



EDINBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Promoting public interest in geology and advancement of geological knowledge



Annual Report and Proceedings 191st Session 2024-2025

www.edinburghgeolsoc.org Charity registered in Scotland SC008011

Edinburgh Geological Society

Report of Council for the Year Ended 30th September 2025

Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Council 2024-2025 (Elected 26 th March 2025)	2
Report on Activities — Overview	3
Council	4
Membership	4
Improvements to Interpretation and Access at Siccar Point	4
Promotion of the Society and Public Interest in Geology	5
Lectures Programme 2024-2025	6
Excursions Programme 2024-2025	7
Publications	12
Geoconservation Groups	12
Grants and Awards	13
Clough Medal	15
Frank May Fund	15
Financial Review	16
Statement of Financial Activities including Receipts and Payments	
Account for the year ended 30 th September 2025	17
Notes forming part of the Financial Statements	19
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	21
Obituaries	22
Acknowledgements	31

Welcome

The Council of the Edinburgh Geological Society takes great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2025.

Mark Wilkinson, President

Council 2024-25 (Elected 26th March 2025)

President	Mark Wilkinson
Vice-President	Mike Browne
Immediate Past President	Tom Challands
Honorary Secretary	Neil Mackenzie
Assistant Secretary (Annual Report)	Don Cameron
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Euan Mitchell
Lectures Secretary	Alastair Milne
Excursions Secretary	Emma Bedda
Chair Promotion & Coordination Group	Robert Gatliff
Assistant Secretary (Clough/Awards)	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Excursion Bookings)	Vacant
Assistant Secretary (Geoconservation)	Mike Browne
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron
Archivist (non-Council post)	Angus Miller
SJG Scientific Editors	Heather Stewart (Editor in Chief)/ Romesh Palamakumbra/Ian Neill/ Yves Candela/Martin Kirkbride
Ordinary Members	Daryl Sawyer, Ian Kearsley, Stuart Harker, Emily Brown, Katie Strang

Charity Name: Edinburgh Geological Society

Scottish Charity Number: SC008011

Official Contact Address: c/o British Geological Survey, The Lyell Centre,
Research Avenue South, Edinburgh EH14 4AP

Website Address: www.edinburghgeolsoc.org

Cover picture: Memorial plaque to James Hutton, located at the James Hutton Memorial Garden off Holyrood Road in Edinburgh. James Hutton's tercentenary will be celebrated by the opening of the James Hutton Deep Time Trail to Siccar Point in May 2026.

Report on Activities

Overview

Our Society continued to thrive this year, with membership levels remaining above 760. An overseas excursion was organised for the first time in 6 years, with Dorrik Stow leading a joint party of Edinburgh and Glasgow Society participants on a 7-day investigation of the Neogene basin fill and Cabo de Gata Volcanics of the Almeria Province in SE Spain. Our programme of 11 day and evening excursions was heavily subscribed, with waiting lists for many. Within our evening lecture series, a set of 15-minute presentations by 4 early career researchers from the University of Edinburgh was a particularly successful innovation, and will be repeated in future sessions. 1,780 members of the public visited our Society's stand at the Open Doors Edinburgh event at McEwan Hall in late September.

But the 2024-25 session will be remembered most for the decisive progress made in designing a suitable project to commemorate James Hutton's tercentenary in 2026. As reported by Angus Miller (p. 5), a Deep Time Trail from the nearest road access to the Siccar Point overlook was designed by CMC Associates, winners of a competitive tendering process. Its construction would need sufficient funds to be generated by a crowdfunding exercise, augmented by individual donations and a generous grant applied for from the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund. Spoiler alert - sufficient funds have been generated from all of these sources to underwrite all aspects of the Trail's construction for its official opening during the last weekend in May 2026. Another funding exercise will be required to design and construct a stepped path down the steep grassy slope to the Siccar Point outcrops, but this objective may take another year, two years or more to come to fruition.

The Edinburgh Geological Society was founded in 1834 and its objectives are the stimulation and encouragement of public interest in geology and the advancement of geological knowledge. Its governing document is The Laws of the Society, which serves as its constitution. The Society is an unincorporated association with charitable status. Its membership elects the members of its Council as the Charity Trustees at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The Council is the management body for the Society and there are a number of Committees which manage particular aspects of the Society's work and report to the Council. These include the Finance and Planning, Clough, Excursions, and Publications Committees and also the Lothian and Borders GeoConservation Group. The Scottish Journal of Geology is owned jointly by the Society and the Geological Society of Glasgow. The Society is affiliated to the Geologists' Association.

Council

The Council met five times during this session. The Council's Promotion and Co-ordination Group continued to organise various promotional activities. The Finance and Planning Committee of EGS also met once, in part driven by fund raising around the Hutton Tercentenary.

Membership

The 2024-25 session saw a slight decline in membership for the first time in nearly a decade, with overall numbers dropping by 14 (~2%). This decline was driven largely by a decrease in the number of Ordinary Fellows, which fell by ~5%. Many of these Ordinary Fellows transitioned to Senior Fellow status, contributing to continued growth in this membership category, but another 9 transferred to being Life Fellows as reward for their exceptional support of the Society. The Junior Associate category saw only a small increase, after two years of unusually strong growth.

