

**GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP**  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Seminar and 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will take place in the  
Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB, Northern Ireland  
Tuesday 7 – Wednesday 8 December 2010.**

**Theme of seminar:**

The new Ulster Museum: record visitor figures, awards and vanishing curators

The Ulster Museum re-opened in October 2009 following a three-year closure and a £17.2m redevelopment.

Since then the museum has received public acclaim, and by August 2010 had attracted 500,000 visitors, won the £100,000 Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries, the Museums & Heritage Award for Excellence in the 'Permanent Exhibition' category, a Sandford Award for the quality of educational services and a Community Benefit regional award from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, short-listing the museum for the international award. That's the good news.

The down side is that the museum's curators have been moved to offices situated 9 miles from the museum, the collections have been re-housed to an industrial estate 6 miles distant from the curators and curator numbers continue to shrink to 'endangered species' level.

In the seminar, former and current Ulster Museum staff will recount the history of geology in the museum, describe the recent redevelopment and its out-workings and outline plans for the future. A geology teacher will give a user's experience, and the relationship between museum management and curatorship will be raised. There will also be tours of the Ulster Museum's display galleries and a visit to the museum's Collections Store.

The seminar programme will be available in autumn 2010. Speakers include so far:

- GCG founder member and Ulster Museum's first Keeper of Geology, Philip Doughty
- Peter Crowther; Head of Natural Sciences
- Mike Simms and Kenneth James; Geology curators
- Geraldine McCartney; Learning Officer
- Siobhan Stephenson; Head of Collections Care
- Pamela Green; Market Research and Planning Manager, all Ulster Museum
- Karen Parkes; Geology teacher

The meeting fee is £20 (€24) and includes tea breaks and hot buffet lunch.

Note: this is an increase on previously advertised fee

For further information and expressions of interest contact: **Kenneth James**

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For information about the Ulster Museum, visit: [www.nmni.com](http://www.nmni.com)

Note: the Ulster Museum is closed to the public on Mondays