Africa and the Middle East. From 1972 until 1990 he was deeply involved in research on, and the utilisation of, the increasing information becoming available from satellites and the development of remote sensing.

John (pictured, standing) graduated in 1955 from the then Kingston Technical College, with a 1st Class Honours Geology Degree. He became a Junior Associate of the Geological Society in 1952 and was elected Fellow on 23 November 1955.

#### Ghana

In 1955, John married Rosemary Smithers, and they spent the next 10 years in Ghana. John's field mapping was in the Volta region for the Geological Survey of Ghana. His maps and reports were published by the Survey and also reported in The Mineral and Rock Resources of Ghana, by G O Kese. John also contributed to the papers of Richard Holm on the Dahomeyan gneiss in the western Accra Plains, Ghana.

The opportunity to join Hunting Geology and Geophysics Ltd arose in 1966. Huntings had been established in 1952 and provided an increasingly wide range of services to oil and mining

Geologist with Hunting who worked on major mapping projects in Africa and Middle East



companies, the United Nations and governments. John was an important leader of many teams, and in time was appointed an Associate Director.

To illustrate John's work I have selected just two projects, which demonstrate his wide experience and managerial skills.

In 1977, Huntings were awarded the contract to undertake geological mapping and mineral exploration in three large areas of basement rock in southern Libya. Since there were no maps or roads in the area Huntings resorted to using the earliest ERTS (now Landsat) imagery to navigate

across the Sahara. This was a typical large-scale project where the Hunting's geologists were responsible for not only the technical work but also overcoming massive logistic problems. In such projects John provided essential support and was a friend and mentor to many geologists.

#### **Humour**

It is a measure of John's modesty that he didn't talk of himself and never complained of difficulties in the field, in spite of bouts of serious migraine. He had a fantastic sense of fun and humour. Almost every day he had a joke to tell to lift the

mood, whatever the circumstance. His honesty and selflessness and kindness to all brought out the best in all who worked with him. He made everyone feel part of the team and always offered careful considered advice and help with our tasks, however much we needed to know.

In November 1985, Huntings were awarded the contract to support the NRSC in its mission to promote the use of remote sensing in Britain and by British companies working overseas. It did this by undertaking pilot projects using remote sensing in agriculture, geology, oceanography, forestry, urban planning and disaster monitoring, testing and planning for new sensors.

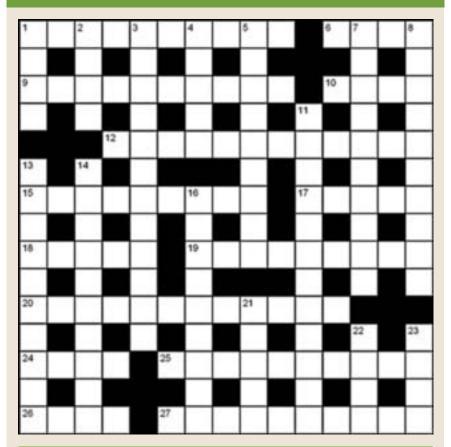
John Crook was appointed Project Manager, and managed a team of scientists together with support staff. The team became widely respected in the industry, and broke new ground in many fields, for example: using multi-band thermal imagery in geology, and monitoring opencast mines, oil slicks and bush fires. John was a humorous, calm and fairly 'hands-off' but very supportive manager of the project. The project continued to the end of 1990.

Subsequently John and Rosemary retired to Harrogate in Yorkshire. John is survived by his widow Rosemary, their two children, Andrew and Susan, and five grandchildren.

> By Derek Morris

**HELP YOUR OBITUARIST** The Society operates a scheme for Fellows to deposit biographical material. The object is to assist obituarists by providing contacts, dates and other information, and thus ensure that Fellows' lives are accorded appropriate and accurate commemoration. Please send your CV and a photograph to Ted Nield at the Society.

