



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

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## Geoadvent Christmas Blog Marathon



The Christmas blog marathon has just launched, with a new post every day until Christmas Eve. Expect bad jokes, gossip from the archives, YouTube clips and occasional 'Proper Science', brought to you by an assortment of staff members.

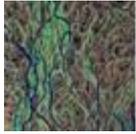
This year's windows are all taken from our list of 100 Great Geosites. The first person to correctly identify the site pictured each day will win a point towards our Ultimate Geoadvent Prize!

Open the first two doors below:

- [Door 1: Ice Ice and More Ice!](#)
- [Door 2: On this day... 1972: The 'December Giant' Sinkhole](#)

[Read the posts from last year](#)  
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## Membership

### 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

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](#)

[Read about an undergraduate mapping project funded by a Society bursary in Geoscientist](#)

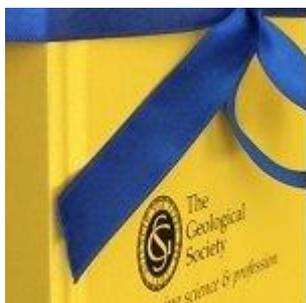
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## Publications

### The GSL Gift Page



Visit our Geogifts page for seasonal gift inspiration and ideas, browse our range of maps, DVDs and books.

Order before 11 December for delivery in time for Christmas!

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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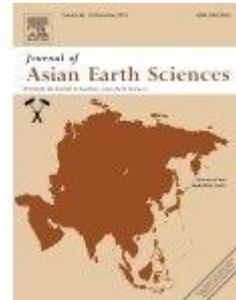
## Library and Information Services

### 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 November’s section.

- [Engineering geology for landslides and slope stability](#)
- [Geodynamics of the Mediterranean](#)
- [Gondwana to Asia](#)
- [Jiaodong-type gold deposits](#)
- [Lacustrine sediment sequence at Lake Van, Turkey](#)
- [Ore deposits in Iran](#)
- [Quaternary investigations from Antarctica across South America to the North Atlantic](#)
- [Subduction](#)
- [The Wenchuan earthquake and geologic hazards](#)



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

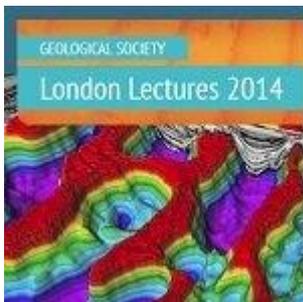
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## Events

### Terra Infirma: What Has Salt Tectonics Ever Done for Us?



Date: 10 December 2014

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Webcasts at 3pm and 6pm

Chris Jackson (Imperial College) presents the final 2014 London Lecture in celebration of salt, highlighting its unique physical properties, its role in the generation of complex geological structures, and its importance in hydrocarbon exploration.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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

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## Shale UK 2015

Date: 4-5 March 2015

Venue: Milton Court, The Barbican, London

Organised on behalf of The Geological Society, the 2nd Shale UK Conference combines expert analysis and views from industry, government and academia.

The 2015 programme will feature the latest research findings and technical developments, drawing on lessons from the US on how geoscience can enable better understanding of the challenges and empower better decision making. Confirmed speakers are now available.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## William Smith Meeting 2015: 200 Years of Smith's map



Date: 23-25 April 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

This meeting will celebrate publication of the first geological map of a nation 200 years ago. It aims to address Smith's achievements and his impact on the state of geology during his time.

It will look at several aspects, including his relationship with the Geological Society of London, Smith's map, contemporary concepts of geological survey and map design, as well as past and present research into surviving Smith maps, sections and documents.

This is the first of two Geological Society William Smith Meetings in 2015.

Registration will open in January.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## New London Lecture Videos: Geoheritage and Contaminated Land

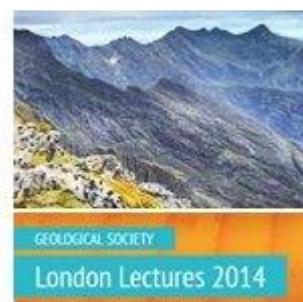
The October and November London Lectures are now available to watch online on the Past Meeting Resources pages:

[Geoheritage and the UK's most significant geological sites](#)

Rob Butler's 15 October lecture celebrating UK & Irish Geoheritage

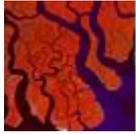
[Contaminated Land: What is it Good For?](#)

The 19 November lecture by Paul Nathanail on the role of geoscientists to ensure land affected by contamination is safe.



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## Education & Careers

### The National Schools Geology Challenge 2015



Now in its fourth year, the National Schools Geology Challenge is looking for 2015 finalists. Do you think your year 12 or 13 students would work well as a team to produce a themed poster or presentation to a panel of leading geologists from industry and academia?

Heats take place all over the UK, with regional winners competing in the final at The Geological Society in London on 29 April 2015.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

[Email Joanna.Mears@Geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:Joanna.Mears@Geolsoc.org.uk)

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### 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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### New Podcast:

### Geoheritage and the UK's Most Significant Geological Sites

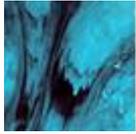


In October, as part of Earth Science Week, we announced our list of 100 Great Geosites in the UK and Ireland. These range from classic outcrops to cathedrals, museums and mines - all places where you can find out about our unique geoheritage.

