

Newsletter - December 2024

Lecture Programme

Lectures continue to held in Room 407 of the Boyd Orr Building (unless otherwise noted). Note: Meetings commence at 7.00 pm. Room 407 is on the 4th floor. We will record the lectures but not the Q&A and will not be offering a live zoom.

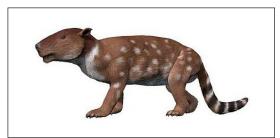
Thursday 12th December 2024

Dr. Paige dePolo, Liverpool John Moores University

"The taphonomy of a pantodont-rich assemblage from the San Juan Basin, New Mexico, USA"

66 million years ago, an asteroid hit the earth and kicked off the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. In the wake of this extinction, many weird and enigmatic mammals began radiating into empty niches. One group, the plant eating,

herbivorous pantodonts, quickly grew to the largest mammals yet known in Earth history. In this talk, we'll look at a collection of fossils from Torreon Wash in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and think about their taphonomy (what happened to the animals after death). I will then develop an argument for gregariousness within *Pantolambda bathmodon* (a small pantodont), that illustrates grouping behaviour is wide-spread within this clade (a grouping that includes a common ancestor and all the descendants of that ancestor).





Paige is a vertebrate palaeontologist and a Lecturer in Vertebrate Biology at Liverpool John Moores University. After completing undergraduate degrees in Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, Paige moved to the UK and studied for an MScR. in Palaeontology and Geobiology at the University of Edinburgh. She recently completed her PhD. at the same institution. Paige is broadly interested in vertebrates with work spanning from dinosaur footprints to Triassic marine reptiles to Paleocene mammals and, when she's not puzzling over fossils, can be found reading fantasy and sci-fi books or wandering around botanical gardens.

Further Reading

dePolo, Paige E., Thomas E. Williamson, Sarah L. Shelley, and Stephen L. Brusatte (2022). Occurrences of *Pantolambda intermedium* in the San Juan Basin, New

Mexico, USA." Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

dePolo, P., Funston, G., Shelley, S., Williamson, T., Wible, J. and Brusatte, S., 2021. The first juvenile of *Pantolambda bathmodon* (Mammalia, Pantodonta) from the San Juan Basin, New Mexico. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, Program and Abstracts, 2021.

Next talks

January 9th 2025. Luisa Hendry 'Scottish Geologist' "Rocking the Digital World: Promoting Geology through Social Media and why it's important"

Dates and Speakers for February-April are still in flux and will be confirmed early in the new year.

Recordings of past lectures

St Andrews students' Greenland Expedition https://youtu.be/giy1WE9L-Cw

Stuart Haszeldine: Carbon Capture & Storage https://youtu.be/oXiIQD7eHdk

Heather Stewart: The Abyss Gazes Also Into You https://youtu.be/-6b9bi-AehM

GSG YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfNSIvgEbUfLWMsCeNiRm1w/

AGM 2024 - 12 December 2024

The December talk will be preceded by a brief AGM to approve the Accounts and elect 6 Council Members. The Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Council Member Proposals are attached to the newsletter email for those on the email circulation list and enclosed for those receiving a print copy. The Accounts for the year ended 30 September are shown in the Proceedings Booklet but if any Member wants the full document as sent to OSCR please email treas@gsocg.org

Proceedings for Session 166

The annual Proceedings Booklet will be posted out to all Members. For those on the email circulation list a low-resolution pdf is also attached to the newsletter email.

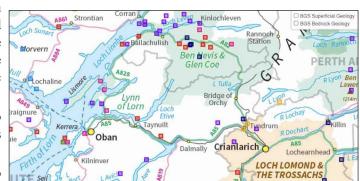
If you do **not want** a printed copy then please email <u>sec@gsocg.org</u> before Wednesday 4th December.

Geosites Project

The Scottish Geosites project, coordinated by Scottish Geology Trust, has had a very successful start, as described to us by Angus Miller of SGT last Members' Night. The Geosites website is becoming an important, easily accessible source of information about Scottish geology for the public in Scotland and enthusiasts worldwide.

An important role for GSG in this national project is to populate the database behind the web interface with details of literally hundreds of geosites in the Glasgow region.

This will, clearly, require a major effort, so we propose to establish a small group to organise and co-ordinate this over



the next two years. This group will recruit volunteers to collate and enter the site data into the website in collaboration with the Geosites team at SGT. This work will involve:

- Compiling and adapting existing written and graphical information
- Acquiring map data
- Field visits to check access, "ground truth" and to evaluate previously undocumented sites.
- Entering data into the Geosites website.

As far as fieldwork is concerned, we would like to run regular exploratory group trips, similar to the very successful trips recently organised by SGG. We encourage as many members as possible to join these trips - they're great fun and a good way to further expand your local geological knowledge.

We see the Geosites project as an opportunity to re-establish practical geology as a core activity of the Society, in the spirit of our 19th century founders. We acknowledge the great work of SGG, the SGT and its predecessor, the Scottish Geodiversity Forum, that have established the basis for us to do this.

We encourage you to explore or revisit the Geosites web pages at https://geosites.scottishgeologytrust.org

More information and to volunteer contact sec@gsocg.org or sgg@gsocg.org

Geonatter

If you've not been before then come along to Kelvin Hall from 1:30-3 pm for Geo Natter – these informal meets are the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded rock enthusiasts and chat all things geological and palaeontological! The last session for 2024 is on December 11

Geological Society of Glasgow

https://geologyglasgow.org.uk/

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