#### **CROSSWORD NO.189** SET BY PLATYPUS



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Highest grade of coal (10)
- 6 Cain's brother, confused, was not, whereas Cain alas was. (4)
- 9 'Thunder lizard' of which everyone has heard and has recently made a comeback (10)
- **10** Acronym for the rock erupted at spreading centres beneath the wave (4)
- 12 With malice aforethought (12)
- **15** Manoeuvre performed by space probes which use the gavitational pull of celestial bodies to increase their speed (9)
- 17 Iron-carbon alloy (5)
- **18** The man who found and kept his marbles, in contrast to most of us (5)
- 19 Ceaselessly bothering and nagging a co-worker (9)
- 20 Lying, in relation to the matter in hand, as a straight line to the circumference of the circle it touches (12)
- **24** Cheek, or if you prefer, 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (4)
- **25** Variety of cryptid 'snowman' said to inhabit the Himalayas (10)
- **26** Middling (2,2)
- 27 County extending from Strathmore to the Pass of Drumochter, Rannoch Moor, Ben Lui and Aberfoyle (10)

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Acronym for a new qualification awarded by the courts since 1998 to Britain's most distinguished naughty people (4)
- 2 Bathsheba Everdene's dashing Captain (4)
- The lithostratigraphic 'Underlying Red', Germanically (12)
- 4 Well with lining (5)
- 5 Cut short (9)
- 7 The creation of life (10)
- **8** Study of the development of the fertilized egg (10)
- 11 Orthographical faults (12)
- 13 Industrial disease caused by fibrous mineral (10)
- **14** See 7D (10)
- **16** Capable of sustaining life (9)
- **21** Allow into the student body (5)
- 22 Place of shelter in France (4)
- 23 Famous Shoemaker (4)

# WIN A SPECIAL PUBLICATION!

The winner of the March Crossword puzzle prize draw was Jonathan Scafidi of Haywards Heath, UK.

All correct solutions will be placed in the draw, and the winner's name printed in the July 2015 issue. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Closing date - May 22.

The competition is open to all Fellows, Candidate Fellows and Friends of the Geological Society who are not current Society employees, officers or trustees. This exclusion does not apply to officers of joint associations, specialist or regional groups.

Please return your completed crossword to Burlington House, marking your envelope "Crossword". Do not enclose any other matter with your solution.

Overseas Fellows are encouraged to scan the signed form and email it as a PDF to ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk

Name
Membership number
Address for correspondence
Postcode

#### **SOLUTIONS MARCH**

#### ACROSS

1 Epigenetic 6 Lima 9 Avalanches 10 Even

12 Athletically 15 Caenozoic 17 Oaten

18 Amino 19 Allophone 20 Exemplifying

24 Ruin 25 Equanimity 26 Lass 27 Centigrade

#### DOWN:

1 Eras 2 Iran 3 Enantiomorph 4 Excel

5 Identical 7 Involution 8 Annoyances

11 Accompanying 13 Octahedral 14 Refineries

16 Odalisque 21 Yeast 22 Mica 23 Dyne

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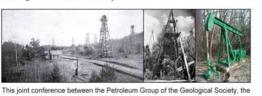




#### **European Oil & Gas Industry History conference**

3-4 March 2016

Burlington House, Piccadilly, London



History of Geology Group of the Geological Society and the Petroleum History Institute will be held in London in March 2016. It will mark several important anniversaries including 150 years of oil exploration in Poland & Romania, the centenary of the drilling of the first oil well in the UK and 50 years of oil production onshore Spain. The focus of the conference will be to examine the history and heritage of the oil and gas industry in Europe from the earliest onshore drilling (and digging) to its development into the industry that we know today and also to examine the transition from conventional to unconventional resource plays in the onshore arena.

#### Associated Events:

A fieldtrip will be arranged over the weekend following the conference to examine the history, industrial archaeology and geology of the UK's earliest oil and gas fields in the east Midlands and the Peak District. During the trip a memorial plaque and information board will be unveiled at the Hardstoft-1 well site in Derbyshire, marking the 100th Anniversary of the drilling of the well under the defense of the Realm Act to reduce Britain's dependence on oil imports.

Rasoul Sorkhabi

Please email paper and poster contributions to laura.griffiths@geolsoc.org.uk and copy to fiona@rockhopperexploration.co.uk by 1st June 2015

For further information please contact: Laura Griffiths: The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG. T: 020 7432 0980 or email: laura.griffiths@geolsoc.org.uk



#### Rocks, Routes & Shoots

A geology and ecology tour of Kashmir and Ladakh

Led by Heather Kelly and John Macgillivray 27 June - 12 July 2015







Join geologist John MacGillivray and ecologist Heather Kelly in July 2015 for a tour to Kashmir and Ladakh in the NW Indian Himalayas, looking at

the geology and ecology of the area and how people live in, and interact with, their fragile environment.

