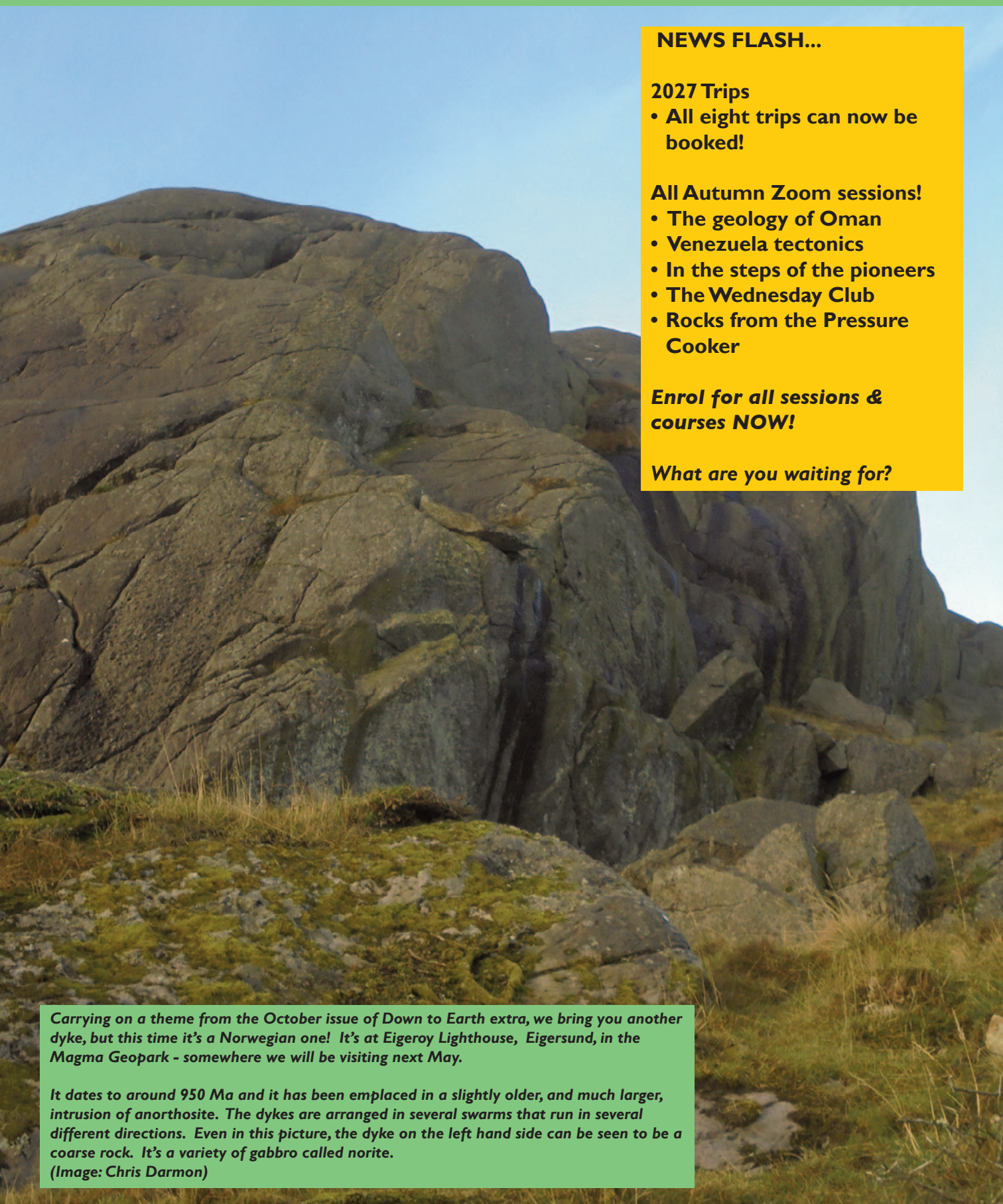
Down to Earth extra

Issue 167 November 2026



NEWS FLASH...

2027 Trips

- **All eight trips can now be booked!**

All Autumn Zoom sessions!

- **The geology of Oman**
- **Venezuela tectonics**
- **In the steps of the pioneers**
- **The Wednesday Club**
- **Rocks from the Pressure Cooker**

Enrol for all sessions & courses NOW!

What are you waiting for?

Carrying on a theme from the October issue of Down to Earth extra, we bring you another dyke, but this time it's a Norwegian one! It's at Eigeroy Lighthouse, Eigersund, in the Magma Geopark - somewhere we will be visiting next May.

It dates to around 950 Ma and it has been emplaced in a slightly older, and much larger, intrusion of anorthosite. The dykes are arranged in several swarms that run in several different directions. Even in this picture, the dyke on the left hand side can be seen to be a coarse rock. It's a variety of gabbro called norite.
(Image: Chris Darmon)

From the Editorial team...

I don't know about you, but I don't tend to to engage with some of the wilder theories that seem to be doing the rounds at the moment. In particular I'm not into doom loops and conspiracy theories. That said, I'm aware that a number of people have been picking up on some unusual patterns - if indeed they are patterns - affecting planet Earth.

So when I recently received an email from a trusted long time contributor to ***DtoE*** and ***DtoE extra***, I decided to look a little deeper into some of the things she was pointing out to me. My starting point was to turn to AI and to ask the simple question: "Is something odd happening to the Earth's crust at the moment?" I got a very simple answer: "Yes!"

When I dived deeper into the answer I couldn't find anything that gave me real cause for concern and none of the phenomena surprised or shocked me. Whilst some people on the fringes have been posting material on YouTube about the current spate of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and even changes to our magnetic field being caused by extreme unrest on the sun, I could find no such references. What I could find were references to linked tectonic events in the Mediterranean and in the Afar Triangle of East Africa. Both of these are areas of known tectonic instability over historic and modern times.

