

HOGG

Newsletter of the History of Geology Group of the
Geological Society of London



Number 29
January 2007



Front Cover:

St Ethelbert's Church, Larling, Norfolk (photo: C.Lewis, 2006)

Situated in a rather bleak isolated position away from the tiny village of Larling, St Ethelbert's dates at the earliest from the 14th century. The west tower was constructed from about 1473, and has a staircase turret on the north side, leading to the belfry, which contains 3 bells dating from between the 15th century and 1617. The church is built largely of flint, dressed with local stone. The south porch dates from the 14th century, and has an uncommon type of window tracery. It also hides one of the best Norman doorways in the whole of East Anglia. Originally, the church had a thatched roof, but this was replaced during restoration in 1867. In the same year a huge alter stone measuring some 8 feet by 3 feet was discovered and restored to its original position.

The isolated position of the church is probably not due (as might be thought) to the Black Death having decimated the village. Archaeological evidence shows that there was once a settlement round the church, but sometime after the Middle Ages it appears to have migrated southwards, towards the ford where the Angel Inn stands

(notes taken, with due acknowledgement from: <http://www.eastharling.com/larling.html>)

It was in this wonderful old church, with all its attached history, that a memorial service was held on 31st October 2006, for Alan John Martin. John Martin (as he was always known) was the prime mover in the instigation of HOGG, and became its first Secretary, and later Chairman. He continued to serve on the committee of HOGG for a number of years, only leaving when he became too ill to continue. John was buried on the same day, in the grounds of St Andrew's Church ruins, Roudham, Norfolk (see: <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/roudham/roudham.htm> for more information and a picture).

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ALAN JOHN MARTIN

(1933-2006)

John Martin was a founder member of the History of Geology Group and instrumental in its success for much of its first ten years. It is with great sadness that we record his passing on the 22 October 2006.



Early years

Oil and gas is one of the major British industrial success stories of the post-War period and much of this success has been due to the outstanding abilities of British petroleum geologists. Of these, John Martin, who died on 22nd October 2006 was one of the most distinguished of his era and one who never lost touch with his geological roots. He was widely respected throughout the international oil industry, in which he spent his career, but was also active in the academic world and in the professional geological societies. His ability to combine authority and humanity was admired by all who knew him and he provided an important link between the various branches of the science of geology. His world-wide network of friends and contacts was legendary.

(Alan) John Martin was born in Norwich on the 8th June 1933 and retained a close association with the county of Norfolk throughout his life, moving back there to live on leaving BP in 1984. Following the award of a State Scholarship at the City of Norwich School he went to University College London, and took 1st Class Honours in Geology in 1955, staying on to complete a PhD in Sedimentary Petrology in 1958.

Oil & gas

He joined BP straight from university as one of the small number of talented geologists, selected personally each year by the then Chief Geologist of BP Norman Falcon, who were instrumental in turning BP from a largely Middle-East based oil producer into the global power house it is today.

His first posting was to Libya, where BP was engaged in the early phases of exploration. John participated in geological fieldwork in the south of the country and was part of the BP team that, in February 1959, following up an aerial sighting in May 1958, located the B24 bomber "Lady be Good". This aircraft had disappeared in 1943 on a raid to Naples from Benghazi, having overshot the airfield on its return run and continued south into the desert for 2 hours before running out of fuel. It later became the subject of a book.

Libya was also where he met his future wife. Anne was also working in Benghazi and they were married in 1960. There then followed a classic peripatetic life for a BP explorer, moving in rapid succession to the UK, Abu Dhabi, Alaska, back to the UK, Australia, Iran, back to North America, and finally to the UK in 1977. Whilst in Alaska in the mid-70's John was a member of the talented BP team that laid the groundwork for the Prudhoe Bay discovery. He was honoured as a co-recipient of the Royal Academy of Engineering's MacRobert Award in 1970. During this 17 year period John saw rapid promotion, becoming Chief Geologist in Australia in 1968 and Vice President Exploration for BP Alaska in 1973. Following two years in Regional Exploration Management, where he was the architect of BP's successful ventures in Egypt, he was promoted to the senior role of General Manager Exploration for BP's world-wide activities, at 46 the youngest age anyone had achieved the position.

This was an exciting time for BP as the oil price rose dramatically. John supervised BP's very effective pursuit of new opportunities in its established areas of operation and also laid the foundations for a number of new ventures which led to significant later success.



The “Lady Be Good” after crashing in the Libyan desert

Copyright ©1998-2006, 376th Heavy Bombardment Group, Inc. Veterans Association

See: <http://www.376hbgva.com/aircraft/ladybegood.html>

He retired from BP in 1984 and joined Clyde Petroleum, one of the earliest and most successful of the new breed of British Independent oil companies, as Exploration Director, a position he held for eight years, until he retired in 1993. This was a satisfying time for John, who enjoyed the operational freedom, flexibility and hands-on approach of an entrepreneurial company.



Clyde Petroleum Logo

He also enjoyed being at the cutting edge of the exploration-risk spectrum that Clyde occupied. He was always very much a field geologist, describing himself as a “hammer and hand lens man” and, although he always kept abreast of the enormous and rapid technological changes taking place, especially in geophysics, he never lost his enthusiasm for fieldwork and the World's wide-open spaces. An enthusiasm that he was able to indulge during his years with Clyde.

Following his retirement from Clyde he remained active as a consultant, working in Portugal and Yemen and, most importantly, becoming Chairman

The “Lady Be Good” is now a popular venue for visitors to the WW2 sites in Tobruk, Northeast Libya.

of the Falkland Islands Government's first oil licencing committee. Following the success of the Licencing Round, he joined the Board of Desire Petroleum, an independent oil company formed specifically to explore for oil offshore the Falklands, finally retiring in 2004 due to ill health.