• Explore spectacular landscapes • Visit high altitude lake Pangong Tso • Unique geology and topography © Glacial moraines and hanging valleys, sediments layered and folded on a massive scale and metamorphic and igneous rocks of every hue 

Discover how plants have had to adapt, and how they are used both for food and shelter See wildlife in abundance Visit Buddhist monasteries, excellent vantage points for geologists

Enquiries and bookings: T: 020 8901 7320 E: holidays@indusexperiences.co.uk www.indusexperiences.co.uk/earthsciences





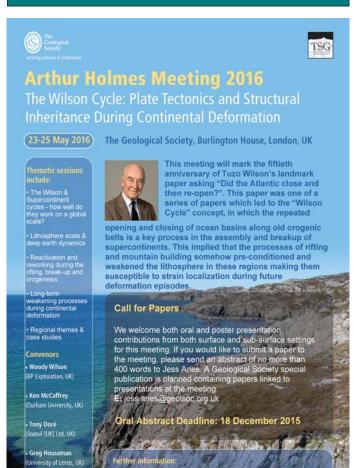








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## M.Sc. Applied Environmental Geology

The School of Earth & Ocean Sciences at Cardiff University are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their professional vocational Postgraduate Taught Masters degree in Applied Environmental Geology.

The degree programme was started in 1990 as a response to the demand for a professional training programme for geo-scientists employed on designing urban regeneration schemes like the Cardiff Bay redevelopment programme. The Masters-level training course covers the multi-disciplinary skills required by the modern applied geo-scientist, particularly in site investigation, contaminated land assessment, determining an accurate conceptual ground model for ground engineers, all in the context of

UK/European codes of practice and environmental legislation. Over 25 years, 700 of our postgraduates are now successfully employed in geotechnical / geoenvironmental consultancies and government agencies in the UK, Europe and overseas.

The 12 month degree comprises of two stages:

# Stage I: The Taught programme (October - March)











Stage II: Applied Research/Dissertation (May - September)

Individual student applied research projects, where we endeavour to place students wherever possible with data-rich, real-world projects, in collaboration with UK consultancies and Government agencies.







The Masters-level course is run in collaboration with professional consultancies in Wales and the West of England. The Geological Society of London accredited programme includes case-study lectures by invited experts and is integrated with the CPD programme of the Southern Wales Regional Group.

Bursaries of £3000 are now available for postgraduate taught courses at Cardiff University. Further course details: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/earth/msc-in-applied-environmental-geology/Apply online at: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/pg/apply/sendingapplication/index.html M.Sc. Course Director: Dr. Peter Brabham C.Geol Email: Brabham@Cardiff.ac.uk

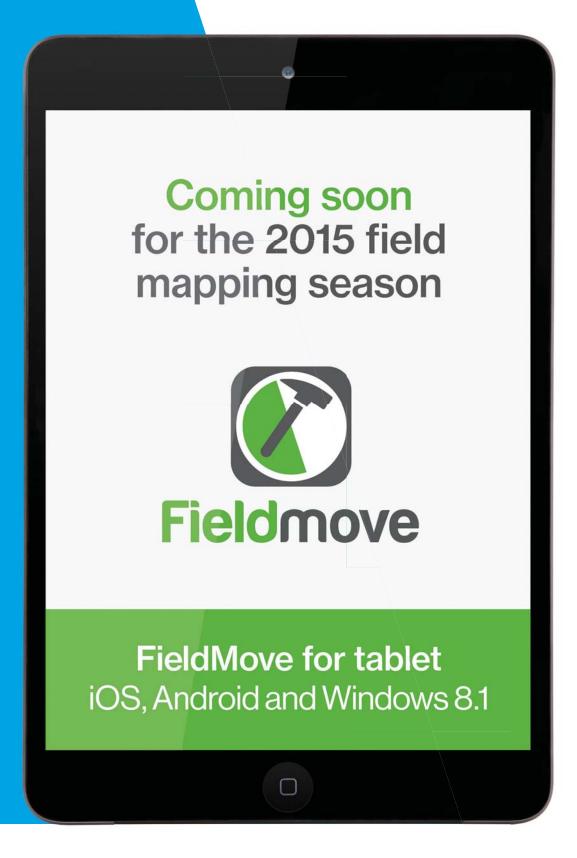






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