Throughout geological time there have been occasions when the Earth seems to be more active and others when it appears to be quiet. Imagine what it must have been like immediately after a major bollide impact such as occurred about 65 million years ago. Just ask the dinosaurs, it spelt the end for them!

But what about our modern Earth? As ice melts due to a global rise in temperatures, our solid outer crust and mantle are slowly tilting and shifting relative to the liquid core to rebalance the planet's centre of gravity. Deep down at the core-mantle boundary we now understand much more that this is also an active interface that gives rise to upward movement through the mantle that's affecting conventional plate tectonics. Finally, some of the world's ancient cratons, such as that in Northern China is thinning and becoming less stable over time. In short, we may be entering a more active phase of Earth's activity, but so far at least, it's nothing to be unduly concerned about!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team

news update

The Earth's crust is being torn apart off the Pacific Northwest, new study finds...

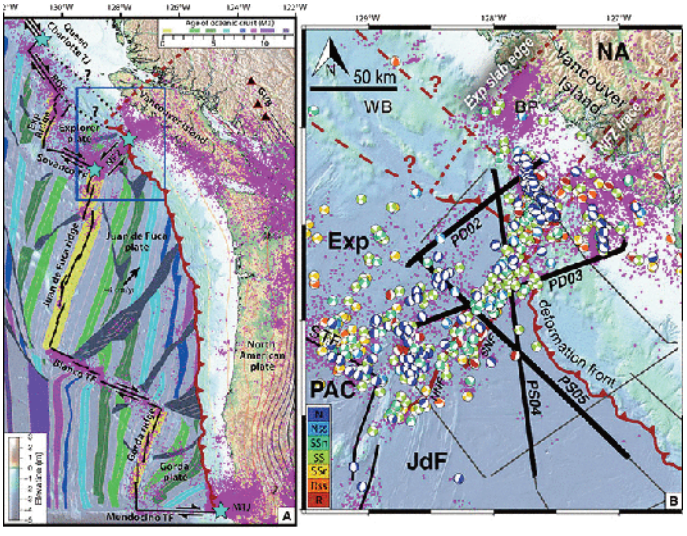
Scientists from Louisiana State University (LSU) led by Professor Brandon Shuck have identified a new subduction zone forming off the Pacific Northwest. It has now been published in Science Advances (September 2026).

This comes from the LSU website:
With unprecedented clarity, scientists have directly observed a subduction zone—the collision point where one tectonic plate dives beneath another—actively breaking apart. The discovery, reported in ***Science Advances***, sheds new light on how Earth's surface evolves and raises fresh questions about future earthquake risks in the Pacific Northwest.

The Cascadia subduction zone, where the Juan de Fuca (JdF) and Explorer (Exp) plates slowly move beneath the North American plate, is gradually shutting down piece by piece, with slabs breaking off while the remaining plate continues to subduct until the next rupture occurs.

Subduction zones are among the most powerful forces on Earth. They drive continents across the globe, unleash devastating earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and recycle the planet's crust deep into the mantle.

But they don't last forever. If they did, continents would endlessly collide and stack up, erasing oceans and wiping out the record of Earth's past. The big question geologists have wrestled with is; how exactly do these mighty systems finally shut down?



An image from the research showing some of the seismic plots. (Image: Courtesy of LSU)

"Getting a subduction zone started is like trying to push a train

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uphill - it takes a huge effort," said Brandon Shuck, a geologist at Louisiana State University and lead author of the study. "But once it's moving, it's like the train is racing downhill, impossible to stop. Ending it requires something dramatic - basically, a train wreck."

Off the coast of Vancouver Island, in a region of Cascadia where the Juan de Fuca and Explorer plates slowly move beneath the North American plate, scientists have found the answer. Using a combination of seismic reflection imaging - essentially an ultrasound of the Earth's subsurface - and detailed earthquake records, the team has captured a subduction zone in the process of tearing itself apart.

The seismic data was collected during the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded 2021 Cascadia Seismic Imaging Experiment (CASIE21), when researchers sent sound waves from a research ship into the seafloor and recorded the echoes with a 15 km long streamer of underwater listening devices. This produced high-resolution images of faults and fractures deep beneath the ocean floor, revealing places where the plate is literally snapping.



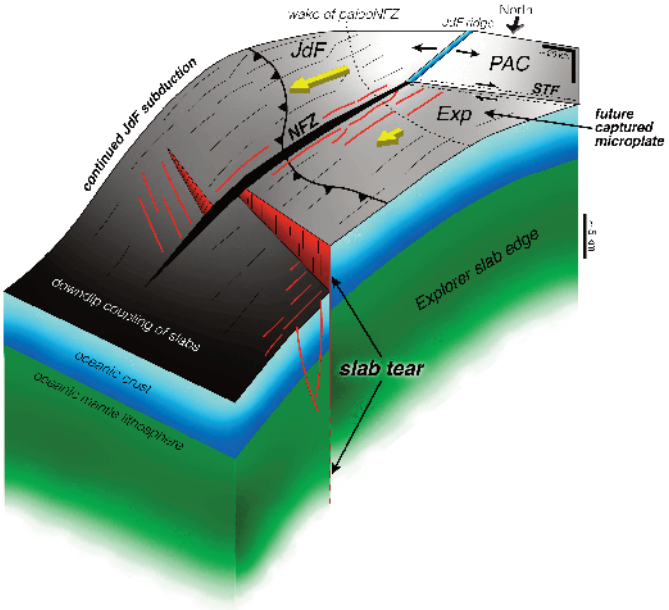
Researchers and crew aboard the R/V Marcus G. Langseth during the CASIE21 experiment, which collected the seismic data. (Image: Courtesy of LSU)

"This is the first time we have a clear picture of a subduction zone caught in the act of dying," said Shuck. "Rather than shutting down all at once, the plate is ripping apart piece by piece, creating smaller microplates and new boundaries. So instead of a big train wreck, it's like watching a train slowly derail, one car at a time."

