

# HOGG

## Newsletter of the History of Geology Group of The Geological Society



**Number 70**  
**October 2020**



## Front cover

Sir Henry de la Beche (1796–1855)

Stimulated by this summer's Black Lives Matter movement, the geological 'heavyweight' Henry de la Beche came under scrutiny and some censure because of his connections with the slave trade in Jamaica.

For some factual background, see

<https://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/henry-de-la-beche-and-the-enslavement-of-black-people/>

Image ©BGS (P505847)

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## Editor

Beris Cox (e mail: [beris.cox@btinternet.com](mailto:beris.cox@btinternet.com))

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**The HOGG newsletter is issued in February (copy deadline 31st January), June (copy deadline 31st May) and October (copy deadline 30th September).**

Past newsletters are available at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/newsletter/> and <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg-newsletters> .

# HOGG NEWSLETTER 70

## CONTENTS

|                                                                           | Page |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Letter from the Chair . . . . .                                           | 2    |
| HOGG Committee 2020 . . . . .                                             | 3    |
| HOGG AGM 2020. . . . .                                                    | 3    |
| New committee members needed for 2021. . . . .                            | 4    |
| HOGG website. . . . .                                                     | 4    |
| Social media . . . . .                                                    | 4    |
| HOGG new members . . . . .                                                | 4    |
| Obituaries . . . . .                                                      | 4    |
| History of Geology Project Notes and Papers . . . . .                     | 5    |
| HOGG's first Zoom meeting . . . . .                                       | 5    |
| Future HOGG events . . . . .                                              | 6    |
| Oral History Project . . . . .                                            | 7    |
| The Sir Charles Lyell Collection at the University of Edinburgh . . . . . | 8    |
| Book and Map Notes . . . . .                                              | 9    |
| Also of interest? . . . . .                                               | 12   |
| Hugh Miller Special Issue now on open access . . . . .                    | 12   |
| Geopoetry 2020 . . . . .                                                  | 12   |
| Other Future Meetings and Events . . . . .                                | 13   |
| HOGG Standing Order Mandate. . . . .                                      | 16   |

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The pandemic has scuppered many of our carefully planned HOGG activities. However, I was pleased that we did manage to get a lunchtime online session off the ground—and it was well received with nearly 40 participants (*see Tim Carter's report later in this Newsletter*). Short 10 minute presentations followed by discussion seems a good format. Unfortunately, we haven't yet been able to organise another session as not enough people have come forward with offers of short talks. So, I would appeal to all HOGG members for you to email me at [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com) with any

history of geology topic in which you are interested or of which you have some knowledge or perhaps on which you have been working, and which you could pull together as a short presentation. This does not have to be 'polished'—it is more about HOGG remaining active and alive, and sharing our interest in these difficult times. Please do get in touch with what you can do and contribute, and I hope that very shortly we will be able to announce a programme of online sessions and become the thriving HOGG we would like to be.

Speaking of presentations and online meetings, the HOGG AGM for this year will be an online affair in November. I don't need to thrash out the business agenda and details here—you will receive these separately—but to accompany the AGM (which normally takes 30 minutes at the outside) Dr Richard Porter will give a talk on *Brunel: The Geologist*. Richard lives in south Devon, where he is Curator/Senior Lecturer in Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Plymouth, Britannia Royal Naval College. I feel sure everyone will know of Brunel, but probably most (if not all) will not have much knowledge about his geological activities and musings. I, for one, am looking forward to the AGM and this talk.

Like much else, the planned HOGG field meeting to Anglesey, which was due to take place in August, became a victim of the pandemic—it has been postponed, probably until 2022. However, at a personal level, I did manage to keep my date with Anglesey. I hadn't visited the island for some years, so I was pleasantly reminded of its geological richness and the history of its discovery and exploitation. If we do manage to get the field meeting up and running sometime in the next couple of years, then I would heartily recommend that you book your place. We will, by then, have missed one of the key reasons for the field meeting—to mark the centenary of the updated Geological Survey geological map published in 1920, which was delineated in astonishing detail by Edward Greenly with the support of his devoted wife Annie.

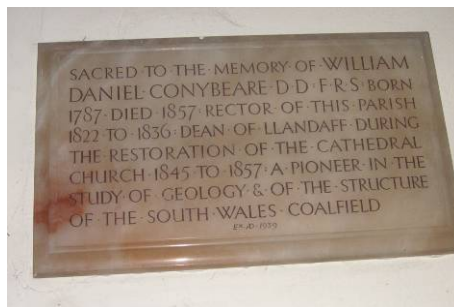
So, if we can manage to organise the Anglesey field meeting, it might be that we broaden the focus a little and consider other contributions to the development of geology on Anglesey. One of these is a precursor to Greenly—Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay (1814–1891); he tried to map the geology of Anglesey in the 1850s when the Geological Survey first attempted to unravel some of its geological complexities. Ramsay's relationship with the island went beyond the geological—he thoroughly enjoyed the social company of the people of the island, eventually marrying the daughter of a hospitable parish Rector who entertained him from time to time. Ramsay retired to Anglesey in 1881 and was buried in the churchyard of St Sadwrn's church.

