

# Jurassic Times

Published by Stamford & District Geological Society

## Did anyone see it?

### Ichthyosaur marine reptile fossil goes on display



The two-metre long fossil was on display in Lyme Regis until the end of September 2011

This fossil of a marine reptile found 200 years ago in Dorset went on display in the town of its discovery during 2011.

The two-metre long skull of an Ichthyosaur displayed at the Lyme Regis Museum, was on loan from the Natural History Museum in London.

The fossil was discovered in Lyme Regis in 1811 by local fossil hunter Mary Anning and her brother Joseph. The skull was sold by the family soon after it was found.

Found in the 205 million-year-old Jurassic Blue Lias cliffs on the beach in the town, the skull was bought by the British Museum in 1819 and ended up at the Natural History Museum.

Dr Martin Munt, from the Natural History Museum, said: "It has been a privilege to help Lyme Regis Museum achieve their dream of bringing home this iconic fossil specimen to mark the 200th anniversary of its discovery."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-14386635>

The Stamford & District Geological Society is linked to the Geologists' Association, below are the last meeting's minutes.

**The Geologists' Association  
Minutes of the Local Groups Meeting  
4 November 2011 at Burlington House London**

**PRESENT:**

David Bridgland	President/Chairman
Rory Mortimore	Senior Vice President
Graham Williams	GA Treasurer
Paul Olver	Woolhope Club/GA Council
Diana Clements	GA Council
Richard Selley	Mole Valley Geological Society
David Osborn	North Staffs Geological Society
Janet Osborn	North Staffs Geological Society
Linda Hamling	Hertfordshire Geological Society
Sue Jacobs	Amateur Geological Society
Richard Howarth	GA Council
Steve Howe	South Wales GA
Hilary Jensen	Reading Geological Society
Susan Brown	GA Rockwatch/ GA Council
Cynthia Burek	North Wales
Lesley Dunlop	GA/Geoconservation UK
	Berkshire Geoconservation
	Group
Graham R. Ward	Essex Rock & Mineral Society
Jean Sippy	Harrow & Hillingdon Geological
	Society
John Crocker	GA Council
Geoffrey Tresise	Liverpool Geological Society
Joan Hardy	North Eastern Geological Society
Sue Vernon	Open University Geological
	Society
Shirley Stephens	Farnham Geological Society
Mike Tuke	Earth Science Teachers
	Association
Angela Nazani	Kent Geological Society
Sue Olver	Woolhope Club (Geology
	Section)
Richard Pollock	Bath Geological Society
Dennis Corlett	West Sussex Geological Society
Martyn Bradley	Warwickshire Geological
	Conservation Group

**1. (a) Welcome**

The President welcomed representatives of the Local Groups (LGs) and Affiliated Societies (ASs).

**1 (b) Minutes**

The Minutes of the last Local Groups meeting (5 November 2010) were agreed as an accurate record with one amendment: Janet Osborn (North Staffs Geological Society) to be included on attendee's list.

**1 (c) Matters arising**

Item 2: The President strongly supported the use of minibuses on field trips. Sue Jacobs (Amateur Geological Society) also thought the use of coaches/ minibuses was a good idea provided we could recruit enough numbers to fill them. Car sharing is another possibility for smaller groups. Martin Bradley (Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group) mentioned the successful use of train journeys for explaining regional geology. Susan Brown (GA Rockwatch) reported that a similar event had been organised on the West Somerset Railway. Cynthia Burek (North Wales GA) also had experience of this approach to field geology.

**2. Discussion on increasing membership**

David Osborn (North Staffs Geological Society) made the point that the GA must offer value for money to attract more members.

Discussion then centred on publicity and the promotion of the GA. Martyn Bradley suggested that two or three copies of the excellent GA magazine be given to Local Groups/Societies for promotional use. Sue Jacobs said the Amateur Geological Society had a borrowing arrangement for its GA Magazine copy, so that as many members as possible could see the latest issue.

Diana Clements (Secretary) reported that a pdf of all but the latest GA magazine was now available on the website dating back to the beginning of 2010. She also added that for every issue there were approximately an extra 100 printed for promotional use.

Angela Nazani (Kent Geological Society) was organising a workshop with Dr. Adrian Rundle and was keen to use GA promotional material at this event. Di Clements said that, with sufficient notice, Sarah Stafford in the GA Office could provide Rockwatch leaflets, membership leaflets and past issues of the magazine for promotional events.

Dick Selley (Mole Valley Geological Society), supported by Dennis Corlett (West Sussex Geological Society), asked whether grants available to support special meetings could also be used to finance the updating of websites, which were also useful in promoting geology and membership. Graham Williams (GA Treasurer) said that any grant would have to be applied for in advance and receipts submitted once the design

work had been completed. The President agreed that this issue would be followed up in Rory Mortimore's year as President.

David Osborn (North Staffs. Geological Society) said the GA Website needed to reactivate the links which had lapsed since its updating process.

### **3. Insurance**

Sue Vernon (OUGS) asked whether she could be provided with a Certificate of Insurance to support the policy already received from the GA.

