



Down to Earth^{extra}

Issue 150 June 2025

NEWS FLASH...

Field trips for this year...

- Book Summer School and Autumn trips NOW!

2026 Trips...

- NEW trips to:
Anglesey
Summer School, Shropshire
Melrose - Scottish Borders

All available to book now!

What are you waiting for?

Complex folding of Devonian metasediments at Boscastle, North Cornwall. The Variscan Orogeny has imparted at least two phases of folding on this incompetent strata. Additionally, there has been injection of large scale quartz veins that have themselves, also been folded.

(Image: Chris Darmon)



From the Editorial team...

Eagle eyed readers will have noticed something about this issue of **Down to Earth extra** - it's numbered 150! That means we have been around for twelve and a half years. My, how time flies!

Back in January 2013, when we launched **DtoE extra** we noted that 'more than 60 of you had opted to receive it'. Now in 2025 we have a mailing list that approaches 2000 and, in addition, an estimated 1,500 more people who get this forwarded by their local geological society. Although more than 95% are UK residents there are also readers in several European countries, in North America and even a couple in far flung parts of Asia and the Pacific regions.

Thanks to this ground swell of support from you, our readers, we've been enabled to keep **DtoE extra** entirely free of charge. In recent times we've taken to including a few paid for advertisements that have offset some of our costs as well as boosting a few local society events. Indeed both the Amateur Geological Society and the Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society reported record attendances at their respective Mineral Shows that were advertised with us.

Over the years, **DtoE extra** has expanded from the 4-sides of the first issue to a regular 10-12 pages of today. We've often been the first to report some of the big geological stories. You'd be amazed how many stories break on the very day that we send out the latest issue! As for the future, we are committed to continuing to publish your free **DtoE extra**, month by month, and to growing the database around the world.

As always, we love to hear from you, our readers, and if there's anything you'd like to change in **DtoE extra**, do let us know.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team

Get a first look at our plans for 2026 and the chance to book your place(s) now! See pages 8-12 for details.



news update

Northern Alberta's dinosaur 'bone-anza'...

These days, when the BBC runs a news story that coincides with the release of a closely related series of programmes, you can never be sure that its 'real' news. So given that a new series of 'Walking with dinosaurs' was about to air, could the discovery of tens of thousands of dinosaur bones in Canada's Northern Alberta be some sort of hype?

Happily it is indeed 'real' news and it's been reported around the globe, although the timing does seem to have been a little more than a coincidence. Palaeontologists from the University of Saskatchewan and the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum have been working at the Pipestone Creek site in the Cretaceous Wapiti Formation of Northern Alberta for fifty years. But the cause of the most densely packed dinosaur bone bed has only recently become apparent.

Professor Emily Bamforth, is curator at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in Wembley, Alberta and has been associated with the Pipestone Creek bone bed site for many years. She has been speaking to the BBC and other global media about the significance of this amazing find.

Rather than spoil some of this which will be revealed on the '**Walking with Dinosaurs**' programmes, we've uncovered a document which is a summary of a recent Zoom session conducted by Professor Bamforth.

"The Pipestone Creek bone bed, located just outside the small town of



Palaeontologists carefully working on a dinosaur skull at the Pipestone Creek site. (Image: Community Press)

Wembley in northwestern Alberta, was discovered in 1973 by Al Lakusta, a local high school teacher. He had stumbled on one of densest dinosaur bone beds in North America, with an average of 100-300 fossils per square metre and with an estimated size of three football fields. The rhinoceros-sized ceratopsian dinosaur that made

**Down to Earth extra is designed & published by Geo Supplies Ltd.,
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up the bulk of the bone bed specimens was described as a new species, christened *Pachyrhinosaurus lakusti*. Subsequent paleontological interest in the region led to the discovery of other dinosaur bone beds, several microvertebrate localities, dinosaur trackway sites, and hadrosaur specimens displaying soft-tissue preservation.



