



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

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Edmund Nickless to retire



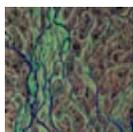
The Executive Secretary, Edmund Nickless, informed Council on 4 February 2015 of his intention to retire with effect from 30 September 2015, and Council has accepted his decision.

This means that Council will seek to appoint a new Executive Secretary, and the search for a successor will start immediately. The recruitment process will be overseen by the President, with assistance from present and past Officers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Edmund for what will be 18 years of service to the Society. I am sure you will all share with me an appreciation of what has been achieved during that time.

David Manning
President

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[Membership](#)

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! Council Elections Ongoing

Don't miss your chance to choose who should serve on Council.

As a Fellow this is your opportunity to decide who you think best represents the interests of all Fellows and can shape the future of the Society. Fourteen nominations have been received, two for President-designate and 12 for the remaining seven places.

[Login to your page on the Society's website \(MyGSL\) to cast your vote.](#)

Voting will close on **31 March 2015**.

[Read Council biographies](#)

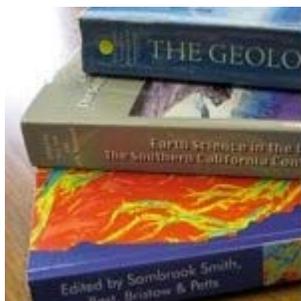
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Library and Information Services

Library Book Sale



The Library's first book sale of 2015 is now available to browse online. There are over 300 items in the sale, including books, journal special issues, CD-Roms and maps of the UK, Spain and USA. A wide range of subjects are covered, with recently added topics including mineral resources, petrology and petroleum geology.

With many prices starting at £5 or less, [visit the sale page now](#) to pick up a bargain!

Email [Library](#) for more information

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.

New special issues on the following topics have been added to March's section.

- [Carbonate sedimentation on Pacific coral reefs](#)
- [Deformation of the lithosphere](#)
- [Miocene Bryozoa from East Kalimantan, Indonesia](#)
- [Tectonic evolution of the Borborema Province, northeastern Brazil](#)
- [Tectonics and metallogeny of the southern Central Asian Orogenic Belt](#)



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

London Lecture: The Cambrian Shales of Scandinavia and their Remarkable Trilobites



Date: 10 March 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Webcasts at 3pm and 6pm

Today, Euan Clarkson of the University of Edinburgh will discuss trilobites that developed

in the Cambrian alum shales of Scandinavia. He will explore the many factors that contributed to their development and pay particular attention to adaptations of various olenids.

Watch the lecture through the live webcast.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [#gslecture](#)

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William Smith Meeting 2015: 200 years of Smith's map



Date: 23 - 24 April 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

William Smith (1769 -1839) was an English geologist who created the first nationwide geological map. In 1831 the Geological Society of London awarded Smith the first Wollaston Medal and the President, Adam Sedgwick, referred to him as 'the Father of English Geology'.

This two-day conference features Keynote Lectures from Professor Hugh Torrens and Professor Simon Knell and 18 talks by experts on William Smith's maps, his careers, and his contemporaries in England and Europe.

[To register, and for more information, visit the website.](#)

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Sustainable Exploitation of the Subsurface

Date: 20 - 21 May 2015



Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS: Deadline 13 March 2015

It has long been recognised that the subsurface is a complex, scarce and valuable resource. With urbanisation, and in order to support a well functioning society, we are now becoming more reliant on using the subsurface for physical infrastructure (e.g. underground networks such as utilities & transport) and for the storage and containment of resources (energy & water) and waste (CO₂ & radioactive waste). This meeting will focus on the importance of understanding the subsurface for now and the future.



We welcome both poster and oral presentation contributions for this meeting covering any of the following:

- Subsurface investigation case studies demonstrating technologies & techniques that support geological characterisation
- Subsurface construction case studies demonstrating technologies & techniques
- Planning, regulating & decommissioning of the subsurface for various resources (e.g. water, energy, utilities, transport, waste)

If you would like to be considered for a slot in the programme please send an abstract of no more than 400 words to [Jess Aries](#). Deadline: no later than 5pm on Friday 13 March 2015.

[For more information, visit the website](#)

Twitter: [#exploitsubsurface](#) and [#yearofmud](#)

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Puzzle of Earth's Uninterrupted Habitability



Date: 11 November 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: Deadline 5 April 2015

This conference will bring together proponents of the various contentious views on the Earth's continuous suitability for life since the Archean, and will attempt to forge a consensus on how to move the debate forward. This debate will be informed by data relating to the latest understanding of silicate weathering, Neoproterozoic

ice ages, and the environmental history of Earth.

We welcome oral presentation contributions for this meeting. If you would like to be considered for a slot in the programme please send an abstract of no more than 400 words to [Jess Aries](#).

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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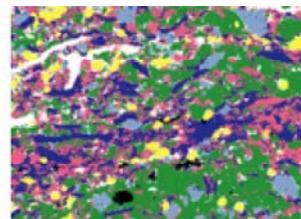
Geomechanical and Petrophysical Properties of Mudrocks

Date: 16 - 17 November 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House, London

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: Deadline 31 May 2015

A surge of interest in the geomechanics and petrophysical properties of mudrocks (shales) has taken place in recent years following the



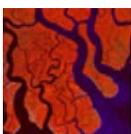
development of a shale gas industry in the United States and with the prospect of similar developments in the UK and elsewhere.