The team observed tears slicing through the oceanic plate, including a massive offset where the slab has dropped by about five kilometers. "There's a very large fault that's actively breaking the plate," Shuck explained. "It's not 100% torn off yet, but it's close." Earthquake records confirm the pattern: along the 75 km long tear, some sections are still seismically active, while others are eerily quiet. "Once a piece has completely broken off, it no longer produces earthquakes because the rocks aren't stuck together anymore," he said. That missing gap of seismicity is a tell-tale sign that part of the plate has already detached and the gap is growing slowly over time.

The study found that this breakup happens in stages, through what researchers call "episodic" or "piecewise" termination. Rather than a sudden break across the entire tectonic plate, the plate gradually tears apart one section at a time. Transform boundaries - faults where plates slide past each other - play a key role in this process. Acting like natural scissors, these faults cut across the plate, perpendicularly to the tear, allowing one piece to detach and form a microplate while subduction continues in neighbouring sections.

By tearing off in smaller chunks, the larger plate loses momentum, like cutting the cars off a runaway train and eventually stops being pulled downward. Each piece that breaks away is a process that takes



A cartoon reconstruction of the burgeoning subduction zone. (Image: Courtesy of LSU)

several million years, but together these episodes gradually shut down an entire subduction system.

This episodic breakup helps explain puzzling features in Earth's history preserved elsewhere, such as abandoned fragments of tectonic plates and unusual bursts of volcanic activity. A striking example lies off Baja California, where scientists have long observed ancient microplates - the shattered remains of the once-massive Farallon plate. For decades, researchers knew these fragments must be evidence of dying subduction zones, but the mechanism that created them was unclear. Cascadia is now providing that missing piece: subduction zones don't collapse in a single catastrophic event but unravel step by step, leaving behind microplates as geological evidence.

And the process isn't over. As each fragment detaches, it reshapes Earth's surface. The torn edges may create "slab windows" where hot mantle rises, fuelling bursts of volcanic activity. Over time, the plate boundaries migrate, new microplates form, and the cycle repeats. "It's a progressive breakdown, one episode at a time," said Shuck. "And it matches really well with what we see in the geologic record, where volcanic rocks get younger or older in a sequence that reflects this step-by-step tearing."

You can read more here:
https://www.brandonshuckgeo.com/research

Or go to the paper in Science advances here:
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.ady8347

A fossil found on Lavernock beach solves a 200-year old mystery...

This comes from Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museum Wales) in Cardiff:
A fossil discovered on Lavernock Beach has helped researchers uncover new information about the fish that swam in the seas around Wales more than 200 million years ago during late Triassic times.

Welsh fossil hunter Jonathan Bow was searching the shoreline when he spotted an unusual fossil. This turned out to be part of a rare fossil

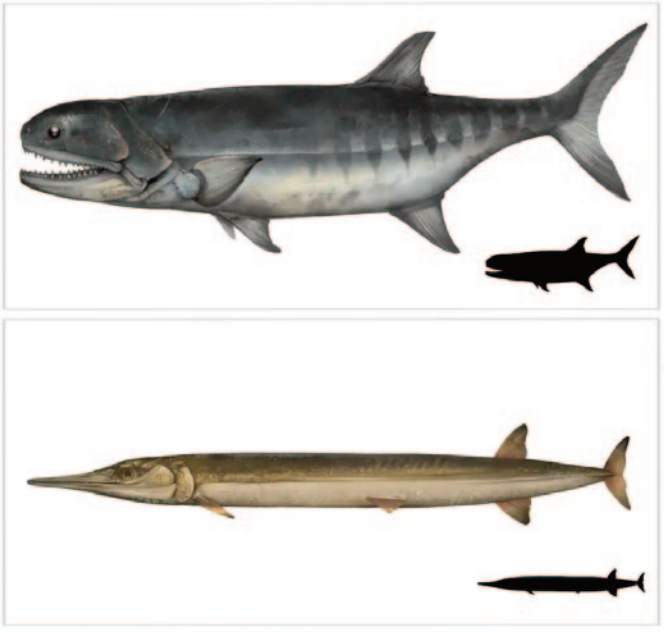
jaw containing developing teeth. The find has since helped solve a mystery that has puzzled scientists for nearly 200 years. For generations, fossil teeth found in rocks around the Bristol Channel were difficult to identify. Because of their unusual shape, some early scientists even believed they belonged to giant amphibians rather than fish.



Jonathan Bow and his young son on Lavernock beach where they found the fossil.
(Image: National Museum Wales)

Cindy Howells, Curator of Geology at Amgueddfa Cymru, said: "Many teeth from *Saurichthys* were once mistaken for those of an amphibian, and that misunderstanding continued well into the 20th century. This lovely little jaw caused great confusion when it was first found as it bore no resemblance to any known species."

Researchers from Amgueddfa Cymru, the University of Bristol and the State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart worked together to study the fossil. Their research showed that fossils that had previously been grouped together under one name actually belonged to two different species of fish that lived during the Late Triassic period. After it was discovered, the fossil was sent to the University of Bristol for further study.