Work is still ongoing at the site as the team from the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum extract fossils.
(Image: Philip J Currie Museum)

In 2015, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum opened in Wembley, with an aim to inspire and educate visitors about the Pipestone Creek bone bed, and about Canada's northwestern dinosaur communities. There are still many questions to explore in the Wapiti Formation. The formation is Late Cretaceous (80 – 68Ma) in age and stretches from northwestern Alberta to northeastern British Columbia.

The formation is divided into five units, with Units 3 and 4 being the most fossiliferous. The dinosaur communities within these terrestrial units are significant because they fill the so-called 'Bearpaw Gap', a time interval when southern Alberta was covered by the Western Interior Sea.



***Pachyrhinosaurus lakustai*, the dominant dinosaur from Pipestone Creek.** (Image: phys.org)

Outside of two *Pachyrhinosaurus* bone beds, the dinosaur faunas of the Wapiti Formation are dominated by the hadrosaurs *Edmontosaurus*

and *Lambeosaurus*. Theropods and ankylosaurs are known from footprints and teeth, but their diversity remains largely unknown. The palaeoflora that has been studied from the Wapiti Formation suggests a largely deciduous forest with little evergreen vegetation, which experienced strong seasonality associated with the amount of light in each given 24 hours. Given that these floras would have provided the dietary biases for dinosaur megaherbivores, it lends support to the theory that these animals were migratory.

Understanding the seasonal nature of the Late Cretaceous boreal forests and floodplains through palaeoflora analyses and isotope geochemistry may help to elucidate inferred behaviours such as herding and migration and may provide clues as to the environmental tolerances of some of Canada's most northern dinosaur communities."

As for the causes of this giant bone bed accumulation which dates from 73 Ma, here's Emily Bamforth again:

"We think it was a catastrophic flooding event, Possibly from monsoon rains in the nearby mountains, or even a hurricane-like storm washed inland. It would have been similar to flash flooding events that happen today, but on a massive scale."

The full series of 'Walking with Dinosaurs' is currently airing on the BBC and is also available on the i-player.

Sad news - Dr Eric Robinson has died...

We are sad to report the death of Eric Robinson known to so many for his lifetime of dedication to geology, especially for his work at UCL and for the Geologists' Association.

In recent years he lived in Somerset close to Watchet and even in retirement and fading health he continued with his geological work, welcoming many people to his home.

We asked retired Sheffield teacher Peter Kennett, who has known Eric for many years to pen a tribute for us. This has done with additional material from John Reynolds.

This country has lost one of its best loved geologists, with the death on 3rd May 2025 of Dr Eric Robinson, aged 95, who had been living in retirement at Watchet in Somerset.

Eric was appointed to the staff of the Geology Department at UCL in 1954 and spent his entire academic working life there, mostly teaching palaeontology and stratigraphy. He was a very patient tutor and an inspirational field leader, encouraging his students, making sure that they understood the geology, and putting up with some of their more juvenile pranks!

Being London based, Eric took a leading role in the Geologists' Association and served in many capacities over the years, including President 1991-94. He also acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of the building stones of the capital, (published by the GA in two volumes), and he delighted in taking groups of all backgrounds round his patch. This included the general public and indeed Eric became passionate about promoting the public understanding of geology through such geological walks and investigations of the geology of gravestones, old stone walls, or basically just anywhere where the opportunity arose.

He also inadvertently incurred the suspicion of the custodians of public buildings and in 1993 was forced to withdraw a whole group of



Eric (centre) with First Year Geologists at Church Stretton, Easter 1957. The student with the sling was injured while playing “Cowboys and Indians” around the rocks at lunchtime! (Photo: Peter Kennett)

people who were enthusiastically examining the fossils in the Jurassic limestone floor of the Roebuck Centre, Newcastle-under-Lyme. Like wise in Sheffield a few years later, Eric demonstrated to an inquisitive “City Centre Ambassador” that the liquid he was spraying on some red Triassic sandstone to bring out the colour was merely water – by spraying it into his own mouth!



