



# HOGG Bulletin No 2

## March 2021

<https://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk>

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This second emailed Bulletin is sent to HOGG members and associates to provide up-to-date news of current and forthcoming events of interest to historians of geology. Please send news of events for the next Bulletin (beginning of May), to Bulletin co-ordinator, Andrew Hopkins at [ahopkins@talk21.com](mailto:ahopkins@talk21.com) by 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### 1. Notifications

#### Charles Lyell Collection

Thanks to HM Government the University of Edinburgh has been able to add a further collection of letters and other literary and geological papers to the recently acquired Charles Lyell notebooks. Work will soon begin on developing and building 'Charles Lyell's World Online' to host digital images of these important collections. In the meantime, details of the holdings can be found at:

Website: [The Sir Charles Lyell Collection | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Blog: [Through Lyell's Eyes | Charles Lyell, Geologist \(ed.ac.uk\)](#)

#### HOGG Online History of Geology

A good starting point for anyone interested in following up a history of geology topic:

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Groups-and-Networks/Specialist-Groups/History-of-Geology-Group/Online-Resources>

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### 2. Forthcoming Events

#### HOGG Meetings

Except for the September meeting these will be virtual during 2021.

All online meetings are free admission to HOGG members via an exclusive weblink for claiming a ticket at the Evenbrite website. A link for each online meeting will be emailed out to members.

Guests are welcome to attend meetings for a small admission charge.

For membership enquiries please email: [pfliches@hotmail.com](mailto:pfliches@hotmail.com)

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021** (11.00 start – 17.00 finish). – HOGG International Conference  
***The Geological Society's Map: understanding George Bellas Greenough and his 1820 geological map project***

This online conference is the re-scheduled meeting marking the bicentenary of the publication of the first edition of the Geological Society's map of England and Wales (in 1820) - commonly referred to as the Greenough map, - that was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference aims to shed light on G. B. Greenough's formative years, the construction and colouring of Greenough's map and subsequent geological maps. The revised programme comprises ten papers; organised in

blocks of two presentations of 25 minutes each (including question and discussion time) with a short break between each block and a lunchtime break. It is hoped this will make it more comfortable for those attending and enable a healthy level of screen concentration over the day. The event will start at 11am in order to accommodate presentations from international contributors, and will finish at 5pm. We will be joined by former members of the Greenough Club, the student geological society at University College London.

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021** (Lunchtime: 13.00-14.00) – *Treasures from the Archive of the Sedgwick Museum*  
with Sandra Freshney

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021** (Lunchtime: 13.00-14.00) – *Geology & Medicine* (full title tbc)  
with Dr Chris Duffin

**Fri - Sun 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021** – **HOGG field meeting**  
*Malvern Rocks: Geology in a Victorian Health Resort*

Tim Carter is organising a meeting in Malvern to look at how the complex geology of the Malvern Hills and their surroundings was investigated and came to be understood during the nineteenth century. Geology and fossil collecting were popularised through local field naturalists clubs. They also became one of the attractions for visitors to what was a premier resort, with its famous 'water cure', based on the springs flowing from the hills. More details will be available shortly. The event is being planned to enable social distancing, should this still be recommended in September.

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021** (Lunchtime: 13.00-14.00) – *The History of Petroleum Exploration*  
with Tony Spencer (full title tbc)

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021** (13.00-14.30) – HOGG AGM followed by  
*The 'Discovery' of the Silurian: following in the footsteps of Murchison*  
with Duncan Hawley

## **Royal Scottish Geographical Soc. & the Quaternary Research Association**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – whole day Virtual meeting

*James Croll - from Janitor to Genius*

To celebrate the bicentenary of climate change and geology pioneer James Croll (1821-1890)

A whole-day Zoom-based meeting (part-morning and part-afternoon sessions) will celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of James Croll (1821-1890), a self-taught stonemason's son from Perthshire who became internationally celebrated as a proponent and developer of the astronomical theory of climate change, with its implications for glaciation, oceanography and much else. Using a mixture of talks and videos, the meeting will explore Croll as a person and as a scientist, with specialists drawn from the worlds of science, history and popularisation.

Booking details will be provided in advance.

Register and book your free admission ticket at Eventbrite:

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/james-croll-from-janitor-to-genius-tickets-144171786695?keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/james-croll-from-janitor-to-genius-tickets-144171786695?keep_tld=1)

Contacts: Kevin Edwards ([kevin.edwards@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.edwards@abdn.ac.uk)) for academic content  
James Cave ([james.cave@rsgs.org](mailto:james.cave@rsgs.org)) for technical issues

## **International Conferences & Symposia (INIGEO &c.)**

**18–24 July 2021** 46th INHIGEO Symposium, Krakow, Poland,

<http://www.inhigeo.com/firstcircular.pdf>

Conference topics are:

1. History of geological surveys and biographies of their creators
2. History of geological societies
3. History and development of geological cartography
4. History of mineral extraction / Mining history
5. General contributions and biographies of famous geologists

**25–31 July 2021** IUHPST/DHST Conference in Prague, Czech Republic,  
 All scientific events of the 26th ICSHT and the DHST General Assembly will be held online.  
 Please visit the conference website: <https://www.ichst2021.org>