	2024	2025	Change
Life Fellow	8	17	9
Ordinary Fellow	419	381	-38
Family Fellow	25	18	-7
Senior Fellow	152	172	20
Glasgow Associate	27	26	-1
Junior Associate	132	135	3
Distinguished Fellow	9	9	0
Corresponding Fellow	3	3	0
Honorary Fellow	3	3	0
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	778	764	-14

Improvements to Interpretation and Access at Siccar Point (report by Angus Miller)

In the lead up to the Hutton Tercentenary in 2026, EGS began a substantial programme to improve access and interpretation at Siccar Point. EGS is leading this work, supported by the James Hutton Institute and the Scottish Geology Trust. The project is led by Angus Miller, and steered by a working group of Council members, local geologists and representatives of partner organisations that met 5 times between February and September.

After an open call for expressions of interest, in November we appointed CMC Associates to prepare an outline interpretive plan for Siccar Point. This

was delivered in March. CMC Associates then developed a fully costed proposal to create a new “Deep Time Trail” to the viewpoint above Siccar Point. This follows the existing 1.3km path from the nearest road. The trail will include new interpretation panels, seating, sign posts and a new stone shelter at the viewpoint, with accompanying online audio-visual material accessed by QR code.

To help fund this work the Scottish Geology Trust organised a Crowdfunder, which launched in September 2025. Sir Robert Clerk gifted over 25,000 facsimiles of the Hutton Lost Drawings, to be used as rewards for donations, and Miranda Gatliff organised a team of volunteer knitters to produce unique “Hutton Hats”, made available for suitably large donations; their design is based on the geology of key Hutton sites.

Work on the Deep Time Trail to the viewpoint was prioritised during 2024-25 over constructing a stepped path downslope to Siccar Point, as it was judged to be achievable in time to celebrate the Tercentenary in June 2026. The work currently underway is the first phase of a programme of activity that will continue in the next few years, and will include better integration of the trail into the surrounding path network. There is also a strong desire to solve the problem of access down the grass slope to the unconformity, so that visitors can safely get to the rocks for a close-up view. We have consulted with engineering geologists and others on the feasibility of steps down the slope. The engineering challenges are big but not insurmountable, and the first task will be to arrange a detailed ground investigation, to determine the depth of cover, and ensure it will be possible to tie any structure into the bedrock. We hope to start on this work in the next year.

Promotion of the Society and Public Interest in Geology

Our paid Promotion Co-ordinator, Angus Miller, supported the work of the Society across a range of activities. Apart from spending significant amounts of time on the Hutton Tercentenary project, these included: maintenance of the EGS website and assisting with the online broadcast and recording of evening lectures, editing our biannual members’ newsletters and coordinating the mailing of these and other publications to members, and organising meetings and events. Prior to the appointment of Alastair Milne as Lectures Secretary in January 2025, Angus coordinated the lectures programme for 2024-25. Angus also organised the printing and distribution of the Scottish Journal of Geology to members of EGS and the Geological Society of Glasgow.

Work continued to persuade Historic Environment Scotland to re-open the Radical Road and restore public access to Hutton’s Section; they have promised that this will happen by spring 2026. EGS again offered popular Beach Explorer events for the Edinburgh Science Festival, with events at Wardie, Joppa, Barns Ness and Kirkcaldy.

Lectures Programme 2024-2025

As in recent years, all of our lectures in 2024-2025 were provided as hybrid live attendance/webinars. Most of the webinars are available for viewing on the EGS YouTube channel, which had over 3,000 views during the session. For the second year, ‘pizza and pop’ was provided before our lectures on 3 evenings, with an aim being to attract higher numbers of students to our lectures. Two new initiatives this year were a session devoted to talks by 4 early careers researchers from the University of Edinburgh’s School of Geosciences, and a session devoted to talks based on recent papers published in the Scottish Journal of Geology.

Attendance at the Grant Institute averaged around 30, and between 30-60 participants joined our simultaneous webinars. Our new Lectures Secretary Alastair Milne organised a rich and varied lecture programme. Lectures held during the 191st session were:

2024

- 16 Oct **Mark Wilkinson** (University of Edinburgh): **Presidential address:** Concretions on Skye: there’s more than dinosaurs.
- 30 Oct **University of Edinburgh School of Geosciences early career researchers:** **Ri Cao:** Volcanoes on Venus, **Aideliz Montiel Alvarez:** The first 3D conductivity model of Britain, **Ruaridh Alexander:** Reconstructing the enigmatic Ediacaran organism *Namacalathus*, **Alastair Hodgetts:** Understanding marine impacts of Chaiten 2008 eruption, Chile.
- 13 Nov **Rob Butler** (University of Aberdeen): In search of the Logan Rock: geointerpretational reflections from the 19th century and resonance today.
- 27 Nov **Heather Stewart** (Kelpie Geoscience): Into the blue: exploring the deepest places on Earth.
- 11 Dec **Fellows Night**, with short contributions by **Patrick Corbett** (Scottish Centre for Geopoetry): Geopoetry, geopoetics, geology, **Simeon Brown:** History of onshore oil exploration and production in Scotland 1845-2015, **Mark Wilkinson** (University of Edinburgh): The Brora Sandstone and the evolution of the Scottish landmass.