Eric in Sheffield in 1995, explaining what a (rather wet) “heathen” was doing at the entrance to Laura Ashley! (Photo: Peter Kennett)

As well as the public field, Eric was most supportive of the Earth Science Teachers’ Association, right from its origins as the Association of Teachers of Geology in the 1960s. Among other things, Eric’s

position on the GA’s Curry Fund meant that worthwhile new ventures were financially supported, notably ESTA’s attempt to assist Science teachers with the geological component of the National Curriculum in the 1980s, with the writing and publication of its “Science of the Earth” series. Eric was also enthusiastic about Chris King’s initiatives at Keele and the voluntary www.earthlearningidea.com website, which now has world-wide uptake. Eric himself abstained from the dubious delights of computers and emails so his many publications and articles were either handwritten or typed on an old typewriter.

Although Eric had his own academic specialism (Carboniferous ostracods?), our science at large will be eternally grateful for his understanding of the need to make the public more aware of geology – its intrinsic beauty and interest; its strategic and economic importance, and the need to encourage more people to embark on a geological career. Thanks to his support for geoconservation, and for pointing to appropriate funding, sites which would by now have been under bricks and mortar or totally overgrown are still available for future research, and for the education of future Earth scientists.

There are many more anecdotes which could be told about Eric, and indeed such is the affection with which he was held by his former students that many have been collected and retained for posterity. We shall all miss him and express our condolences to his wider family.

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GEOLOGY TOURS 2026/27

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Tour Dates & Prices : 8-23 Apr 2026 £5992 pp

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Bhutan

Dramatic landscapes of Bhutan, from soaring peaks to lush valleys. On this cultural tour, with its added geological dimension, we will come to understand not only what the landscapes and the rocks reveal about the geological history of the country but also how the mountains came into existence in the first place.

THE KARAKORAM; VALLEYS OF NORTHERN PAKISTAN

Tour Dates & Prices : 09 - 23 Oct 2026 £4768 pp

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Pakistan

Visit the spell binding valleys of northern Pakistan with their sky high mountains, ice-cold rivers & lush green valleys. Along the way you will learn about the geological history of these mountains and the interesting features they display.



Dr Danny Clark-Lowes



Dr John Nudds

LADAKH; LAND OF THE HIGH PASSES

Tour Dates & Prices : 14-30 Aug 2026 £3885pp

Tour Leader: Dr John Nudds

Where: India

Discover the dramatic geological evolution of the Himalayas. Travel through distinct geological provinces—from the Siwalik foothills and the Lesser and Greater Himalayan Series, through the ancient Tethyan rocks and the India-Asia suture zone, and into the striking Trans-Himalayan Ladakh batholith and Karakoram ranges. End the Tour with a visit to the Taj Mahal.

LAHORE TO LADAKH; LAHORE, AMRITSAR, SHIMLA, MANALI & LADAKH

Tour Dates & Prices : TBC

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Pakistan & India

Trace the footsteps of Rudyard Kipling through the vibrant streets of Lahore, exploring the colonial legacy that shaped his early years. Then cross the Wagah border into Amritsar in India and journey through the majestic landscapes of Shimla, Manali, and Ladakh—uncovering the rich geological tapestry of the region, from the Himalayan foothills to mountain-building events that shaped the subcontinent.

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Cornish Metals continue to make steady progress at their South Crofty site...

During a recent field visit to Cornwall with a group of American geologists we were able to have an evening talk from two of their geologists.



The newly built plant that is purifying the mine waters being pumped from South Crofty. (Image: Cornish Metals)

We heard of the progress they are making with the de-watering project which is going well and is currently at about the half way point. At the same as pumping out the water they are carrying out any necessary remedial work to the main New Cooks Kitchen shaft. They also have underground teams stabilising some of the old workings in the upper part of the mine, replacing timber props with steel ones.