I made my way to the village of Llansadwrn to find his grave and pay homage. His gravestone is carved out of a splendidly appropriate large erratic boulder (one of Ramsay's contributions to geology was in configuring the extent of glaciers and ice sheets, and advocating their land-shaping power). The carved inscription is filled with lead but is now partly obscured by moss and lichens. It seems that Ramsay no longer has a carer on Anglesey to keep his memorial in good condition.



This set me thinking about other memorials and gravestones that mark and commemorate geologists. On this

visit to Anglesey, I didn't get to see the grave of Edward Greenly but there are memorials to geologists in other locations elsewhere in the UK. John Phillips is buried in York cemetery—his gravestone is laid flat but was given an accompanying headstone in 2015. His uncle, William Smith has his grave in St Peter's churchyard in Northampton where he died in 1839. W. D. Conybeare has a prominent memorial in the grounds of Llandaff Cathedral (Cardiff), as well as a tablet in the parish church at Sully (where he was Rector) *(both illustrated here)*.



George Bellas Greenough and Henry Thomas de la Beche are buried and memorialised in Kensal Green Cemetery in west London, whilst Murchison is in

Brompton Cemetery, and Sedgwick is buried in the ante-chapel of Trinity College Cambridge and marked with a memorial tablet. Henry Clifton Sorby (the 'father' of sedimentary geology and microscopical petrography) has his tomb in the churchyard of All Saints, Ecclesall, Sheffield.

These graves and memorials are, of course, of eminent geologists. However, I feel sure there are many other less well celebrated geologists (some who may even have died in the 20th century!) who have graves and memorials—but I don't know of any central record or database of such things.

In these times of limited gatherings, it might make for an interesting collective HOGG member project to gather such information. After all, there is already a good head of steam about churchyard and cemetery geology (e.g. <http://www.gravestonegeology.uk>, pioneered by HOGG member Nina Morgan). A project documenting the memorials of past geologists great and small—perhaps with a brief biography of each—would help these geologists get the recognition they deserve and raise the profile of geology and geologists amongst the wider public. Any takers?

Duncan Hawley

e mail [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com)

October 2020

### HOGG COMMITTEE 2020

**Chairman** Duncan Hawley **Vice Chairman** *pending* **Secretary** John Henry  
**Acting Treasurer/Membership Secretary** John Henry **Ordinary members:** Cynthia Burek,  
 Tim Carter, Beris Cox (**newsletter**), Jill Darrell, Cherry Lewis (**website**),  
 Peter Lincoln, Nina Morgan

### HOGG AGM 2020

This year's AGM will be held on Friday 20th November at 2.00pm. Due to current Covid-19 related restrictions, it will be held remotely online via the ZOOM link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86766786213>

See P.6 for further details.

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2021

Volunteers are being sought to replace two members of the current committee who will be retiring at the AGM in November. Appointments are normally for three years. Committee members are expected to attend committee meetings which are held four times a year, usually at Burlington House in London (travel expenses paid) or, as now, remotely via Zoom.

If you would be willing to assist in the running of HOGG, or have any related queries, please contact Duncan Hawley ([duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com)) or John Henry ([geol.maps@virgin.net](mailto:geol.maps@virgin.net)).

**HOGG NEEDS YOU NOW!**

## HOGG WEBSITE

Our main website at <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/> continues to be upgraded. This provides easy access to all aspects of HOGG including details about our meetings and the facility for online registration and payment, as well as subscription renewal. We also have a presence at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg> where you will find some useful resources.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



You can follow HOGG updates, history of geology news and selected items of interest through our Twitter feed where our username is @HOGGroup. If you don't have a personal Twitter account, you can read all our latest tweets on the home page of our website <http://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/>, and past tweets by clicking on the Twitter icon at the foot of that page. All our tweets also appear on the home page at <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg>

Please direct any HOGG Twitter queries to Duncan Hawley  
(e mail [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com) ).

## HOGG NEW MEMBERS

HOGG welcomes the following new members

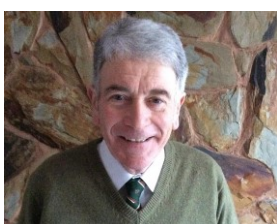
**Gordon Chancellor** (Romiley, Greater Manchester)

**Eliza Howlett** (Oxford)

**Vivienne Kendall** (Stonesfield, Oxfordshire)

**Duncan Murdock** (Oxford)

## OBITUARIES



We are sad to record the death in May this year of HOGG member **Alan Cutler MBE** (Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands), aged 72.

Alan Cutler was a keen amateur geologist, and founder member of the Black Country Geological Society. From his base in the Black Country, he worked to promote geodiversity in that area and nationally. He was

chairman of the former West Midlands Geodiversity Partnership, and was involved in the setting up of the group that became the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust. He was treasurer of UKRIGS which became Geoconservation UK. He worked to promote Dudley Museum and helped Graham Worton campaign to obtain European Geopark designation for the Black Country. He liaised closely with Natural England and, in 2017, was awarded an MBE for services to geoconservation.