A hallmark of John's career was his enthusiasm for nurturing the links between the world of industry, academia and the geological profession. He had been a great supporter of the Geological Society, with a particular interest in the history of geology. His support for the Society included a stint as Secretary in the mid-80's, membership of numerous committees and the establishment of the History of Geology group in 1993, which he served as Secretary and later as Chairman .John had also been a Council Member of the Geologists' Association and Vice President of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain. In 1995 he received the Special Commendation Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and subsequently their award for Distinguished Service.

History of Geology

John Martin claimed to have first become interested in the history of geology when he attended Victor Eyles' MSc course on the subject at UCL in 1957. Although he was unable to follow his interest in any depth while working in the oil industry, it may have become more focused when he settled in Norfolk (1984) and was asked to chair the Geological Society of Norfolk, to which he gave historical presidential addresses.

The first attempt to form a History of Geology Group that was affiliated to the Geological Society of London occurred as early as 1984, but it was not until John became involved at the third attempt in 1992, that the group finally became established. A letter dated 28 September, 1992, from John to Professor C. Curtis, President of the Geological Society, records the formal proposal to the Society to establish a History of Geology Group.

The minutes of the Organising Committee Meeting, held on November 17, 1993, record the inauguration of the group as being October 6, 1993.

At the Group's first AGM, held on Tuesday, 4th October 1994 John Martin was elected Secretary of the first HOGG committee, John Thackray being Chairman and John Fuller, Treasurer. John held the post of Secretary until the end of 2000 when he was elected Chairman for the year beginning 2001. He held that post until the end of 2003 when he resigned due to ill health. He remained on the committee for a further year.

When John became Chairman, Cherry Lewis was 'persuaded' to become Secretary and spent three very happy years working alongside him. During that time the Group went from strength to strength with meetings and field trips being held both in London and further a-field. It is largely thanks to John's enthusiasm for the subject and his determination to see the Society recognise its valuable history as the oldest Geological Society in the world, that the group is as successful as it is today.

University & Home Connections

John always maintained a close connection with his alma mater, University College London and was elected a Fellow and visiting Professor of the College in 1983. In the late 1990's he acted as an external examiner for the MSc course at Royal

Holloway College and had close connections with Imperial College London.

In addition to the foregoing, John also found time to serve on a number of Government and other bodies related to the earth sciences.

These included being a Council Member of the National Environmental Research Council between 1984 and 1987, chairing the science management audit of the Geological Survey between 1992 and 1993, membership of the Science Management Audit of the Institute of Oceanography and being a Trustee of the Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme.

John remained a "Norfolk Man" throughout his life and nothing pleased him more than being able to move back to live in his beloved county. With more time to devote, following retirement, he was actively involved with the Friends of Norwich Museum, the Norfolk Archaeological Society, the Churches Trust and the Nelson Society.

John was a cultivated man with a keen sense of humour and a wide range of interests embracing the Arts, (especially painting), architecture, politics and sport. In recent years he had strongly supported his wife Anne's athletic career, which still continues. She has twice won her age-group category in the London Marathon and has won World Championship gold medals at a number of events; she currently holds the world record for her age group in the 2000 metre steeple chase.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters and three grandsons.

We will miss him greatly.

David Jenkins, Colin Phipps, Cherry Lewis

In the Footsteps of the Founding Fathers

Bicentenary field trip, conference and dinner
to celebrate the inauguration of the oldest geological society in the world

9 - 13 November 2007

Programme

Walk with the Founding Fathers

9-11 November 2007 A field trip to the Isle of Wight

This excursion will visit sites of historical interest and enable participants to understand the practical and intellectual difficulties faced by geologists two centuries ago. Leaders: Professors Hugh Torrens and Martin Rudwick. Participants limited to 30. Anticipated cost ~ £175.



Talk with the Founding Fathers

12-13 November 2007

This two-day international conference to be held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, will celebrate the lives of the founders, the achievements of the Society and some of its members.

Convenor: Dr Cherry Lewis. Anticipated registration fee ~ £55.

Dine with the Founding Fathers

12 November 2007

A dinner will be held in the New Connaught Rooms, which now incorporates the Free Mason's Tavern. Period dress for the bold and there is a rumour of a landau to transport you from Burlington House to Covent Garden. (See below). Cost £55.

Prior to the dinner, a plaque commemorating the founding of the Society will be unveiled by Professor Richard Fortey, President of the Geological Society of London.

Full details available from Dr Cherry Lewis, Senate House, University of Bristol, Tyndall Ave, Bristol BS8 1TH. Email hoggchair@aol.com, Tel: 0117 928 8086

Dine with The Founding Fathers

12 November 2007

Making History

According to archives, Humphry Davy wrote to William Hasledene Pepys, on the 13th November 1807 and said *'We are forming a little talking Geological Dinner Club, of which I hope you will be a member. I shall propose you today.'*

Subsequently an entry in the diary of William Allen, for the same day, noted *'Dined at the Freemasons' Tavern, about five o'clock, with Davy, Dr. Babington, &c., &c., about eleven in all. Instituted a Geological Society.'*

Minutes of the meeting note:

'That there be forthwith instituted a Geological Society for the purpose of making geologists acquainted with each other, of stimulating their zeal, of inducing them to adopt one nomenclature, of facilitating the communications of new facts and of ascertaining what is known in their science and what remains to be discovered.'

This resolution and the aims expressed therein were incorporated into the first constitution of The Society at a meeting on the 1st January 1808. The Bicentennial Dinner of the Society will take place on the 13th November 2007 at the Natural History Museum in London.

It could be argued that the Society was born of a dining club and that the Geological Society Club or 'Dining Club', as it is often called is the likely equivalent of 'the little talking Geological Dinner Club' described by Davy. The eleven original diners should have been joined by two others and opinion favours the recognition of thirteen founders in the movement to form The Society.