New Cooks Kitchen shaft and the South Crofty mine site. (Image: The Northern Miner)

In an area where ell paid work is in short supply, the fact that the project is already employing around 85 people is encouraging. Clearly there's a lot more work to be done and some very significant funding needs to be raised before South Crofty can once again be producing tin.

That said, the project had been further boosted by a visit from Anne, The Princess Royal, the week before our talk. Let us hope that this is a project that will run its full course and have a successful future that brings much needed prosperity back to Redruth and Camborne.

Are you ready to join in some of the events at the 2025 GeoFest?

Once again the Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark along with its partners have put together a programme of events that runs from now until the end of August under the umbrella of **GeoFest**.

This year the programme sees many of the events and activities being free of charge, whilst others are extremely affordable. There are a number of activities aimed at children and families, especially during the school summer holidays.



A previous rock & fossil hunt at Severn Valley Country Park.

Chris Darmon, the Geopark President will be visiting over the weekend of July 26 and 27, where he will be opening a new geopark visitor information point at the Severn Valley Country Park and helping people identify their treasures at an 'ask the expert' event at Bewdley Museum. He looks forward to seeing **Down to Earth** readers!

See the full GeoFest programme at:
<http://geopark.org.uk/pub/2025/05/geofest-2025-2/>



Get Down to Earth - by e-mail...

If you've enjoyed reading this **Down to Earth** extra, you'll love our quarterly **Down to Earth**! It's a 32-page quality magazine in full colour that's packed with up to the minute geological news and articles. You can get your hands on this either in print or electronic formats. Why not request a **FREE** sample electronic copy of the current issue?

For 2025 why not treat yourself or a loved one to a gift subscription? Go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk and enter the online shop or ring us on 0114 245 5746.

Down to Earth is published quarterly and is available as a PDF e-subscription for just £10.00 for 1 year or £25.00 for 3 years. If you prefer a paper copy that is available for £17.00 for 1 year with back issues for 2024 included as well.

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Extra June 2025



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Final call for our Peak District Summer School...

Cliff College, Curbar August 9-16 2025



Peak District geology at its very best!

- 6 full days of field work with a choice on some days
- A visit to a Castleton cavern
- A visit to the Peak District Mining Museum in Matlock Bath
- The Triassic rocks of Alderley Edge
- Visit to Wollaton Hall Museum, Nottingham
- The Torrs at New Mills - by train from Grindleford
- Geology of Matlock and Matlock Bath
- Geology of Monsal Head & Dale (see image above)
- Coach/minibus transport to field locations
- Full board accommodation in single ensuite rooms (can also be double rooms)
- Evening talks and activities from visiting speakers and our own team
- Social events and opportunities for down time

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Summer School. The cost is £1395.00 per person whether you are in a single or shared room.

See the brochure & book online at www.geosupplies.co.uk
Email downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
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Great geo-adventures in 2025/6 begin here...



With the white buildings of Torquay in the background, this is the near vertical Devonian strata in the cliff. This location is known as London Bridge and will be seen on a boat cruise around the bay. (Image: Chris Darmon)

We can still fit in additional people on our Peak District Summer School and we also have vacancies for couples on our Torquay trip in October.

We've now completed our line-up of trips for 2026 with additional localities in Anglesey, a Summer School in Shropshire and a brand new trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders.

Amazingly several 2026 trips are approaching being fully booked - so get in soon to secure your places!

To view a brochure, go to our website at:
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Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Residential Field trip programme 2025/6...

2025

- Peak District Summer School, August 9-16
- Cornwall & Somerset, September 20-28
- Torbay, South Devon, October 8-15

2026

- The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1
- Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22
- Central Cornwall, May 1-8
- Teesdale & Northern Pennines, May 16-23
- Shetland, The Northern Isles, June 17-25
- Anglesey, July 5-10
- Summer School, Shropshire, August 8-15
- Iceland, North & East Fjords, September 13-22
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

Early booking is advised, especially if you are looking for a single room.

