



DROPPINGS
FROM THE
GEOLOGICAL
CURATORS
GROUP

Coprolite is compiled and produced by Tom Sharpe, Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF10 3NP (tel 029 20 573265, fax 029 20 667332, e-mail Tom.Sharpe@nmgw.ac.uk). It is published three times a year in March, June and November. Any material for inclusion should be sent to Tom Sharpe by the first of the previous month, i.e. by 1 February, 1 May or 1 October.

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Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Andy Newman, Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU tel/fax 0191 222 7426, e-mail andrew.newman@ncl.ac.uk

GCG website: www.man.ac.uk/Geology/geocurgrp/gcghome.html

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Please note that the 28th AGM of the Geological Curators' Group will be held at 16.30 on Wednesday 5 December 2001 at Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. Nominations for the posts of Chairman, Officers, and 2 Committee Members must be made by two members of the Group and submitted in writing to Amanda Edwards, GCG Secretary, Department of Geology, University of Manchester M13 9PL by 14 November 2001.

Musical curators

John Martin, Managing Curator of New Walk Museum, Leicester, has left after 28 years service to take up an interpretation post with the Leicester-based designers Haley Sharpe; **Leslie Noe**, who has recently completed a PhD at Derby, has joined the redevelopment project at the Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge and took up his post as Project Assistant on 25 April.

Mineral, fossil and gem shows 2001

9-10 June	Kempton Park Racecourse, Middlesex
21-22 July	Cheltenham Racecourse, Gloucestershire
11-12 August	Kempton Park Racecourse, Middlesex
8-9 September	Newton Abbot Racecourse, Devon

20-21 October Cheltenham Racecourse, Gloucestershire
3-4 November Kempton Park Racecourse, Middlesex
10-11 December Newmarket Racecourse, Suffolk
Contact: The Exhibition Team, tel 01628 621697, fax 01628 680702

Newish publications

- A guide to copyright for museums and galleries* by Peter Wienand, Anna Booy and Robin Fry, 2000. London: Routledge, 168pp. ISBN 0 415 21721 0, £19.99.
- Victorian sensation: the extraordinary publication, reception and secret authorship of Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* by James A Secord, 2001. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 624pp. ISBN 0 226 74410 8, \$35.00.
- Introduction to the study of dinosaurs* by Anthony J Martin, 2001. Oxford: Blackwell, 578pp. ISBN 0 6320 4436 5, £27.50.
- Palaeobiology II* edited by Derek E G Briggs and Peter R Crowther, 2001. Oxford: Blackwell, 600pp. ISBN 0 6320 5147 7, £110.00.
- Evolutionary biology of the Bivalvia* edited by EM Harper, JD Taylor and JA Crame, 2000. London: Geological Society Special Publication No177, vii + 494pp. ISBN 1 86239 076 2, £99.00.
- PaleoBase: Macrofossils Part 2* edited by Norman MacLeod, 2001. Oxford: Blackwell. PC/MAC CD ROM.
- Rock forming minerals Vol 4A. Framework silicates: feldspars* edited by WA Deer, RA Howie and J Zussman, 2001. London: Geological Society, 992pp. ISBN 1 86239 081 9, £115.00

Exhibitions 2001

- Tracking Dinosaurs* Kendal Museum, Station Road, Kendal 13 July - 3 November 2001.
- Walking with dinosaurs* Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York until 8 September 2001; Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne 13 October 2001 - 24 February 2002.

Sedgwick redevelopment online

The current redevelopment project at the Sedgwick Museum, funded by the Museums and Galleries Commission's Designation Challenge Fund, can be followed at the Sedgwick's excellent web site at www.esc.cam.ac.uk/new/v10/index.html. Not only does the site introduce the staff involved in the project and summarise the proposed changes to the exhibits, it includes the project brief and a webcam in the gallery so that you can see the redevelopment progress.

Amber collections sought

Sandy Baker at the University of Leeds is seeking collections of amber in UK museums, especially amber containing insects and mites. If you have such material in your collections, please contact Dr R A Baker, School of Biology, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT tel 0113 233 2898 email pabrab@leeds.ac.uk

Scottish Geology Week

Scottish Geology Week 2001 will be launched on 14 September at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh and at the Glasgow Science Centre. The programme comprises over 100 events such as lectures, guided walks, and identification workshops and involves staff from Scottish Natural Heritage, who are coordinating the activities, as well as the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, the National Museum of Scotland, Dynamic Earth and BGS. For further information contact Colin MacFadyen at Scottish Natural Heritage, email colin.macfadyen@snh.gov.uk

Major donation for Liverpool

Liverpool Museum, which is currently undergoing a major redevelopment, is to receive a donation of £250,000 from the Clore Duffield Foundation. This will fund the new Clore Natural History Centre which is due to open in July 2002.

