



29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## LGS Newsletter 167.2

### Welcome to the 167<sup>th</sup> Session of the Liverpool Geological Society

All talks for the 2025-26 session will start at 7.30pm and take place at the Central Teaching Hub of the University of Liverpool in Lecture Theatre C. Entrance will be via the side door by the 'green wall'.

### Liverpool Geological Society events

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**Prof Peter Burgess (Liverpool Geological Society President) will give his Presidential Address: 'Artificial Intelligence in Geoscience: How it works and why it often doesn't'.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been headline news in recent years, but how does it work, and what does this new technology mean for geoscience? Will AI revolutionise geoscience as often claimed, or is this just the latest in a long series of bubbles with exaggerated claims of AI capability? This talk will explain the basics of how the latest AI methods work and show examples of how it can be very useful, but also explain the limitations that mean AI often does not work as well as required, and make an argument that true and truly useful machine intelligence has not yet been invented; Sarah Connor is likely safe for a while yet.



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Lecture by Dr Rob Duller (University of Liverpool)**

**Title: Alluvial stratigraphic architecture viewed through a mass-balance lens.**



Selfie on polar bear watch with a pump action shot gun on Ellesmere Island.

Rob is an Earth scientist with expertise in Earth surface processes and sedimentary geology. My research focuses on combining novel and innovative techniques in sedimentology, stratigraphy, geomorphology, and basin analysis to answer timely research questions in both pure and applied aspects of the Earth sciences. I have strong research interests in sediment routing system dynamics, Earth surface morphodynamics, sedimentation & stratigraphy, and catastrophic outburst floods.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**Lecture by Paige dePolo (Liverpool John Moores University)**

**Title: 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, 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) and illustrate that grouping behaviour is widespread within this clade.



## LGS Members' Evening - your Society needs you to volunteer

There will be a 'Members' Evening' on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. If you would like to give a short talk (15 minutes maximum) on a topic that interests you, please let Chris Hunt (Honorary Assistant Secretary – Programme) know by emailing: [chris1972scfc@outlook.com](mailto:chris1972scfc@outlook.com)

## Two gentle reminders from the Treasurer

### 1. Subscriptions for the 2025 - 2026 session

Subscriptions are due on the 1st of October 2025.

Subscription rates are: £15 for full members and £5 for student members (full time students).

All enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer at [g.t.b\\_lgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.t.b_lgs@hotmail.co.uk)

*(Please note that Gary's email address has an underscore between b and lgs)*

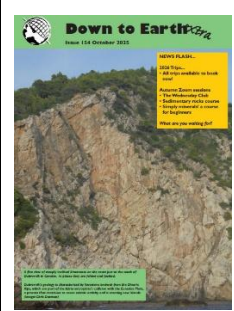
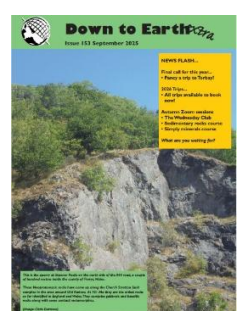
Those wishing to take advantage of a Standing Order Mandate to pay their subscriptions and save worrying each year about paying their subscriptions should also contact the Honorary Treasurer, who will provide you with our bank details. You can complete the Standing Order Mandate online or by visiting your bank.

### 2. Gift Aid - boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate!

Liverpool Geological Society reclaims **Gift Aid** from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. A Gift Aid Form is available from the Honorary Treasurer and at LGS meetings. Completed Gift Aid forms should be returned to Mr Gary T Billington, Honorary Treasurer, Liverpool Geological Society, 4 Lewisham Road, Liverpool L11 1EF

Email: [g.t.b\\_lgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.t.b_lgs@hotmail.co.uk)

## Down to Earth Magazine (DTE)

	<p>Hard copies of this publication are not being produced, but electronic copies are available, which we have permission to email to LGS members.</p> <p>If you would like pdf copies of the most recent publications (DTE Number 131, DTE Extra numbers 152, 153 &amp; 154) , please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at <a href="mailto:lgssecretary19@gmail.com">lgssecretary19@gmail.com</a> and copies will be sent to you.</p>	
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## Dates for your diary: Herdman Society events

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Herdman Symposium 2026

This will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026. The title is: Emerging technologies in geoscience.

### The Herdman Tuesday Lecture Series

For 2025-26, lectures will take place from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the University of Liverpool in either the 502 Building (room TBA) or the Herdman Lecture Theatre. Details of these talks are available at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/herdmansociety/events/tuesday-lecture-series?authuser=0>

## Manchester Geological Association (MGA)

### October 18th: The Broadhurst Lectures

The theme of these talks will be the "Past, Present and Future" and we have four talks.

- Brian Jeffery (Geo Lancashire) will look at the Geology of Marple through the eyes of Sam Oldknow.
- Prof. Jonathan Mound (Leeds) will talk about Space Weather and forecasting Space Climate
- Dr Stuart Clarke (Keele University) will talk about his work on the evolution of the Carboniferous succession of Northern England
- Dr Graham Leslie (BGS) will be talking about his work on the Whin Sill

Further details of this event and a list of upcoming MGA indoor meetings is available at:

<https://manchestergeology.org.uk/>