

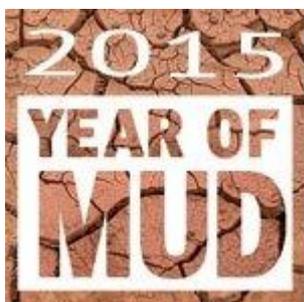


Welcome to the fortnightly **Geological Society** newsletter.

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## 2015 Year of Mud



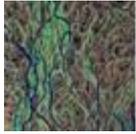
Themed years are at the heart of our [Science Strategy](#), and 2015 will be a 'Year of Mud' at the Geological Society.

There is a resurgence of interest in the science of mud-rocks with applications ranging from shale gas exploration to slope stability, the search for suitable radioactive waste disposal sites, understanding soil quality and flood risk and ground-breaking engineering projects such as Crossrail and advances in nanogeoscience and biogeology.

The programme kicks off in January with [David Manning's London Lecture](#) and [the Quaternary Research Association's North Sea-focused meeting](#). We welcome suggestions for more events and activities.

[See the event listings so far or contribute your suggestions](#)  
[Read the Science Strategy](#)  
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## Membership

### Opportunity to Join the Science Committee

There is an exciting opportunity to join the Science Committee as an early career geologist. Joining the Science Committee, will give you the chance to help shape the future of the Society, work towards a common goal and make a difference.

If you are able to give some of your time we invite you to volunteer to serve on the Science Committee. Travel expenses are reimbursed but committee members do not necessarily receive remuneration.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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### Christmas and New Year Closure



The Society (London and Bath) will be closed from 4pm on Tuesday, 23 December 2014, re-opening on Monday, 5 January 2015.

The Publishing House will also be closed on Friday, 5 December from 12.00pm and Burlington House will be closed on Friday, 19 December from 12.00pm.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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### Call for Nominations to Serve on Council

Would you consider standing for election to Council? Are you willing to contribute to the work of the Society not only by becoming a member of Council and one of its standing committees but also by serving on working groups and undertaking particular tasks between meetings?

Whatever your background and expertise in the geosciences, membership of Council enables you to influence the role of the Society in acting as a respected voice serving society and the geoscience profession.



The following members of Council are due to retire at the Annual General Meeting in 2015:

- Dr Mike Armitage, Prof Neil Chapman, Mr David Cragg, Prof Al Fraser, Mr David Jones, Dr Adam Law, Prof Alan Lord, Dr Brian Marker and Dr Gary Nichols

Included in the October Geoscientist were nomination forms for the election of new Council members and the President-designate 2015/16. Details & return address are on the forms and in the [Governance section of the website](#). **The closing date for the receipt of nominations is noon on Friday, 9 January 2015** and nominations will NOT be valid unless they are fully completed, signed and accompanied by a statement by the nominees.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## Applications Open for 2015 Research Funds



Applications are invited for the 2015 round of the Society research funds. Download the appropriate form from the [Society Awards and Research Grants page](#) where you will also find information about the Society's and other funds administered by the Society. The average award has been about £1000.

Applications need to reach the Society no later than **1 February 2015** and must be supported by two Fellows of the Society who must each complete a supporting statement form. The Research Grants committee meets once annually and only complete applications on the appropriate form will be considered.

Novas Consulting Ltd is again generously providing bursaries for undergraduate field mapping; supervisors are asked to encourage their students to submit their applications.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
[Read about an undergraduate mapping project funded by a Society bursary in Geoscientist](#)  
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## Policy

### Independent Review Panel - Call for Volunteers

In July, after almost eighteen months of consultation, the UK Government published a White Paper setting out a revised process for the siting of a geological disposal facility (GDF) for radioactive waste.

As set out in the White Paper, Council of the Geological Society has agreed to establish an Independent Review Panel, to review and evaluate the draft guidance for the screening process, and its subsequent application by the developer Radioactive Waste Management (RWM).



Once established, the panel will work independently of the Society and report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). DECC will pay reasonable travel and subsistence costs of Panel members and give sympathetic consideration to requests for recompense for loss of earnings.

Council is now seeking one or more volunteer members to join the Panel. To express your interest, please email [Nic Bilham](#) by **10.00am on Monday 5 January 2015**, setting out briefly your expertise and experience relevant to the work of the Panel.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
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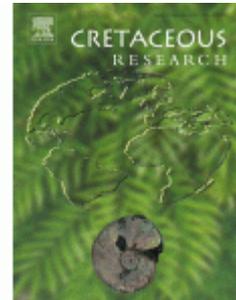
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## Library and Information Services

### Recent special issues in the Virtual Library

The Recent Special Issues section of the Virtual Library contains details of thematic special issues from e-journals which are available to Fellows. These include both the Library's [‘Athens’ login journals](#) and ones which are freely available online.