[abstracted and abbreviated from obituary by Moira Jenkins in Earth Heritage Trust, News and Events, June 16th 2020]

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## HISTORY OF GEOLOGY PROJECT NOTES AND PAPERS

**<https://historyofgeology.science.blog>**

This site provides a platform where HOGG members can share findings and notes about their projects, and engage with other members in constructive discussions and comments about their work. Contributions can be notes, short reports or longer papers. For example, members might report about work they have done on the details of a geological map, or contribute a piece on their discovery of what lay behind a well-known geological illustration, or relay hitherto little known facts about a geologist. These might be ‘little’ projects, or parts of bigger studies, or papers that are not yet ready to submit for formal publication. The site is a place where HOGG members can pre-publish their work without prejudice to future publishing in a scholarly journal.

Contributions, marked ‘HOGG Project Notes and Papers’, should be sent as a text document (in Word, Pages or open source text editor), with images as jpg files, to the site editor [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com). They should include the author’s name and affiliation (if appropriate), and, if desired, an email contact address. Contributions can be labelled ‘for discussion’—signalling an invitation to comments from other HOGG members.

Any images used in contributions should be copyright free or included by permission of the copyright owner. Images should be credited appropriately. If using your own images, copyright can be protected via a Creative Commons Licence—see <https://creativecommons.org/use-remix/cc-licenses/> and <https://creativecommons.org/about/downloads/>. You are free to choose whatever licence you deem appropriate but HOGG’s suggested licence is Attribution Non-Commercial (CC

BY-NC 4.0) . This licence lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don’t have to license their derivative works on the same terms.

Contributions will be published at the discretion of the site editor.

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## HOGG’S FIRST ZOOM MEETING

**Tim Carter<sup>1</sup>**

HOGG tends to be rather fixed in its ways with, traditionally, a mix of three indoor conference-style meetings and one field-based meeting each year; but, just like the rest of the world, Covid-19 challenged our existing patterns of behaviour and July saw us join the ranks of Zoom-users to hold our first online meeting. Scheduled for 13.00hrs (BST) on Tuesday 7th July, the meeting (entitled *Geologists responding to crises*) worked well and was well attended. British lunchtime proved to be a satisfactory time-slot, and we were delighted to have probably more overseas members joining than we ever have at traditional meetings—some in distant time zones, even getting up early or staying up late to be there! We also learnt that the best way to engage a remote audience is to have short but interesting talks on diverse topics given by accomplished presenters. The short question and answer session at the end was also a success.

**Peter Lincoln** was the first off. He re-visited the time, toward the end of his career, when William Buckland was Dean of Westminster Abbey rather than in his more familiar role as a pioneering geologist. Buckland preached sermons on deliverance from a cholera epidemic and on the potato famine in Ireland. He did not pull any punches in pointing out the horrific consequences of both were avoidable, given the will to act.

This was followed by two talks covering geological facets of the two world wars. Our chair, **Duncan Hawley**, summarised the life and work of W.G. Fearnside who came to prominence mapping the Yorkshire coalfield to contours, enabling improved extraction to meet wartime needs. He was also active in finding and assisting with the development of new sources for minerals essential for the industries of Sheffield, where he was based, such as iron ore and refractories to line furnaces. **John Mather** then described a little known aspect of the work of the Geological Survey in the Second World War. New sources of water were needed for the rapidly built airfields, camps and hospitals, especially in the run up to D Day; the Survey had a major role in recommending how best to use existing aquifers to meet these needs.

Three diverse talks in one lunch hour, enjoyed by all. Also, perhaps, a foundation for a new style of HOGG meeting and certainly well worth repeating.

If you have material that you think would be of interest to other HOGG members let Duncan Hawley ([duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com)) know. This could be something from your own experience—for instance, I have offered to talk on some minerals that have caused historic health problems for humans (such as the various forms of asbestos and different crystalline forms of silica). It could be a project that you are planning, or have done and where some feedback would be useful, or even an idea that is in your mind that you would like to air with others.

<sup>1</sup> email [jtime@icloud.com](mailto:jtime@icloud.com)

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## FUTURE HOGG MEETINGS

### \*HOGG AGM 2020

Friday 20th November 2020 2.00pm

Online via the ZOOM link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86766786213>

After the AGM business meeting (hopefully lasting 30 minutes max), there will be an

### Online presentation by Dr Richard Porter on *BRUNEL THE GEOLOGIST*

In a letter of c. 1842 to an eminent geologist, Brunel wrote “*In conclusion, I must observe that no man can be more sensible than I am of the great advantage it would be to a civil engineer to be better acquainted with geology, as well as with many other branches of science, that I have endeavored to inform myself on the subject, and that I have not altogether thrown away the many opportunities afforded me in my professional pursuits.*” Brunel is well known for his civil engineering career and as a ship designer, but not all of his exploits were successful. This talk will examine his geological knowledge and expertise; it should last 20–30 minutes, plus discussion time.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON COVID-19.**

**\*GEORGE BELLAS GREENOUGH MAP BICENTENARY MEETING**

**Wednesday 12th–Thursday 13th May 2021 (rescheduled from May 2020)**

**University College and Burlington House, London**

**Convenors:** Duncan Hawley (HOGG) and Professor Ian Wood (UCL)

Further details, including registration, will be given in the next (February) newsletter.

