

# Geoscientist

The Fellowship magazine of The Geological Society of London | [www.geolsoc.org.uk](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk) | Volume 22 No 9 | October 2012

## ETCHES CLOSER

New museum for Dorset?

## POLYGON PUZZLE

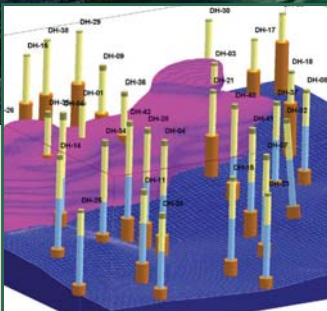
Polygons may point  
to wet Mars

[VOICE SQUAD!]  
[WWW.GEOLSOC.ORG.UK/PODCASTS](http://WWW.GEOLSOC.ORG.UK/PODCASTS)

# 100 YEARS OF MOBILISM

Celebrating a century of continental drift

# Not Just Software . . . RockWare. For Over 29 Years.



## RockWorks<sup>®</sup>

### 3D Data Management, Analysis and Visualization

- Powerful measured-section/borehole database for managing:
  - Lithology
  - Stratigraphy
  - Hydrology
  - Fractures
  - Hydrochemistry (e.g. Contaminants)
  - Geophysics
  - and more
- Create striplogs, cross-sections, fence diagrams, and block models
- Contour data in 2D and 3D (isosurfaces)
- Extensive on-line help and sample data sets
- Includes RockWorks Utilities

**\$3,000**

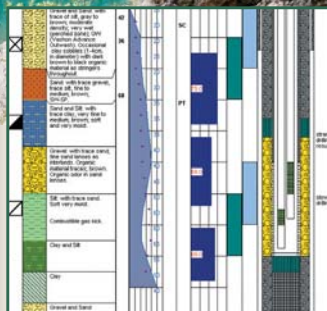


## RockWorks Utilities<sup>™</sup>

### An Indispensable Collection of Modeling, Analysis, and Display Tools

- Point and multivariate mapping tools
- Contour maps and three dimensional surfaces
- Section and Lease maps (land grid data included)
- Google Earth<sup>™</sup> exports
- Gridding and block modeling tools
- Volumetrics
- Pit optimization
- Piper and Stiff diagrams
- Rose & Stereonet diagrams
- Statistical tools including histograms, scatter plots and ternary diagrams

**\$599**

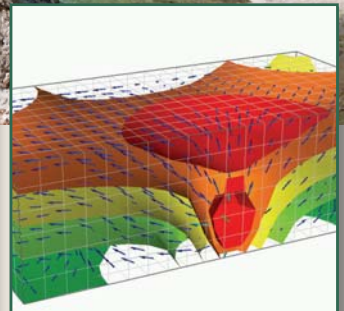


## LogPlot<sup>®</sup>

### Powerful, Flexible, Easy-to-Use Borehole and Well Log Software

- Dozens of templates available or design your own in the drawing-style log designer window
- Tabbed data sheets
- Import/Export data from LAS, Excel, RockWorks
- Paginated and continuous logs at any vertical scale
- Export to a variety of formats
- Free viewer can be distributed to clients

**\$699**



## PetraSim<sup>™</sup>

### A Preprocessor and Postprocessor for TOUGH2, T2VOC, TMVOC, TOUGHREACT and TOUGH-FX/HYDRATE

- Model multi-component fluid flow, heat transfer and reactive transport processes
- Saturated and unsaturated conditions
- Fractured and porous media
- Mesh generation, parameter definition, and display of results
- Now supports TOUGH2-MP (parallel version of the TOUGH2 simulator)
- Applications include geothermal studies, carbon sequestration, contaminant transport modeling, vadose zone hydrology and more

**Call for pricing**



# RockWare<sup>®</sup>

Since 1983

**RockWare.com**

**European Sales**

**++41 91 967 52 53 • F: ++41 91 967 55 50  
europe@rockware.com**

**US Sales**

**303.278.3534 • F: 303.278.4099  
sales@rockware.com**

Free trials for most of our products available at [www.rockware.com](http://www.rockware.com)

Follow us on:



# IN THIS ISSUE

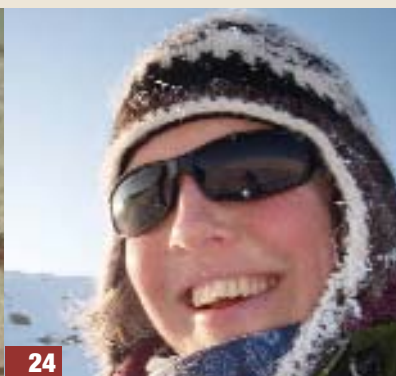
OCTOBER 2012



**12 COVER FEATURE: WEGENER'S LONG WALK**  
Wolfgang Jakoby celebrates the centenary of the Continental Drift hypothesis



09



24

## FEATURES

**18 ETCHES CLOSER** Fossil collector and preparator extraordinaire Steve Etches may be about to clinch a deal to establish a new museum in Kimmeridge

## REGULARS

- 05 WELCOME** Ted Nield wonders how the HLF can possibly refuse the Kimmeridge Project's application, which comes before them later this year
- 06 SOAPBOX** Haydon Bailey concludes the debate on the future of micropalaeontology
- 07 GEONEWS** What's new in the world of geoscientific research
- 10 SOCIETY NEWS** What your Society is doing at home and abroad, in London and the regions
- 22 LETTERS** We welcome your thoughts
- 23 BOOK & ARTS** Two reviews by Joe McCall and David Nowell
- 24 PEOPLE** Geoscientists in the news and on the move
- 26 OBITUARY** Two distinguished Fellows remembered
- 27 CALENDAR** Society activities this month
- 29 CROSSWORD** Win a special publication of your choice

# 'PILTDOWN: 100 YEARS ON'

Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London



18 DECEMBER 2012

A History Of Geology Group meeting to mark the centenary  
of the reading of the  
Piltdown Man paper at the GSL on the 18th December 1912.



© Natural History Museum, London.

## Programme

### Morning: Guided Tours

10.00 -1.30: Tours of the Natural History Museum's "Piltdown Centenary Exhibition" of specimens, manuscripts and papers in the Library.

Three tours will be held at 10.00, 11.10 and 12.20. They will be led by Karolyn Schindler and Paul Cooper: each tour will be restricted to a maximum number of 15 delegates. See registration form.

12.00 13.30: Group viewings of the Piltdown painting at the GSL.

### Afternoon: Piltdown Centenary Meeting Geological Society

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 14.00 – 14.10 | Welcome/Introduction  |
| 14.10 – 14.45 | Anne O'Connor: " <i>Piltdown and the Geological Society</i> "             |
| 14.45 – 15.20 | Dave Martill: " <i>Arthur Conan Doyle and the Piltdown Forgery</i> "      |
| 15.20 – 15.55 | Miles Russell: " <i>Charles Dawson: a career fabricating prehistory</i> " |
| 15.55 – 16.15 | Tea/Posters   |
| 16.15 – 16.50 | Christopher Dean: " <i>The Anatomy of the Forgery</i> "                   |
| 16.50 – 17.30 | Chris Stringer: " <i>The Piltdown forgery in context</i> "                |
| 17.30 – 18.00 | Questions/discussion  |

Convenor: Professor Richard T. J. Moody  
rtj.moody@virgin.net



© Natural History Museum, London.

## Registration Fees:

GSL Fellows, HOGG, GA and OUGS members:	£40.00*
Non Fellows nor members of above group	£50.00*
Students:	£25.00*
(* Reception included)	
NHM Piltdown Exhibition	£8.00
Piltdown Dinner	£45.00

“ALFRED WEGENER IN  
FIELD GEAR, GREENLAND.  
IT IS NOW 100 YEARS SINCE  
HIS VERSION OF CONTINENTAL  
DRIFT WAS PUBLISHED”

Front cover image: Alfred  
Wegener Institute

**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)

**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 Tony Harris FGS**

**EDITOR**

**Dr Ted Nield NUJ FGS**  
E ted.nield@geolsoc.org.uk

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Dr Sue Bowler FGS**  
**Mr Steve Branch FGS**  
**Dr Robin Cocks FGS**  
**Dr Joe McCall FGS**  
**Prof. Peter Styles FGS**  
**Dr Jonathan Turner FGS**  
**Dr Jan Zalasiewicz FGS**

**Trustees of the Geological  
Society of London**

Mr D T Shilston (*President*);  
Mrs N K Ala; Dr M G  
Armitage; Miss S Brough;  
Professor R A Butler;  
Professor N A Chapman;  
Mr D J Cragg; Professor J  
Francis (*Secretary, Science*)  
Professor A J Fraser;  
Dr S A Gibson; Mrs M P  
Henton (*Secretary,  
Professional Matters*);  
Dr R A Hughes; Mr D A  
Jones; Dr A Law  
(*Treasurer*); Professor R J  
Lisle; Professor A R Lord  
(*Secretary, Foreign &  
External Affairs*); Mr P  
Maliphant (*Vice president*);  
Dr B R Marker OBE;  
Professor S B Marriott  
(*Vice president*); Dr G  
Nichols; Dr C P  
Summerhayes  
(*Vice president*); Professor  
J H Tellam; Dr J P Turner  
(*Secretary, Publications*)

