

News

National Museum of Scotland

The new exhibition *Hidden Gems – Scottish Agates* explores the variety and beauty of Scottish agates, in particular their allure for Matthew Forster Heddle (1828-1897) and the current Earl of Cromartie. The exhibition runs from 4th May to 2nd September. See their website for more information: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/hidden-gems-scotland-s-agates/>

Special Notice

Professor Hugh Torrens at Keele University is looking to rehouse a large quantity of material that may be of interest to our members. Please contact Prof. Torrens directly if you are interested in any of the following (h.s.torrens@keele.ac.uk):

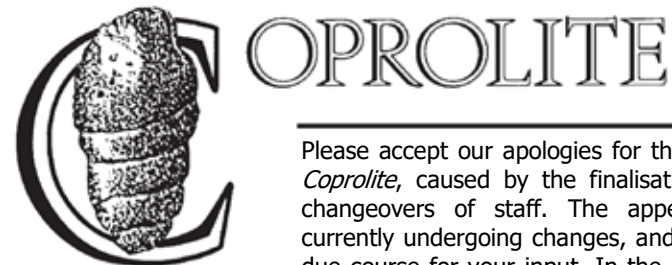
- 1) Offprints pertaining to authors such as Hugh Torrens, Ron Cleevely, John Fuller, Martin Rudwick, and John Thackray (work by authors in similar fields is also available)
- 2) Many large files on significant geologists or naturalists of the past, including the circa 50 for whom I wrote entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (2004).
- 3) Other files related to geology and its practice, including many on the myriad failed attempts to find coal where it was never going to be found all over Britain.
- 4) There is an enormous collection of printed obituary notices, both British and foreign
- 5) A large collection of books, pamphlets and notes on museums and on museology, with many lists of type and figured fossils etc.
- 6) Collection, in about 15 large A4 spring back files, of random obituary notices and printed scraps, on former geologists/naturalists, many of some obscurity.

Please note, the material needs to be moved asap, and at the latest by the end of June.

GEOLOGICAL
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DROPPINGS
FROM THE
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Please accept our apologies for the delay in this edition of *Coprolite*, caused by the finalisation of GDPR as well as changeovers of staff. The appearance of *Coprolite* is currently undergoing changes, and you will be contacted in due course for your input. In the interim, we apologise for the inconvenience, and thank you for your patience.

Chairman: Matthew Parkes, National Museum of Ireland, chairman@geocurator.org

Secretary: Sarah King, Yorkshire Museum, secretary@geocurator.org

Treasurer: Dr Rachel Walcott, National Museums Scotland, treasurer@geocurator.org

Committee news

A number of committee changes took place at the AGM in Dublin last November, so to keep you up to date on the new 2018 committee, here is a full list of who's on board:

Chairperson: Matthew Parkes, chair@geocurator.org

Secretary: Sarah King, secretary@geocurator.org

Treasurer: Rachel Walcott, treasurer@geocurator.org

Minutes Secretary: Tony Morgan, minutes@geocurator.org

Programme Secretary: Zoë Hughes, events@geocurator.org

Collections Officer: Mike Howe, collections@geocurator.org

The Geological Curator Editor: Matthew Parkes, journal@geocurator.org

Coprolite Editor: Emma-Louise Nicholls, coprolite@geocurator.org

Web Officer: Simon Harris, webmaster@geocurator.org

Membership Officer: Cindy Howells, membership@geocurator.org

Ordinary Members: Emma Bernard, Alex Peaker, and Will Watts, ordinarymembers@geocurator.org

Co-Opted; NatSCA Rep; Blog Editor: Isla Gladstone, blog@geocurator.org

Co-Opted; Conservation Officer: Nigel Larkin, conservation@geocurator.org

Co-Opted; Web and Comms Support: Hilary Ketchum, webcomms@geocurator.org

Membership News

We'd like to remind members that subscriptions for 2018 should be paid as soon as possible, if you haven't already paid by Standing Order, online or by cheque. Please get in touch with the Membership Officer if you have any questions, or would like to check if you have paid.

Please remember to return your GDPR form if you haven't yet done so.

Cindy Howells - membership@geocurator.org

2018 Events / Courses

25th – 26th July: Making Replicas of your Specimens

Hosted by the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, led by Simon Harris (Conservator, BGS) and Will Watts (Director, Hidden Horizons and GeoEd).

The ability to make replicas of objects in your collection is an extremely valuable skill - be it for research, display or for outreach purposes. During this 2-day workshop you'll learn the basic techniques needed to make a one piece mould of a fossil of your choosing, and cast a copy of it in plaster. Whilst the plaster sets we'll take a trip into nearby Charnwood Forest to discover how an ambitious moulding programme uncovered hundreds of previously unknown ancient fossils.

Booking will open soon, once costs have been finalised. For further information please see our website: <https://www.geocurator.org/events/77-moulding-and-casting-workshop>

5th September: The 26th Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation, Joint session with GCG.

5th – 8th September: The 66th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy

Hosted by Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, University of Salford, and Manchester Metropolitan University.

The first circular has been released with information on venues, programme, and logistics so ensure you are on the mailing list if you wish to receive the next one (email SVPCAMAN2018@listserv.manchester.ac.uk). Regular updates are also being posted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SVPCA/>) and Twitter (@SVPCA_Manc).

Abstract submission and registration are due to open Late May; Deadline for applications to the Jones-Fenleigh fund is 20th June (<http://svpca.org/jonesfenleigh.php>); Abstract submission and registration deadline is 4th July.

Please see <http://svpca.org/> for more information.

18th – 19th September: Collectors, Collections and the Geology of South West Britain

Hosted by the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath, this is a joint meeting of HOGG and GCG (History of Geology Group and Geological Curators' Group),

This collaborative meeting organised by two Special Interest Groups of the Geological Society focuses on the geology of South West Britain. We invite expressions of interest in presenting papers or posters on the broad topic of collectors and their collections related to the history of geology in the southwest, and on those who deciphered the geological story. If there is sufficient interest, the proceedings may be published as a thematic issue of the GCG journal, The Geological Curator.

A series of social events are also planned but we do not expect registration for the first day to cost more than £20 maximum, with discounted rate for members of HOGG, GCG, BRLSI and Bath Geological Society.

Closing date for expressions of interest is 18th May, and submission of abstracts (max 350 words) must also be completed before 18th May. Please submit to: swmeeting@geocurator.org.

<https://www.geocurator.org/events/80-collectors-collections-and-the-geology-of-south-west-britain>

5th-6th December: Inspiring Volunteers - Promoting Collections, GCG Winter Seminar and 45th AGM

Hosted by National Museum Wales | Amgueddfa Cymru in Cardiff.

As with our previous winter seminars, we intend the first day to feature a series of talks on the subject, as well as our AGM, whilst on the second day we plan to have a selection of workshops and visits where you will be able to put the lessons from the day before into action. We are keen to involve as many of our museum colleagues as possible, be they waged or unwaged, so as well as ensuring the costs for the seminar are as affordable as possible, the committee is investigating the possibility of offering a series of travel/attendance bursaries.

We will be updating our website with more information as soon as we have it, so please keep checking <https://www.geocurator.org/agm2018> for any new announcements. If you have a specific question, please ask our Programme Secretary Zoë Hughes (events@geocurator.org).

21st – 24th June: Saint-Marie-Aux-Mines 55th Mineral and Gem show

With thousands of exhibitors showcasing their ranges of minerals, fossils, meteorites, gemstones and jewelry for you to admire or buy, this is one of the most important mineral shows in the European calendar. See their website for more information <http://www.sainte-marie-mineral.com/english/>.