**\*WEEKEND FIELD-BASED MEETING IN THE MALVERN HILLS**

**September 2021**

**Convenor:** Tim Carter

Further details, including registration, will be given in the next (February) newsletter.

**\*ARCHIBALD GEIKIE AS AN INNOVATOR, INFLUENCER AND EDUCATOR**

**Joint meeting with Haslemere Museum** (sequel to the meeting held in April 2012)

**Friday 12th–Saturday 13th November 2021 (including HOGG 2021 AGM) (rescheduled from November 2020)**

**Burlington House and Haslemere**

**Convenors:** Julia Tanner (Haslemere Educational Museum), John Henry (HOGG) and Duncan Hawley (HOGG)

Further details, including registration, will be given in future newsletters.

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**ALSO IN THE PIPELINE:**

- Joint meeting with the Geological Curators' Group on **geological explorations of the polar regions** at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge
- Weekend field meeting in **Anglesey** celebrating the work of **Edward Greenly** and others
- Joint meeting based in Dublin on aspects of the history of geology in **Ireland**
- Joint meeting in Sheffield based on work of **Henry Clifton Sorby (1826–1908)**
- Meeting at Burlington House on the importance of **railways and canals** in the development of geological knowledge and thinking

*If you have a particular interest in any of the above topics and would be prepared to contribute to the running of a meeting, please contact Duncan Hawley (email [duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.hawley.hogg@gmail.com))*

*Otherwise, watch out for further details in future newsletters and on the website!*

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## **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

As part of the Geological Society Centenary Celebrations in 2007, Nic Bilham (then a HOGG committee member) began an oral history project on behalf of HOGG. The aim was to record memories of the life, times, geological careers, and especially the voices of longstanding members of the Geol. Soc. A number of very interesting recordings were made by volunteers, who visited interviewees at their homes or offices. These are now stored in the Geological Society's archives, a permanent public reference resource for use in research, and for use by the Society for publication, education, lectures, broadcasting and dissemination on the internet. In 2019, the Geological Society

relaunched the project as part of the centenary of female Fellows of the Geological Society, with a view to interviewing longstanding female members of the Society.

The Society is working with HOGG to establish a network of volunteers to conduct interviews, and to get in touch with longstanding members (both male and female) who are interested in sharing their memories and experiences. If you would like to help with either, or would like to be interviewed yourself, please let us know and we can help to match potential interviewers and interviewees.

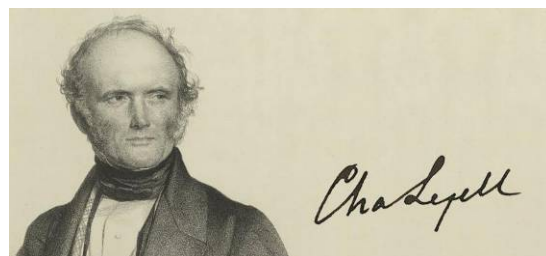
Further information about what's involved—including information for potential interviewees, tips for conducting interviews and suggested questions—will be available shortly on the HOGG website. Recording equipment will be provided!

Contacts are Nina Morgan [nina.morgan@cooptel.net](mailto:nina.morgan@cooptel.net) and Sarah Day [sarah.day@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.day@geolsoc.org.uk).

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## THE SIR CHARLES LYELL COLLECTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

In August this year, David McClay (Philanthropy Manager, Library and University Collections, University of Edinburgh) wrote to HOGG inviting members to track the progress of the **Sir Charles Lyell Collection** through the website <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc/the-sir-charles-lyell-collection>, and through the Edinburgh library's **Through Lyell's Eyes** blog.

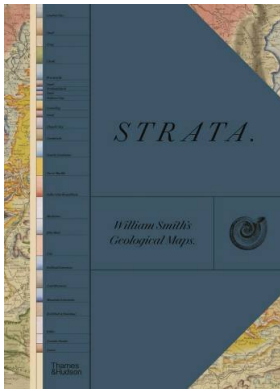


HOGG members played a significant part in Edinburgh's recent fund-raising to acquire Lyell's 294 geological notebooks in which he recorded his ideas, theories, drawings and discoveries over a 40+ year period. The University Library also recently acquired a substantial and varied collection of Lyell archives and papers comprising over 900 letters to and from Lyell (including letters from Darwin, Joseph Dalton Hooker & John Murray, and intimate correspondence between Lyell and his wife Mary and wider family), autograph manuscripts of a number of lectures delivered in both the USA and UK, part of the autograph manuscript of *Principles of Geology*, maps commissioned for lectures and publications, and heavily annotated editions of *Principles of Geology* marked up for later editions. Together with the pre-existing Lyell correspondence and archive which was given to the University in 1927, and the ongoing programme of acquisitions of printed editions and translations and newly available correspondence, these now form one of the most comprehensive archives of 19th century science and networked communication in the world.