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If you haven't joined one of our residential field trips before, what can you expect?

- *Our residential field trips are suitable for adults of all levels of interest and geological knowledge.*
- *Our trips are friendly and informal and usually comprise 15-20 people. Overseas trips are usually larger.*
- *We usually make use of comfortable small hotels and guest houses and all meals are included.*
- *You have the services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as field leaders. Both are highly experienced and knowledgeable field geologists.*
- *For some trips we have a hired minibus but on other trips we will use shared cars, or even public transport.*
- *Dates shown in this listing are the start and finish dates.*
- *Where prices are quoted, they are per person in a shared twin/double room.*

If you still have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel: 0114 245 5746

Before you book on one of our trips...

We are always pleased to welcome new people along on our trips. So if you are thinking about it, what do you need to know before you 'take the plunge'?

Who are the trips aimed at?

The short answer is that they are not aimed at any particular group of people. Our participants are mainly older retired people who want to keep their minds and bodies active, but younger people are welcome.

Some people have lots of geological field experience whilst others are complete beginners. As one person put it to us "I've forgotten all I once knew and need to come along to hear it again." Our UK trips are all small groups of 15 to 20 people maximum so we can make lots of what we say personal to you.

Will I be able to manage the walking?

We always try to keep walking to a minimum, but, almost by definition, some walking will be involved. If you can't manage a particular walk, just tell us and it will never be a problem for you not to do it. We have one person who really enjoys sketching - she's done some amazing sketches while the rest of us visit a quarry!

How do we get about on trips?

It varies a lot from trip to trip. Sometimes we hire a minibus, on other occasions we use public transport and at other times we'll make use of shared cars. Look at the details for each trip to find out.

What about accommodation?

We always try to use hotels or guest houses that have ensuite rooms as standard. Most of our accommodation will provide breakfast and evening meals, but sometimes we eat in local restaurants. We include the cost of all food, including a packed lunch for each field day.

We prefer to use small family run hotels and guest houses but they are getting harder to find, so sometimes we use larger hotels such as Premier Inns and hotels in the Leisureplex group. Once again, see the individual trip brochures for details.

Are your bookings safe with us?

Yes indeed they are! We've been in the business of running trips a long time and ensure that all the money you pay us is safe in a client trust account until your trip is completed.

The 2025 programme...

We are delighted with the way that our 2025 programme has been received, with most trips now fully booked. We still have vacancies on the 2025 trips listed below, but they are limited and subject to availability at the time of booking.

What is our Summer School?

Our Summer School is modelled on those that used to be run by the Open University a number of years ago. All are based on a campus of one sort or another where we can sleep in largely single, en-suite study bedrooms and enjoy on site meals. They are also more than just field trips with dedicated transport each day. There's an evening programme of talks from local experts and also social events. In short - something for everybody, including those with limited mobility!

Summer School Peak District, August 9-16 £1395

For the first time in the 7-year history of our Summer School weeks we're actually returning to a place that we've visited before. Cliff College in the Peak District of Derbyshire is a well known Methodist theological college. It provides excellent ensuite bedrooms and lovely home cooked food, and makes for an ideal summer school base.



The beautiful grounds of Cliff College (Image: Cliff College)

We'll be sampling lots of the excellent local geology and giving you those added summer school bonuses of evening talks and special visits to places of cultural and historic interest as well as geology.

We can accommodate a few more people at this stage, including people looking for a single room. We strongly advise you to book NOW to secure the last remaining places!

NEW! Cornwall & North Somerset, September 20-28 £1995

A small number of vacancies have arisen on this trip because our US guests, from Washington State, have not taken all of the places. This trip is split between Central Cornwall and North Somerset with Hotels in Redruth and Minehead.

Welcome to our exciting world!



Coach transport is provided each day and this includes our transfer between Redruth and Minehead. A memorable week is in prospect with great company and excellent geology. Geological highlights include The Lizard, granite scenery, china clay, Valley of the Rocks, Watchet and Blue Anchor.