2025

- 15 Jan **Linda Cotterill:** Origin of mixed magma ring intrusions: implications for their extrusive, explosive ignimbrite equivalents in the BPIP, west Scotland.
- 29 Jan **Recent papers from the Scottish Journal of Geology:** **Eleanor Heptinstall** (University of Aberdeen): Graphitisation of

Neoproterozoic marbles at the Aird, **Neil Clark** (University of Glasgow): New malacostracan crustaceans from the Lower Coal Measures.

- 12 Feb **Katriona Edlmann** (University of Edinburgh): **MIS/EGS Joint Lecture:** Geological storage of hydrogen for net zero.
- 26 Feb **Mike Brown: Clough Medal lecture:** Geoconservation in Scotland.
- 12 Mar **Ula Filipowicz, Thorfin Gunn, Isla Farrell & Henry Lodge** (University of St Andrews): Mapping and other adventures at Qassiarsuk, southern Greenland.
- 26 Mar **Doug Benn** (University of St Andrews): Glacial surges in Svalbard and Scotland.

Excursions Programme 2024-2025

Our Excursions Secretary, Emma Bedda devised a programme of 5 Wednesday evening and 6 Saturday excursions. An additional sea-borne trip to Siccar Point was provided on Saturday 6th September by Eyemouth Rib Boats. Participation on the EGS trips was again free of charge this year, and this led to near-maximum bookings on almost all of the excursions. Free coach transport was offered for 4 of the Saturday trips. There were 217 participants in this year's 11 EGS excursions. Emma Bedda also oversaw the smooth running of our programme; Euan Mitchell has kindly undertaken to offer his assistance in the forthcoming session. The 2025 EGS day and evening excursions were:

- Wed 30 Apr St Andrew Square and George Street east end: Leader Andrew McMillan.
- Sat 4 May Folding along the Ardross Fault: Leader Rosalind Garton.
- Wed 28 May Edinburgh's urban geology: a master class in accessing and contributing to online information: Leader Alastair McGowan.
- Sat 31 May Cocklawburn Beach, Berwick: Leader Alison Tymon.
- Wed 4 Jun Hare Hill, SW Pentland Hills: Leader Richard Smith.
- Sat 28 Jun Barns Ness and Siccar Point (joint with Liverpool Geological Society): Leader Bob Gatliff.
- Wed 9 Jul Carlops: Leader Mark Wilkinson.
- Sat 2 Aug Girvan: Leader Neil Clark.
- Sat 30 Aug Belhaven - Dunbar: Leader Fiona McGibbon.
- Sat 13 Sep Dobb's Linn (in memory of Prof. Euan Clarkson): Leader Jim Floyd.

- Wed 17 Sep Traverse a basin with core: BGS Core Store visit: Leader Kirstie Wright.

Three longer excursions were held during the session:

- Sat 5 & Sun 6 Oct Teesdale weekend trip: Leaders Dave Evans (Durham University) and Brian Young (ex-BGS).
- Sat 3 - Neogene basin fill and Cabo de Gata Volcanics of the Almeria Province: Leader Dorrik Stow (Joint Edinburgh and Glasgow Geological Societies excursion).
- Sat 10 May North Pennines Carboniferous sedimentology and cyclicity: Leaders Stu Clark and Graham Leslie.
- Sat 13 - Mon 15 Jun



Members of the Edinburgh and Liverpool geological societies atop James Hutton's world-famous unconformity at Siccar Point, photo courtesy of Emma Bedda.

Steve Livera provided an account of October's Teesdale excursion in our Edinburgh Geologist, issue 77, pages 22-29.

Austen Brown of the Glasgow Geological Society has provided the following account of the **Almeria** excursion: On the 3rd May, 7 intrepid members of EGS joined with a Glasgow GS contingent at Alicante Airport for onward travel by hired car to Almeria - located in a lovely bay in the southeast-most

corner of Spain. This area 'suffers' from a severe lack of rainfall and consequent lack of natural vegetation, which makes for readily viewed structural exposures (unlike Scotland). It also gave rise to the 'Spaghetti Westerns' of yesteryear - sites of which are now tourist attractions.

This week-long trip was organised by Emma Bedda and led by Prof Dorrik Stow, to whom we are all most indebted for their knowledge and effort on our collective behalf. Our site visits focused mainly on quite recent geological processes in the coastal region (within approximately the last 10Ma), whereas revealing glimpses of the ancient bedrock of the Hercynian Massif (Iberian Continent) were noted in exposures during our 2.5 hr drive south to Almeria. As one might expect for 500 Ma rocks, they are highly metamorphosed and folded black schists, quartzites and marbles, with some volcanics thrown in for good measure!