The **Sir Charles Lyell Collection** is freely accessible to researchers (by appointment) via the Centre for Research Collections Reading Room. The collection is gradually being made freely available digitally online.

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## BOOK AND MAP NOTES



### ***Strata***

#### ***William Smith's Geological Maps***

Oxford University Museum of Natural History (with Introduction by Douglas Palmer and Foreword by Robert MacFarlane)

Thames & Hudson due October 2020 256pp. 500 colour maps

ISBN 9780500252475 hardback £49.99 (pre-order from [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com))

“Lavishly illustrated with full-colour geological maps, tables of strata, geological cross-sections, photographs, and fossil illustrations from the archives of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, the Geological Society, the London Natural History Museum, and others, *Strata*

provides the first complete presentation of the revolutionary work of nineteenth-century geologist William Smith, the so-called father of English geology. It illustrates the story of his career, from apprentice to surveyor for hire and fossil collector, from his 1799 geological map of Bath and table of strata to his groundbreaking 1815 geological strata map, and from his imprisonment for debt to his detailed stratigraphical county maps.

This sumptuous volume begins with an introduction by Douglas Palmer that places Smith's work in the context of earlier, concurrent, and subsequent ideas regarding the structure and natural processes of the earth, geographical mapping, and biostratigraphical theories. *Strata* is then organized into four parts, each beginning with four sheets from Smith's hand-coloured, 1815 strata map, accompanied by related geological cross-sections and county maps, and followed by fossil illustrations by Smith contemporary James Sowerby, all organized by strata. Essays between each section\* explore the aims of Smith's work and its application in the fields of mining, agriculture, cartography and hydrology. *Strata* concludes with reflections on Smith's later years as an itinerant geologist and surveyor, plagiarism by a rival, receipt of the first Wollaston Medal in recognition of his achievements, and the influence of his geological mapping and biostratigraphical theories on the sciences—all of which culminated in the establishment of the modern geological timescale.”[publisher's notes]

\*contributing authors include HOGG members Jill Darrell, John Henry, John Mather, Tom Sharpe and Dave Williams.

### ***Rebels, Scholars, Explorers***

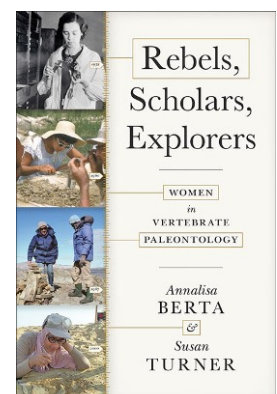
#### ***Women in Vertebrate Paleontology***

Annalisa Berta & Sue Turner

John Hopkins University Press. due October 2020 344pp.

ISBN 9781421439709 hardback \$49.95

“For centuries, women have played key roles in defining and developing the field of vertebrate paleontology. Yet very little is known about these important paleontologists, and the true impacts of their contributions have remained obscure. In *Rebels, Scholars, Explorers*, Annalisa Berta and Susan Turner celebrate the history of women "bone hunters," delving into their fascinating lives and work. At the same time, they explore how the discipline has shaped our understanding of the history of life on Earth.

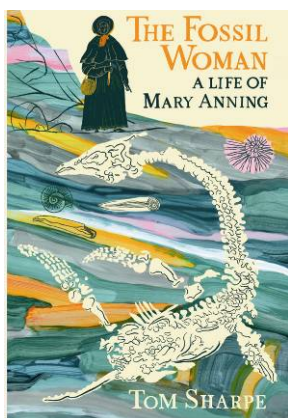


Berta and Turner begin by presenting readers with a review of the emergence of vertebrate paleontology as a science, emphasizing the contributions of women to research topics and employment. This is followed by brief biographical sketches and explanations of early discoveries by women around the world over the past 200 years, including those who held roles as researchers,

educators, curators, artists, and preparators. Forging new territory, Berta and Turner highlight the barriers and challenges faced by women paleontologists, describing how some managed to overcome those obstacles in order to build careers in the field. Finally, drawing on interviews with a diverse group of contemporary paleontologists, who share their experiences and offer recommendations to aspiring fossil hunters, they provide perspectives on what work still needs to be done in order to ensure that women's contributions to the field are encouraged and celebrated.

Uncovering and relating lost stories about the pivotal contributions of women in vertebrate paleontology doesn't just make for enthralling storytelling, but also helps ensure a richer and more diverse future for this vibrant field. Illuminating the discoveries, collections, and studies of fossil vertebrates conducted by women in vertebrate paleontology, *Rebels, Scholars, Explorers* will be on every paleontologist's most-wanted list and should find a broader audience in the burgeoning sector of readers from all backgrounds eager to learn about women in the sciences.” [publishers’ notes]

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***The Fossil Woman*  
*A Life of Mary Anning***

Tom Sharpe

The Dovecote Press, Wimborne, Dorset. due October 2020. 272pp.