On the 12th November 2007 on the site of the original Freemasons' Tavern, the History Of Geology Group and The Geological Society Club will pay tribute to the thirteen Founding Fathers, at the New Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, London, WC2. **History will be made!**



Founding Fathers: Top Richard Phillips, William Allen, William Phillips.
Centre Left-Right: Arthur Aitken, George Bellas Greenhough, William Babington
Bottom: Humphry Davy, William Hasledene Pepys

The Venue

The New Connaught Rooms occupy numbers 61-63 Great Queen Street, London, WC2. The original Freemasons' Tavern and Coffee Shop was opened in 1775 by Luke Reilly at the back of number 61. The first building, designed by Thomas Sandby, stood on the site until 1788. It was replaced by a four storey structure which is beautifully depicted by the Nixon watercolour of 1803, (*see below*) The fortunes of the Tavern fluctuated under different tenants or leaseholders over a fifty year period, although John Cuff was good enough to have amassed a fortune of £120,000 by the time of his death in November, 1848.

The 1788 building was replaced in 1864 and a new company formed on behalf of the Grand Lodge of The Freemasons was required to raise £65,000 by the sale of shares to facilitate the purchase of the lease, stock and goodwill. The company prospectus drew attention to the fact that “for nearly a century ... the Grand Hall” had been used to hold “great public meetings of a large number of the political, religious, and educational societies”.

In 1909 the Grand Lodge spent £30,000 in the renovation of the Tavern and changed the name to the Connaught Rooms in honour of the then Grand Master The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn. The New Connaught Rooms are a product of many changes and there are now 29 meeting rooms that cater for groups from 14-550. They have recently undergone a £1 million facelift. They are an ideal venue to remember characters who have a lasting role in the development and promotion of our science.

A commemorative plaque in honour of the thirteen founders will be placed by Professor Richard Fortey F.R.S the current President of the Society



Watercolour of the Freemason's Tavern 61-63 Great Queen Street London(Nixon, 1803)

"Copyright and reproduced with the permission of The Library and Museum of Freemasonry"

Great Queen Street

Great Queen Street has been described as London's first real street having changed from a bridleway to a royal thoroughfare in the 1620s. At that time residents had an 'enviable view of the pastoral charm of North London'. From 1717 the taverns around and in Great Queen Street, became meeting places for The Freemasons who established their first permanent lodge at number 61 in 1776.

By the time Rowe had published his map of London in 1804 the area around Covent Garden looked very similar to today with Drury Lane and Long Acre the major thoroughfares.



Rowe Map of London 1804 (Modified 1824)

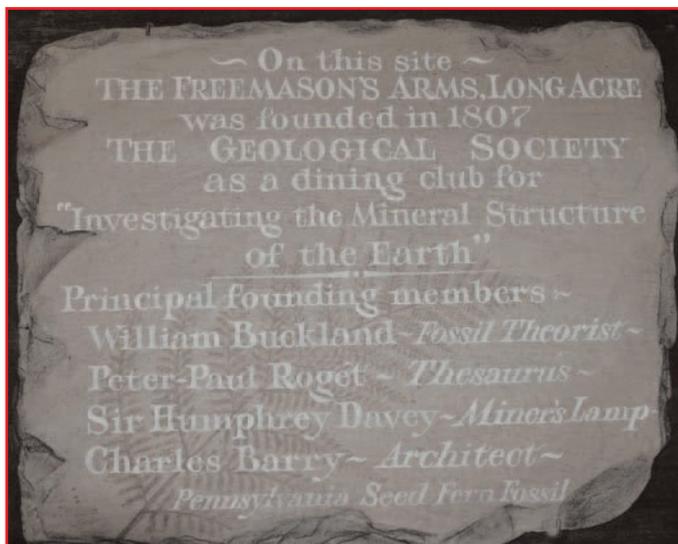
Edwin C. Bolles Collection A new and correct map of London, Westminster and Southwark, exhibiting the various improvements, to the year 1824.

Courtesy of the Digital Collections and Archives. Tufts University.

Long Acre is home to the Freemasons' Arms where a plaque marking the inauguration of the Geological Society has been erected in a corner of the downstairs bar to the right of the main doorway. There is also a plaque noting that The Football Association was founded therein, in 1863. The FA however, note that they were born in 61, Great Queen Street.

Our return to 61 Great Queen Street on the 12th November this year should help rectify this historical error. Our dinner will be held in the spacious and impressive Crown and Cornwall Rooms.

Strangely the plaque in the bar of The Freemason's Arms bears the name of only one of the original founders. Buckland a 'fossil theorist', Peter Paul Roget of Thesaurus fame and Charles Barry The Architect were not at the original dinner. The Pennsylvania tree fern is however worth a visit.



The Founding Fathers

The plaque to be laid by Professor Fortey will pay tribute to the following:

Arthur Aitken (1773-1854), **William Allen** (1770-1854), **William Babington** (1756-18330), **Humphry Davy** (1778-1829), **James Franck** (1768-1843), **George Bellas Greenough** (1778-1855), **James Laird** (Died 1840), **Richard Knight** (Died 1844), **Comte De Bournon** (Jacques-Louis) (1751-1825), **James Parkinson** (1755-1824), **William Hasledine Pepys** (1775-1856), **Richard Phillips** (1778-1851) and **William Phillips** (1773-1828).

William Bellas Greenough was the first President of the Society from 1807-1813. William Hasledine Pepys was elected President in 1815 for one year and William Babington served as President from 1822-1824.

Incidentally Davy discovered the element Potassium exactly a month before he attended the inaugural meeting of the Society. The plaque placed on behalf of HOGG will continue the historical relationship between the Society and 61, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

Of the thirteen founders only James Parkinson was a freemason.

