

The Geological Society of Glasgow

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC007013



President: Dr Alan Owen, PhD

150/1

The Sesquicentenary

Welcome to the 150th session

This is a very special session for the Society and the President, Dr Alan Owen, and all members of Council welcome you and encourage you to attend a special programme of events for the indoor meetings from October to May. In addition to our biennial joint meeting with the Edinburgh Geological Society, we have arranged joint meetings with three of our local sister amateur societies, the Glasgow Natural History Society, the Astronomical Society of Glasgow and the Scottish Hellenic Society on topics which are relevant to both groups of members and we look forward to a good turn-out in the Gregory Building lecture theatre for these talks.

A membership card detailing the programme of lectures is enclosed with this billet or, if you have elected to receive this electronically, will be sent to you soon. The card will be required if you wish access to the Society's book collection in the University of Glasgow Library.

Worthy of special mention is our one-day conference, on Sat. 23rd February, organised jointly with the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) of the University of Glasgow. It is entitled 'Local Heroes' and links in with the Geological Society of London's Bicentenary celebrations. Professor Gregory, after whom the building is named, will be one of the 'heroes' we will hear about. This day will not just be a backward look at the achievements of the 'local heroes' but will consider their contributions to science in a modern context. Please make a note of the date in your diary now.

In this billet, and in subsequent ones, we will look at the early days of the Society as recorded in the Minutes book and bring you items of interest. Of topical interest is the constitution as Council are currently discussing its revision to bring the Society into full compliance with the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator.

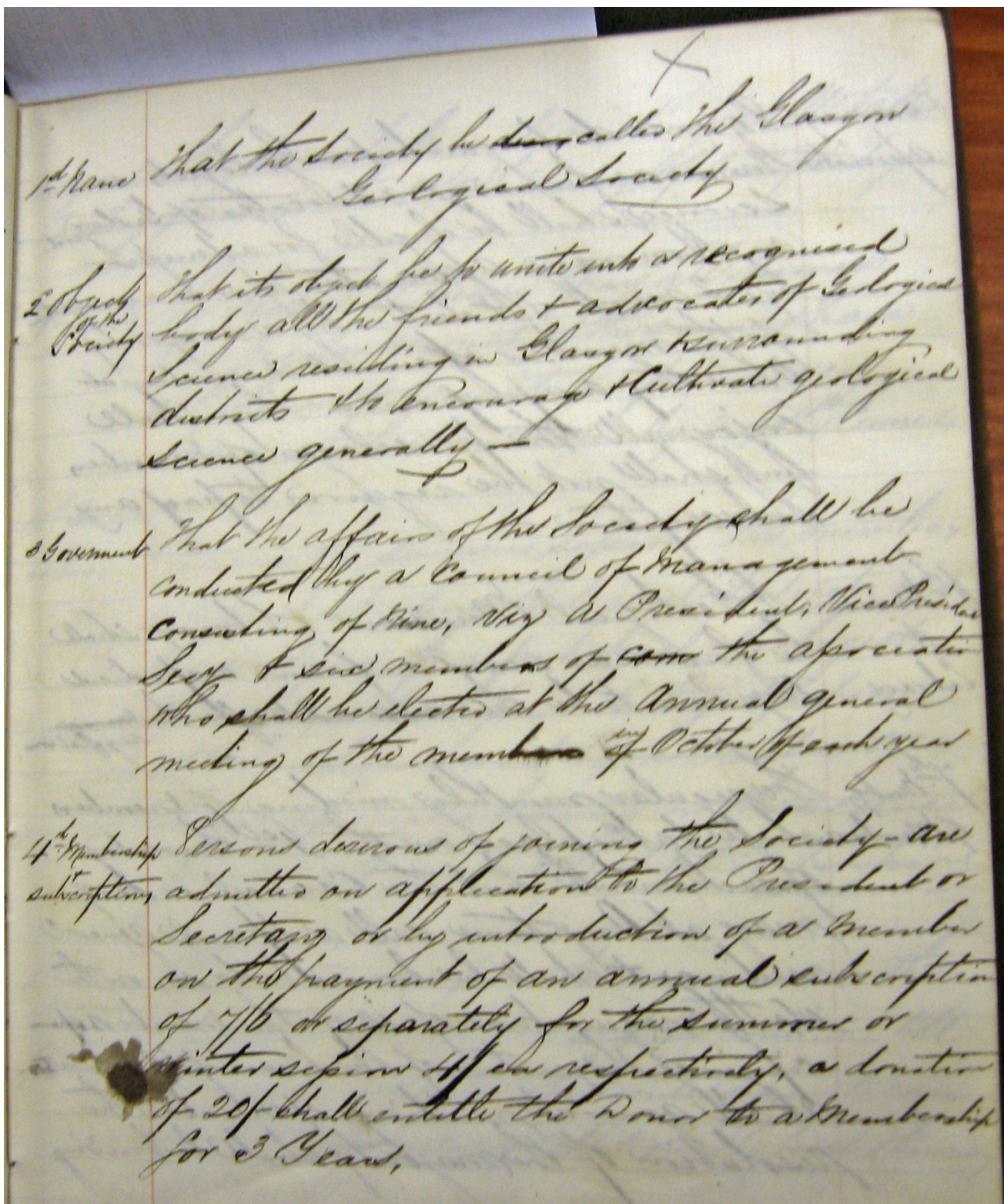
In 1858, the first constitution read as follows:

Constitution and Rules of the Society.

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 st name | That the society be called Glasgow Geological Society |
| 2 nd object of Society | That its object be to invite into a recognised body all the friends and advocates of geological science residing in Glasgow and surrounding districts to encourage and cultivate geological science generally. |
| 3 rd Government | That the affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council of management consisting of nine viz. President, Vice-President, Secretary and 6 members of the association who shall be elected at the Annual General meeting of the members in October of each year. |

4th Membership & subscription

Persons desirous of joining the Society are admitted on application to the President or Secretary or by introduction of a member on the payment of an annual subscription of 7/6 or separately for the summer or winter sessions of 4/- each respectively. A donation of 20/- shall entitle the donor to a membership for three years.



This is a photograph of the first part of the first constitution from the Minutes book

- 5th Honorary Associates Persons distinguished as geologists or known as friends and advocates of geological science shall be eligible for admission as honorary associates upon a recommendation by 2 members and election by a majority of the members present at the meeting when they are proposed. They shall enjoy all the privileges of membership but shall not be required to pay any subscription.
- 6th Museum & library A geological museum and library shall be formed as soon as is expedient. Bye Laws to be then agreed to for their regulation.
- 7th Meetings of members The regular monthly meeting of members shall take place on 2nd Thursday of each month. The Council or Secretary may at any time call a special general meeting and shall be required to do so on the written requisition of 10 of the members citing the nature of the issue to be discussed. At all general meetings of members the resolution of the majority shall be binding."

Meetings

2007

11th October The Professor George Memorial Lecture and presentation of the medal:

Prof. Richard Fortey (Natural History Museum, London) will talk on
“Forward into the Past”

Joint lecture with Glasgow Natural History Society

at 7.30 pm in the Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow

Where is the study of geology going in the next fifty years? Gazing into the crystal ball is a dangerous occupation, but some predictions are plausible. The changes to the world's climate are going to project the study of ice sheet dynamics into the forefront of the research agenda - global warming will be coupled with global melting! Nor are the demands for energy simply going to go away - but demands for 'cleaner' resources will stretch the technology in new directions. Engineering geologists will experience their heyday in disaster mitigation. Meanwhile, the exploitation of neglected resources like tar sands will rise higher on the political agenda. Fortunately, palaeontology will continue to fascinate for its own sake, and the marriage between molecular studies and that of the fossil record will yield new rewards. While we will probably understand the genesis of major volcanic eruptions more completely, with saving of potential loss-of-life, the future of earthquake catastrophe prevention will probably lie in simple improvements in building techniques rather than in predicting when a particular fault will 'give'. Nonetheless, theoretical and practical knowledge will increase thanks to in situ studies of earthquake movement. Knowledge of deep processes at core/mantle level will be increased thanks to modelling and experiment - even he understanding of the earth's core will be transformed. We hope that field work will still be necessary to marry advances in theory with real observation. All of us hope that the hammer will not become obsolete.