The brochure for this trip is only available direct from us - request one today!

The South Devon Riviera, Torbay, October 8-15 £1295

The South Devon Riviera coast has been a holiday destination for more than 150 years and we will be staying in the family run Hotel Balmoral in Torquay. From here we will be exploring the local area that lies within the UNESCO world geopark. This is an area of great



The Hotel Balmoral, our base in Torquay

coastal scenery, with lots of Devonian sediments, plus some volcanics. As the geology is best seen from the sea, we'll ensure that we have at least one boat trip out into Torbay to get up close and personal with the cliffs and their fabulous structures. We also hope to take a trip on the Paignton and Kingswear steam railway and combine it with another boat trip on the River Dart to Totnes.

Don't miss out on an Autumn break - come and join us in sunny Torquay!

To make a booking email us at:

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Whilst the brochures are, available on our website, booking forms are only available from us. You can then arrange to pay the deposit and we'll send you the booking form.

The 2026 programme...

Over the last month or so we've been releasing trips for 2026 as soon as they were ready to go and we've been amazed at how quickly they are filling up! The Iceland trip planned which was postponed until September of next year is nearly full with 20+ people already confirmed and a number of other trips have bookings.

The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1 £995

Believe it or not, we have not visited the famous Jurassic Coast of Dorset since 2017, so it's high time that we put that right! As on the last occasion, we're basing our trip at the seaside town of Weymouth which is well connected in terms of public transport and also has suitable accommodation for us to use. We're going early in the season

so that we can offer you a good value trip, but with the recent pattern of mild winters, we hope that by the end of March it will be reasonably warm.



The magnificent Durdle Door (Image: Visit Dorset)

As for the magnificent geology what can we say? We hope to take in some of the area's 'gems' including Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Swanage. It would also be good to call in on Mary Anning's favourite stomping ground of Lyme Regis. We also hope to take in the amazing fossil collection on show at Dorchester Museum.

Get in soon to secure your places on this early 2026 trip!

The Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22 £1695

Ask Colin and Chris what their favourite trip is and they will answer "the Northwest Highlands". It combines their favourite hotel with their favourite geology and landscape! Accordingly we are once again offering this 8-night gem even though we were last there in 2024. On this trip we pay homage to Britain's oldest rocks in the form of the 3 billion year old Lewisian Gneisses, along with the overlying Torridonian Sandstones and the Cambro-Ordovician sediments. These all came together as a result of the Caledonian Orogeny some 420 million years ago.



Loch Assynt is but a stone's throw from the Inchnadamph Hotel (Image: Wikimedia Commons)

In much more recent times, the Ice Ages of the last 2 million years have given us the most beautiful and unspoilt landscape that we can enjoy today.

We already have a number of bookings for this trip - come and join us!

Central Cornwall, May 1-8**£1595**

We discovered Tricky's at the Tolgus Inn in Redruth in time to take two groups of Americans during 2025. Now we are offering the location to our regular clients! Redruth is centrally located on the main railway line from London Paddington and allows us to reach most of the main parts of Cornwall without long journeys.



*Old mines and magnificent coasts.
(Image: Into Cornwall)*

During this week we'll be taking in the granites of Lands End, the ophiolites of the Lizard, the china clays of St Austell and the amazing folded rocks of North Cornwall around Tintagel and Boscastle. We'll also go down a tin mine and visit Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum. We'll have the use of a locally hired minibus or coach to get around on this trip, making it possible for everyone.

People are already booking up this trip!

Teesdale and the North Pennines, May 16-23**£1395**

We've been looking to visit this area for some time and have never quite got around to it until now! Finding the wonderful family run Teesdale Hotel was the final piece in the jigsaw and hey presto - here we have a new location!

We'll be taking in the wonderful Upper Teesdale with its Lower Palaeozoic inlier along with High Force, Lowe Force and Cauldron Snout. There's great limestone scenery as well as the Great Whin Sill.