The scope of this meeting encompasses studies of strength and frictional behaviour, time-dependent creep, hydraulic fracture development, permeability, electrical conductivity and acoustic wave propagation. Both oral and poster contributions are welcomed from academia and industry that help develop understanding of the behaviour of these rocks.

If you would like to be considered for a slot in the programme and/or a poster presentation please send an abstract of no more than 400 words to [Jess Aries](#).

[For more information visit the website](#)
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Education & Careers

The Neflex Earth Model Award 2015 for Best MSc / MSci / MGeol Project

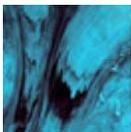
REGISTRATION OPEN

With support from the Geological Society of London, Neflex are pleased to announce the fourth year of the Neflex Earth Model Award, which aims to stimulate research relevant to global geoscience. This is a fantastic opportunity for Masters students to present their research to a panel of industry and academic professionals and gain recognition for their work.



The 1st Prize is £2,000, and winners' universities receive a matching donation. To enter, please register your interest by **1 June 2015** and submit your final project by **28 September 2015**.

[Visit the website to enter or find out about the 2014 winners](#)
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Groups & Networks

North West Regional Group: Careers Afternoon



Date: 11 March 2015
Venue: University of Manchester, Schuster Building



The North West Regional Group of the Geological Society are hosting a careers afternoon to aid graduates and post graduates, as well as geologists who are between jobs or want to explore new career paths with potential new ventures.

The afternoon will comprise a number of talks by geologists in a varied range of geological fields to discuss what is involved with their specific field.

The speakers will also discuss their career path and their experiences to date. There will be a question and answer session following the talks.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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South East Regional Group: Remediation and Redevelopment of Derelict land

Date: 11 March 2015

Venue: Gatwick Manor Hotel, Crawley

Due to economic and political changes over the past three decades, much former industrial land has become derelict and ripe for regeneration. Mike Summersgill, SEnSe Associates LLP, will talk on lessons learnt and the challenges that remain when working with derelict land.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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The Current Status of Geological Screening for Disposal of Radioactive Waste



As part of a programme of public events offering an opportunity for people to engage in the debate on the permanent disposal of radioactive waste, Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM), the Government-appointed developer of a geological disposal facility, is holding a series of meetings with the regional groups of the Geological Society.

RWM are keen to ensure the expertise and insights of geologists, engineers and scientists of different disciplines help to 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.

You can read more about the National Geological Screening exercise and the Government's policy for geological disposal at www.nda.gov.uk/rwm

Upcoming meetings:

East Anglian Regional Group

Date: 12 March 2015

Venue: The Assembly House, Norwich

[Visit the website for more information](#)

South West Regional Group

Date: 18 March 2015

Venue: Plymouth Lecture Theatre, Plymouth University

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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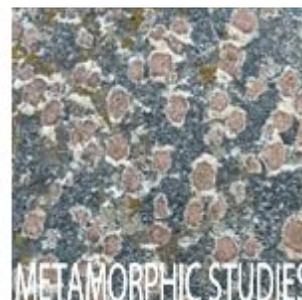
Metamorphic Studies Group: Research in Progress Meeting 2015

Date: 16 March 2015

Venue: School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds

This meeting is a good opportunity to air new developments or ideas, or perhaps to rehearse a presentation for forthcoming meetings. Presentations from postgraduate students are particularly encouraged and a prize of £200 is offered for the best student presentation.

Dr Matthias Konrad-Schmolke (Potsdam) will be giving the Keynote lecture and Dr Giles Droop (Manchester) will be giving an invited lecture.

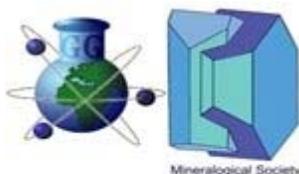


[Visit the website for more information](#)

Email [Clare Warren](#) to register

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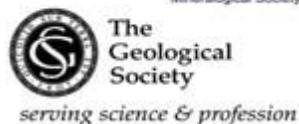
Geochemistry Group: Research in Progress Meeting 2015



Date: 23 - 24 March 2015

Venue: National Oceanography Centre, Southampton

The Research in Progress (RiP) meeting of the Geochemistry Group, a special interest group of The Geological Society of London and The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, is the only annual meeting held in the UK with geochemistry as its sole theme.