The President said that any queries relating to insurance need to be directed to Sarah Stafford (GA Office) for onward transmission to the Association's insurers.

### **4. Regional Meetings/Festival/Conference**

#### **(a) GA Conference**

David Brigland (President) reported that the Geoconservation Conference at the University of Worcester had been very successful attracting 120 attendees. A Field trip to sites in the Lickey Hills and the Wren's Nest had highlighted many of the issues facing geoconservation in the West Midlands. Over 40 delegates attended the Sunday field trip by coach.

The President drew attention to the 2012 Conference to be held at the University of Exeter over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October entitled "Rivers throughout the Geological Record". The Conference will again be funded by Elsevier and will involve a day of lectures followed by a Field trip on the Sunday.

He mentioned that Elsevier was also supporting the publication of the Geological Conservation Review (GCR) in the GA Proceedings, the first of which covering the Marine Devonian appeared in October 2011.

#### **(b) GA Festival**

The President said that the GA would always organise a Festival in London on the first weekend in November.

However, in addition, the GA was pleased to support any regionally based Festivals but the initiative needed to come from the Local Group for this to happen. This did not mean that a single group must take this on – it can be an affiliation of neighbouring groups

#### **(c) Other Meetings**

It was announced that the Geodiversity Forum would be meeting on 17 March 2012. Also mentioned by Joan Hardy (North Eastern Geological Society) was the Kingsley Durham Meeting in Newcastle on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January entitled "Foundation of the Northern Pennines".

## **5. Research Grants**

Diana Clements (Secretary GA) reminded members that the GA awarded research grants to GA members, students and individuals attending conferences and meetings. Full details would appear in the next GA magazine.

## **6. Website**

Diana Clements emphasised that the website was looking to set up as many links as possible. A paypal facility was now available. She also emphasised that a huge advantage to GA members is that PGA back issues are now searchable and recommended that members use this facility via the Elsevier website.

Shirley Stephens (Farnham Geological Society) asked whether new members were joining on line. The Secretary replied that it represented an important source of new members.

## **7. Geoconservation Issues**

(a) Diana Clements outlined the current situation at Bracklesham Bay where safety concerns over kite surfing have led to proposals for restricting geological access. The intertidal zone is the focus for fossil collection at Bracklesham and belongs to Crown Estates. The consultation phase ends in February 2012.

A public meeting was to be held in Bracklesham Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Dennis Corlett (West Sussex Geological Society) offered to attend this meeting. The President added that the GA is committed to being involved in areas such as this where conflict with our interests is happening. He mentioned the ongoing situation at the Wren's Nest at Dudley, an SSSI and NNR, where the College in the centre of the pericline is selling off the land for housing development.

(b) Cynthia Burek (Geoconservation UK) drew attention to the importance of marine conservation sites and their designation. She is currently the only geoscientist on the Regional Stakeholder Group discussing the Irish Sea Conservation Zones. Their latest report appeared in June 2011.

## **8. Publications**

The President said that the "Earth Heritage" magazine, previously distributed free, would now be supported by the GA but future issues will be pdf format only.

The PGA would be published six times per year. Currently its all-important impact factor was increasing as were the

number of pages per issue. Graham Williams (Treasurer) emphasised its traditional role in publishing field trip accounts.

**9. Rockwatch**

Susan Brown (Rockwatch Chairman) drew attention to the fact that the parents of Rockwatch participants often join their Local Groups and Societies. This was another route in for new GA members.

**10. GA Enterprises**

The Secretary said that, to ensure long term stability, more helpers were needed at GA meetings. A new Treasurer was also required. Helpers need to arrive at 4.30 pm on meeting evenings and be prepared to do some lifting. John Croker (GA Council) asked that any volunteers from the meeting clearly stated when they could help.

**11. Any Other Business**

- (a) Susan Brown drew attention to the new GA leaflet outlining a Code of Practice for Rock Coring.
- (b) Shirley Stephens (Farnham Geological Society) asked whether GA meetings can be accessed online. The Geological Society's Shell Lectures were already available in this format. The President agreed to discuss this issue at the next Council Meeting.

The meeting finished at 4.30

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Stamford & District Geological Society

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Agenda

1. Minutes of 2011 A G M
2. Matters arising
3. Secretary's report
4. Treasurer's report & financial statement.
5. Current Committee
6. Election of officers
7. Summer field programme
8. Any other business.

**Notice:**

Clive Jones, Vice Chair has given notice that he will be standing down.

Cliff Nicklin, Chair, Editor Jurassic Times would also like to give notice, due to work commitments.

Followed by Presentations and talks, please let the Secretary know how many tables you need for displays.

If giving a talk, remember you are limited to 15 minutes, please stick to this timing to allow others plenty of time, to set-up and give their talk.

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**Minutes of the Stamford and District Geological Society,  
Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The meeting opened at 19.30. 22 members attended. Apologies were received from Cliff Nicklin, Carol Needham and Ann Barrett. Clive Jones, vice-chairman, presided.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was proposed by Sandy Ellis and seconded by Peter Behan that the minutes of the 2010 should be accepted as a true record. The vice-chairman then duly signed them. There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's report**

This was as published in the Jurassic Times of February 2011. Adoption of the report was proposed by Clive Jones and seconded by Bill Learoyd. The vice-chairman also added his thanks for the contribution made by Bill Learoyd, who as meetings and general secretary had held the society together at a difficult time.

