



Welcome to the fortnightly Geological Society newsletter.

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The National Schools Geology Challenge & Early Career Award 2014



On Thursday 8 May, the Geological Society held its third National Schools Geology Challenge and Early Careers Finals at Burlington House.

It was a very close final between the schools; Reading Blue Coat, Gower College and Wells Cathedral. Each school was judged on a poster about their chosen topic, then the students gave a 5 minute presentation, (followed by some probing questions from the judges!) and the final part was a general geology quiz.

The winners this year were Wells Cathedral School, whose chosen topic was "The Impact of Plate Tectonics on Life on Earth". Congratulations to their teacher David Rowley and his students.

The Early Careers Winner was Amy Stewart from the Solent Regional Group. Amy gave an engaging presentation to a very mixed audience on "Calculation, Analysis & Management of Shallow Marine Mineral Reserves" based on her work at Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd. Well done to Amy and the other finalists:

- Duncan Murdock - East Midlands Regional Group
- Chris Wilde - Southern Wales Regional Group
- Mike Daniels - Thames Valley Regional Group



For further details about the event, or to get involved next year, please email joanna.mears@geolsoc.org.uk.

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Membership

President's Day and AGM 2014



Earlier in the year, the Society announced the winners of its medals and funds 2014. [View the full list of winners on our website.](#)

The Awards will be presented at President's Day, which will be held on 4 June. The day will begin with the Annual General Meeting followed by a buffet lunch with the award winners. After the Awards ceremony, the four senior medallists will give a short talk on their subject.

All Fellows are welcome to attend the afternoon events of President's Day for which there is no charge. Lunch with the Award winners is by ticket only at £27.50 per head. If you are a Fellow and would like to bring a guest to the lunch, please mention when registering.

Further information and details of how to register are available on the website.

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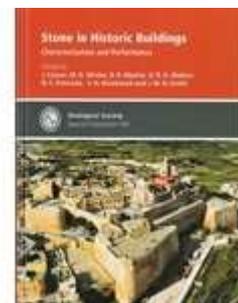


Publications

New Publication: Stone in Historic Buildings: Characterization and Performance

Edited by J. Cassar, M.G. Winter, B.R. Marker, N.R.G. Walton,
D.C. Entwisle, E.N. Bromhead and J.W.N. Smith
Published: 30 April 2014

The volume includes studies on the properties and behaviours of building stones used in historic buildings in various regions and countries. In the past materials from the immediate vicinity were used in construction, whereas nowadays the search goes farther afield to find compatible materials and technological solutions, which do not always give the desired results.



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Glacial Balance DVD



By Ethan Steinman
Published 23 January 2014

Glacial Balance takes us from Colombia to Argentina, getting to know those who are the first to be affected by the melting glacial reserve, the canaries in the mine. Along the way, we are accompanied by scientists who give us a perspective on what is happening in the natural world, and from that, we learn of the chain reaction effect these disappearing glaciers are having worldwide.

The film offers the viewer an opportunity to hear, in the locals' own words, the human impacts of a climate out of control. From coffee, potato, and quinoa farmers, to fruit and wine exporters, and even miners of sacred glacial ice blocks near the Equator, Glacial Balance offers the viewer a chance to visit some of Earth's most distant, inaccessible, and spectacularly beautiful landscapes.

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Library and Information Services

Online Papers - Deep Basements and Retaining Walls

The papers in *Proceedings of the ICE: Geotechnical Engineering Vol.167* provide a point of reference for best current practice and highlight some current research of future practical significance.

They also include guidance on the accuracy and repeatability that should be expected from monitoring systems in current use and describe new monitoring techniques that provide further insight into the behaviour of deep basements and shafts.

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Online Papers - Evolution of Marine Tetrapods



Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology Vol.400 comprises a collection of papers on physical drivers in the evolution of marine tetrapods. These show how deciphering the causes and consequences of marine tetrapod evolution is a macroevolutionary problem at many scales, but with tractable pathways for clear answers.

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Online Papers - INQUA Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy Meeting

Quaternary International Vol.328-329 uses analyses of Pleistocene and Holocene deposits of Central and Western Europe and the Mediterranean area to shed light on the questions:

- Is the climate becoming warmer or colder?
- Can humans affect the climate?
- Was the last interglacial comparable to the present one?
- What are the best tools to investigate Pleistocene and Holocene deposits?
- Which are the best numerical age dating techniques?
- Can the climate of a particular period be defined by faunal information alone?