ISBN 978-0-9955462-9-5 casebound and jacketed £20

“Drawing on much recent research into her life and times, Tom Sharpe has taken a fresh and often surprising look at the achievements of a woman who is finally gaining the recognition she merits.

Mary Anning was born in 1799 in the Dorset town of Lyme Regis, dying there when only forty-seven. She made her living finding and selling fossils. Her remarkable discoveries revealed a previously unknown world of extinct reptiles preserved in the surrounding cliffs and foreshore, thus helping turn our knowledge of life on earth on its head. Despite her humble origins and lack of education, when still in her early twenties she became a leading figure in the geological community of the early nineteenth century.

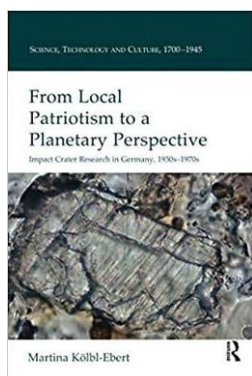
Her fame brought few advantages. Condemned by inequalities of class, gender, and wealth, she never reaped the rewards enjoyed by her fellow scientists. After her death, she gradually slipped into obscurity.

Happily, all that has changed. Recently she was included on a list of the ten most influential women in the history of British science. Her reputation continues to grow, and this new biography celebrates the life of someone who has at last taken her rightful place in the astonishing story of fossils and the 200 million-year-old Jurassic world in which they were formed.” [publisher’s notes]

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**NB.** Kate Winslet is playing Mary Anning in the film *Ammonite* showing at the London Film Festival on October 18th, with general release due early in 2021.

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**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

***From Local Patriotism to a Planetary Perspective*  
*Impact Crater Research in Germany, 1930s–1970s***

Martina Kölbl-Ebert

Routledge 2020 402pp.

ISBN 9780367599652 paperback £36.99

[First published Taylor & Francis 2015 hardback ISBN 9781472438867; 2016 e book ISBN 9781315583419]

“The Nördlinger Ries and Steinheim Basin, two conspicuous geological structures in southern Germany, were traditionally viewed as somewhat enigmatic but nevertheless definitely volcanic edifices until they were finally recognized as impact craters in the 1960s. The changing views about the origin of the craters mark an important paradigm shift in the Earth sciences, from an Earth-centric approach to a planetary perspective that acknowledged Earth’s place in the wider cosmos. Drawing on a range of printed sources, detailed archival material, letters, personal notes, and interviews with veterans of Ries research, Martina Kölbl-Ebert provides a detailed reconstruction, not only of the historical sequence of events throughout the twentieth century, but also of the personal thoughts, emotions and motives of the scientists involved and the social context of their research. She shows that there was a sudden reconnection of German researchers with the international scientific community, particularly with more progressive American researchers, after some twenty-five years of scientific isolation during the build-up to WWII and its aftermath. This reconnection brought about not only a new view of geoscience, but also saved German geology from self-sufficiency and patriotic arrogance by integrating it in an interdisciplinary and international framework. In so doing this book sheds much valuable light on an under-explored but crucial development in the way we understand Earth’s history, as well as the way that science functioned during times of conflict.” [publishers’ notes]

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### ***The Greywacke***

#### ***How a Vicar, a Soldier and a Schoolteacher Uncovered 300 Million Years of History***

Nick Davidson

Profile Books. due May 2021 352pp.

ISBN 978 1 78816 377 4 hardback £20

e book ISBN 978 1 78283 626 1

“The story of three nineteenth-century geologists whose fraternal rivalry rewrote the history of our planet. Adam Sedgwick was a priest and scholar. Roderick Murchison was a retired soldier. Charles Lapworth was a schoolteacher. It was their personal and intellectual rivalry, pursued on treks through Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Devon and parts of western Russia, that revealed the narrative structure of the Paleozoic Era, the 300-million-year period during which life on Earth became recognisably itself. Nick Davidson follows in their footsteps and draws on maps, diaries, letters, field notes and contemporary accounts to bring the ideas and characters alive. But this is more than a history of geology. As we travel through some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain, it’s a celebration of the sheer visceral pleasure generations of geologists have found, and continue to find, in noticing the earth beneath our feet.” [publishers’ notes]

**NB.** An extract from this book under the title *Reading the Earth: How a Priest, a Soldier and a Schoolteacher.....* featured in the *Magazine of the Geologists’ Association*, Vol.19 No.3, Sept. 2020, pp.15–16.

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### ***German Military Geology and Fortification of the British Channel Islands during World War II***

Edward P. F. Rose

Springer. *Advances in Military Geosciences Series*. 2020 393pp.