**Secretary's report**

Bill Learoyd began by saying that at the previous AGM he had stated his intention of standing down as secretary but he was still here. He spoke of his regret for the loss of Alan Dawn, founder of the society and a good friend. He thanked all the members of the committee and Jean and Terry Baxter for preparing the hall for meetings. The annual dinner had been an enjoyable event and he thanked Carol Needham for organising it. He said he was prepared

to continue as secretary with offers of help from members, with Cliff Nicklin, Kenneth Nye and Carl Harrington helping co-ordinate field trips and Alison Chambers taking minutes. Members have been involved with various activities, including visiting societies and universities and fossil open days. The 2010 field programme was well attended but the weekend away was cancelled due to lack of support. The 2011 field programme is to be extended into October as trips are proving popular.

Terry Baxter proposed acceptance of the secretary's report, seconded by Joyce Junkin.

### **Treasurer's report**

Sheila Martin presented her report. She said that the deficit for 2010 had gone down to £122, previously it had been £179, but this had still necessitated a transfer of funds from the building society. Subscriptions are higher but the number of members has gone down. There was some discussion of how to increase membership but the vice-chairman requested this should be considered under any other business.

It was agreed that non-members should be charged £5.00 for field trips.

Sheila Martin was thanked for her hard work as treasurer.

### **Election of officers**

Elected to office were: Chairman - Cliff Nicklin , Vice-chairman - Clive Jones, Secretary and Field Secretary - Bill Learoyd, Treasurer - Sheila Martin. Kenneth Nye, Carol Needham, Ivor Crowson and Joyce Junkin were elected to the committee, with Alison Chambers to attend meetings for minute taking.

Proposed Kenneth Nye, seconded by Joyce Junkin.

### **Any other business**

The Vice-chairman added his thanks to Jean and Terry Baxter for preparing the hall.

There was discussion of how membership could be increased. It was suggested that involving younger people would be a good idea, although children would have to be escorted by a parent or responsible adult. Children are usually part a family membership but there is also a student subscription rate One member

commented that the society was hard to find on the internet – although others said it could be found via search engines.

A poster campaign was suggested via schools, libraries and community buildings. Kenneth Nye has previously designed a poster and Carol Needham has also been involved with publicity. The poster is to be emailed to members. It was also suggested that information on activities should be sent to heads of geography at local schools. Further discussion will take place at the next committee meeting.

The AGM closed at 20.05, the Vice-chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

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### **Winter Lecture Program...**

#### **Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Disposal & Borrowdale Volcanic Group**

Prof. Mike Petterson Leics. University

Please check with the field secretary for any late changes, before attending any event being run by the Society.

For those who are interested Kenny Nye is running other field events for members if they wish to attend. He can be contacted on [knye@btinternet.com](mailto:knye@btinternet.com)

### **Field Programme**

Kenny Nye has volunteered to take on the position of Field Secretary and his name will be put forward at the AGM, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

He is currently arranging a program of field trips so watch this space and keep checking the Stamford & District Geological Society web site.

To-date we have two organised trips for the start of the season.

28<sup>th</sup> April: Ketton Quarry

12<sup>th</sup> May: Maxey Gravel Pit



## STAMFORD &amp; DISTRICT GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Meetings are held at Tinwell Village Hall, just outside Stamford, on the second Wednesday of each month, September to March, beginning at 7.30 pm. Anyone wishing to hear a particular speaker should check with the secretary Bill Learoyd, on 01780 752915.

Visitors are welcome; single meeting fee is £3.00.

During April to August outdoor meetings are arranged. These are either on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

For all quarry visits hard hats, reflective jackets and suitable footwear are essential.

Visitors are welcome; single meeting fee is £5.00

Members should appreciate that they are responsible for their own safety. The society's insurance is against 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

With all field events, let the Field Secretary Bill Learoyd or Chairman Cliff Nicklin know in good time so we can cater for numbers.

More details will be available nearer the time from the Field Secretary, who will try to answer any questions. Also check our website [www.stamfordgeolsoc.org.uk](http://www.stamfordgeolsoc.org.uk) for updates.

<i>Annual Subscriptions for Sept 2011- Aug 2012</i>	
<b>Single Membership</b>	£10.00
<b>Family Membership</b>	£15.00
<b>Full Time Students</b>	£3.00
<b>Single Meetings or Visitors</b>	£3.00/£5.00

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary to the Society.

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### **Jurassic Times**

Jurassic Times is published by the Stamford and District Geological Society (see above for further details).

It is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Jurassic Times publishes the proceedings of the Society together with articles of a geological nature and other items of interest to members. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, for which the Society does not accept any responsibility.

Articles, comments and any ideas are welcome for any of the forthcoming issues and should be addressed to the editor, as should any correspondence regarding the newsletter.

#### Editor

Mr Cliff Nicklin

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