It is now believed the teeth come from two different Triassic fishes, the Birgeria (top) and the Saurichthys (bottom).
(Image: National Museum Wales)



This is the fish jaw complete with teeth that was found by Jonathan Bow. (Image: Jonathan Bow)

Jacob Quinn, lead researcher, said: "These rocks were formed during storms more than 200 million years ago, so it is remarkable that such a delicate fossil survived. Although British Triassic fossils have been studied for over 200 years, this is the first bone from *Saurichthys* ever found in these rocks."

The discovery has led to a scientific paper being published, sharing the team's findings.

Professor Mike Benton, a co-author of the study, said: "This delicate fossilised jaw has now been compared with specimens in museum collections across Britain and Europe to provide clear evidence that fossils originally thought to belong to the same fish actually came from two separate species."

Dr David Whiteside, another co-author, added: "These predators lived in a shallow tropical sea filled with small limestone islands. *Saurichthys* was probably a fast and agile hunter, while *Birgeria* was larger and more powerful, likely feeding on a wider variety of prey."

Another co-author Dr Sam Cooper added: "These fish have a remarkably complicated history. It's amazing that a single fossil, found by Jonathan Bow during a spring tide, has helped clear up nearly 200 years of confusion."

The discovery also highlights how modern technology and fresh research can help museums learn more from fossils that have been collected and studied for generations. The fossil will go on display at ***National Museum Cardiff*** later this year.

Cindy Howells added: “Being able to share this incredible discovery with the public will capture people's imagination and hopefully inspire the next generation of fossil hunters to explore the amazing finds that can be discovered along Wales' coastline.”

Thanks to National Museum Wales for this material. You can find out more in the Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology (2025).

It’s the stuff of TV show ‘Fake or Fortune’ - but a 19th century watercolour painting really is on the back of a geological field slip!

BGS geologist Daniel Burgess was working on 19th century material relating to the work of survey geologist Ben Peach when he made a surprise discovery recently.

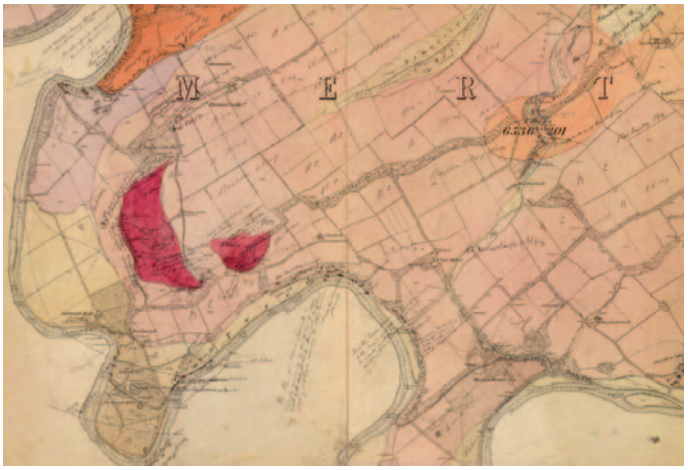
This comes from the BGS website:

A BGS geologist has discovered a Victorian watercolour of the River Tweed on the reverse side of a geological field map. It had remained unnoticed in the BGS archives for more than 150 years. The newly uncovered artwork offers a snapshot of the iconic crossing, believed to be from just a year after it opened. It provides a unique record of the Victorian landscape around Dryburgh in the Scottish Borders.



Ben Peach’s fine watercolour of Dryburgh Suspension Bridge. (Image: BGS/UKRI)

The artwork was found by a building stones specialist who was looking through early field slips to gather more information on the area. It was quickly established that the painting depicts Dryburgh Suspension Bridge, which was completed in 1872. Following some further research, the watercolour is believed to have been painted around 1873 by Benjamin Neeve Peach, who was a geologist at the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland (now known as BGS) at the time and was known to be conducting fieldwork in the region around 1873. Peach was also well regarded as an accomplished artist; other examples of his work are held in the BGS archive and available on GeoScenic, BGS’s public online geological photograph database.



Peach’s field slip on the reverse side of the painting, also Dryburgh. (Image: BGS/UKRI)

Peach worked at BGS from 1862 until his retirement in 1905. Alongside his geological work, he produced hundreds of sketches and paintings during his field surveys, documenting landscapes and everyday scenes across Scotland in his field notebooks and on the backs of his field maps.

Peach played a pivotal role in resolving the famous ‘Highlands’ Controversy’, one of the most significant geological debates of the nineteenth century. In 1883, Peach and his colleague John Horne were sent to the north-west Highlands of Scotland by Archibald Geikie, then the director-general of the Geological Survey, to investigate conflicting interpretations of the region’s structure. Peach and Horne demonstrated that neither of the two interpretations proposed at the time were correct, overturning contemporary ideas about the geological structure of the area. The discovery is regarded as one of the most important advances in British structural geology and was a critical part of the development of modern ideas about tectonics and mountain building.

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If you’ve enjoyed reading this Down to Earth extra, you’ll love our quarterly Down to Earth! It’s a 32-page quality magazine in full colour that’s packed with up to the minute geological news and articles. You can get your hands on this either in print or electronic formats. Why not request a FREE sample electronic copy of the current issue?

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Welcome to our Zoom world!

This Autumn & Winter why not join in one (or more) of our friendly online learning sessions? There's bound to be something that suits you...

We've been hosting live online Zoom sessions since 2020 and since then hundreds of people, from the UK and abroad have joined our online community. All of our live sessions run at 2pm or 7pm and you choose when to attend. If two people share a computer, they make big savings!