The Guests of Honour on the 12th November are:

Professor Richard Fortey F.G.S. F.R.S. President of the Geological Society

Lord Robin Derwent LVO DL

Lady Derwent

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Diane Clements the Director The Library and Museum of Freemasonry at the Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London for her help in sourcing a digital copy of the Nixon watercolour. I would also like to thank Susanne Belovari, Archivist for Reference and Digital Collections and Archives and Jennifer Phillips, Archives and Research Assistant at Tufts University, Tisch Library, Medford, MA for permission to use the Rowe Map of London in relation to this article. I would direct the reader to an article entitled 'The Hall in the Garden' by Diane Clements published in **MQ, Issue 18, July 2006**

Dick Moody

Members of HOGG and The Geological Society Club will soon receive an "invitation" to register for the Dinner to be held on the 12th November 2007.

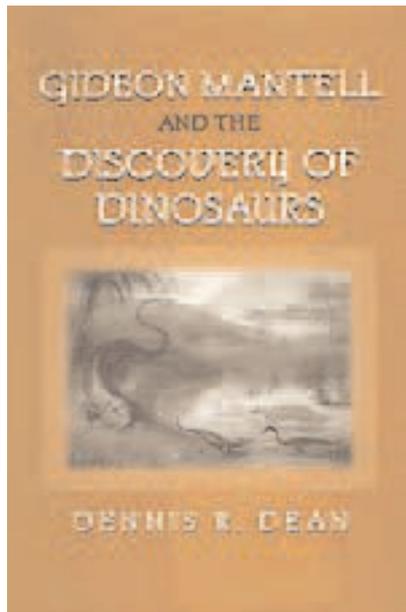
The cost of the meal will be £55 per person for a 3 course set meal (with vegetarian option). The price will include a pre-dinner reception and 2 bottles of wine per table.



Leney the quarryman?

Peter Tandy and Anthony Brook

For quite some time we have been in pursuit of Mantell's quarry, endeavouring to track down the quarry at Whiteman's Green from whence emanated the macerated bones of the large-scale herbivorous saurians which Gideon Mantell named the Iguanodon in February 1825. During our researches we have come across a misapprehension which should be rectified before it becomes accepted as the historical truth. It concerns the identity and occupation of the person who supplied Mantell with many of his palaeontological specimens, a gentleman referred to by Dennis Dean as 'Leney the quarryman'.



In his meticulous biography of Gideon Mantell (C.U. P., 1999), Dean describes Leney thus (p. 63): 'With the beginning of 1819, we have [available] Mantell's Journal. As of March, for example, he had already hired a quarryman named Leney, who found by far the greater portion of Gideon's Cuckfield specimens for him. Thus, on 30 June, he received a parcel from Leney that included both fossil bones and teeth'; and later states that (p.72):' In all likelihood, the real supplier of Mantell's first Iguanodon tooth was Leney the quarryman [in March 1818]'. Deborah Cadbury, in *The Dinosaur Hunters* (Fourth Estate: 2000), goes further and puts Mr Leney in charge of the quarry at Whiteman's Green, and then proposes that Mantell (p. 46):'is likely have taught the quarryman [i.e. Leney] to search for the remains of larger bones'. Christopher McGowan, in *The Dragon Seekers* (Little, Brown; 2001) reinforces Dean's opinion that (p. 52): 'the first [Iguanodon] tooth was probably supplied to Mantell by Mr Leney, the quarryman at Cuckfield'. In her lively paperback, *Discovering Dinosaurs* (Scholastic: 2003), Valerie Wilding envisages a more dramatic

initial encounter between Mantell the fossilist and Leney the quarryman (p. 15): 'So when, in the summer of 1819, he [Mantell] visited a woman in the village of Cuckfield, to examine her late husband's fossil collection, he took the opportunity to go back to the quarry at Whiteman's Green for another look around. He must have been itching to get down and start digging but, just then a thunderstorm burst overhead and completely ruined the outing. Drenched with rain, Mantell made an arrangement with a quarryman called Leney for interesting fossils to be sent to him at Lewes. That would save him trying to find the time to keep making the long trip to Cuckfield. This arrangement was to be of greatest importance to Gideon Mantell, and to the future course of his life. Leney continued to send specimens from Whiteman's Green.'

That would seem to be definitive, Leney was a quarryman, possibly even running the quarry at Whiteman's Green, until Mantell's Journal, in the typescript format at the Sussex Archaeological Society Library in Lewes, is consulted. Mantell refers to Leney by name only 5 times, first on March 19, 1819 and lastly on February 25, 1820, but without specifying his occupation or means of livelihood. If Leney worked in or managed the quarry in which Mantell had such a special interest, surely he would have recorded it! Mostly Leney sent, or personally delivered, packages of fossils, some of which, Mantell was pleased to note, contained 'very fine specimens'. Mantell recorded in his Journal on Friday 6 August 1819 that 'Leney of Cuckfield called on me, and I made further arrangements with regard to the Cuckfield fossils'. Mantell refrained from calling Leney a quarryman, or anything similar. This 'arrangement', whereby Leney regularly supplied Mantell with fossils of fauna and flora from the Cuckfield Stone being quarried around Whiteman's Green, presumably for financial reward, lasted well into the 1820's. By 1830, though, circumstances had changed: the quarrymen, beholden to Mantell for many years, had received a better offer for their fossiliferous finds from a Mr Robert Trotter, F.G.S., of nearby Borde Hill House, much to Mantell's intense annoyance.

Although it took place 20 years after the most crucial events, the 1841 Census for the Parish of Cuckfield is most revealing. The Enumerator's Schedules, the first available, showed that there were only 4 stoneworkers in the whole of the parish at that time, none of whom lived at or near Whiteman's Green. 1841 was the depths of one of those economic depressions that so blighted the socio-economic transformation of Britain in the 19th century, and inactivity in the stonepits and quarries was only to be expected. In times of commercial standstill, the quarrying and working of stone for buildings, roads, etc suffers first and foremost.