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Events

Puddingstone and Related Silcretes of the Anglo-Paris Basin - Geological and Archaeological Perspectives



Date: 16 May 2014

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Registration deadline: 14 May 2014

Hertfordshire Puddingstone and its regional counterparts have long been of interest to both geologists and archaeologists, while recent developments in the understanding are providing new insights into the origin of puddingstone.

The conference will cover puddingstones and silcretes of similar age in both the Hampshire and Paris Basins, and the weekend field trip will include East Hertfordshire/Essex, then Saint-Saëns and Sotteville in Northern France.

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Email: [Georgina Worrall](mailto:Georgina.Worrall@geological-society.org)

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Fermor Meeting 2014: Comparative Planetology

Date: 19-20 May 2014

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

A great deal of new data on the terrestrial planets and moons has been produced recently from numerous planetary orbiters, together with rovers. This meeting is planned to bring together scientists who are studying aspects of planetary science on terrestrial planets in the inner solar system.



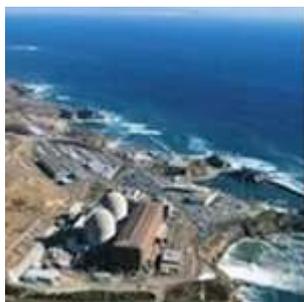
Presentations will fall under three broad themes:

- Planetary crusts and interiors,
- Planetary surfaces and surface processes (including volcanism, tectonic activity, sedimentation, and impact cratering),
- Planetary climates and atmospheres.

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The London Lectures: Managing Nuclear Power on a Dynamic Earth



Date: 21 May 2014, 3pm & 6pm

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

The next London Lecture takes a look at what scientists are doing to pinpoint and assess tectonic hazards to nuclear facilities worldwide. Places are still available for the 3pm lecture.

We look at stories stretching back many decades behind nuclear power plants that have had to respond to actual or potential hazards from nearby volcanoes, active faults and tsunamis, and the problems Japan's energy supply is facing today as its nuclear regulatory authorities try to reassess seismic hazards at power plants across the country. Then, looking thousands of years into the future, we will see what scientists are doing to evaluate tectonic hazards to the deeply buried radioactive wastes from these power plants - along with the possible deep impacts of Earth's next ice age.

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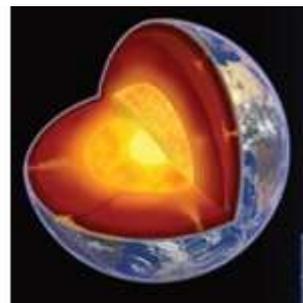
Call for papers: Deep Earth Processes: Windows on the Working of a Planet

Date: 15-16 September 2014

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Call for papers deadline: 16 May 2014

Our understanding of the Earth's deep interior has changed fundamentally in the last decade. The widely held view that the mantle is layered with respect to different geochemical reservoirs, and that the lower mantle has remained unchanged since the formation of the Earth 4.5 Ga ago, has been challenged by diverse evidence from geophysical images, mineral physics, the geochemistry of erupted melts, diamonds and their inclusions.



The meeting will draw together the latest ideas and results in a discussion of the key features of the inaccessible depths of our planet.

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Call for Abstracts Extended: ICE Coastal Management 2015: Changing Coast, Changing Climate, Changing Minds



Date: September 2015

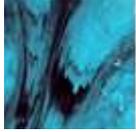
Venue to be confirmed

Abstract submission has been extended until 31 July 2014 for the Institute of Civil Engineers 8th Conference on Coastal Management. The Conference will take place in the Netherlands, and will bring together engineers, scientists and coastal managers from around the world.

ICE is seeking papers on top international coastal projects that offer practical learning, innovative and integrated solutions, and that encourage new ways of understanding and managing our coasts. Successful authors will be notified September 2014.