Natural History Museum shares its skills

The Natural History museum has launched its 7th *Sharing our skills* programme which aims to provide opportunities to share, with other museum professionals, the experiences and insights NHM staff have gained through their work at the museum. The courses are designed for those working in museums or galleries, or other interested groups, who wish to extend their skills. It is hoped that they will inspire participants to generate new ideas and encourage fresh approaches in their own workplaces.

Course subjects include museum web design and production, exhibition themes, storylines and scripts, access, exhibition development, developing interpretive materials, interactives, and the care of books, manuscripts and drawings. The courses are mostly one day, and cost £75.00-£85.00. For further information contact Sharing our skills, Education Unit (Administration), Department of Exhibitions and Education, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD tel 020 7942 5555

Sharing in Scotland too

Scottish Natural Heritage has a programme of events called *Sharing good practice* which includes a range of workshops and seminars related to environmental interpretation and management. One particular event which may be of interest to geologists is *Hewn from living stone*, on 11 October. This is a workshop for curators and tourist guides who would like to develop interpretation of building stones in Scotland's historic places. It will encompass the geology of the building stones themselves, and how quarrying, mining, sculpting and building with rock has affected the people and their surroundings, and will offer advice on information sources on earth heritage and cultural history. For further details of the full programme, contact Sharing Good Practice Administrator, Awareness & Involvement, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW

Forthcoming GCG seminars and workshops

Wednesday 27 June 2001 Mineral Seminar Room, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London

HOGG/GCG Seminar: 150 Years of the Geological Museum

In 1851 Prince Albert opened the Museum of Practical Geology. Murchison, De la Beche and others who had pioneered this new science, saw it as marking their great personal achievements, but the Museum also immortalised an heroic age. This meeting, held jointly with the History of Geology Group, will celebrate the Geological Museum's history, architecture and current role. A tour of the Museum and a geological walk around South Kensington and the Albert Memorial, will precede a birthday toast!

Please go to the reception desk in the main Cromwell Road entrance of the NHM and ask for Peter Tandy. You will be collected in groups and taken to the seminar room. Please let us know if you have any special needs.

10.30 Registration and coffee

11.00 The Museum of Practical Geology: monument to an heroic age: Simon Knell

11.30 The showcase of the Geological Survey: Adrian Rushton

12.00 Geological spectacles and the shows of London: Jim Secord

12.30 Lunch

13.30 The Museum of Practical Geology: architecture and setting: Sophie Forgen

14.00 Tour of the Museum: Shuna Gibson

15.00 Tea

15.30 The Geological Museum: the final frontier!: Ian Mercer

16.00 From the Geological Survey Museum to the NHM Earth Galleries – why the reinvention?: Bob Bloomfield

17.00 Geological walk around South Kensington and Albert Memorial: Eric Robinson

18.30 Birthday Toast

Meeting fee: £5.00

Please complete the booking form on page 7 and send it with payment (cheques payable to HOGG) **by 20 June** to Dr Cherry Lewis, Wells Cottage, 21 Fowler Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2AN

8- 12 November 2001 American Museum of Natural History

GCG Study Visit : New York, New York!

Following successful forays into Europe, GCG is visiting the American Museum of Natural History in the Big Apple! The AMNH is one of the world's pre-eminent institutions for scientific research and education, with collections of more than 32 million specimens and artifacts. The museum houses over 100,000 rocks, minerals and meteorites, and four million invertebrate fossils. In addition, the vertebrate fossil holdings include the most comprehensive collection of fossil mammals in the world, with nearly one million specimens. There are also

particularly important collections of North American dinosaurs as well as Mongolian fossil vertebrates acquired during expeditions to Mongolia led by Roy Chapman Andrews in the 1920's.

Arrangements are now being made for those who have registered. If you would like to join the group or meet them in New York, please telephone Ros Gourgey on 01371 811429, email rosourgey@hotmail.com

Wednesday 14 November 2001 Natural History Museum, London
GCG Workshop: Identifying fossil: 1. Bivalves

This course will give an introduction to bivalve biology, including a taste of the wide variety of unexpected lifestyles that have recently been documented for bivalves, including chemosymbiosis and carnivory. We will consider key bivalve characters and how bivalves can be distinguished from other bivalved, but non-molluscan, taxa in the fossil record. We will focus on the sorts of characters useful for identifying major systematic and ecological groups. These will include overall morphology, diagnostic shell characters, mineralogy and life habits. We will also consider how taphonomy and diagenesis may help and hinder the identification process.