Now available on the SpringerLink website at <http://link.springer.com/>

Contents: *Introduction* (EPFR & John T. Renouf), *Geology* (John T. Renouf & EPFR), *Geologists and the German Armed Forces* (EPFR & Dierk Willig), *Jersey and the German Army* (EPFR), *Jersey and the German Air Force* (EPFR), *Guernsey and the German Army* (EPFR), *Guernsey and the German Air Force* (EPFR), *Alderney* (EPFR), *Groundwater Investigations: German and British* (Nicholas S. Robins), *Conclusion: Context and Postwar Legacy* (EPFR).

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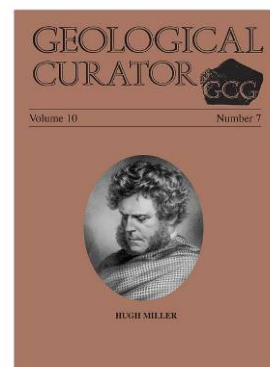
## .....ALSO OF INTEREST?

- Morgan, Nina** 2020. Distant Thunder: Rock Bands. *Geoscientist*, **30(6)**, p. 27. [on stonemason Joseph Richardson and musical stones]
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2020. Distant Thunder: An easy mistake to make. *Geoscientist*, **30(7)**, p. 28. [on palaeontological ‘misunderstandings’]
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2020. Distant Thunder: Etheldred at home. *Geoscientist*, **30(8)**, p. 28. [on Etheldred Benett (1775–1845)]
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2020. Distant Thunder: Home schooling. *Geoscientist*, **30(9)**, p. 25. [on the success of William Buckland and his wife in home education]
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## HUGH MILLER SPECIAL ISSUE NOW ON OPEN ACCESS

In 2017, the Geological Curators’ Group (GCG) published an issue of its journal *Geological Curator* (Vol. 10, No. 7) dedicated to the life and works of Hugh Miller (1802–1856). Under the Group’s long standing open access policy, this edition has now been made freely available on their website.

<https://www.geocurator.org/resources/50-geological-curator/the-geological-curator-volume-10/286-geological-curator-v10-7>



The issue was cited in HOGG Newsletter 61 (October 2017) but without a full contents listing; this is now given below:

- *The museums of a local, national and supranational hero: Hugh Miller’s collections over the decades.* M. A. Taylor & L. I. Anderson.
  - *The appeal circular for the purchase of Hugh Miller’s collection, 1858.* M. A. Taylor & L. I. Anderson.
  - *Guide to the Hugh Miller collection in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, c. 1920.* Benjamin N. Peach, Ramsay H. Traquair, Michael A. Taylor & Lyall I. Anderson.
  - *The first known stereographs of Hugh Miller’s cottage and the building of the Hugh Miller Monument, Cromarty, 1859.* M. A. Taylor & A. D. Morrison-Low.
  - *J. G. Goodchild’s Guide to the geological collections in the Hugh Miller Cottage, Cromarty of 1902.* J. G. Goodchild, M. A. Taylor and L. I. Anderson.
  - *Hugh Miller and the gravestone, 1843–4.* Sara Stevenson.
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## GEOPOETRY 2020

Brian Roy Rosen<sup>1</sup>



On Thursday October 1st, The Geological Society held its **Geopoetry 2020** one-day meeting as a follow up to the first Geopoetry Day held at Burlington House in 2011. The event was due to be held at the Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh but because of Covid-19 restrictions, it was transferred to an online Zoom meeting instead. Over 300 participants read their poems or gave presentations or a combination of both, in slots varying from five to 20 minutes. The contributors were professional poets, professional earth scientists, amateur poets and amateur earth scientists, or some combination of both.

The whole day was recorded on YouTube in real time including the silent breaks for refreshments and lunch. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzs5YMhJiAk&t=13s> This recording

is nearly nine hours long and for most people, I guess, far too long to appreciate in a single viewing, but the whole programme was interesting, thoughtful and enjoyable—especially to anyone who likes both poetry and the earth sciences!

There will also be a publication from the meeting.

<sup>1</sup> e mail [b.rosen@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:b.rosen@nhm.ac.uk)

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## OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### LYME REGIS FOSSIL FESTIVAL

**Virtual event launching Saturday 24th October 2020**

The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival, which is usually held in May each year, has been rescheduled as a completely free virtual event launching on Saturday 24th October. Watch from the comfort of your own home!

Highlights include *Meet the Scientists* (expert video and streaming content from The Palaeontological Association, The Natural History Museum, Dinosaur Isle, Bristol University, The Jurassic Coast Trust, Lyme Regis Museum, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and many more), *Virtual activities*—walks, talks, tours, exhibits and stories, and *Trade Stalls*.

For more information visit <https://www.fossilfestival.co.uk/>

Get in touch with the festival co-ordinator by email to [fossilfestival@lrdt.co.uk](mailto:fossilfestival@lrdt.co.uk)



### GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL FESTIVAL OF GEOLOGY Saturday 7th–Sunday 8th November 2020

Enjoy the **FREE** virtual Festival of Geology from the comfort of your home

Join at [www.festivalofgeology.org.uk](http://www.festivalofgeology.org.uk)

#### Saturday 7th November from 10.30am

- An exciting virtual Discovery Room featuring live workshops, experiments, downloads and the Passport Challenge!
- Discover cutting edge Earth Science by joining in with the live talks held throughout the day
- Uncover hidden gems in the vendors' and traders' stalls.
- Explore the exhibits and festival activities from societies, universities and museums from all across the UK.