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Groups & Networks

West Midlands Regional Group: Monitoring Active Volcanoes

Date: 13 May 2014

Venue: Room MA 202, MA Building, University of Wolverhampton (South Campus)



Volcano monitoring used to be the preserve of technicians or academic researchers. Thanks to new technologies, Citizen Scientists are becoming increasingly involved in not only the acquisition of scientific data, but in the analysis and interpretation too. Geophysical measurements need to be made over long periods of time in order to identify patterns related to subsurface processes which may be relevant to eruptive activity. This is the type of study well suited to Citizen Scientists.

This talk, by Prof Hazel Rymer of the Open University, will illustrate the long term changes that have been seen at active volcanoes, and what this tells us about the processes driving volcanic activity.

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Thames Valley Regional Group: London Underground Extension and Upgrade



Date: 20 May 2014

Venue: Jacobs Office, Winnersh, RG41 5TU

The London Underground, which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, is to be extended and is undergoing complex upgrades in order to enhance access to the existing system as well as to provide access to new underground public transport systems such as Crossrail.

Overall, the talk will address bored, mined, and cut-and-cover techniques and the adoption of Tunnel Boring Machines, Sprayed Concrete and other linings, and ground treatment. Its scope will also include the instrumentation and monitoring necessary to link prediction to reality and to identify the response of the ground, buildings, infrastructure, and buried assets to the construction works.

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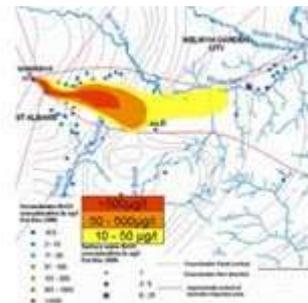
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Home Counties North Regional Group: Bromate Pollution in Hertfordshire

Date: 5 June 2014

Venue: Affinity Water, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield AL10 9EZ

Bromate contamination of public water supply sources from the Hertfordshire Chalk was first identified in 2000. Affinity Water and its predecessors have been actively engaged in understanding this pollutant, managing its impact on their operations and researching and implementing protection measures. They currently operate, in conjunction with Thames Water, a pump and treat remediation system. This reduces concentrations of bromate down-gradient of Hatfield, allowing higher usage and flexibility of other sources, whilst also minimising increases in operating costs.



Rob Sage, an Asset Specialist in Water Resources at Affinity Water, will cover the identification and research of the issue, alternatives investigated and the outline the current situation. He will also touch on the legal position, the results of a public enquiry and how the 'polluter pays' principle can be enforced.

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East Midlands Regional Group: The Geological Survey at War



Date: 19 June 2014

Venue: British Geological Survey, Keyworth

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1, this talk will look at the contribution the British Geological Survey made to the war effort during the First World War, including producing geological maps for the Western Front, advising on water supplies and researching into materials used in aeroplane compasses.

It will also cover several individual geologists and what happened to them during the war (including two future directors of the Survey) and the potential dangers to field geologists, who could be mistaken for German spies.

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Other News

European Geoparks Week 2014

Dates: 23 May to 9 June 2014

Venue: Various Geoparks in Europe

European Geoparks Week 2014 is a European-wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and promotion of the geological heritage, as well as events aimed at informing the wide public about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks.

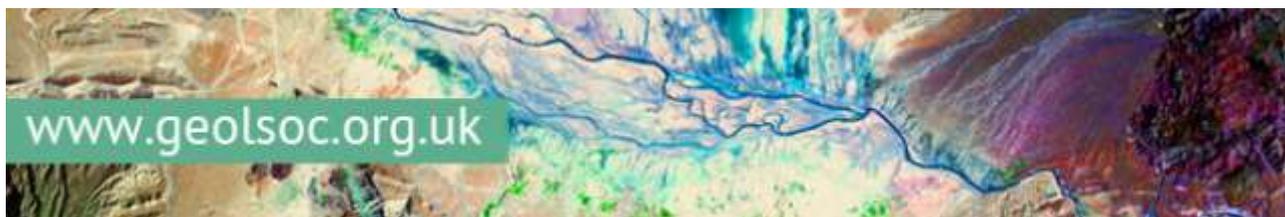


Events will take place in Geoparks throughout Europe, including the [Burren & Cliffs of Moher](#), [Copper Coast](#), [English Riviera](#), [Forest Fawr](#), [Shetland](#), [Marble Arch Caves](#), [North Pennines](#) and [North West Highland](#) Geoparks.

More programme information is available on the website.

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