None of the few stoneworkers in the Parish of Cuckfield in 1841 was named Leney, but there were Leney's in Cuckfield at that time. James and Maria Leney (both in their mid-70's) and two of their children, Sarah and William, (both about 40 years of age), were living in a timber-framed house at the far end of Church Road, by the gate into the churchyard. By occupation, James Leney and his son, William, were both shoemakers, or cordwainers -- which, coincidentally, was the trade of Gideon Mantell's father, Thomas Mantell (1750-1807)! We contend that that is how the Mantells of Lewes and the Leney's of Cuckfield were acquainted, through the common trade of their fathers. Indeed, it is even possible that James Leney served his apprenticeship as a cordwainer under Thomas Mantell of Lewes before establishing his family business in Cuckfield, quite an important community in those days as it was the first stop and change of horses on the coaching road from Brighton to London.

We also contend that it was from James Leney, cordwainer of Cuckfield, a gentleman of his acquaintance and long-time friend of the family, that Gideon Mantell received a steady flow of significant fossil specimens in the critical years from the late 1810's to the mid-1820's. At that time James Leney would have been a mature family man in his 50's, and doubtless a reliable, respected and trustworthy village tradesman, known to everyone in the parish. Mantell would have been a ready outlet for any fossil finds, which may have provided a convenient source of extra income for the village shoemaker. He was ideally suited to act as middleman for the quarrymen.

'Leney the quarryman' is an understandable assumption, but, we believe, historically erroneous. The Leney's of Cuckfield had made boots and shoes for many a decade: there is no documentary evidence that any member of the Leney family was working as a quarryman in the early 19th century.

AGM 2006: Report

The electronic AGM of 2006 was a quiet affair. No concerns were raised about the Agenda items. Many thanks to all HOGG members who voted.

I am delighted to report that Beris Cox's appointment to the HOGG committee has been ratified by 22 votes in favour (none against). Welcome, Beris!

The proposal to raise the membership fee from £10 to £15, to take effect from January 2008, received equally strong support (again, 22 votes for; none against). As was noted in the AGM documents, this rise is necessary to cover escalating costs and the considerable expenses anticipated for the Bicentenary Event. It is heart-warming to have such strong support from the membership.

Anne O'Connor
HOGG Secretary
January 2007

Requests for collaboration

Historical geologist required!

Professor Thomas McKenny Hughes (1832-1917), Woodwardian Professor of Geology, University of Cambridge.

I am interested in writing a personal account of the life of Professor Hughes (my grandfather) from the period when, as an undergraduate at Cambridge, he attended the geological lectures of Professor Adam Sedgwick, his predecessor in the Woodwardian Chair, to his death in Cambridge in 1917.

His early career in the Diplomatic Service, excavating archaeological sites near Rome and Naples with Sir Charles Newton; his experiences while working for the Geological Survey, predominantly surveying the limestone country in the North West; his election to the Woodwardian Chair in Cambridge, with the support of Sir Charles Lyell, a personal friend; his marriage to Mary Caroline Weston, 30 years his junior, whom he had met while working on the Survey; his work on developing the Geological syllabus, following the introduction of the Natural Sciences Tripos to Cambridge; his initiative in selecting Sir T.G. Jackson as the architect of the new museums of Geology and Archaeology on the Downing Street site; his archaeological fieldwork in and around Cambridge; his attendance with his wife, at the International Geological Congresses, in America in 1891, and subsequently the Russian International Congress, travelling as far east as Mount Ararat and Baku on the Caspian Sea, both graphically described by the Hughes's.

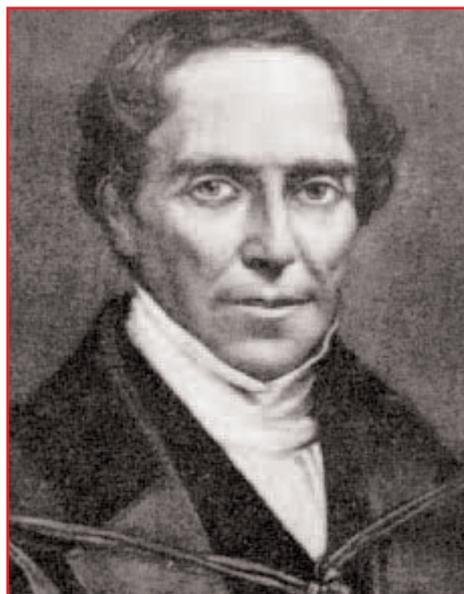
I am intending to write a personal history of his life, which is well documented by diaries and letters, many of which I have recently given to the Cambridge University Library. I should like to collaborate with a historical geologist, who could give an account of his professional life and his contributions to the science of geology at an important and formative period.

Jane Fawcett

Those interested should contact Jane Fawcett at 35 Milson Road W14 0LH (Tel: 0207 6033841).

Jane is an architectural historian, author, lecturer, teacher, awarded the MBE and Hon Fellowship RIBA for services to conservation, and recently elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (London). Her latest book, *Historic Floors, their Care and Conservation*, was published by Butterworth Heinemann in 1998, 2nd edition (paperback) in 2003.

Twin Appeals



In the HOGG Newsletter No. 25 (May 2006) I made an appeal to members of HOGG to let me know the location(s) of the 4-volume typescript of the Journal of Gideon Mantell, locations which Dennis Dean cryptically describes as 'copies elsewhere'. Shortly thereafter my computer system developed a major and persistent fault which put me out of electronic communication until early November. Just in case anyone has been trying to reach me with this vital piece of information, I would like to renew my appeal for information as to the whereabouts of copies of Mantell's Journal in this format, other than the S.A.S. Library in Lewes, Sussex.