It's easy to register, just go our website *www.geosupplies.co.uk* and enter our shop. Then choose 'educational courses' followed by 'virtual talks' - then you are good to go - or tel. 0114 245 5746

Autumn events

Rocks from the Pressure Cooker - Metamorphic Rocks and Processes
A 10-week course (it continues in the New Year), Mondays commencing November 16th. Price from £80.00

In the steps of the pioneers
A 6-week course designed to introduce you to some of the most important people in the science of geology.
Thursdays from November 12th. Price from £50.00.

The Wednesday Club
Join us as we meet to enjoy an eclectic mix of very different subjects on a Wednesday, commencing November 11th. either in the afternoon or evening - it's your choice!

November 11	**Geological riches of the Yorkshire Coast**
November 18	**Alfred Harker - an extraordinary geologist**
November 25	**Anorthosite - a rock that's out of this world**
December 2	**The unique geology of Islay, Jura & Colonsay**
December 9	**Extremes and extinctions in the Tertiary**
December 16	**Tyrannosaurus rex from bones to Hollywood**

Take all 6 talks for £50.00 or book them individually for £11.00 each.

Look out for more events from January 2027!

An unusual present idea - limited edition...

'The Cream of the Crop 2025'

As part of their work for Geo Supplies, your editorial team, Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield go to some very interesting places around the British Isles. Whilst they are in these places they often pick up rock specimens, most of which go to students and institutions both here and even around the world. However there are also some rare or unusual rocks that don't form part of our regular stock and it is these that we've gathered together into a limited edition collection that we are offering as our 'Cream of the Crop 2025'.

The set comprises 14 carefully chosen specimens from the British Isles: with: graptolitic shale (Llandrindod Wells), Stanner Rock metaigneous (the oldest in Wales), Old Red Sandstone (Goodrington), Hematite (Cumbria), Folly Sandstone (Silurian), Phyllite (Arran), Newmead Sandstone (Builth Wells), Man-o-War Gneiss (Cornwall), Quartz Porphyry (Cornwall), Honister Slate (Cumbria), Hybrid Rock (Arran), Tonalite (Ardnamurchan), Pitchstone (Arran), Felsite (Loch Ba, Mull). Each set comes boxed with notes and costs £54.95 including postage. The set is available NOW for immediate shipping!

Final Call!

Purchase online at: *geosupplies.co.uk* or ring us on: *0114 245 5746.*

Down to Earth
'Earth science learning for all'

The learning zone

Great geo-adventures in 2027 begin here...



How's this for stunning view of British Camp on the top of the Malvern Hills? Come and enjoy more of the same on our visit to Great Malvern in July.
(Image: Courtesy of Visit the Malverns)

All of our programme of eight trips for 2027 are now available for you to book. Several are close to being fully booked already.

We begin with a visit to Furness in the South Lakes of Cumbria and then the Magma Geopark in Norway. In the Spring and Summer we go to Strathpeffer, Eastbourne and Great Malvern with our Summer School at the University of Warwick. Moving to the Autumn we've got a week based in Oban followed by a visit to Whitby.

To view a brochure, go to our to website at: www.geosupplies.co.uk or Tel: 0114 245 5746

Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Residential Field trip programme 2027...

- Furness & South Lakes, April 16-23
- Magma Geopark, Norway, May 4-13
- Strathpeffer & Cromarty, May 21-29
- Sussex Coast & South Downs, June 20-26
- Abberley & Malvern Hills, July 18-23
- Summer School Unversity of Warwick July 31-August 7
- Oban & the Hebridean Isles, Scotland, September 30-October 8 FULL
- Whitby, Yorkshire Coast, October 17-23

Early booking is advised, especially if you are looking for a single room.

Several trips are nearly full.

Search online at www.geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
Geo Supplies Ltd 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE

If you haven't joined one of our residential field trips before, what can you expect?

- ***Our residential field trips are suitable for adults of all levels of interest and geological knowledge.***
- ***Our trips are friendly and informal and usually comprise 15-20 people. Overseas trips are usually larger.***
- ***We usually make use of comfortable small hotels and guest houses and all meals are included.***
- ***You have the services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as field leaders. Both are highly experienced and knowledgeable field geologists.***
- ***For some trips we have a hired minibus but on other trips we will use shared cars, or even public transport.***
- ***Dates shown in this listing are the start and finish dates.***
- ***Where prices are quoted, they are per person in a shared twin/double room.***

If you still have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel: 0114 245 5746

Before you book on one of our trips...

We are always pleased to welcome new people along on our trips. So if you are thinking about it, what do you need to know before you 'take the plunge'?

Who are the trips aimed at?

The short answer is that they are not aimed at any particular group of people. Our participants are mainly older retired people who want to keep their minds and bodies active, but younger people are welcome.

Some people have lots of geological field experience whilst others are complete beginners. As one person put it to us "I've forgotten all I once knew and need to come along to hear it again." Our UK trips are all small groups of 15 to 20 people maximum so we can make lots of what we say personal to you.

In recent years we've run several special trips for American geologists and now some of them join us on our regular trips, adding greatly to the character of our field experiences.

Will I be able to manage the walking?

We always try to keep walking to a minimum, but, almost by definition, some walking will be involved. If you can't manage a particular walk, just tell us and it will never be a problem for you not to do it. We have one person who really enjoys sketching - she's done some amazing sketches while the rest of us visit a quarry!

How do we get about on trips?

It varies a lot from trip to trip. Sometimes we hire a minibus, on other occasions we use public transport and at other times we'll make use of shared cars. Look at the details for each trip to find out.

What about accommodation?

We always try to use hotels or guest houses that have ensuite rooms as standard. Most of our accommodation will provide breakfast and evening meals, but sometimes we eat in local restaurants. We include the cost of all food, including a packed lunch for each field day.

We prefer to use small family run hotels and guest houses but they are getting harder to find, so sometimes we use larger hotels such as hotels in the Leisureplex and Strathmore group. Once again, see the individual trip brochures for details.