Postponed 45th INHIGEO Symposium New Delhi, India rescheduled for **15–21 August 2021**  
 [IUGS hopes to be able to organize a virtual themed meeting early in 2022 in order to replace the  
 36<sup>th</sup> IGC. see <https://www.iugs.org/> ]

## Geologists' Association (GA)

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021** (rescheduled from 9<sup>th</sup> April)

*Pills and Politics: a new look at George Bellas Greenough and his Geological Map of 1820*  
 by Prof. Hugh Torrens

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### 3a. Recent publications by HOGG Members

Gregorová, R., Bohatý, M., Stehlíková, D. & **Duffin, C.J.** 2020: "Crapaudine" (*Scheenstia* teeth) – the jewel of Kings. *Acta Musei Moraviae - Scientiae geologicae*, **105** (2): 277-294.  
 This paper presents a short chronological overview of the historical records of toad stones (credited with the ability to detect and neutralize poisons) from Antiquity to the emergence of scientific palaeontology.

Cueille, M., Green, E., **Duffin, C.J.**, Hildebrandt, C. & Benton, M.J. (2020): Fish and crab coprolites from the latest Triassic of the U.K. and evidence for the origins of the 'Modern' ecosystem. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, **131** (6): 699-721.  
 A report on crustacean microcoprolites from Hampstead Farm Quarry near Bristol, including a section giving historical details of William Buckland's work on Rhaetian coprolites.

**Duffin, C.J.** (2020): Medicinal Quartz : *Crystallus* or Rock Crystal. 162-204 In Barroso, M. Sameiro do, Duffin, C.J. & Sousa, G. de (eds.): *Medical Heritage of the National Palace of Mafra*. Cambridge Scholars: Cambridge.  
 The historical medicinal uses of quartz or rock crystal, often referred to as *crystallus* in the literature, is examined here for the first time.

Pymm, R.J. & **Duffin, C.J.** (2020): Dragonstones: Myth, Magic, Medicine and Material Culture. 205-256 In Barroso, M. Sameiro do, Duffin, C.J. & Sousa, G. de (eds.): *Medical Heritage of the National Palace of Mafra*. Cambridge Scholars: Cambridge  
 The mythology of the dragonstone is traced from the third century BC, through accounts by Pliny and Albertus Magnus through to seventeenth Europe.

**Duffin, C.J.** (2020): Fifteenth century magico-medicinal minerals. *Deposits Magazine*: 26/05/20 : 1-20. *Depositsmag.com*.

Weertz, J., Weertz, E. & **Duffin, C.J.** (2020): Therapeutic stone powder from ecclesiastical sources: supplementary notes. *Pharmaceutical Historian*, **50** (2): 59-64.

Consecrated earth or stone powder associated with churches dedicated to medieval saints has particular importance in areas of Belgium and the Netherlands. Sources range from the fabric of a church or earth from pilgrimage sites, to specially blessed ordinary building sand. The material has been – and often still is – employed in various ways by believers to increase agricultural yields and as a prophylactic and medicinal therapy.

### 3b. Other recently published books, papers & articles of interest

Graham Park, *Breakthroughs in Geology: ideas that transformed earth science*  
published in 2020 by Dunedin Press £24.99

Ken McNamara, *Dragons' Teeth and Thunderstones: the quest for the meaning of fossils*  
published in 2020 by Reaktion Books £18.00

Allan Chapman, *Caves, Coprolites and catastrophes: the story of pioneering geologist and fossil-hunter William Buckland*  
published in 2020 by SPCK £20

Brignon, A. 2020. Une fenêtre ouverte sur la collection paléontologique de Louis Boutillier (1816-1911): aperçu des vertébrés mésozoïques. *Revue de Paléobiologie, Genève* (décembre 2020) 39 (2): 421-466.

This article presents a first biography of Louis Boutillier and details the historical context in which his collection was built up.

From *Geoscientist* Spring 2021

available at: [https://geoscientist.online/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GEO\\_SPRING\\_2021\\_WEB.pdf](https://geoscientist.online/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GEO_SPRING_2021_WEB.pdf)

- *Decolonising geoscience*. (assessing the Geological Society's historical links to slavery and colonialism) Caroline Lam.
- *All that glitters*. (recounting tales of fortunes made and lost during the gold rushes of the 1800s) **Nina Morgan**.
- Review of *The Museum Building of Trinity College Dublin: a model of Victorian craftsmanship* by Christine Casey & Patrick Wyse Jackson. (review by Julian Ingram).

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## 4. A.O.B.

### News of HOGG members

**Professor Cynthia Burek** has been elected an honorary member of Quaternary Research for her contribution to geoconservation and Quaternary research and has also been appointed to the UNESCO IGCP Science Board for expertise in geoheritage and geoconservation.

**Professor Renee Clary** of Mississippi State University, has just been elected President of The History of Earth Sciences Society and took up her post on 1 January.

**Professor Hugh Torrens** has stepped down as Associate Editor (British geology, palaeontology and stratigraphy) of *Earth Sciences History* and is succeeded by **Tom Sharpe**.

### Success! - Mary Anning's statue will go ahead

The campaign to raise funds for a statue to be erected in Lyme Regis, to the memory of Mary Anning, has been successful. Led by local schoolgirl Evie Swire, 13, the crowdfunding campaign has reached its target of £100,000. This is enough to commission the statue which it is hoped can be unveiled sometime in 2022, perhaps in May, to coincide with Mary's birthday.