I would also like to address another appeal to the HOGG membership, this time for a piece of historical memorabilia. As part of the Centenary celebrations of the Geological Society in late September 1907, 'The Centenary Dinner' was held in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole in London on Thursday September 26, 1907, with 278 ladies and gentlemen in attendance. The report of this very special occasion notes that 'the menu-card, which bore sketches of the first President and of Sir Archibald Geikie, was designed by Miss Lilian Archer'. I realise that menu cards are ephemera and not usually regarded as keepsakes or collectables, but, as this was such a unique occasion, I am hoping that someone somewhere kept theirs, and/or donated it to a museum or archive. I would like to have sight of it, and, if possible and with permission and acknowledgement, reproduce it in a publication I am preparing to celebrate the Bicentenary of the Geological Society.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance with both these appeals. My new email address is anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

For Your Bookshelf ?...

Faulty Geology - Frauds, Hoaxes & Delusions - Alexander R. McBirney.

Pub: 2004, Bostok Press, pp215, ISBN 097591585i

When Alex McBirney originally set out to compile this collection of geological deceptions and fantasies, his purpose was to provide a handy source of amusing stories that professors could use to liven up their lectures. As it developed, however, the book turned out to be much more than that. It is a thought-provoking examination of scientific ethics and the problems of ensuring the health and integrity of our profession.

Some of the stories are long-standing favourites, such as the “discovery” of bizarre artificial fossils fabricated by colleagues of a gullible German professor. Others, such as the story of the Spanish explorers who were tricked into thinking they had found a lake of molten gold in the crater of a volcano, are laid out here for the first time. The stories have been selected to illustrate the remarkable capacity of humans to deceive their trusting friends, colleagues - and themselves!

Alex is an emeritus professor at the University of Oregon where he taught for thirty years. His interest in volcanism and igneous rocks has taken him from the jungles of Central America to the glacial realms of Greenland. He is the author of several books on volcanology and igneous petrology.

(from the cover)

The Reluctant Mr Darwin - David Quammen

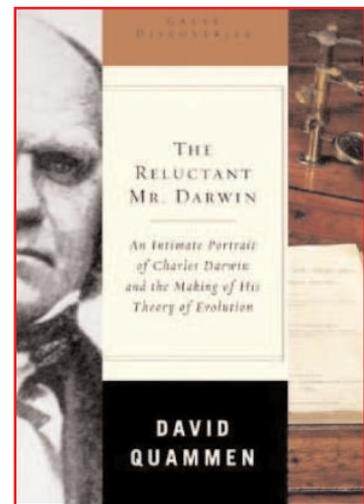
Pub W.Norton, 2006, pp192. ISBN: 10: 0-393-05981-2

Charles Darwin is the man who won't go away. Nearly 150 years after publishing his theory of evolution, he remains not only central to biology and medicine but also deeply and abidingly controversial. Although most people know only an imprecise version of who he was, how he thought and what he wrote, Darwin still receives much of the credit, and the blame, for what science understands about the evolutionary process and what society thinks we should - or shouldn't - teach about that process in our schools.

Who was Darwin? A reclusive English biologist who wrote books. A cautious shy man who found himself burdened with a profoundly radical insight. A breeder of pigeons, a close student of barnacles, a doting father, a homebody, a billiards player, an agnostic, a collector of beetles...and many other things you might not expect. Every educated person should be directly acquainted with the story of Darwin and his most wondrous frightening idea: “natural selection” as the main mechanism of evolution. Many volumes about him have been published, mostly written by scholars for other scholars. This little book represents Darwin for everybody.

Drawing on Darwin's secret “transmutation” notebooks from the period just after his beagle voyage, and on his private letters, David Quammen has created a meticulous, humane portrait of the man, and a lucid explication of his work, that captures both the personal foibles and the scientific substance. It's an intimate view of a great scientist - taking readers behind the veil of Darwin's greatness and his fame, following him closely through the joys, struggles and sorrows of his quiet but extraordinarily consequential life. Quammen has spent his career shadowing field biologists and describing their characters their adventures, their ideas: here he gives us the pre-eminent field biologist of all time. Read this book and you will never again feel the same about the formidable, cold word; “Darwinism”.

(from the cover)



Book Review

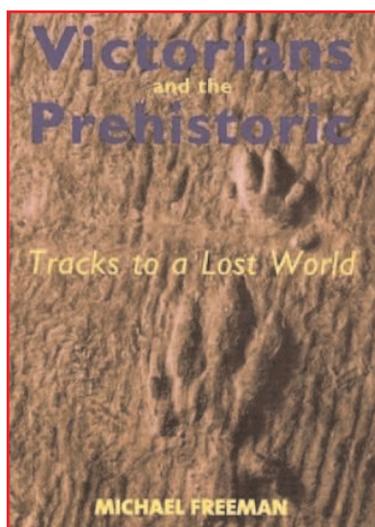
Victorians and the Prehistoric: Tracks to a Lost World - by Michael Freeman

(New Haven / London: Yale U.P., 2004; pp. vi + 310. £25).