Are your bookings safe with us?

Yes indeed they are! We've been in the business of running trips a long time and ensure that all the money you pay us is safe in a client trust account until your trip is completed.

But, above all, our trips are educational informative and FUN! We don't take ourselves or our geology too seriously. After all you are on holiday - and you are paying for it! We look forward to welcoming you on a trip sometime soon.

The full list of field trips for 2027...

We are now looking forward to another great season of field trips in 2027. As we are hosting two groups of Americans during the year, it means that the number of trips for general sale will be somewhat reduced. All the more reason to get your bookings in early!

Despite running these trips for a number of years, we've managed to find some great new venues for 2027 and, as a result, have more than 100 confirmed bookings, even at this stage.
Why not contact us now for a booking form:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746
You can view brochures for all the trips featured here (apart from the 2027 Summer School) on our website at:
www.geosupplies.co.uk

Furness & the South Lakes. April 16-23 (7-nights) £1295
The Lake District is arguably our premier National Park and it's an area that many of you will have visited. But how many of you know or have ever visited the South Lakes, known as the Furness area? It's an area of scenic coastline with small coastal communities like Grange over Sands and Arnside. From our base in Grange we'll be able to explore a wide area taking in places such as Ravenglass, St Bees, Arnside, Lake Windermere and quarries around Millom.



The Cumbria Grand Hotel is in the tranquil resort of Grange over Sands - our base for the week

Welcome to our exciting world!

All this from the comfort of the Cumbria Grand Hotel in Grange over Sands. Take advantage of this excellent value package, just as the spring flowers come out!
Sorry, single rooms for this trip have now sold out!

Norway - Magma Geopark, May 413 (9-nights) £2595
We have been to Norway on two previous occasions to the Gea Norvegica Geopark where we saw great geology and landscape. This time we are staying in the south of the country but venturing to the Stavanger area which is the location of the fabulous Magma Geopark.

The tour commences with the first night in Oslo where we will be staying in an historic hotel which is actually within the main railway station. From there, we'll take a 7-hour train journey direct to the small town of Egersund, our base for the entire week. Each day we'll venture out into the geopark with their own geologist. You'll see some amazing ancient rocks including anorthosite, that's much more common on the surface of the moon! There will be visits to former metal mines, a guided tour of a local quarry, as well as walks in the fjord landscape, a boat trip to a local island and much more!



Some of the rocks in the geopark include anorthosite, which is more commonly found on the moon. (Image: Magma Geopark)

There will be visits to former metal mines, a guided tour of a local quarry, as well as walks in the fjord landscape, a boat trip to a local island and much more!
The last couple of places on this trip available to book NOW!

Strathpeffer & Cromarty, May 21-29 £1695



The Ben Wyvis Hotel our base for the week.

Another new location - not far from Inverness but so very different. The spa town of Strathpeffer was a Victorian favourite for 'taking the waters', But today our hotel has all mod cons and there's no cold baths! It's a great starting point from which to explore the local area which has much to offer the geologist.

From the local Devonian rocks of Cromarty birthplace of Scottish geologist Hugh Miller to the metamorphics of the local Moine rocks. We'll take in a train trip to Kyle of Lochalsh as well as another to Golspie on the coast to see the Jurassic and Triassic. We also see some of the younger sedimentary rocks around Lossiemouth to the east of Inverness.
This is a great now location that gives us some super days out! We can still accommodate people in double or twin rooms only.

Sussex Coast & South Downs, June 20-26 (6-nights) £1095
Based at the Queen's Hotel in the resort of Eastbourne this is a trip that will take in some of the classic chalk cliffs in places like Beachy Head and also some of the Lower Cretaceous rocks in places like Hastings, not forgetting the beautiful landscape of the South Downs National Park.



The Queens Hotel on Eastbourne's seafront

If you've never sampled some of our finest Chalk landscape then do so now! you won't regret it we can assure you. This is English landscape at its very best.
Single, double and twin rooms are still available for this trip.

The Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark, July 18-23 (5-nights) £1195
Your Editor has had the pleasure of being the President of the Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark for the past five years and along with the geopark volunteers, knows the area well.

Based at the Abbey Hotel in Great Malvern, this trip will take you to places where you can enjoy rocks and fossils from many different periods. We go back to the Ediacaran of the Precambrian to see the hard igneous rocks of the Malvern Hills, right on our doorstep. During the Cambrian and Silurian periods we see fossiliferous sediments. The Devonian and Carboniferous see are very different sandstones and even coal seams in the Wyre Forest and around Highley in the Severn Valley. Around Bridgnorth we see the bright red Permian sandstones from a desert environment.



Fabulous Precambrian rocks and an unconformity at Gullet Quarry. (Image: Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark)

Come and enjoy geology and landscape at its very best! This trip is suitable for all, including those who are new to field geology.
There are still vacancies on this trip, including singles.

Why come and join our Summer School?

Our Summer School is modelled on those that used to be run by the Open University a number of years ago. All are based on a campus of one sort or another where we can sleep in largely single, en-suite study bedrooms and enjoy on site meals. They are also more than just field trips with dedicated transport each day. There's an evening programme of talks from local experts and also social events. In short - something for everybody, including those with limited mobility!

Summer School at the University of Warwick £1695
July 31-August 7 (7-nights)
Our popular Summer School moves to a new location and you cannot get much more central than the University of Warwick, set in countryside on the southern edge of Coventry.