Members of the Edinburgh and Glasgow geological societies posing at a spectacular river-cut exposure on the Almeria, SE Spain excursion; photo courtesy of Emma Bedda.

Much of the Geology of southern Spain and the Mediterranean in general is currently influenced by the northward migration and subduction of North Africa under Europe. However, none of this movement results in a simple story, with a mass of faults, earthquakes and sub-plates being formed as a consequence. One such, the Carboneras Fault results in a 'zone', up to 2 km

wide of mangled and pulverised rock, some of which is dated as Triassic mixed with Neogene sediment and metamorphic basement material. The river channel exposures are spectacular; however, equally devastating has been the damage caused by major earthquakes (last one in 1865). With approximate intervals of 150 years, another may be expected soon!

Transtensional strike-slip faults (part of the NE-SW trending Trans-Alboran shear zone) resulted in very deep, steep sided basins being formed, whilst African collisional uplift of the surrounding mountains and a historically much wetter climate resulted in sediment accumulation within these marine basins (turbidites, marls with slumps) - which now continue to be uplifted and exposed along with the local Cordillera (mountains). One spectacular horizon has an approximately 50 m-wide exposure of black schist debris as half a mountainside has crashed into the Tabernas Basin.

The Messinian Salinity Crisis, as the Mediterranean partially dried around 6 Ma ago, resulted in the crystallisation of vast deposits of gypsum in the Sorbas Basin. We were fortunate to join a guided tour of water-eroded caves in which the quite massive crystals flashed and shone in the light of our head torches. Spain apparently produces around 30% of the world gypsum output, and so it is mined extensively despite the area being a Natural Park now.

The extreme SE of the province (S of the Carboneras Fault) is flanked by a series of now extinct volcanoes (ages of 16- 7 Ma but one as young as 2 Ma). These have generally been submarine eruptions, and do not exhibit the explosiveness which one might have anticipated (though there is some evidence of this). The magma generally has been of andesite and dacite composition. These volcanoes do not appear to have been large, perhaps only just emerging above the marine surface, before being eroded and subsequently colonised by coral reefs giving rise to the modern limestone capping - now at about 1-200 m above current sea level!

In addition to the above, we were able to spend an afternoon exploring the area's former Rodalquilar Gold Mine. Started as a Pb-Zn-Ag mine in the early 1800s, gold in the quartz veins was discovered and there have been various phases of exploitation, resulting latterly in a cyanide/carbon heap leach operation. In 100 years of mining, the output was around 10 tonnes of gold!

Our last half day resulted in a trip to another volcanic caldera - The El Joyazo Garnet Volcano - again with a cap reef structure around the rim. It appears that this small volcano had endured a minor explosive eruption resulting in a caldera (with a later small 'peak' in the centre), but not removing all of the surrounding coral reef. Small garnet crystals abound in the stream bed and in the rock debris around the side walls. This garnet discovery brought 'El Joy' to one member of our party who collected vociferously!

Then back to Almeria and we had a final evening Italian style dinner with all concerned and a toast to Dorrik and Emma for their efforts in enduring our questions and company for a week.

Emma Bedda has supplied the following account on the “From planetary science to core - **N. Pennines** sedimentology & cyclicity” trip: What does a thunderstorm weather warning, a bedroom named Fluorite and artistic impressions of the Yoredale cyclothem have in common? The Carboniferous geology of the North Pennines of course! A worryingly damp start to the weekend did not deter EGS members from their thirst for geological knowledge or tasty local beer.... Saturday morning greeted us with damp in the air, after a particularly heavy rainfall. We adorned our wet weather gear and walking poles in search of world class examples of Mississippi type (MVT) orefields at the Nenthead Mine in the village of Nenthead. Stories of miners tracking mineral veins along criss-crossing faults and the excitement of searching through the River Nent alluvium deposits for metalliferous ores kept our spirits up. The happy sounds of geos finding pyrite, siderite, chalcopyrite and fluorite to name a few.... Debate and discussions ensued on what caused this mineralisation, was it driven by heat flows from Caledonian granites underlaying the Carboniferous sediments, or perhaps the new theory of mantle-sourced mineralisation?

The main topic of the weekend was the cyclical nature of sedimentology, with the rare opportunity to see examples of the Yoredale cyclothem lithological succession at various scales. Our discussions moved to the alternate rock layers of limestone, siltstone, sandstone and coal, moving repeatedly from marine to deltaic environments and back again. We identified them in prominent landscape features, hands-on via outcrops and in evening chats over core and geophysical wireline logs (while enjoying the infamous EGS curry night). On Saturday evening Stu Clark blew everyone’s mind with a deep dive into cyclostratigraphy. We discussed the fundamental concept of Earth’s orbital eccentricity variations as a primary driver of long-term climate change and got an insight into how sedimentation rates could be linked to the 405 ka cycle with the clever use of spectral decomposition of gamma ray logs. At this point it had been a long day, folks drifted off to the mineral rooms, and I returned to Fluorite.