As part of a session on '*The Geochemistry of Mud and Sediment*', part of the [2015 Year of Mud](#), Prof. Karen Hudson-Edwards from Birbeck, University of London, will give a keynote seminar on '*Metalliferous Mine-waste Muds: Toxic and Tantalizing*'.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Home Counties North Regional Group: Field Trip

Surface geology in Watford, Aldenham and Letchmore Heath, Hertfordshire

Date: 29 March 2015

Meeting point: Car park near Whippendell Wood, Grove Mill Lane, Watford

The field trip will start at Whippendell Wood and continue into nearby Cassiobury Park before moving down the banks of River Colne and to the Grand Union Canal. After lunch the group will

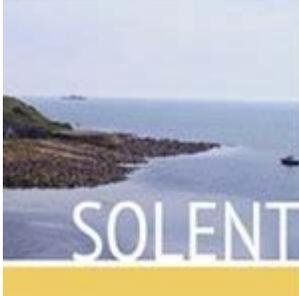


travel to Aldenham village to see the building stones of the 700-year old Church of St John the Baptist and other historical buildings.

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Solent Regional Group: Joint meeting with the ICE Southern Geotechnical Group



Sedimentology, sequence stratigraphy and material behaviour - why the Lambeth Group

Date: 21 April 2015

Venue: University of Portsmouth (Burnaby Building)

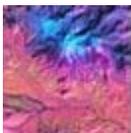
Speaker: Dr Jackie Skipper (Geotechnical Consulting Group)

The Lambeth Group is a layer of sediments which are only around 15-20m thick in the London Basin (up to 50m in the Hampshire Basin) yet they are difficult to understand. They can strike fear into the hearts of those who have to interpret them, or even worse, design structures in or on them.

Dr Jackie Skipper will be showing how, by going back to geological first principles and teaching staff in the stratigraphy, it is possible to better understand and predict why and where these deposits are as they are, and thus anticipate the risks of engineering with such high sedimentary variability.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Other News

The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy: PACRIM 2015

Date: 18 - 21 March 2015

Venue: Conrad Hotel, Hong Kong

PACRIM 2015 follows a tradition of successful technically-focused meetings which have become the premier AusIMM conference on the Pacific Rim. It brings together the most recent advances in academic research and geological understanding, regional surveys by government agencies and the industry's latest discoveries and projects to showcase the importance of the Pacific Rim for global mineral wealth and investment.



[Visit the website for more information](#)

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Marking William Smith's birthplace



Date: 22 March 2015
Venue: Spring Cottage, Junction Road, Oxfordshire

William Smith, Father of English Geology, was born in Churchill in 1769. Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre are delighted to be celebrating the bicentenary of his famous geological map of England and Wales by unveiling a plaque marking Smith's birthplace thanks to the generous support of The Curry Fund.

The plaque is to be placed on the wall in front of Spring Cottage, Junction Road. Professor Hugh Torrens, the foremost expert on William Smith, will be the guest of honour.

[Visit the website for more information](#)
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Upcoming Courses

IGI Ltd:
Petroleum Geochemistry and Basin Modelling
Date: 16 - 20 March
Venue: Hallsannery, Devon

Two, three and five day Petroleum Geochemistry and Basin Modelling courses available.

[Visit the website for more information](#)



EduMine Courses:

Quality Control of Assays
Date: 17 March 2015
Venue: Live Webcast
Time: 8am - 11am Pacific Standard/Vancouver Time

This course will demonstrate how the Qualified Person is able to meet the assay quality requirements of NI43-101. Topics to be discussed include: duplicate data collection, use of standards and blanks, simple statistics in the evaluation of standards, recognition of outliers, binary graphs as an interpretive aid to evaluating duplicate data, and displaying and analyzing data.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

Social Media and Mining
Date: 24 March 2015
Venue: Live Webcast
Time: 9am - 12pm Pacific Standard/Vancouver Time

This webcast will use case studies to explore how stakeholders of the mining industry, such as mining companies' employees, investors, community members and members of non-governmental organizations are using social media to meet different engagement objectives. The webcast will focus on social media, but the general theme is around how increased access to information from social media and mobile device apps is changing the face of stakeholder engagement.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

Finding Petroleum:

Introduction to Shale Gas (and oil) for Non-Geoscientists

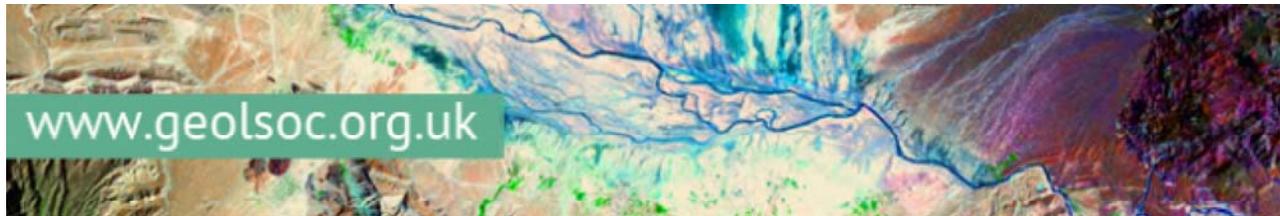
Date: 24 March 2015

Venue: The Geological Society, Burlington House

The seminar is designed to provide an introductory overview of shale gas (and oil) exploration and production for financial analysts, bankers and lawyers familiar with the topic but lacking any formal education in it. It assumes little prior geo-scientific knowledge. After attending this seminar participants will be able to understand and discuss technical shale gas issues with professional geoscientists and engineers.

[Visit the website for more information](#)

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The Geological Society of London • Burlington House • Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG

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