



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

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Co-evolution of Life and the Planet



The Earth that sustains us today has arisen out of planetary scale co-evolution of the physical and biological worlds, whose complex interactions necessitate a multidisciplinary 'Earth System' approach.

Three years on from [Life and the Planet 2011](#), an event marking the launch of a long-term [NERC research programme](#), this two-day meeting at Burlington House on 5-6 November will explore advances in our understanding of the coupled evolution of life and the planet, with four main themes:

- Precambrian origins of the modern Earth System
- Key events in the evolution of marine ecosystems
- Geological constraints on biological evolution in the polar region
- Descent into the Icehouse during the Cenozoic Era

[Visit the event page for more information](#)
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The Lost World of Ladakh: Reclaiming the Past, Sustaining the Future

Following on from the [Sustainable Resource Development in the Himalaya](#) conference and associated educational programme in Ladakh, an evening of talks at Burlington House on 24 October contrasted 1930s photographs profiled in a recently published book with modern images, providing insights into both environmental and cultural change.

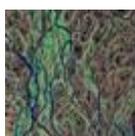


The Society was delighted to welcome guests including the Indian High Commissioner to a discussion session drawing upon wider expertise of this fascinating region, as we considered how an understanding of the past can help to build a sustainable future.

The talks were recorded and will be available soon on the [event page](#)

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Membership

Former Society President Richard Fortey on Radio 4 Today



Richard Fortey, Professor of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum and President of the Geological Society from 2006 to 2008, is the subject of The Life Scientific on Radio 4 today, in which Professor Jim Al-Khalili talks to leading scientists about their life and work, finding out what inspires and motivates them and asking what their discoveries might do for mankind.

The broadcast went out at 9am and will be repeated at 9.30pm.

[Listen to the broadcast on the Radio 4 Website](#)
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Christmas and New Year closure

The Society (London and Bath) will be closed from 16.00 on Tuesday, 23 December 2014, re-opening at 09.30 on Monday, 5 January 2015.

[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

Fellows received with October's Geoscientist nomination forms for the election of new Council members and the President-designate 2015/16. Details & return address are on the forms and also 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. Please complete the appropriate form which can be downloaded 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.

The Research Grants committee meets once annually. Applications must 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. Only complete applications on the appropriate form will be considered. Please send to the Awards Secretary at the Geological Society.



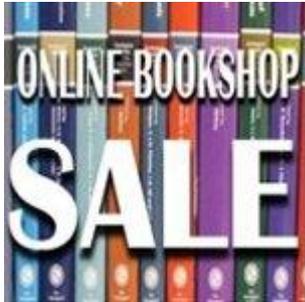
Novas Consulting Ltd is again generously providing bursaries for undergraduate field mapping and supervisors are asked to encourage their students to submit their applications.

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

Online Bookshop Sale November 2014



Don't miss the Geological Society online bookshop sale, commencing on 11 November and ending at midnight (GMT) on 18 November 2014. Some publications in the sale have limited stock available.

You'll also find a huge range of new publications, back list publications from GSL and other publishers too.

[Visit the website for more information](#)
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The Publishing House at Upcoming Conferences

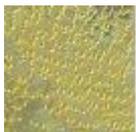
The Publishing House will be exhibiting at the following meetings and conferences:

- [PETEX](#), 18-20 November, London, UK, Booth #C6
- [AGU Fall Meeting](#), 15-19 December, San Francisco, Booth #2213

Do come along and say hello and browse our selection of new and discounted publications!

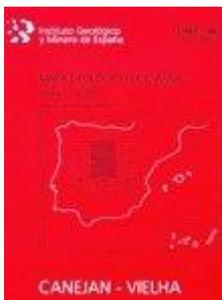


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Library and Information Services

Library Christmas Book Sale



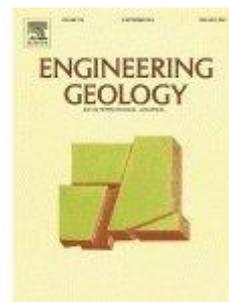
The Library's latest sale of duplicate and out-of-scope stock is now available to browse online. There are hundreds of items in the sale, including publications from the Geological Society, AAPG and Geological Society of America.

Prices for many items are £5 or less, including Geological Maps of Spain and USA, USGS publications, a wide range of introductory text-books, mint condition SEPM CD-Roms, and much more.

[Visit the sale page now to pick up a bargain!](#)
Contact: library@geolsoc.org.uk
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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 October's section:

- [Mesozoic and Cenozoic Decapod Crustaceans](#)
- [Quaternary of East Asia and Western Pacific](#)
- [The 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, China](#)

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

Doing More with Less



A panel discussion on the complexity of making decisions and growing profits in oil and gas exploration with less time and less resources

Date: 20 November, 6pm-9pm

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

A joint venture by GSL and Elsevier, and part of the Elsevier Thought Leadership Programme.