On Sunday we travelled north into the Northumberland Trough (with a sneaky peak at Hadrian’s Wall), comparing the sedimentary sequences infilling the Alston Block from yesterday. We noted the differences in accommodation space and so cyclical infill as sedimentation rates and eustatic sea-level fluctuations were affected by the Carboniferous ‘block and basin’ structure of Northern England. A fascinating weekend of hands-on learning linked to the natural landscape, truly the best way to study sedimentology.

Publications

One of its editorial team, Ian Neill, provided the following information on the Scottish Journal of Geology’s year, based on data supplied to him by its publisher, the Geological Society. The past year showed a marked upturn to 18 papers submitted for publication in the Journal, close to the target submission rate of 20 papers/year - in the previous year only 11 papers had been submitted. Thirteen papers were accepted for publication, and downloads of these via the Lyall Collection have varied between 82 and 780, with the most popular by Daly *et al.* describing Paleoproterozoic reworking of juvenile Neoproterozoic Lewisian orthogneiss. As in the previous session, your Society has organised the printing of 60 copies of Volume 60 for sale at a subsidised price of £10/copy. Sales of Volume 60 have been sufficiently strong that Council has agreed to organise a print run of Volume 61 in the next session.

Bob Gatliff compiled and edited Issues 77 and 78 of our twice-yearly The Edinburgh Geologist magazine, and these were distributed to members in September and March. Two editions (Spring & Autumn) of the EGS Newsletter were again produced by our Promotions Co-ordinator, Angus Miller. These were distributed to members as hard copy, but are also available online, via the Society’s website. In addition to keeping members informed about the Society’s activities, the Newsletter is proving useful in promoting the Society to a wider readership of non-members. The Geoconservation Groups continued to work on leaflets; a full list can be found on our website, see:

www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/publications/geoconservation-leaflets.

At £1,475, EGS book sales revenue was more than £500 down on our 190th Session. Part of this deficit can be explained by popular titles such as the Ardnamurchan and Fife & Angus excursion guides going out of print in recent years. There was also limited availability of the Eigg excursion guide, but a revised version should be printed in Spring 2026. The much-revised Berwick Coast Rocks has proved to be particularly popular this year. An additional £420 was gained as the Society’s share of proceeds from our four excursion guides published jointly with National Museums of Scotland (NMS). All of our books are available for sale to members (who receive a 20% discount on listed price) and non-members at www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/publications.

Geoconservation Groups (report by Mike Browne and Angus Miller)

The Lothian and Borders GeoConservation group continued its work on identifying and promoting Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS): these are Local Nature Conservation Sites identified by Local Authorities to safeguard geodiversity of at least local importance. Our Business Committee, with representation from all of the five Local Authorities in our area, met online on 16 December 2024. These Local Authorities have suites of LGS that are

recognised in Local Development Plans, either published or in preparation. Our Volunteer Group had 5 in-person or online meetings during the winter, with in-person meetings held in a room at George Square provided free by the University of Edinburgh through the Edinburgh Local initiative. The main activity was the production of a new leaflet for St Andrew Square, authored by Andrew McMillan. In April, Andrew and the new leaflet were featured on the BBC Scotland Out of Doors programme.

A trial 'Geoblitz' was organised at North Berwick on 28 September to bring volunteers together to visit local sites, monitor their condition and collect photographs and other information for the Scottish Geology Trust's Geosites map (geosites.scottishgeologytrust.org); it is intended to organise more activities like this in the coming year.

Grants and Awards

Small grants to support geological fieldwork were made from the Clough and Mykura Funds:

Guy Errington (University of Hull)	£500 (Mykura)	Self-funded MSc study of the structural evolution and strain history of the Lower Dalradian Lismore Limestone Formation (Ballachulish Gp.) during repeated Great Glen Fault Zone activity
Rebecca Richardson (University of St Andrews)	£250 (Clough), £250 (Mykura) & £123 unrestricted	An MGeol study of the factors controlling macro- and micro-fabrics of the Rum Eastern Layered Intrusion, and influences on chromite and PGE Mineralisation
Zak Thompson and Eleanor Bower (University of St Andrews)	£500 (Clough)	MGeol study on the geochemistry of the migmatites within the Barrabisa Complex, NE Sardinia

The £500 grant (Clough) to Yuchen Wang (University of Glasgow) in the 2023-24 session was paid out this year.