*High Force, Teesdale with the Great Whin Sill
(Image: The Geological Society)*

Over in Weardale we'll take in the lead mines around St John's Chapel and Killhope as well as the Frosterley Marble and the fossil tree at Stanhope.

This trip is close to being full already!

Shetland - the North Isles, June 17-25**£1895**

Everyone should visit the Shetland Isles at least once in their lives, so says Chris, who's been there around a dozen times over the past 40 years. The best time to visit Shetland is around mid-Summer when it never really gets dark.



St Magnus Bay Hotel in the village of Hillswick, one of our Shetland hotels.



Metamorphic rocks at the northern tip of the United Kingdom on the Island of Unst.

(Image: Scottish Geology Trust)

We invite you to join us as we take in the North of Mainland and the Northern Isles of Unst, Fetlar and Yell, home to some of the most amazing geology in the entire UK. Visit the Moho in a small quarry in Unst and get yourself a sample of serpentine to rival any from Cornwall. Why not begin our Shetland adventure with an overnight boat trip from Aberdeen?

We already have bookings for this trip!

NEW! Anglesey, July 5-10**£995**

We love going to Ynys Mon, or as the English know it, Anglesey. As a long established geopark it's geology is superb and also unique as the main location to see rocks of the Mona Complex.

Based at the former copper port of Amlwch in the north of the island we will explore some of the best sites on the island, many of which are close to our base.

Come with us to see some very rare rocks and also experience some

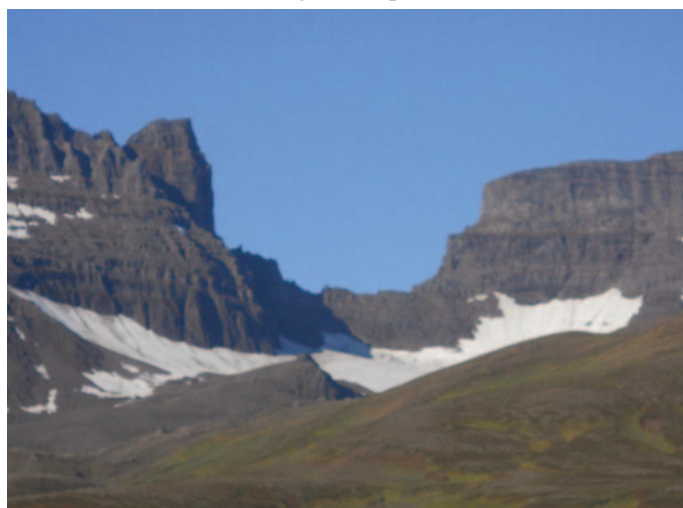


The Dinorben Arms Hotel, our base on Anglesey

fine coastal scenery. On this trip you get to see sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks of many types!

We expect this trip to fill up rapidly!

Iceland - the North & East Fjords, September 13-22 £2595



*Eastern Fjords are beautiful in any season!
(Image: Chris Darmon)*

These days a lot of people go to Iceland, but they very rarely visit the north and east of country. In this trip with our usual guide and driver Ingi, we'll begin at Keflavik near the airport and then travel to Akureyri before working our way clockwise to Myvatn to the volcano Krafla before heading to the beautiful east Fjords.

We'll stop in the amazing geo-village of Borgarfjarðar Eystri to see Iceland's most colourful rhyolitic rocks. The last time we were here we did see the Northern Lights in all their glory! Iceland is an amazing place but these days much of it is over visited by tourists. This cannot be said for some of the places that we will be visiting on this trip. This is the real Iceland, where natural wonders and beauty are able to shine without the smell of hamburgers!

To complete our trip we travel back from Hofn to Keflavik completing our circuit of Iceland. There's an option of an additional night at the end to have a day looking at the most recent volcanic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula and viewing the recent lavas, which will still be hot!