Panellists will include:

- Friso Veenstra, Senior Director of Business Development for O&G Exploration, TNO
- Ian Bryant, Vice President & Senior Geoscience Advisor, Schlumberger Information Solutions
- Andy Latham, Vice President of Exploration Service, Wood Mackenzie

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Geological Society Careers in Earth Science 2014

Date: 26 November 2014

Venue: Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

The Careers in Earth Science event is being run by the Earth Science Scotland community, and is co-badged by the Geological Society and the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain.

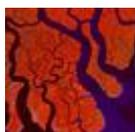
The day will include presentations from early career earth scientists from the oil and gas, mining, geotechnical, environmental and research sectors. There will also be a panel Q&A on careers. The exhibition will include employers and professional bodies, and a higher education fair, promoting MSc and PhD programmes.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

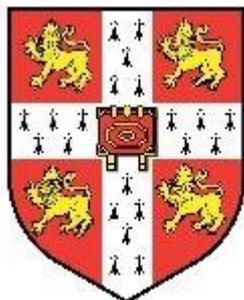
Follow this event on Twitter: [#GSLcareers14](#)

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Education & Careers

Cambridge University Film Promoting Earth Sciences



The Cambridge University Earth Sciences department recently made a film promoting earth sciences, featuring David Attenborough.

Originally aimed at dispelling misconceptions in new undergraduates, the department also hopes to sow the seeds of Geological enthusiasm in schools. Please watch and show it to your students or anyone else you think would benefit.

[Watch the film online](#)

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Policy & Media

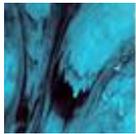
Launch of the Geodiversity Charter

On the 21 October the English Geodiversity Forum (EGF), along with several representatives from the geoconservation community, Fellows of the Geological Society and Parliamentarians, launched the 'Geodiversity Charter for England' at Westminster.

The event was at the invitation of Julian Smith MP and was opened by Lord de Mauley (Parliamentary Undersecretary for Natural Environment and Science). The Society is a signatory to the Charter, which can be found on the [EGF website](#).

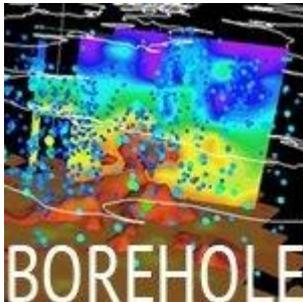


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Groups & Networks

Borehole Research Group Closed



For a number of years the Borehole Research Group has been inactive; indeed its last recorded meeting was in 2001. Because of inactivity Council decided at its meeting on 25 September 2014 that the Group should be wound up.

Much of the science that led to the formation of the Borehole Research Group is now covered by other Specialist Groups. If Fellows wish to amend their Fellowship record so they are kept up to date with the work of other Specialist Groups, please contact the Fellowship office on 020 7434 9944 extension 385.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Thames Valley Regional Group Events

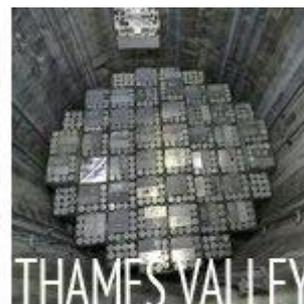
[The Current Status of Geological Screening for Disposal of Radioactive Waste](#)

Date: 4 November 2014

Venue now confirmed: Reading Town Hall, Waterhouse Chamber

The permanent, safe disposal of higher activity radioactive waste is one of the great challenges facing Earth Scientists. The internationally agreed solution is deep geological disposal.

Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM), the Government-appointed developer of a geological disposal facility, is holding a series of meetings to ensure the expertise and insights of geologists, engineers, academics and scientists of different disciplines help shape and inform the national screening exercise and its implementation. So please feel free to bring along colleagues, ask questions and make your contribution to the debate.



[Myanmar Earthquake Lecture](#)

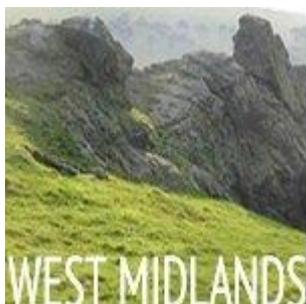
Date: 18 November 2014

Venue: Royal Holloway University, Egham

Ian Watkinson presents a talk on the Myanmar Earthquake. More information will be available soon. Please RSVP to the group secretary if you plan to attend.

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West Midlands Regional Group: Bioremediation of DNAPL - A Case Study of Enhanced Reductive Chlorination



Date: 11 November 2014

Venue: Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham

George Flower (Environmental Technical Director, Hyder Consulting) presents a case study of enhanced reductive dechlorination was used to remediate Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) contamination under an industrial dry cleaning facility contaminated with tetrachloroethene.