Beacon Hill, Charnwood Forest Geopark (Image: BGS)

This location will allow us access to the rich and varied geology of north Warwickshire around Nuneaton, Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire, the Black Country Geopark and the Jurassic rocks of the local area and also the Cotswolds. In short, something for everybody, from the Precambrian to the Quaternary!
The brochure for this trip is now available on our website. Remember that mose of the rooms are singles, so take advantage and make that booking!

Oban & the Hebridean Isles, September 30-October 9 (8-nights) £1495
Yes, we've found a hotel base in Oban! Now that we can tick that box, we can bring you an action packed week of trips around the surrounding area. With luck we'll get you to the islands of Kerrera, Lismore, Mull, Iona, Luing and Easdale. We'll also take in some of the geology of the mainland, around the Falls of Cruachan, Crianlarich and Tyndrum. You'll see fabulous Scottish geology from the Lewisian through to the Tertiary volcanics with much in between.



The Royal Hotel is on Oban's seafront and is close to the harbour and railway station.

Enjoy the comforts of the 3-star Royal Hotel in Oban where we offer ensuite rooms and all main meals.
Last couple of places available on this trip. Sorry no more singles.

Whitby on the Yorkshire Coast, October 17-23 (6-nights) £1195
Whitby is the jewel in the crown of the Yorkshire Coast and is truly an all year round resort. We are lucky to have secured a slot in the prestigious Royal Hotel that sits atop the nineteenth century splendour of the West Cliff.



The Royal Hotel sits atop the West Cliff.

With so much geology right on the doorstep we won't be spending hours getting to our field locations. Almost all of the solid geology was formed during the Jurassic period and much of it is very fossiliferous containing everything from humble brachiopods and bivalves through to ammonites and the remains of giant sea reptiles. During this trip we will take in the geology of Whitby and local places including Robin Hood's Bay, Staithes, Grosmont and Sandsend. We'll use the local buses and also the train to get inland.
As it has been some time since we last visited Whitby, we expect this trip to fill up rapidly, so you are strongly advised to make your booking soon. Currently we can still accommodate people in twin and double rooms available.

Welcome to our live Zoom world!

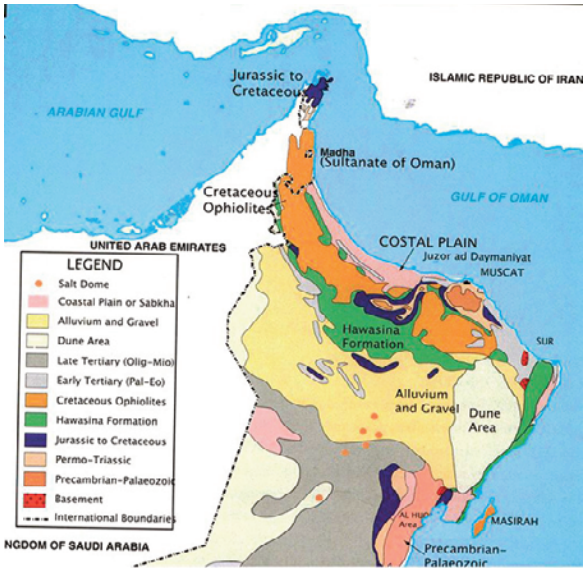
Autumn & Winter Zoom courses and individual sessions...

This Autumn and Winter we will be presenting several series of mainly live, hour-long Zoom sessions. Some are available as single sessions whilst others are courses consisting of 6 or 10 sessions. Most begin in November with some continuing after a break for Christmas and New Year.

All our Zoom classes and courses are available to everyone and are informal and designed to be both educational and enjoyable. We have a great and varied online community. You would be most welcome to join us!

Please see below for our programme up to the end of this year, further courses and sessions will be available to book in November for the Winter period.

The Geology of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz
Special Session, Monday November 2 £15.00



The country of Oman and Strait of Hormuz have hardly been out of the news for the past few months, ever since the start of hostilities between the US and Iran. But aside from oil and gas, what else is in the geological story?

Explore with us in this extended Zoom session all about the geology of the region. You'll learn why this is such an important and interesting area - prepare for some surprises!
Make sure to book NOW!

The Tectonics of Northern Venezuela
Special Session, Monday November 9 £15.00

The tragic twin earthquakes of June 24th 2026 will probably go down as one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. In this specially extended Zoom session we will explain why this happened by looking at the regional and more local tectonics. We'll also examine what could have been done to minimize the number of casualties, by way of design for buildings and infrastructure, especially bridges and roads.
If two people share the same computer screen the cost is £22.00 for these sessions.

Metamorphic Rocks - rocks from the pressure cooker (10-weeks)
It has been several years since we last offered this course and it always proves to be a popular choice. We take the mystery out of metamorphic rocks by taking a close look at how they form from existing rocks of all types.

The course is arranged in a way that covers all the basic elements of metamorphic rocks. It takes you through how metamorphic rocks form, the textures the rocks exhibit and the minerals that make them up. You'll learn about contact, regional and dynamic metamorphism and how we classify these enigmatic rocks.
Course dates: Starts Monday November 16 - December 14 and then restarts January 18 for a further 5 weeks.
Cost: Ten hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers £80.00 for one person or £100.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £25.00.
Zoom sessions on Mondays at 2.00 and 7.00 pm (you choose)

The Wednesday Club

We started this eclectic mox of subjects on Wednesday afternoons and evenings two years ago and they are now a firm favourite with many of you. We hope that you like our new selection - they are all designed to bring you up to speed on some of the very latest ideas on a variety of very different subjects.

You can take individual sessions or why not dive in for them all and make a significant saving into the bargain!