8th November

The second meeting of the 150th session will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th Nov. in the Gregory Building when

Dr Geoff Tanner (University of Glasgow)

will address the Society on

The HBFZ is marked by a major topographic break that runs NE-SW across Scotland from Arran to Stonehaven, and is associated with local seismic activity. The fault zone, which is >300 km long and 1--3 km wide, is centred upon the 'Highland Border Complex', with Dalradian rocks to the NW, and Devonian and Lower Carboniferous strata mostly to the SE. Although it is generally accepted as being a profound, long-lived, fracture in the Earth's

crust, there is no consensus as to where precisely the fault plane is located and what type of displacement has taken place. Is it a terrane boundary, a major transcurrent fault, a rift fault defining the northern margin of the Midland Valley, or just a plexus of small partially-linked fault segments? In order to find an answer to this question, new, detailed maps of the geology at key locations along the fault zone have been prepared, and used to draw serial cross-sections and simple 3-D models of the structure of the rocks within, and on either side of, the fault zone.

An intriguing set of rocks is found within the fault zone, and this opportunity will be taken to illustrate many of their interesting features, as well as trying to demonstrate the true nature of the boundary between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland.

Thursday 13th December Advance notice of the Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm after which there will be 2 short talks and then an opportunity to network, as it is called nowadays, with some festive fair. Further details in the next billet

Notices

Scottish Geology Festival – Saturday and Sunday 15th and 16th September

September is the month when all around Scotland a wide variety of events are put on to bring our science to a wider audience. This Society has organised two events:

Saturday 15th September 10 am to 4 pm at the Glasgow Science Centre

Glasgow's Rocky Foundations

What lies beneath your own home? The rocks and minerals beneath Glasgow fueled the industrial revolution that made Glasgow great. What are these rocks and what else lies unseen beneath the tarmac, the houses and the grassy parks? Members of the Geological Society of Glasgow will help visitors to the Glasgow Science Centre to uncover the rocky foundations of the city and its surroundings. (See details on <http://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org/home.aspx>)

Sunday 16th September 1 pm to 3 pm at the Fossil Grove, Victoria Park

A World First

Society members and academic staff from the Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences of the University of Glasgow will be present to explain not only the significance of these unique fossil tree stumps but also the global significance of this site in terms of our geodiversity and conservation of geological sites.

Fossil Grove is the site of an ancient Carboniferous forest which flourished here some 325 million years ago. The preservation of the trees is quite remarkable so come along and hear the exciting story. (See details on www.scottishgeology.com) Look out later this year for an article in Earth Heritage magazine on Fossil Grove.

Members' Night

At our final indoor meeting of last session the following talks were presented:

- Margaret Greene - Strathclyde RIGS: Report of activities
- Julian Jocelyn – Plume-textured (Cocos) geodes
- Julian Overnell - Colourful Scottish garnets
- Jim Morrison - Getting away from it all on Mull's SE coast
- Tom Sharpe - Welsh dinosaur tracks: a tale of theft and recovery

And there was the usual wide range of displays of rocks, fossils, photographs including:

- Margaret Donnelly – Memories of 2006
- Julian Jocelyn – Plume-textured (Cocos) geodes
- Seonaid Leishman – Some geology of the Western Cape, South Africa

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions for Session 150 are due from **1 October, 2007** at the following rates:-

Ordinary Membership: **£20**

Associate Membership (available to those over 60, or spouses of Ordinary Members, or members of the Edinburgh Geological Society): **£10**

Junior Membership (available to those under 25, or full time undergraduates): **£5**

Note that the Scottish Journal of Geology is only sent to Ordinary Members and to those Junior members who pay an annual supplement of £5.

Method of Payment

Cheques, made payable to *Geological Society of Glasgow*, should be sent to the Membership Secretary unless a Bankers Standing Order has been signed. Please indicate the Member for whom payment is being made if not apparent from the cheque e.g. a cheque from 'Anyone' paying for a member 'Someone else'.