The Brownfield Briefing Award-winning treatment reduced the contaminant concentrations to meet low dissolved phase targets from a single injection.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

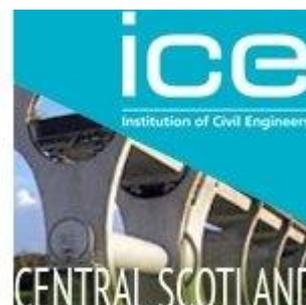
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UK Shale Gas: Frack On, Frack Off or Frack Well?

Date: 11 November 2013

Venue: Godfrey Thomson Hall, University of Edinburgh

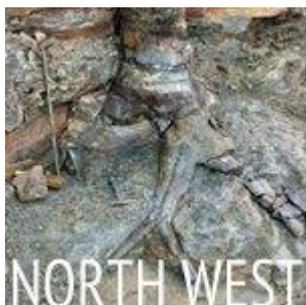
Professor Zoe Shipton (University of Strathclyde) presents a joint lecture of the Central Scotland Regional Group with the Scottish Geotechnical Group of The Institution of Civil Engineers, focusing on a Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering working group report investigating the major risks associated with fracking and how these risks can be effectively managed. A flyer and detailed description is now available on the event page.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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The Fossil Forest at Brymbo, Wrexham: Studies on Preservation and Ecology of Carboniferous Plant Fossils



Date: 12 November 2014

Venue: University of Chester Department of Biological Sciences,
Parkgate Campus, Chester

The Fossil Forest at Brymbo is of national and international importance because of its unique and well-preserved assemblage of plant fossils within 14m of exposed Coal Measures of middle Duckmantian age. Different assemblages have been recognised enabling tentative ecological interpretations to be made.

Professor Barry Thomas (Aberystwyth University) presents a joint lecture for the North West Regional Group and the [North Wales Geology Association](#).

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Southern Wales Regional Group Events at Cardiff University

[Geoscience, Engineering and Environmental Careers Evening](#)

Date: 13 November 2014

An annual event held in the main reception at Cardiff University, Park Place, with displays and stands from a wide range of local, national and global companies along with government bodies. This is a great opportunity to come along and get the inside view on day to day working life from a variety of sectors.



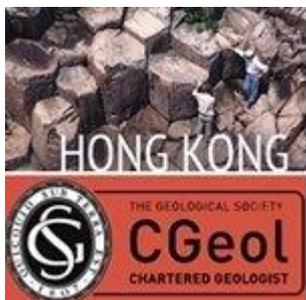
[Data from the Sky: Recent Advances in Geological & Geotechnical Data Collection from Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(UAV's\)](#)

Date: 18 November 2014

Adrian Charters of Quarry Design Ltd, a geological and geotechnical consultancy specialising in remote mapping & data acquisition for the mining and quarrying sector, presents a lecture on the use of LiDAR and UAV's to collect geological and geotechnical data.

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Hong Kong Regional Group: Towards Chartership



Date: 17 November 2014

Venue: Mariners Club, Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong

This seminar and sharing session is aimed at early career geologists and will provide an overview of the [Chartership system](#), what it is, why it's worth pursuing and what's required in order to obtain recognition as a CGeol.

In addition to a general overview of chartership, a number of experienced scrutineers and recent successful CGeol candidates will share their views and experience during a relaxed, informal discussion session.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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East Midlands Regional Group: Cliff Stability

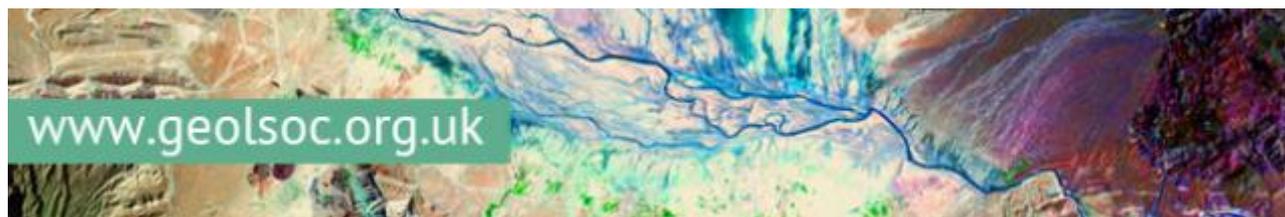
Date: 18 November 2014

Venue: BGS Keyworth conference suite

Pete Hobbs, Engineering Geologist at BGS, takes a look at some of the processes involved in cliff instability, with particular reference to the sometimes underestimated influence of landslides and how we might assess a cliff's stability.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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