Last call - this trip is almost full!

Melrose in the Scottish Borders, October 18-24 £995

We end the year with a good value 6-night trip to a new area of the Scottish Borders. Melrose is in the heart of an excellent area of fine geology, with sediments from the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian along with a fine array of igneous rocks, both extrusions and intrusions that mainly date from the Carboniferous.

During this trip we'll be taking in the famous localities of Dob's Linn near Moffat where Charles Lapworth established the Ordovician and Silurian boundary and also James Hutton's famous unconformity at Jedburgh. We'll also have a day in Edinburgh exploring some of the famous sites in Holyrood Park.

Our base for the trip is the comfortable Waverley Castle Hotel which sits in beautiful grounds on the outskirts of the small town. Unusually, we have been offered a number of single rooms, at a very modest supplement - but get in quickly to secure your place!

To make a booking email us at:

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Booking forms are only available from us.

An unusual present idea - limited edition...

'The Cream of the Crop 2024'

As part of their work for Geo Supplies, your editorial team, Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield go to some very interesting places around the British Isles. Whilst they are in these places they often pick up rock specimens, most of which go to students and institutions both here and even around the world.

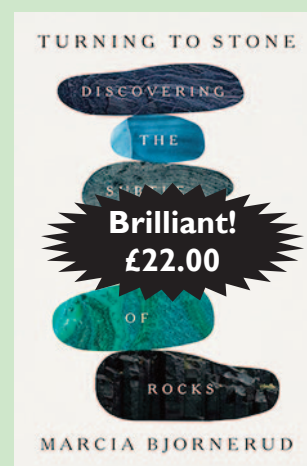
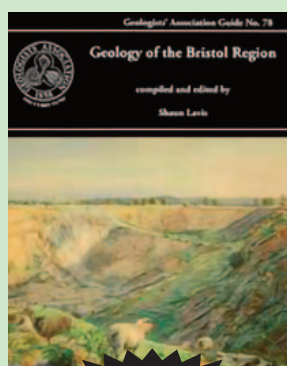
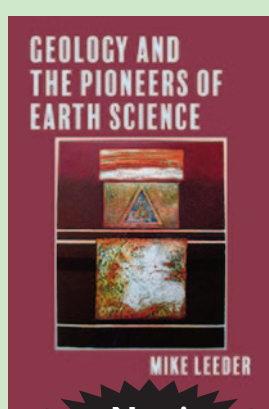
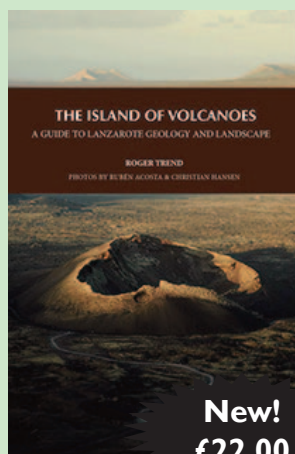
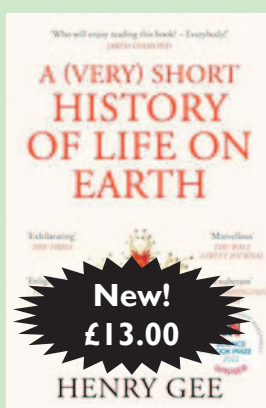
However there are also some rare or unusual rocks that don't form part of our regular stock and it is these that we've gathered together into a limited edition collection that we are offering as our 'Cream of the Crop 2024'.

The set comprises 12 carefully chosen specimens from the British Isles and Norway: carbonatite, Larvikite, phonolite, borolanite, picrite, 'oyster rock', teschenite, Ledmore marble, Aberfoyle slate, orthoquartzite, Torridonian breccia and micro-granodiorite. Each set comes boxed with notes and costs £49.95 including postage. The set is available and ready to be shipped NOW!

Purchase online at: geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746.

Featured books for June 2025

In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of June 2025 provided that stocks are available. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



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