See [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival) for details.

#### Sunday 8th November

Come along to a real Festival Field Trip\* or enjoy a virtual field trip from the comfort of your sofa.

\*these include *Kensal Green Cemetery: in search of famous Geologists and Engineers*; guided by members of HOGG and London Geodiversity Partnership, 2–4pm. Booking essential as numbers limited. [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival). Charge £5.

**DOWN TO EARTH VIRTUAL DAY SCHOOL**  
**Christmas Special**  
**Wednesday 16th December 2020 c. 10.00–16.00hrs**  
**Live Zoom meeting**

**PIONEERS OF GEOLOGY**

“We can trace the roots of the science of geology back a very long time, but some of the most important advances were made during the latter part of the 18th and early part of the 19th centuries. A little more than a handful of people made huge strides towards an understanding of deep time and how to divide it up. We’ll take in those people, some good, some not quite so, and see how they relate to our own interest and understanding of the subject. As it’s Christmas, we’ll have some fun along the way!”

Cost £20 (£5 extra with printed papers). For further details, visit [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk)—booking can be made through the online shop.



**THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ENGINEERING GROUP**

**ANNUAL FIELD MEETING 2021**  
**2nd–4th July 2021 (rescheduled from July 2020)**  
**Swan Hotel, Sadler Street, Wells, Somerset BA5 2RX**

***The engineering geology of canals, Somerset—the William Smith legacy***

This year’s field meeting will primarily be based in the Bath and Somerset area, looking at the engineering geology of canals and the legacy of William Smith. Site visits will be led by Vicky Corcoran (Atkins) and Matthew Webb (Canals and Rivers Trust).

Registration is now open.

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/07-rescheduled-eg-field-meeting-2021>

**Delegates fees:** GS Fellow £80 Retired GS fellow £55 Non-fellow £110 Full-time student £30

The fee will include documentation, coach travel and lunches. Accommodation will be in the Swan Hotel, Wells on a bed-and-breakfast basis—£100 single per night, £130 twin per night.

On Saturday night, delegates will convene for a meeting dinner at the cost of £30. Both vegetarian, vegan and non-vegetarian food will be available.



**6TH INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM, CRACOW, POLAND**  
**POLISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**18th–24th July 2021**

**Themes:**

- History of geological surveys and biographies of their creators
- History of geological societies

- History and development of geological cartography
- Mining history
- General contributions and biographies of famous geologists

For further details, visit <https://www.inhigeo.com/firstcircular.pdf>;

Expression of Interest form (below) to be returned to [inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl](mailto:inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl) by 30th November 2020

6th INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM, CRACOW, POLAND

18th–24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

*Expression of interest*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*In Comments section, please mention your preliminary interest to (I) participate in the conference, (II) to make a presentation, (III) to participate in pre-conference trips and (IV) intention to attend the meeting together with an accompanying person.

Please return this form to [inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl](mailto:inhigeo@pgi.gov.pl) not later than 30th November 2020

Future INHIGEO symposia (<https://www.inhigeo.com/symposia.html>)

2022 47th INHIGEO Symposium, France, 6th–20th September (Les Eyzies in Vézère Valley)

2023 48th INHIGEO Symposium, location to be decided

2024 49th INHIGEO Symposium, South Korea (in association with 37th IGC)



**WILLIAM SMITH MEETING 2021**

**Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0DU**

**Tuesday 19th–Thursday 21st October 2021 (rescheduled from October 2020)**

**GEOLOGICAL MAPPING: OF OUR WORLD AND OTHERS**

This three-day conference is a celebration of geological mapping, its historical importance, the deductive reasoning embedded within it, and its use to gain knowledge of the evolution and processes both on Earth and on planetary bodies at large.

Registration is now open via the Wm Smith Meeting 2021 event page on the GS website

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk> Please submit oral and poster abstracts for the meeting to [abstracts@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:abstracts@geolsoc.org.uk) and copy to [conference@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:conference@geolsoc.org.uk) by Friday 30th April 2021.

## HOGG ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Payment by standing order** saves HOGG's resources so, if you are willing to make future payments by this means, please complete the form below *ensuring your mandate gives instructions for the appropriate amount.*

### HOGG STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Name of bank or building society.....

Branch address.....

.....

.....

Sort code.....Account number.....

Account name.....

Please pay the amount of £15 (fifteen pounds) / £5 (five pounds) (*please delete as appropriate*) to the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society (Santander Business Account, Sort code \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_) on 1st January (or closest date thereto) following the date of this instruction and annually thereafter until terminated by me in writing. [NB *Account details will be inserted by the HOGG Treasurer.*]

Signed.....Date.....

**PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED MANDATE TO**

**John Henry (Acting Treasurer)**  
**71a Oxford Gardens**  
**LONDON**  
**W10 5UJ**