Published on behalf of the  
Geological Society of  
London by  
**Century One Publishing**  
Alban Row, 27–31 Verulam  
Road, St Albans, Herts,  
AL3 4DG  
T 01727 893 894

F 01727 893 895  
E enquiries@centuryone  
publishing.ltd.uk  
W www.centuryone  
publishing.ltd.uk

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Nick Simpson**  
T 01727 893 894  
E nick@centuryone  
publishing.ltd.uk

**ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE**

**Jonathan Knight**  
T 01727 739 193  
E jonathan@centuryone  
publishing.ltd.uk

**ART EDITOR**

**Heena Gudka**

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**Sarah Astington**

**PRINTED BY**

**Century One Publishing Ltd.**

**Copyright**

The Geological Society of  
London is a Registered Charity,  
number 210161.  
ISSN (print) 0961-5628  
ISSN (online) 2045-1784

The Geological Society of London  
accepts no responsibility for the views  
expressed in any article in this  
publication. All views expressed,  
except where explicitly stated  
otherwise, represent those of the  
author, and not The Geological  
Society of London. All rights reserved.  
No paragraph of this publication may  
be reproduced, copied or transmitted  
save with written permission. Users  
registered with Copyright Clearance  
Center: the Journal is registered with  
CCC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, MA  
01970, USA. 0961-5628/02/\$15.00.  
Every effort has been made to trace  
copyright holders of material in this  
publication. If any rights have  
been omitted, the publishers offer  
their apologies.

No responsibility is assumed by the  
Publisher for any injury and/or  
damage to persons or property as a  
matter of products liability,  
negligence or otherwise, or from any  
use or operation of any methods,  
products, instructions or ideas  
contained in the material herein.  
Although all advertising material is  
expected to conform to ethical  
(medical) standards, inclusion in this  
publication does not constitute a  
guarantee or endorsement of the  
quality or value of such product or of  
the claims made by its manufacturer.

**Subscriptions:** All correspondence  
relating to non-member subscriptions  
should be addressed to the Journals  
Subscription Department, Geological  
Society Publishing House, Unit 7  
Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Brassmill  
Lane, Bath, BA1 3JN, UK. Tel: 01225  
445046. Fax: 01225 442836. Email:  
sales@geolsoc.org.uk. The  
subscription price for Volume 22,  
2012 (11 issues) to institutions and  
non-members is £108 (UK) or £124 /  
US\$247 (Rest of World).

© 2012 The Geological Society  
of London

## LEDGES LEGEND

Steve Etches - the legend of the Ledges - has been collecting, preparing and describing fossils from the Kimmeridge Clay for much of his life. He has now amassed a huge collection, which he keeps at his home in Kimmeridge and which is available by appointment to researchers and visitors. But this arrangement is far from ideal. For over 18 years Steve - possibly the most highly regarded amateur geologist in Britain today - has been trying to establish, in Dorset, a new home for his amazing and highly specific museum of Kimmeridgian life.

Make no mistake about it - the Etches Collection is renowned worldwide and has global scientific significance as the single largest collection of microfossils from the Kimmeridge Clay Formation outside the Natural History Museum (which in many respects it greatly outstrips). Much of the material it contains is undescribed and completely new to science. It is a unique resource - not only to academics, but also to the County of Dorset, the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site on which it sits, and the public.

Problem is, it remains a private museum in a converted garage - albeit one curated to the highest standards, with strict humidity control. For this material to be described, it needs to reside in a museum with Registered Museum status. For the public to appreciate it properly, in order for schools and universities to use the collection as part of their teaching, the collection has to be somewhere that can accommodate them.

There have been many disappointments along the way, but finally, it looks as though the Etches Collection is at last going to get the new, independent home it deserves.

A bid has been lodged with the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, will set in train a series of events that will culminate in a newly built custom-designed museum on a donated greenfield site in the very village where Steve has made his home. The land is secure, the planning is secure; and there have been no objections from the local community, which supports the project 100%.

We cannot conceive of a project better prepared, with more powerful moral and matching financial support, or that is more worthwhile, or more eagerly anticipated than this. If the HLF were to fail at this late stage to back Steve's nigh-on 20-year fight for funding, this magazine at least would have to question what exactly that body thinks it is there to do.

**DR TED NIELD** EDITOR

