WGCG evening talk Wednesday 21st October, 2020 at 7.30pm on Zoom
https://www.wgcg.co.uk

From Coprolites to Cholera – the extraordinary life of William Buckland

presented by Peter Lincoln

William Buckland (1784-1856), Oxford's first 'Professor' of geology, was a central figure of the 'heroic' foundational age of geological investigation. Buckland was a meticulous scientist and a devout, if sometimes rather too down-to-earth, clergyman. A charismatic lecturer, his flamboyant delivery stimulated his admirers and scandalised his detractors and, as a result, he was both venerated and vilified in life and, since his death, his eccentricities have often been more remembered than his achievements. However, Buckland's foundational work in stratigraphy and palaeontology – his explanation of hyena den at Kirkdale won him the Royal Society's Copley Medal – and his early acceptance of glacial theory put him firmly at the forefront of early nineteenth century geological endeavour. Equally at home with queens and quarrymen, William Buckland's humanity shone through in everything he did. Appointed Dean of Westminster in 1845, he did not hesitate to use his new position to advocate scientific solutions to the problems of famine and disease. In this talk I shall aim to restore the memory of this geological hero by describing his long and eventful life and outlining some of his many achievements, both in geology and in the wider world.

Peter Lincoln

Peter Lincoln retired from careers in shipbuilding and school science-teaching to pursue his interests in history of science.
A UCL MSc dissertation project on the foundation of Ipswich Museum lead to a fascination with the person and character of William Buckland, whose life and work now form the focus of his further studies towards a PhD at the University of East Anglia.

To join Zoom meeting:
https://www.wgcg.co.uk/events/event/oct-2020-talk-from-coprolites-to-cholera-william-buckland