RALPH O'CONNOR

University of Aberdeen

(Reprinted with permission from The English Historical Review, vol.121 no. 490 (February 2006), 331-2)



This book explores the impact of geology on Victorian society. It is organised as a series of narratives centred on key themes (such as the Deluge, evolution and museums) which together form an engaging composite portrait of the new science, complemented by a large number of breathtakingly well-reproduced illustrations, many in colour. Freeman moves nimbly between the histories of art, literature, religion, science and technology, and this breadth of range allows some valuable insights to emerge. He gives a very useful sketch of some of the literary techniques with which the science was popularised, and he is a sensitive reader of pictures. His use of popular hymns as evidence for the reception of scientific ideas (pp. 64-5) is original and effective, as are his remarks on the continuity between past and present forms of popularisation. Best of all are Freeman's fascinating observations on the intertwining of locomotive technology with geological discovery: the railways serve as a kind of ground bass to the book as a whole, and some surprising links emerge. In this respect *Victorians and the Prehistoric* is a worthy sequel to Freeman's much-acclaimed *Railways and the Victorian Imagination*. His treatment of some

other aspects of Victorian science and culture is, however, less satisfactory. As if anticipating such criticisms, he declares in his Preface that his book is not aimed at an academic audience: it is not a 'history of geology', nor is it intended to trace how geology 'prepared the way for Darwin' or 'contributed to the undermining of Christian belief'. As Freeman puts it, these themes 'would be somewhat alien to the wider readership that [this book] endeavours to engage' (p. 5). Nevertheless, this book has been published by a respected university press (and review copies sent to learned journals). As such it will be read by many as an academic work rather than a piece of popular history.

Those familiar with recent work on the cultural history of geology, by such scholars as Simon Knell, Noah Heringman, James Secord and Martin Rudwick, will be disappointed to find that, for the most part, Freeman's picture of geology's place in culture derives from works such as Charles Gillispie's *Genesis and Geology*, a trail-blazer in 1951 but now severely outdated. More recent scholarship is occasionally cited in the endnotes but does not appear to have been assimilated. To take one example, religion is presented throughout as something the Victorians needed to grow out of: the pioneering palaeontologist William Buckland appears as a hapless reactionary who 'still clung to the idea of reconciling geology with sacred history' although he was 'otherwise competent' as a geologist (p. 183). The tenor of Buckland's research is repeatedly misidentified: he did not, for instance, consider the Kirkdale Cave fossils to have been deposited by the Deluge (p. 181), but strongly opposed this view. Forgetting that not all Christians were literalists, Freeman massively overstates the threat of 'the abyss of time' to Christian belief, at times appearing to confuse deep time with evolution (e.g. p. 54); he also collapses the distinction between old-earth and young-earth geologists whenever the former showed any interest in the book of Genesis (e.g. pp. 85, 88, 187-8). In short, the historical relations between science and religion are assumed to be inherently oppositional, despite a mountain of recent scholarship questioning this assumption. Neither Freeman's prefatory appeal to 'postmodernist' scholarly methods (in his terms, telling stories rather than drawing conclusions), nor his remark that there is not enough room to give nuanced accounts (pp. 5-7), can justify such a heavy reliance on long-outdated generalisations, of which this is only one example. Nor can they justify the large number of factual errors. Sea-lilies are not fossil flowers, but animals (p. 142); Buckland's *Bridgewater Treatise* was not written 'in the form of a traveller's tale' (p. 149); and James Hutton did not promote a progressive model of earth history, but rather its opposite (p. 186). Such basic misstatements might pass without comment in an unambiguously popular work (though many of the latter have been more carefully argued), as might Freeman's frequent citations of primary sources at second or third hand, and his misidentifications of their authors (e.g. Dickens and Penn, pp. 150 and 187). However, the scholarly guise of *Victorians and the Prehistoric* opens it up to a barrage of potential criticisms. This is unfortunate, as Freeman has otherwise succeeded in his stated aim of evoking, for a general audience, the wonder and excitement of earth history in the Victorian period. As such his book deserves to be widely read, albeit with a large pinch of salt.



History
Of
Geology
Group

The History of On-Shore Hydrocarbon Use in the UK

or
*(From Oil Shales and Seeps
to 'Shaleopolis' and 100 Roughnecks!)*

PES  GB

April 20th-22nd 2007
Prince Regent Hotel, Esplanade, Weymouth



Programme

April 20th 2007 - Fieldtrip: West of Kimmeridge. Meet Charmouth for 11.00am start.

Ice-Breaker: 19.00.

April 21st 2007 - One Day Seminar: 9.00-18.00 - Prince Regent Hotel.

Dinner: 19.30 for 20.00pm.

April 22nd 2007 - Fieldtrip: East of Kimmeridge. Leave Weymouth 10.00am.

Meeting 21st April 2007

9.00-9.20: "UK Oil and Gas Shales- Definitions and Distribution in Time and Space".
Richard Moody, Moody-Sandman Associates/Kingston University

9.20-9.50: The Search for Oil from Oil-Shales in Pre & Post First World War England 1910-1924.
Hugh S Torrens, School of Earth Science, Keele University

9.50-10.20: Hydrocarbons in Sussex: A False Quest. Tony Brook

10.20-10.50: The Norfolk Oil-Shale Rush, 1916-1923. R W Gallois

10.50-11.30: Posters and Coffee

11.30-12.00: "Eakring: an illustrated history of exploration and production - a tale of secrecy, imported wartime roughnecks and beyond". David Evans, BGS

12.00-12.30: "The legacy of oil shale in West Lothian Scotland; from pre-history to post-industry".
Barbra Harvie, CECS, University of Edinburgh.

12.30-13.00: "Alternative Fuels, Innovation and Entrepreneurialism". Richard Moody

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.30-15.00: "Bings and biodiversity". Barbra Harvie. CECS, University of Edinburgh.

15.00-15.30: Evolution of the Wessex Basin. Alan Holiday. Weymouth College.

15.30-16.00: Oil shale resources in the Kimmeridge Clay. R W Gallois

16.00-16.30: Tea & Coffee

16.30-17.00: "The Fauna of the Kimmeridge Clay". Steve Etches

17.00-17.30: Henry Darwin Rogers (1808-1866) and The Origin of Petroleum. John Fuller

17.30- 18.10: The Age of Oil - past present and future'. Daniel Clark-Lowes, Nubian Consultants

Posters: 3 Posters received to date from Kingston University MSc Course

The History of On-Shore Hydrocarbon Use in the UK

or

(From Oil Shales and Seeps to 'Shaleopolis' and 100 Roughnecks!)