November 11	**Geological riches of the Yorkshire Coast**
November 18	**Alfred Harker - an extraordinary geologist**
November 25	**Anorthosite - a rock that's out of this world!**
December 2	**The unique geology of Islay, Jura & Colonsay**
December 9	**Extremes & extinctions in the Tertiary**
December 16	**Tyrannosaurus rex from bones to Hollywood**

Cost: Individual talks £11.00 or £16.00 for 2 people.
Take all 6 sessions for £50.00, or £75.00 for 2 people.
Timings: Wednesdays at 2.00 or 7.00pm - your choice.

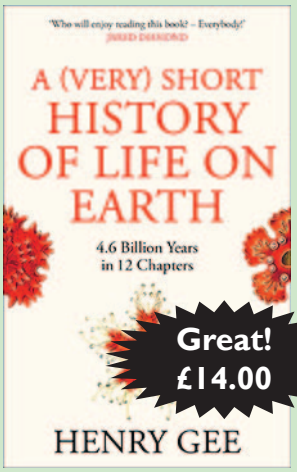
In the steps of the pioneers (6-weeks)
The history of geology is closely linked to a few individuals, many of whom were British. They each made their indelible mark on our subject in a unique way. In this course we'll take a look at the life and achievements of 'six of the best'.

We'll be studying these pioneers: Adam Sedgwick, Roderick Murchison, Charles Lapworth, Mary Anning, Henry de la Beche and George Barrow.
Course dates: Starts Thursday November 12 and runs through to December 17
Cost: Six hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers £50.00 for one person or £70.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £15.00.
Zoom sessions on Thursdays at 2.00 and 7.00 pm (you choose)

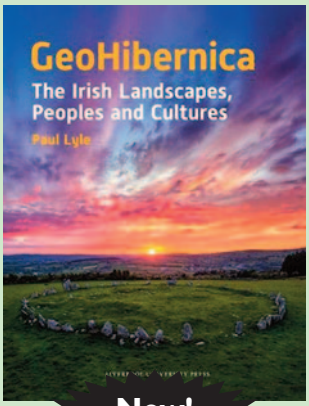
To find out more or to enrol, email us at:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746
To enrol, go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk. enter our online shop FIRST and THEN find the course.

Featured books for November 2026

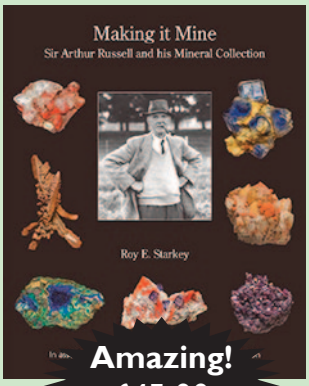
In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of November 2026 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. N.B. all prices include UK postage.



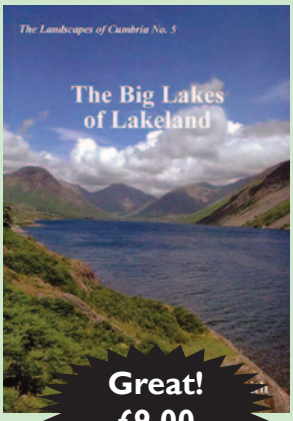
Great! £14.00



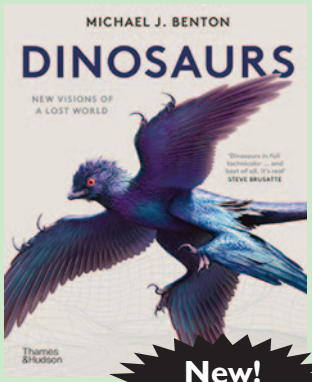
New! £50.00



Amazing! £45.00



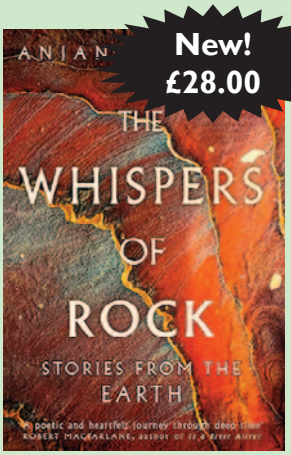
Great! £9.00



New! £22.00



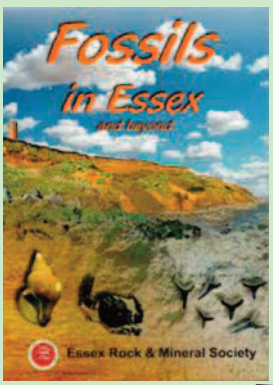
New! £7.00

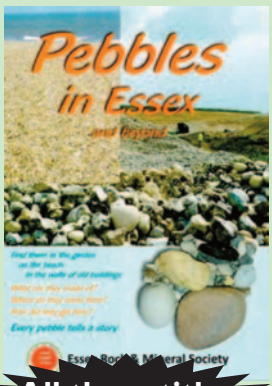


New! £28.00



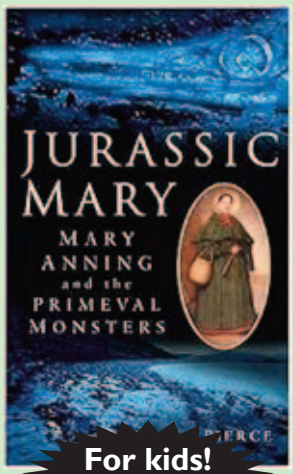
New! £14.00



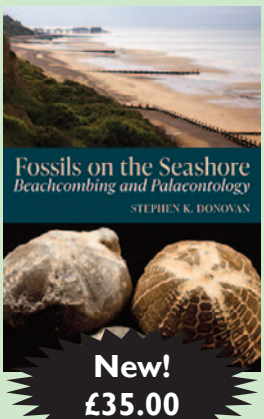




All three titles £8.00



For kids! £10.50



New! £35.00

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