The EGS Grant Scheme supports projects from unrestricted funds which further the aims of the Society, namely, to encourage public interest in geology and to advance geological knowledge. Council considered grant applications on four occasions during the session. The following table records the awards that were approved:

Briony Bowler (Keele University)	£870.52	Fieldwork in Utah, USA to develop new models for the evolution of terminal fluvial fans
Patrick Corbett (Scottish Centre of Geopoetics)	£1,000	'Expressing the Earth' film; assistance with post-production costs
Cendi Dana (University of Edinburgh)	£1,000	Mineralogical and geochemical analyses for critical metal pathfinders at the Gairloch Kerry Road metamorphosed deposit
Gairloch Museum	£1,000	Interpretation boards and route markers for 'A walk through Time' 4.5km trail
Milly Mead (University of Edinburgh)	£1,000	Progressive Palaeontology (ProgPal) 2025 - UK postgraduate research conference held in Edinburgh
Angus Miller (Scottish Geology Trust)	£2,000	Arran Geoblitz; survey of geosites to support aspiring UNESCO geopark status
Philippe Mongeau (University of Edinburgh)	£1,000	Sulphide trace element analysis in study of critical and precious metals in the Caledonian-Appalachian orogeny
Scottish Geology Trust	£650	Scottish Geology Festival 2025
Fergus Slater (University of Edinburgh)	£1,000	Support for 4 undergraduate mapping projects studying early-stage continental rifting at North Qooroq, southern Greenland
Jack Lee Smith (University of Edinburgh)	£475	Annual University of Edinburgh postgraduate research students Grad School Forum

A further grant of £300 will be paid in our next session to Ian Kellie to assist in the development and launch of a James Hutton cycle trail.

EGS awards annually a £250 Science Prize for top marks achieved in the Scottish Environmental Science Advanced Higher examination. Emma J Brander of James Gillespie's High School achieved the top marks in 2025.

Clough Medal

The Clough Medal was awarded this session to Michael (Mike) AE Browne in recognition of his wide-ranging, outstanding contribution to geology and geoconservation. He is a geological polymath; in a career spanning over 50 years at the British Geological Survey he has carried out extensive mapping of both bedrock and superficial deposits across the Midland Valley, and has embraced topics as diverse as basin evolution, fluvial sedimentology, terrestrial ecosystems, radiometric dating of igneous rocks, deep borehole records and cores, landslides, subsidence, quarries and opencast mining, among much else. His work has materially increased the knowledge of the geology of Scotland, especially in relation to the Devonian and Carboniferous. This is reflected in his co-authorship of the relevant chapters of both the 4th and 5th editions of 'The Geology of Scotland'. He has worked on both national and local government projects, particularly in connection with geothermal energy, where his work over many years continues to form an important reference source. Mike is also committed to education, having supervised a number of PhD students, and to the promotion of geology to the wider community through his commitment to geoconservation and geodiversity, where his work has made a major contribution to protecting Scotland's geoheritage through the creation of Local Geodiversity Sites. He was Chair of GeoConservation UK for a number of years and continues to chair Lothian and Borders GeoConservation. Mike's contribution and achievements make him a worthy recipient of the Clough Medal, in recognition of his extensive contributions to understanding, protecting and promoting the geology of Scotland, and in providing a solid foundation which underpins current work to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Frank May Fund

Our long-running Clough and Mykura restricted funds have been joined this year by a third, provided as a generous endowment of £15,000 by the estate of Annette May, widow of ex-British Geological Survey field geologist and EGS member Frank May. Frank's legacy will provide grants specifically related to geological fieldwork in Scotland, and with preference to workers under the age of 35.

Financial Review

The Society produced a deficit in 2024-25 of £14,563 resulting from various factors including: initial expenditure on the Hutton Tercentenary Project, increased Grants and Awards expenditure, increased Administration costs, and increased Excursions expenditure.

These factors, together with increased outlays towards Grants, Excursions and Lectures, contributed to a decrease in total Resources from £157,256 to £132,519. This was despite the very generous £15,000 donation from the Estate of the late Annette May.

The value of the Society's investments remained relatively unchanged over the last twelve months despite indiscriminate moves across markets, sectors and individual companies; these have proved short term and lacking fundamental support. In the West, interest rates are now being cut as inflationary pressures ease, providing greater stability.

The Council's policy is that it should maintain a minimum level of Unrestricted Resources of £50,000 to safeguard against financial risks. The current level of Unrestricted Resources comfortably exceeds this with a value of £76,433, comprising of £63,064 held in investments and £13,369 in current assets. Council's overall Strategy requires it to keep the level of its Resources under regular review. Council has determined that it will continue to fund the Promotional Co-ordinator costs from its Resources.

Within the total assets of £132,519 there are three Restricted Funds, the new Frank May Fund along with the established Clough and Mykura Funds, as described in Note 6 to the accounts. These funds make up a total of £56,086 of our Resources, having increased by £15,173 during the year.

The Council is guided by its Strategic Plan for EGS 2024-29, and by an annual budgeting process under which it allocates and controls expenditure. Its investments are managed by Rathbones Investment Management on a discretionary basis.