The following new special issues have been added to December's section.

- [Analytical techniques in the study of mineral deposits](#)
- [Cretaceous insects](#)
- [Critical metals](#)
- [Early Precambrian gneiss complexes](#)
- [Environmental history of European high mountains](#)
- [Fluids and structures in fold and thrust belts](#)
- [Gas hydrates in offshore India](#)
- [Geotechnics of hard soils and weak rocks](#)
- [Integrated water resources management](#)
- [Loess and the record of upper Palaeolithic cultures in the Danube Basin](#)
- [Precambrian geological events and mineralization of the North China Craton](#)
- [Soil pollution and reclamation](#)
- [South China Sea and adjacent basins](#)
- [Tohoku-oki tsunami](#)

Athens authentication can also be used to access more than 90 other journals from leading publishers.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
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## Events

### 8th Petroleum Geology Conference



Date: 28-30 September 2015  
Venue: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, UK

#### Early Bird Registration Open

Register now for the Petroleum Geology of Northwest Europe Conference; organised jointly by the Geological Society of London, the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) and the Energy Institute (EI).

With a central theme of “50 years of learning - a platform for present value and future success” the event will cover the North Sea and surrounding onshore areas, as well as exploration

frontiers in the North Atlantic and the Barents Sea.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
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## Higher Education Network Annual Meeting 2015

Date: 21 - 22 January 2015  
Venue: Plymouth University

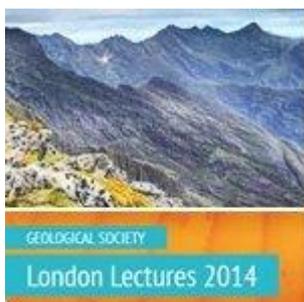
**Register by 19 January** for the 2015 annual meeting of the Higher Education Network. This year's event theme is 'Sharing Education Practice in the Geosciences'.

This meeting aims to provide a forum for lively, informed debate between teachers, students, practitioners, employers and other stakeholders on higher education practice in the GEES disciplines.



[For full details and to register visit the conference website](#)

## New London Lecture Videos: Salt Tectonics

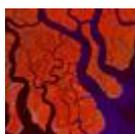


The December London Lecture is now available to watch online:

[Terra Infirma: What Has Salt Tectonics Ever Done For Us](#)  
Chris Jackson's 10 December lecture celebrating salt.

The ballot for the first of the 2015 London Lectures, [Glories of Mud](#), will open this week. Visit the website for more information.

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## Education & Careers

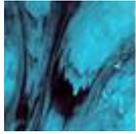
### Careers Day Resources

Did you attend one of our November careers days in Nottingham or Edinburgh?

Photos and downloads from both days are now available on the website, including student manuals and CV workshop resources, plus an opportunity to [send us your feedback and suggestions](#).

[Visit the Careers Day page for more information](#)  
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## Groups & Networks

### Hong Kong Regional Group: Point Clouds for Rock Joint Mapping



Event: Point Clouds for Rock Joint Mapping

Date: 17 December 2014

Venue: Lecture Theatre Y302, Y Block, The Hong Kong Polytechnic Uni

This presentation, given by Bruce King, Associate Professor, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, reviews the methods of obtaining point clouds and then presents several examples of how they have been used to map rock joints and surfaces, both in surface outcrops and in caverns.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

Event: Annual Dinner 2014/15

Date: 16 January 2014

Venue: Hong Kong Football Club, 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley

The Hong Kong Regional Group invites all Fellows and their guests to their Annual Dinner. The dinner celebrates the passing of another successful year for the Hong Kong Group and will focus on the highlights of the year alongside a talk by Prof. Andrew Malone.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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### Mineral Deposits Studies Group: Annual Meeting

Date: 18-19 December 2014

Venue: National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton

The 38th Annual Meeting of the Mineral Deposits Studies Group will be held this week at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton.

The focus this year is research in progress and keynote speakers will include Prof John Walsh, Prof Adrian Boyce, Prof Philip Weaver, Prof Bruce Yardley, Dr Tom Gernon and Dr Bob Foster.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

## British Sedimentological Research Group AGM



Date: 20-22 December 2014  
Venue: Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham

The British Sedimentological Research Group (BSRG) AGM is taking place this weekend.

