



10th January 2026

LGS Newsletter 167.8

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 20th January

Dr. Iestyn Barr (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Title of talk: Volcanic hazard response

Iestyn is a glaciologist/glaciovolcanologist who has worked in Alpine, Polar, and volcanic environments. His interests in glaciers and their response to climate change covers a range of locations and time-periods and he has a special interest in volcano-glacier interactions. This includes consideration of volcanic impacts on glaciers, particularly when these impacts can be observed in satellite data, and consideration of whether glaciers are useful for monitoring and forecasting volcanic eruptions. As part of this work, he is vice-chair of the IAVCEI and IACS joint commission on Volcano-Ice Interactions.



Dr. Iestyn Barr

Tuesday 27th January

Dr. Alan Thompson (Cuesta Consulting Limited)

Title of talk: High Specification Aggregates for Skid-Resistant Roads: - a geological explanation and the North Wales Granite Conundrum.



Dr Alan Thompson

Alan is an independent geological consultant who graduated from Liverpool in the late 70s and formerly worked alongside Chris Hunt at the University's engineering geology labs, under Dr. Peter Crimes. He is well known to many LGS members

A brief outline of Alan's talk:
Crushed rock aggregates which are capable of meeting the engineering requirements for skid-resistant surfacing on heavily trafficked roads are supplied from only a limited number of quarries, located primarily in northern and western parts of the UK. They are characterised by having a high Polished Stone Value (PSV) combined with a high resistance to abrasion, fragmentation and weathering. Such requirements can generally be met only by certain types of hard sandstone and siltstone, together with some volcanic tuffs and certain types of dolerite. This talk, based on research carried out by the author over more than 30 years, will explore the sources and characteristics of such materials throughout the UK, as well as a new approach being investigated in North Wales to use granite and other rock types with lower PSVs.

Tuesday 3rd February

Liverpool Geological Society Members' Evening

Two LGS members have volunteered to give talks for this evening.



Asriel Wilde

Long-term albedo trends for Icelandic glaciers

Asriel is an undergraduate student at the University of Liverpool.

This talk is based on my dissertation research which focuses on long-term albedo trends for Icelandic glaciers, which (as far as I am aware) produces the first long time series (1984-2024) and high resolution analysis of Icelandic albedo evolution.



Roy McGurn

How we are disturbing the carbon cycle?

Roy read Geology at UC Cardiff (1971-74) and worked for a while in the oil industry.

The aim of the talk is to take a more holistic approach into how we are disturbing the carbon cycle and a pragmatic view of how population, wealth and technology will eventually recalibrate our relationship with it.

LGS Library

The library is now kept in the Central Teaching Hub. LGS 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 20th January 2026, Tuesday 17th February 2026, Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

A catalogue of books available is published on the website: <https://liverpoolgeologicalsociety.org/library>

Down to Earth Magazine (DTE)

Electronic copies of this magazine are available, which we have permission to email to LGS members. If you would like pdf copies of the most recent publications (DTE Extra numbers 156 & 157) , please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at lgssecretary19@gmail.com and copies will be sent to you.

Date for your diary: 53rd Herdman Symposium 2026

	<p>SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>PROF. SANJEEV GUPTA PROFESSOR OF EARTH SCIENCE- IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON</p> <p>DR. AMBER LEESON READER IN GLACIOLOGY- UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER</p> <p>DR. DAVE HODGETTS DIGITAL GEOSCIENTIST AND FOUNDER- VRGEOSCIENCE LIMITED</p> <p>PROF. KIRSTINE DALE CHIEF AI OFFICER- MET OFFICE</p> <p>DR. JIM WHITELEY ENGINEERING GEOPHYSICS LEAD- ATKINSREALIS</p> <p>DR. ELISABETTA MARIANI READER IN EARTH MATERIALS- UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL</p>	<p>The symposium title is 'Emerging technologies in geoscience' and it will be on Saturday 21 February 2026 in the Central Teaching Hub. LGS will be sponsoring this event and there will be subsidised attendance for LGS member.</p> <p>The ticket website will be set up soon. Until this time, please use the link below to a mailing list, which will enable you to receive email notification as soon as tickets are available:</p> <p>https://forms.gle/1kod417r3PunTdFP9</p>
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