Approved by the Council of the Edinburgh Geological Society
and signed on its behalf by:

Mark Wilkinson, President

Date:

M Wilkinson
26-3-2026

Statement of Financial Activities including Receipts and Payments
Account for the year ended 30th September 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £ 2025	Restricted £ 2025	Total £ 2025	Total £ 2024
<u>Receipts</u>					
Voluntary Income					
Members' subscriptions		12,932	0	12,932	13,196
Gift aid		2,046	0	2,046	2,067
Donations		2,862	15,000	17,862	35,232
Investment Income		3,660	1,478	5,138	4,826
Income from Charitable Activities					
Excursions	3	4,223	0	4,223	3,540
Fundraising trading					
Sales of Publications		2,182	0	2,182	2,791
Total Incoming Resources		27,905	16,478	44,383	61,652
<u>Payments</u>					
Investment management costs		943	0	943	925
Storage		1,282	0	1,282	1,288
Fundraising trading:					
Cost of sales (inc. leaflets)		2,343	0	2,343	1,584
Charitable activities:					
Lectures		708	0	708	2,941
Newsletters		795	0	795	795
Edinburgh Geologist		1,649	0	1,649	1,345
Excursions	3	9,034	0	9,034	6,288
Events & Initiatives		28,533	0	28,533	12,543
Grants and Awards		10,368	2,000	12,368	8,274
Charitable donations		0	0	0	1,994
Fellows Night		133	0	133	181
Promotions		5,094	0	5,094	3,250
Administration		5,700	0	5,700	4,322
Governance		2,097	0	2,097	1,557
Total Resources Expended		68,679	2,000	70,679	47,287

Continued overleaf

	Unrestricted £ 2025	Restricted £ 2025	Total £ 2025	Total £ 2024
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment sales and (purchases)	(40,774)	14,478	(26,296)	14,365
Proceeds from sale of investments	11,733	0	11,733	719
Purchase of investments	0	0	0	0
	11,733	0	11,733	719
Surplus/(deficit) for year	(29,041)	14,478	(14,563)	15,084

Statement of Balances as at 30th September 2025

	£ 2025	£ 2024
Cash Funds		
Cash and bank balances at start of year	50,261	35,177
(Deficit)/surplus shown on receipts & payments account	(14,563)	15,084
Cash and bank balances at end of year	35,698	50,261
Stock		
Stock of publications	2,291	2,046
Other stock	929	163
	3,220	2,209

Investments - Analysis of Movements of Investments

Market value at beginning of year	106,995
Add: additions to Investments at cost	0
Less: disposals at market value after gain/loss	(11,669)
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	1,495
	96,821

The notes on pages 19-20 form part of these accounts.

Approved by Council and signed on its behalf by

C Ranken, Treasurer 25.03. 2026

Christin Ranken

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements

1) Accounting Policies

- (a) The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
 (b) Funds brought forward balances at 1 October 2024 differ to the closing fund balances presented in the 30 September 2024 accounts due to an accounting adjustment to remove an historic non-cash balance.

2) Geoconservation Group

Lothian and Borders GeoConservation is constituted as a committee of the Society and has its own office-bearers.

3) Excursions

Particulars of the Society's excursions etc are as follows:-

	2024/25		2023/2024	
	Contributions £	Cost £	Contributions £	Cost £
Day Excursions	493	2,688	0	2,573
Weekend Excursions	1,230	1,664	540	0
Long Excursion	2,500	4,682	3,000	3,715
Fellows' Night	0	133	0	181
TOTAL	4,223	9,167	3,540	6,469

4) Publications

Stocks of publications have been valued at cost.

5) Trustee Remuneration and related party transactions

No members of Council received any remuneration during the year. Costs totalling £378.85 incurred on behalf of the Society were refunded to two members of Council.

No trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year. One member of the Society entered into a contract for services to provide promotion activity to the Society.

6. Funds

Endowment Funds

The purpose of the Clough Memorial Fund is to provide a medal annually to a geologist whose original work has materially increased the knowledge of the geology of Scotland and the North of England, and to award grants for fieldwork. One medal was awarded, and two grants were made from the Clough Fund during the year (see page 14). Two grants were made from an additional Mykura Fund, which supports fieldwork in Scotland (see page 14).

Accounting

The gross income from investments and bank interest received during the year, together with net gains (losses) on disposal or revaluation of investments, has been apportioned to the various Endowment funds in the ratio of their opening balances.

The assets of the Society have been apportioned to the various Endowment funds in the ratio of their closing balances.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Clough £	Endowment Funds		Total £
			Mykura £	F May £	
Investment income	3,660	602	600	276	5,138
Sponsored projects	0	0	0	0	0
Other Incoming resources	24,245	0	0	15,000	39,245
Total incoming resources	27,905	602	600	15,276	44,383
Grants and awards	10,368	1,250	750	0	12,368
Sponsored projects	0	0	0	0	0
Other outgoing resources	58,311	0	0	0	58,311
Total outgoing resources	68,679	1,250	750	0	70,679
Gain/loss on Investments	1,066	247	246	0	1,559
Net movement in funds	(39,708)	(401)	96	15,276	(24,737)
Funds brought forward	116,141	21,430	19,685	0	157,256
Funds carried forward	76,433	21,029	19,781	15,276	132,519

Represented by:

Investments	63,064	16,903	16,854	0	96,821
Current assets	13,369	4,126	2,927	15,276	35,698
	76,433	21,029	19,781	15,276	132,519

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Edinburgh Geological Society

I report on the Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30th September 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - i. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - ii. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to draw a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

