



25th October 2025

LGS Newsletter 167.4

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 main door.

Liverpool Geological Society events

Tuesday 4th November

Professor Jim Marshall (University of Liverpool) & Bill Harper

The Deva Debate - did water from the Mersey ever flow into the Dee Estuary?

The River Mersey today



Credit: By Rept0n1x - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

A hundred and more years ago many historians and some geologists accepted the hypothesis that the historic Mersey flowed westwards through the 'Deva Spillway' (an erosional channel through the Wirral) to enter the Dee near Chester. Despite arguments to the contrary the idea has persisted through to modern times. In this debate Jim will discuss early (but post-glacial) origins for the channel whilst Bill (recent book available - £5) will discuss the evidence for much more recent change. You can decide what you think!

Tuesday 11th November

Extraordinary Meeting

This meeting will begin at 7.30 p.m. and will precede the lecture by Professor Yani Najman.

Agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting

1. Nomination for Vice President 2025 – 2026.
Martin Amlôt is proposed by Council to be elected as Vice President for the 2025/2026 Session.

Lecture by Professor Yani Najman (Lancaster University)

How do mountain belts form? The adventures of a Himalayan geologist.

This talk will focus on how the Himalaya formed, and the impact of its formation on resources and hazards.

The talk will provide an overview of the evolution of the mountain belt, and illustrate aspects of the mountain belt's formation with snapshots of Yani's research.



Yani Najman has worked in the Himalaya and Tibet for more than 30 years, in locations stretching from Pakistan to the west and Myanmar to the east.

Tuesday 18th November

Lecture by Dr William Brown (British Geological Survey)

The wandering magnetic north pole



Many of us are aware that Earth has a magnetic field, and that the magnetic compass has been around for a while and can help us navigate, but fewer of us are aware of how changeable Earth's magnetic field is, and to what extent magnetic navigation is still integrated in our modern technology-heavy lives. We will look at what observations and models tell us about the changing field - from the particularly active recent decades for the north magnetic pole to the possibility of a reversal of the magnetic poles.

Tuesday 25th November

Practical session with Prof Jim Marshall & Dr Lis Rushworth (University of Liverpool)

Digital Landscape Mapping using LIDAR surveys.

Feature mapping has always been an important aid in the construction of Geological Maps. Participants will have the opportunity to develop a better understanding of modern, digital, terrain maps and have a chance to explore the use of online resources that can be used at home or on their phones. We will go on a virtual field trip to explore an area in the Pennines which is very familiar to LGS members!

Booking is essential.

Please contact Jim Marshall to book your place by emailing:
isotopes@liv.ac.uk



Please note: This practical will start at 7.00pm and will be held in the CTL ENVS Lab.

LGS Members' Evening - your Society needs you to volunteer

There will be a 'Members' Evening' on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. We have two members who have volunteered to give a talk, but there is still space for one more talk. 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

LGS Library

The library is now placed in a permanent location in the Central Teaching Hub.

Members will be able to access the library and borrow books between 6.45 p.m. and 7.15 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday 4th November 2025
- Tuesday 18th November 2025
- Tuesday 2nd December 2025
- Tuesday 20th January 2026
- Tuesday 17th February 2026
- Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

A **catalogue** of books available to LGS members is published on the LGS website:

<https://liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/library>

Members wishing to borrow or reserve a particular item can also use the **booking system** on the above section of the LGS website.

LGS Outdoor Meeting

26th - 28th June 2026

Field excursion to the Jurassic Coast

This field excursion will be held on Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June 2026. We are delighted to announce that our President, Professor Peter Burgess, will lead a three day excursion to the UK's [Jurassic Coast](#) for the Liverpool Geological Society in the summer of 2026. The proposed itinerary is:

Friday 26th June. Buddleigh Salterton etc, Lower (and Upper?) Triassic, then Lyme Regis/Charmouth Lower Jurassic on way back to Weymouth.

Saturday 27th June. Osmington Mills, middle to Upper Jurassic and Portland Lighthouse Upper Jurassic to Cretaceous.

Sunday 28th June. Lulworth Cove and Fossil Forest, Upper Jurassic to Upper Cretaceous.

We will be based in Weymouth for the weekend as it is central and has plenty of affordable accommodation. For those wanting to extend their stay in the area, we strongly recommend a trip to [The Etches Collection](#) near Kimmeridge (£9.50 entrance fee) and [The Tank Museum](#) at Bovington Camp near Wareham (£19.50) but we will not be arranging this.

Those wanting a taste of what the area has to offer, geologically, could study [Wessex Coast Geology](#) by Ian West of Southampton University or buy the [BGS Memoir](#) "Geology of south Dorset and south-east Devon and its World Heritage Coast" (£24).

Members wishing to attend the excursion should notify our Field Excursion Secretary at mike.stoddart@live.co.uk

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

(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

Down to Earth Magazine (DTE)

Hard copies of this publication are not being produced, but electronic copies are available, which we have permission to email to LGS members. If you would like pdf copies of the most recent publications (DTE Number 131, DTE Extra numbers 152, 153 & 154) , please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at lgssecretary19@gmail.com and electronic copies will be sent to you.

Geologists' Association

Changes to timing of talks and the mammoth workshop at the Festival of Geology, Saturday 1st November.

If you are planning to attend the Festival of Geology on 1st November and you have already recorded the times of the talks and workshops in your diary, you need to note that there have been some changes to the timing. More about the festival is available at: <https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival/>

Liverpool University Press (LUP)

LUP have published several new books in their Earth & Climate Sciences list which may be of interest to members. More information about these publications can be found on the Liverpool University Press website: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/topic/subjects/earth-climate-sciences>

LUP have recently published *Fossils on the Seashore: Beachcombing and Palaeontology* by Stephen K. Donovan in their Earth & Climate Sciences list which may be of interest to LGS members. Below is some information about this new publication.

- An expert and accessible guide to exploring the palaeontological richness of Britain's coastal landscapes.
- Designed for easy reference in the field, each chapter is concise and self-contained, equipping readers with the knowledge to identify fossils, understand ancient ecosystems, and appreciate the processes behind fossilisation.
- Accessible and entertaining for both beginners and those experienced in the field.
- Numerous illustrations to help identification.
- Field guides to selected and widespread British localities encourage the reader to duplicate and improve on the experiences of the author.

The LUP website offers a 20% off direct purchase discount on all Earth & Climate Science titles (to encourage people to purchase with them rather than third parties!). LGS has a discount code that will increase that to 30% for LGS members.

Please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at lgssecretary19@gmail.com for the discount code.

Manchester Geological Association (MGA)

A list of upcoming MGA indoor meetings is available at: <https://manchestergeology.org.uk/>