Convened by the British Geological Survey (BGS), there will be core workshops, two days of conference at the Nottingham Conference Centre, a field trip to Charnwood Forest and a conference dinner at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
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## Tectonic Studies Group Annual Meeting 2015

Date: 4-10 January 2015  
Venue: Grant Institute, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

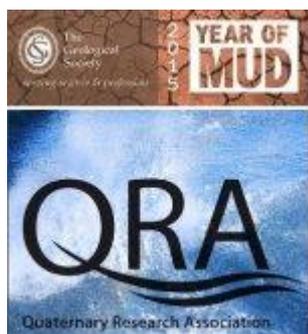
The week long programme will feature extended keynote lectures, free workshops and opportunities for discussion and networking across academic levels.

Themes for this years meeting include; Earthquakes in the geological record, rock deformation in nature, the evolution of fluids and transport properties in deforming rocks and advances in regional geology and tectonics.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

## QRA 2015 Annual Discussion Meeting



Date: 5-8 January 2015  
Venue: Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh

The Edinburgh 2015 Quaternary Research Association (QRA) annual discussion meeting aims to bring together scientists working in the North Sea and surrounding areas. It will provide an ideal forum in which to exchange views and information, and discuss new ideas regarding the Quaternary evolution of the North Sea basin.

There will be poster sessions and free post-conference workshops.

[Visit the website for more information](#)  
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## Volcanic & Magmatic Studies Group Annual Meeting

Date: 5-9 January 2015

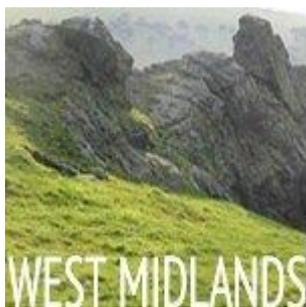
Venue: OPEN, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, Norfolk

The AGM will include five theme sessions and a panel session covering volcanic monitoring, lessons learnt from recent eruptions, problems in applied volcanology, reconstructing volcanic and magmatic histories and volcanic risk management.

[Visit the website for more information](#)



## West Midlands Regional Group: Near Surface Geophysics



Date: 13 January 2015

Venue: Atkins (The Axis) Birmingham, 10 Holliday Street B1 1TF

Dr Simon Hughes (TerraDat UK Ltd) presents a talk on Geophysics; a modern science routinely applied to ground exploration.

Geophysical surveys are becoming more common place and an accepted part of geotechnical site investigations prompting a look at the advantages, limitations and methods used. Using case studies this talk explores the trials, pitfalls and successes of the science.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## Other News

### Geoadvent Christmas Blog

There are only 9 days left on our Christmas blog, with a new post every day until Christmas Eve. So far we've had ghosts of the museum, our favourite (not Christmas) letters, geological crochet and surprising geologists. What will be next?

Don't forget, you could still win our Ultimate Geoadvent Prize. This year's windows are all taken from our list of 100 Great Geosites. The first person to correctly identify the site pictured each day will win a point towards the Prize!

Open the latest door below:

- [Door 16: On this day.... The day the New Madrid Earthquakes Struck](#)

[Visit our blog to read the opened posts for this year](#)

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## Endorsed CPD Courses: Micomine



**MICROMINE**  
Intuitive Mining Solutions

Micomine Intuitive Mining Solutions is offering endorsed CPD training courses in January. Click on the links for more information.

[Introduction to Micomine: two day training course](#)

Date: 13-14 January 2015

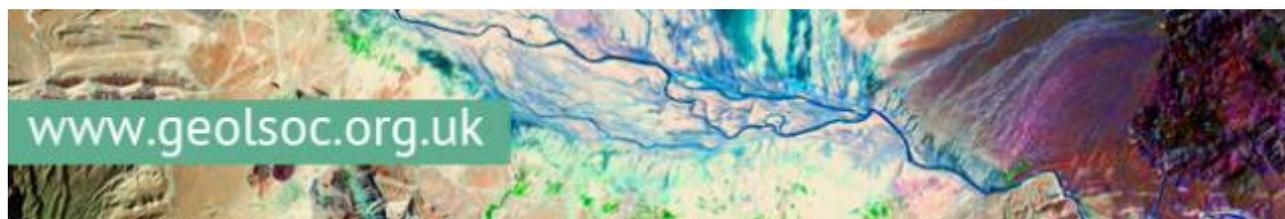
Cost: £110

[Resource Estimation in Micromine: two day training course](#)

Date: 15-16 January 2015

Cost: £500

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