Prince Regent Hotel, Esplanade, Weymouth

April 20th-22nd 2007

Conference Booking Form

Please complete and return this form with payment by cheque to the Professor Dick Moody, Gnoll House, 15 Forster Road, Guildford, Surrey. GU2 9AE. E. mail: rtj.moody@virgin.net. Deadline for receipt of registration: 7th April 2007

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

Postcode:..... **Telephone:**.....

E-mail:.....

HOGG Members rate:

I wish to register for the following (please tick where appropriate):

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| Field Trip: 'West of Lulworth' - 20th April 2007 @ £8.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 'Ice Breaker' Reception - Free to Conference Delegates. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference 21st April @ £25 (Including Lunch and Refreshments). | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference Dinner: 21st April - £20 (Including Wine). | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Field Trip: 'East of Kimmeridge' - 22nd April 2007 @ £8.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Non Members rate: (HOGG Membership Fee £15.00 per annum)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| Field Trip: 'West of Lulworth' - 20th April 2007 @ £10.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 'Ice Breaker' Reception - Free to Conference Delegates. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference 21st April @ £30 (Including Lunch and Refreshments). | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference Dinner: 21st April - £25 (Including Wine). | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Field Trip: 'East of Kimmeridge' - 22nd April 2007 @ £10.00. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

For Student Rates: [e.mail rtj.moody@virgin.net](mailto:rtj.moody@virgin.net)

Field Trips will be lead by Dr Ian West of Southampton University and Professor Dick Moody - For Further details e.mail as above.



History
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MEMBERSHIP FEES

Dear Member,

To help us save our scant resources, please complete the standing order form below and send it to the Treasurer:

Alan J. Bowden, Curator of Earth Sciences, World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.

Please do NOT send it to your bank

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Please pay the amount of £15 (fifteen pounds) to the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society (Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank plc. Account No. 14 665 9406, Sort Code 72-00-00) on 1st January, 2008 (or closest date thereto) and annually thereafter until terminated by me in writing. This standing order replaces any other made out in favour of the History of Geology Group of the Geological Society.

Signed:.....Date:.....

Print your name and address.....

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Post Code.....

New Committee Member

Beris Cox



Beris Cox joined the Geological Survey in 1969 having graduated from the University of Wales (Swansea). Amongst the Survey's graduate intake of that year was John Thackray through whose friendship her latent interest in the history of geology and antiquarian books was nurtured. Her Survey work as a specialist in Jurassic palaeontology and stratigraphy proved a rich feeding ground for this interest and she was a member of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History from 1973 to 1986 and has been a member of HOGG since 1997. She gained her PhD (on Jurassic ammonites) from the University of London (Queen Mary College) in 1981 and has been a chartered geologist since 1992. With the Survey, she was based in London, then Leeds and finally Keyworth from where she took early retirement in 1998. Since then she has continued to write on Jurassic topics and has been indoor meetings secretary for the East Midlands Geological Society - but she will retire from that role next year so that any HOGG committee work will have priority!

A brief report on the History of Geoconservation conference in Dudley.

This was one of the friendliest meetings I have attended. All the talks were good there wasn't one even mediocre one.

About 40-50 people attended the conference one from Greece, two from Ireland and a speaker from Norway. There were only 4 HOGG members there as far as I know. Patrick Boylan, Alan Cutler, Bettie Higgs and me. The papers started with the origins of geoconservation by Phil Doughty. Then followed papers on geoconservation during the 19th and early 20th century.

The GA and the GCR as well as the role of voluntary groups formed the first half. The History of Geoparks, geoconservation in Europe and the history of the World Heritage sites followed. There were many questions and much discussion.

Along with 9 other papers, these 12 have been accepted for publication by the Geological Society as a special publication. This will be published in March 2008 if on schedule. The editors are Cynthia Burek and Colin Prosser from Natural England and Geoconservation Commission.

The evening meal in the caverns after a canal boat ride, saw Patrick dressed up as William Buckland and myself introducing him. Alan Cutler played Murchison although he did not dress up. The following day a field visit to Wren's Nest was most enjoyable as Graham Worton, the Dudley Museum curator and himself a local lad and an authority on Dud Dudley, led us around the site. Some pieces of classic Silurian trilobites were found. Overall this was a very instructive, educational and enjoyable meeting. I am sorry you all missed it.

Cynthia Burek

HOGG Diary of Future Meetings

The HOGG Committee has set an ambitious provisional agenda of meetings for the future. More details will be given of each meeting nearer the date, but so far the provisional diary is:

2007

History of On-Shore Use and Exploration of Hydrocarbons in the UK. Regent Palace Hotel, The Esplanade, Weymouth, Dorset. (20-22nd April 2007). **Contact: rtj.moody@virin.net**

HOGG Celebration of the bi-centenary of the Geological Society (12-13th November)

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>'Walk with The Founding Fathers'</i> Fieldtrip | 9-11 November 2007 |
| <i>'Talk With The Founding Fathers'</i> Conference | 12-13 November 2007 |
| <i>'Dine With The Founding Fathers'</i> | 12 November 2007 |

Contact: hoggchair@aol.com

2008

Smith, Phillips & Rotunda meeting (Scarborough, April/May)
History of Igneous Petrology
Mapping Literary Geology (Summer?)
Field trip to Liverpool (in conjunction with the Geologists' Association ?)

2009

History of Metalliferous Mining (?Cornwall) (Spring)
History of Dinosaurs
History of Gemmology
History of Micropalaeontology

Other topics may include:

History of the Philosophy of Geology, the History of Mineralogy, something on Collections Lost and Found, and more on Hydrogeology

If members have any additional ideas for meetings (or field excursions) the Committee would be pleased to hear of them.