Members who currently pay by cheque

Please note that the membership card enclosed with this billet, or sent separately, indicates our expectation that you intend to renew your membership subscription for Session 150. If you have an existing Bankers Standing Order this should happen automatically. If you currently pay by cheque then please remember to send in your subscription to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

Membership Secretary: Dr. R A Painter, 1a Alexandra Avenue, Lenzie, GLASGOW G66 5BE
Tel.:- 0141 777 7145: e-mail:- gsgmemsec@ntlworld.com

If you would like to make future payments by Bankers Standing Order (this is the preferred method of payment from the Society's point of view), please advise the Membership Secretary when you send in your cheque for this year. We will send you a Bankers Standing Order form so you can arrange to make future payments via your bank.

Address changes

The Society maintains the **only** mailing list of Society members* and any changes should be sent by post or e-mail or communicated by telephone to the Membership Secretary.

* Labels for all mailings, including the Scottish Journal of Geology are produced from Society records.

Membership Card

The enclosed card not only gives information on the lecture programme, but can also be used to provide proof of membership when necessary. To validate it you need to add your name and reference number, which is printed on the mailing label used for this billet. The number will also be repeated on the label for the next billet and can be obtained from the Membership Secretary at any time by phone, e-mail or post.

When joining the University Library, proof of identity e.g. photo driving licence, passport, travel card, matriculation card (through an Adult Education Class) will also be required.

New Members: We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

Miss E Cormack	Helensburgh
Mr P Greene	Glasgow
Dr P Machent	Glossop
Mrs L Martin	Houston

Strathclyde RIGS

The group has been very active over the past few months and our efforts have resulted in several projects being progressed very satisfactorily. Our most significant project relates to Fossil Grove. We brought the plight of Fossil Grove to the attention of the City Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and UKRIGS earlier this year, and we have now reached the stage where application for designation as a RIGS for inclusion in the City plan is being actioned. A sub-group has been set up to research publication of an information leaflet and a funding application has been submitted to SNH.

Refurbishment and promotion of the facility with funding from the Fossil Grove Trust is a longer term objective once the present administrators, the city's Land and Environmental Service department, have resolved the issues of day to day running of the site. A steering group with GSG and Strathclyde RIGS representation is to be set up. A spin-off from our involvement with Fossil Grove is ongoing discussion on 'Geodiversity within Glasgow City', with Glasgow City Council's Planning department and the Landscape and Environment Team which may lead to further RIGS in the city. All new developments will be reported to you in later billets.

Our objective of gaining RIGS designation for Campsie Glen is looking more positive now that we have reached agreement with one of the owners, and it shouldn't be too long before we can finalise matters and have a leaflet available. Our other major project is at Spireslack Opencast Mine near Muirkirk where the Scottish Resources Group (SRG) has shown us a 100m deep hole in the ground! (which we're looking into!) It has the potential to be a RIGS. The rock face shows an excellent section through Carboniferous sedimentary rocks complete with basalt dyke. SRG is keen to have this preserved and included as a RIGS site in their development plan for the region which includes nature trail and cycle routes. Application for designation has been applied for. We are also continuing negotiations with Loch Lomond National Park Authority on possible sites within the Park boundary, and negotiations are underway to promote the wonderful geology at Portencross in North Ayrshire. We are also hoping to be able to assist Clyde Muirshiel Park in highlighting the disused workings at the barite mine there.

It's not all work and no play for us RIGS types though, in July we had a great day out on Little Cumbrae Island on the Clyde taking in the marvellous geology, Viking graves, and the lighthouse among other things, not to mention trail blazing through the six foot high ferns. In the future should the new owner, whoever he turns out to be, wish to have the complete section of the Clyde Plateau lavas thereon highlighted for educational purposes....well let's say we won't be a hundred miles away.

Report by Stuart Fairley, chair of Strathclyde RIGS

The next indoor meeting will be on **Thursday 4th October at 7.30 p.m.** in the Gregory Building. Do consider coming to join us. Please contact the Hon. Secretary in the first instance.

Electronic distribution of the billet

If you have received a copy of this billet by post but would be happy to receive it as an email attachment, please send an email to this effect to the Hon. Secretary.

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