



Circular 460 October 2024

Registered Charity No: 503617

President: Mike Allen

www.emgs.org.uk

60th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, SATURDAY OCTOBER 12th 2024.

Thank you for your interest in our 60th Anniversary Conference. We have had an excellent response to our call for registrations, with the result that our venue at BGS Keyworth is now very close to capacity.

We are therefore closing any further registrations via the email registration forms. Any paper registration forms already in the post will be accepted. We can still accept a small number of registration places (maximum 5) via the Conference website at <https://emgs60.weebly.com/registration.html> , after which all registration will be closed. Unfortunately, we cannot admit any unregistered participants on the day.

All participants who have registered either by email form or via the Conference website should now have received an email confirmation with joining instructions – please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received anything. A final communication will be sent to all registrants by email, week commencing Monday 07 October.

There is still time to book places for the **60th Anniversary Dinner** at the Orchard Hotel on the University campus (7 for 7.30). There is a drinks reception followed by an attractive three course hot and cold buffet all for a cost of £35. Our previous events at the same venue have been extremely convivial so please join us following the excellent day of lectures etc. at BGS. Don't miss it.

AUTUMN 2024–SPRING 2025 LECTURE PROGRAMME

October 12 Various **60th Anniversary Conference**

November 9 **Frankie Dunn** **Early evolution of animal life and the generation of form**

Abstract: The rise of the animals was a profound transition in the history of life; for the first time organisms were able to engineer the environment around them, altering geochemical cycles, building complex ecosystems and diversifying into myriad forms. However, the rise of the animals is also one of the most controversial episodes in Earth history. Most major animal groups appear in the fossil record during a major evolutionary radiation event between about 520 and 550 million years ago known as the Cambrian Explosion when the blueprints for the animal phyla (arthropods, vertebrates, cnidarians) were laid down and,

remarkably, have remained more-or-less unchanged in the half a billion years since. My research is focused on the period of time just before the Cambrian Explosion – the Ediacaran Period, and the Ediacaran–Cambrian transition. While fossil representatives of the living animal phyla diversified in the Cambrian Period, the timing and nature of their earliest antecedents remains controversial. Fossil assemblages from the late Ediacaran Period preserve the remains of fossil organisms with long-extinct body plans, historically excluded from analyses of the early evolution of animals because of extreme uncertainty regarding their phylogenetic placement. My novel approach to the study of these organisms has been to investigate their growth and development across whole populations of taxa with non-analogue frond-like body plans. My work has revealed new developmental characters that can be used to rigorously constrain the phylogenetic position of these fossils. In this talk, I will introduce my work on the fossils of the Ediacaran Period and set out the case for an animal affinity, but also discuss new fossil finds which suggest that the oldest yet known crown-group members of animal phyla lived and died hidden amongst the fronds.

December 14	Albert Benghiat	Medicine and geology - an exploration
January 11	Tony Waltham	Atlantic volcanoes
February 8	Ian Stimpson	Geothermal energy
March 8	To be confirmed	
April 12	Jon Ford	BGS mapping projects

LECTURE VENUE

Indoor meetings are now held in the School of Geography on the Nottingham University campus which is in the Sir Clive Granger Building. Enter the University by the North Entrance, off the A52, and follow signs to the main Visitor Car Park. As you enter the car park, the Sir Clive Granger building is on your left.

The Society is indebted to the School of Geography at the University, who are sponsoring our lectures, for the use of these facilities.

EMGS FIELD TRIPS

The EMGS provides a diverse summer programme of geological field trips, ranging from short walks in our local region to extended two-day excursions to renowned British geological sites. These trips cater to both amateur and professional geologists alike. Members are welcome to propose future trip destinations or volunteer as leaders by contacting fieldtrips@emgs.org.uk.

Six successful and enjoyable field trips took place this year to: Graves Park in Sheffield; North Lincolnshire Museum and the Frodingham Ironstone at Conesby Quarry, Scunthorpe; Ercall Quarries, Wrekin, near Telford; Brown End Quarry, Waterhouses, Staffordshire (the latter two being joint excursions with North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists' Association); the Yorkshire coast (a two-day excursion); and to Alport Mining Field in the Peak District (another joint excursion with North Staffordshire Group of the Geologists' Association).

Preparations are progressing for the 2025 field season with a half-day visit to BGS to see their collections of Charnian fossils and a midweek field day in the Peak District already arranged.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a reminder that these were due on 1st February, so please can those of you who do not pay by standing order check whether you have paid your subs for the year. Also, a plea to those of you who do pay by standing order to check whether you are paying the correct amount. Subscription rates have remained unchanged for several years (for current rates please see list below) but some members are still paying at old rates. If you are unsure a) whether you have paid for this year, or b) whether you are paying the correct rate, please contact the treasurer (address at the end of the Circular) who will be able to assist.

If you currently opt to receive your Circular by post an additional annual payment of £10 per year will be required to cover the costs.

Subscription rates remain unchanged and are as follows:

Individual	- £18.00
Joint	- £22.00
Full time student	- £5.00

Our bank details are as follows:
East Midlands Geological Society
The Cooperative Bank
Sort Code: 08-90-74
Account No: 50050217

DATA PROTECTION

Many thanks to those of you who have already returned your Confirmation of Details form but if you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you could please return these as soon as possible to the Secretary either by post or email. If you have mislaid the original form, please contact the Secretary at secretary@emgs.org.uk to request another.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

- (1) East Midlands Field Guide
- (2) Sandstone Caves of Nottingham (now in its 4th Edition)
- (3) Derbyshire Blue John. This is the 3rd edition, edited by Tony Waltham and Noel Worley, of the book by Trevor Ford which was first published in 2000, and now updated with superb colour photographs and much additional information. The book has received excellent reviews and is now available for sale to members at a discounted price of £5.00.

Copies are available by contacting the Secretary or at Indoor Meetings.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

The next meeting of Council is on 11 November, 2024.

The next AGM will be held in March 2025.

EMGS CIRCULAR

Please send any information for inclusion in the EMGS Circular in future to the editor, Joanna Thomas at joannatheeditor@gmail.com

Costs of the Circular - E-mail addresses

The annual cost to the Society of each copy of the Circular which is sent out by post is now at least £10.00 to cover the cost of photocopying and postal charges. We hope therefore that those members who still opt to receive their Circulars by this method will agree to receive future communications by email by sending their email addresses to the editor of the Circular, Joanna Thomas at joannatheeditor@gmail.com For those members that still wish to receive their Circulars by post we will be making an extra annual charge of £10.00 payable with the annual subscriptions due on 1st February.

Please can you also confirm your name and address when sending your e-mail so we can correlate these details with our membership listing.

If you have recently changed your contact details such as postal or e-mail address, or do so in the future, please can you ensure you advise the Secretary so that we can keep our records up to date.

INFORMATION FOR OTHER SOCIETIES

We hold information of lectures and field meetings for other local societies such as the [NSGGA](#), [Black Country Geological Society](#) and [Leicester Lit & Phil Society](#). If you would like details of any of these, click the links to their websites above or contact the EMGS Secretary at secretary@emgs.org.uk

CONTACTS

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