The course will begin at 10am and finish at 5pm. Course Fee: £20. Local contact: Dr Jonathan Todd, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, tel 020 7942 5000. e-mail jont@nhm.ac.uk

Please complete the booking form on page 7 and return it, with payment (cheques payable to GCG) **by 19 October** to Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT

5-6 December 2001 Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford

GCG Seminar, AGM and field trip: Geology, art and architecture

Contact: Phil Powell, Geological Collections, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW tel 01865 272950, fax 01865 272970, email philip.powell@university-museum.oxford.ac.uk

Other meetings

21-26 June 2001 California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco

SPNHC 2001: Living collections

Contact: Jean DeMouthe, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118, USA tel 415 750 7094, fax 415 750 7090 email JeanDeMouthe@calacademy.org

2-7 September 2001 Glasgow

British Association Annual Festival of Science

Contact: British Association for the Advancement of Science, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2NB tel 0207 973 3055 www.britassoc.org.uk

3-7 September 2001 York

49th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy and 10th Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation

Contact: Phil Manning, Keeper of Geology, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, YO23 2RU, tel 01904 629745, fax 01904 651221, e-mail Dinosauria@tesco.net

**12-14 September 2001 University of East Anglia, Norwich
mda Conference 2001: Scanning the horizon**

The theme explores emerging and converging technologies (including broadband, wireless and virtual reality) as they apply to the cultural sector. In particular there will be papers on applications for new uses, including innovative approaches to effecting the dynamic involvement of users with collections and collections knowledge. In addition there will be papers addressing future social and economic impact. The conference will attract an audience mix made up of practitioners and policy makers from across the breadth of the cultural sector, including museums, libraries and archives.

Contact: Frances Bycroft, Conference Coordinator, mda, Juniper House, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JD tel 01223 315760, fax 01223 362521 email mda@mda.org.uk or check the mda web pages at www.mda.org.uk/conference2001/

**24 October 2001 Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London
History of Geology Group and Linnean Society Palaeobotany Specialist Group: The history of palaeobotany**

Speakers will include Andrew C Scott, Bill Chaloner, Hugh Torrens, Barry Thomas and Chris Cleal.

Contact: Richard Wilding, 175 Whitton Road, Twickenham TW2 7QZ tel 020 8892 3123 email ricval@lineone.net

29 October – 1 November 2001 Queen Elizabeth II Hall, Westminster, London

Museums Association 107th annual conference

Contact: Conference Office, Museums Association, 42 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0PA tel 020 7250 1836

**14-15 March 2002 Geological Society, Burlington House, London
History of Geology Group: The amateur in British geology**

Contact: Stuart Baldwin, Fossil Hall, Boars Tye Road, Silver End, Witham, Essex CM8 3QA tel 01376 583502, fax 01376 585960, email sbaldwin@fossilbooks.co.uk

**8-13 May 2002 Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, Canada
SPNHC 2002: Collections hazards and mitigations**

Contact: Ingrid Birker, Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St

West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2K6 tel 514 398 4086 ext 4094, fax 514 398 3185, email ibirke1@po-box.mcgill.ca

**1-6 September 2002 Edinburgh International Conference Centre
18th Quadrennial Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association**
For further information: email ima2002@ed.ac.uk or info@minersoc.org or see www.minersoc.org/IMA2002

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**HOGG/GCG Seminar, The Natural History Museum
27 June 2001
BOOKING FORM**

Title.....Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Telephone..... e-mail.....

I will be attending the seminar on 27 June
I enclose a cheque for £5.00

Please return this booking form with your payment (cheques payable to HOGG) to Dr. Cherry Lewis, Wells Cottage, 21 Fowler Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2AN **by 20 June 2001**

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**GCG Bivalves Workshop, The Natural History Museum
14 November 2001
BOOKING FORM**

Title.....Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Telephone..... e-mail.....

I will be attending the workshop on 14 November
I enclose a cheque for £20.00

Please return this booking form with your payment (cheques payable to GCG) to Steve McLean, The Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT tel 0191 222 6765, fax 0191 222 6753, email s.g.mclean@ncl.ac.uk **by 19 October 2001**

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