



***Lecture on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019:  
A Series of Unfortunate Events – or, why we should stop worrying to  
learn to love the ‘dreaded thunderstone’.***

***Presented By  
Dr Ted Nield***

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG**

**Refreshments from 18.00**

**Meeting starts at 18.30**

**It is expected to finish by about 19.30-20.00**

**This event is free of charge**

When Gavrilo Princip fired his gun in Sarajevo in 1914, killing Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie, he unleashed a series of events that led to the First World War. But why did that single event precipitate a catastrophe, and bring about the death, not only of tens of millions of people, but the whole European social order? And what does this have to do with the extinction of the dinosaurs? In this talk I shall explore how simple, single causes (such as the impact of an asteroid) cannot alone bring about mass extinctions, as physicists, wielding Occam's Razor, might prefer. That explanation may be simple, but simple explanations of complex systems behave are doctrinaire and wrong.

**This event is free of charge, but registration is essential as there are a limited number of seats available in the venue. Priority will be given to Fellows, Candidate Fellows and Juniors of the Geological Society who are members of the Home Counties North Regional Group. Please book your places on a first-come-first-served basis by e-mail to [homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com).**