Rob Butler, Chair of our Geoconservation Committee, talks more about the project, how the list was compiled, and his hopes for how it can help the future of geoconservation in the UK & Ireland.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## Groups & Networks

### North West Regional Group: The Water Framework Directive & Groundwater in the North West

Date: 4 December 2014

Venue: Williamson Lecture Theatre, Manchester University

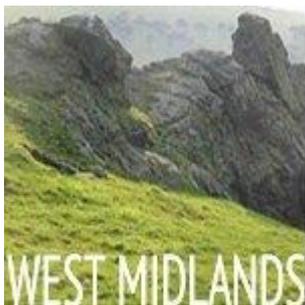
Laura Pender (Environment Agency) presents a talk on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) which underpins environmental legislation within the UK, focusing on the WFD and groundwater within the North West.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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### West Midlands Regional Group: A Life in Oil



Date: 9 December 2014

Venue: Lapworth Museum of Geology, Birmingham

Martin Carruthers, former Lead Technical Support Engineer at Baker Hughes will discuss oil & gas exploration and recovery past and present including what life is like offshore and future issues such as 'fracking'.

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### Yorkshire Regional Group: AGM & Christmas Quiz

Date: 10 December 2014

Venue: Arup Offices, Rose Wharf, Leeds

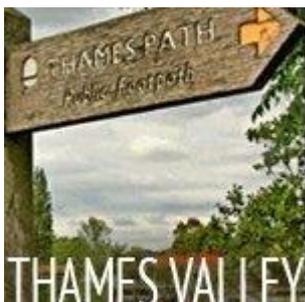
A short talk by a guest speaker from Arup will be followed by the AGM and Christmas Quiz. Light refreshments will be provided.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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### Thames Valley Regional Group Lecture: Downhole Geophysics



Date: 16 December 2014

Venue: Fugro Office, Wallingford

Heather Butler will present a lecture on Downhole Geophysics. More information will be available soon.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## Geological Remote Sensing Group Silver Anniversary Conference: 25 Years of Geological Remote Sensing

Date: 15-17 December 2014

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

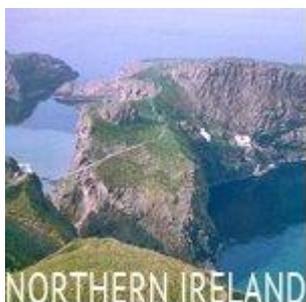
To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Geological Remote Sensing Group has invited the founding chairman, Geoff Lawrence, to give a keynote presentation entitled '25 Years of Geological Remote Sensing: Then and Now'. The history of Remote Sensing will also be celebrated in Keynotes throughout the conference.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## The Early Career Geologist Award - Northern Ireland Regional Final



Date: 13 January 2015

Closing date for entries: 21 December 2014

Venue: TBC, Northern Ireland

The national [Early Career Geologist award](#) was launched by the Geological Society to recognise the work of geoscientists in the early part of their careers. The winners of the regional heats will be entered into the draw for the national final in April.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## Geological, Geotechnical & Hydrogeological aspects of the York Potash Ltd Mineral Transport System Tunnel

**A joint meeting of the Engineering Group and the British Tunnel Society**

Date: 22 January 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

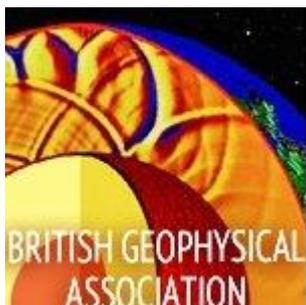
York Potash Limited (YPL) intend to build the first UK potash mine for over 40 years, a plan for North Yorkshire that has both local and national significance. Tristan Pottas (YPL) & Tom Berry (Arup) will discuss ground investigations for the mine, which will transport polyhalite by conveyor belt in a 37.5km-long tunnel which rises to the surface at Teesside, in one of the world's most innovatively designed low impact mining operations.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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## From Hooke to Helioseismology: The UK's Contribution to Seismology - Past, Present & Future



Date: 9-10 April 2015  
Venue: College Court, University of Leicester

A two-day meeting on Seismology past, present and future, sponsored by the British Geophysical Association and the Geological Society.

Sessions include Earthquakes, Instruments & Institutions, Controlled-Source Seismology & Crustal Studies and Passive Seismology. Participants are encouraged to submit posters on any aspect of seismology, in particular on the UK's historical contribution to the science.

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### Other News

## The International Petroleum Technology Conference

Date: 10-12 December 2014  
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia

The International Petroleum Technology Conference is renowned as the premier multi-disciplinary oil and gas event in the Eastern Hemisphere. With addresses from some of the most influential names in the industry, sessions on critical issues and exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, this is a networking opportunity not to be missed for upstream oil and gas professionals.



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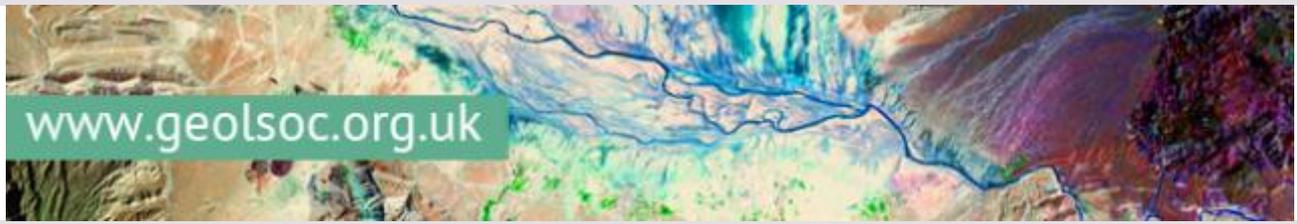
## The Science Council Gift Ideas for Scientists



The Science Council invites suggestions for an article exploring the best Christmas presents for professional scientists.

Please contribute your ideas on twitter [@C\\_Sci](#), by email at [info@sciencecouncil.org](mailto:info@sciencecouncil.org), or on the [Chartered Scientist LinkedIn group](#).

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