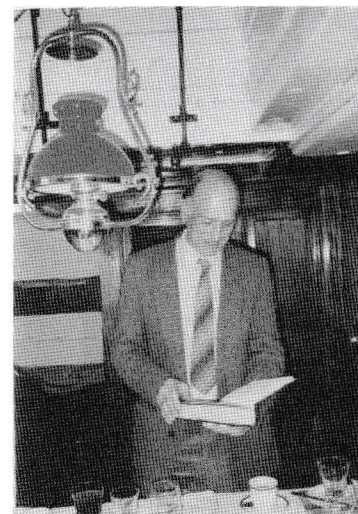
Elaine Alsop ACA DChA FCIE
EA Independent Ltd
5 South Charlotte Street
Edinburgh EH2 4AN

 2026

Obituaries

During the year we recorded with the greatest regret the deaths of Peter Brown, John Fisher, Anthony (Tony) Harris, Sir John Jennings, David Leather, Jim Martin, (James) Douglas Peacock, William (Bill) Petrie, Christine Thompson and Jack Treagus. They will all be sorely missed.

Peter Evans Brown (1930-2025) was born and raised in Kendal in the Lake District, where he developed a keen interest in rock climbing that served him well in his future career. Clive Rice (Aberdeen University) writes: Peter graduated from Manchester University in 1952 with first class honours in Natural Sciences. A PhD followed in 1955, based partly on the Skaergaard intrusion, which he studied on the Wager and Deer Greenland expedition of 1953. This experience inspired much of his future research. While at Manchester he met his wife, Thelma, and he represented the university at cricket as a formidable left arm fast bowler.



After university came three years of field work and mapping with the Geological Survey in Tanganyika. In 1959 he was appointed to a lectureship in geology at Sheffield University, where he had a major impact on research in geochemistry and mineralogy and also teaching, especially the practicals. He established a geochemical laboratory and adopted the USGS "rapid" methods of silicate analysis.

A Chair of Geology at Aberdeen University followed in 1973, and in 1975 he became Head of Department and later served as Dean of Science. He was an important modernising influence and introduced a strong multidisciplinary research ethic by staff appointments, which enabled advantage to be taken of the great opportunities offered later by North Sea oil. He was also a respected Chair of the NERC

Grants Committee. For his leadership at Aberdeen and his wider contribution to geology he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in 1978.

In 1990 Peter transferred to a Chair in Geology at St Andrews University, where he enthusiastically shared his skills with the petrological microscope with students. His climbing skills were again valuable while supervising research in challenging locations.

Peter took part in six further expeditions to Greenland where his leadership, climbing and geological skills were invaluable. In a Danish Geological Survey expedition in 1980, he mapped the Kap Washington volcanic sequence on Gertrude Rask Land, the most northerly land in the world.

Peter's enduring research interest was in structural, petrologic and geochemical studies, especially of the Caledonian igneous and metamorphic rocks of Scotland and the Proterozoic rapakivi granites and Tertiary layered basic intrusions and volcanic rocks of east Greenland. He published with colleagues in the 1960s a series of papers on the radiometric ages of igneous and metamorphic rocks in northern Britain. Through his keen understanding of field relationships and the influences of metamorphism and structural events, he explained incompatibilities between some ages and these relationships. His research led to a reassessment of magmatism in the Scottish Highlands and his 1991 review "Caledonian and Earlier Magmatism" in the *Geology of Scotland* was an important synthesis, which formed the basis of many future studies.

As Chair of the RSE Organising Committee, Peter resolved a controversial issue between the two UK Royal Societies. In the mid-1980s, both were planning major conferences on the origin of granites. He negotiated skilfully a combined conference at the RSE in Edinburgh, the first scientific meeting jointly hosted by these august societies in over two centuries. Its success led to quadrennial meetings of the Hutton Origin of Granites conference in each of the major continents.

Peter's vision and unwavering support for the Isotope Geology Unit at the SURRC, East Kilbride, particularly during various financial crises, ensured that Scotland punched well above its weight in the geosciences for decades. His scientific collaboration with SURRC initiated sulphur stable isotope research at the Centre, and led to the important NERC contract to operate the Isotope Geosciences Support Facility.

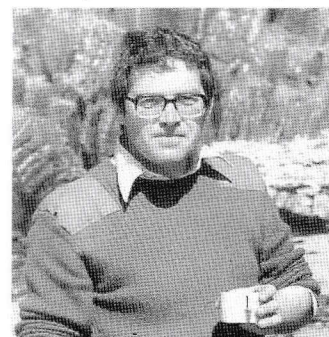
After retirement, Peter greatly enjoyed field visits to the Highlands with old friends and colleagues including Jack Soper, Ian Dalziel and Tony Harris, where they delved into some old chestnuts of Scottish geology.

Peter was a modest man who never sought credit for important achievements. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a valued colleague, an outstanding petrologist and a good friend. He made a difference in difficult times.

Dr John Fisher of Edinburgh, who passed away in early 2025 aged 89, had been a member of our Society since 1984. John's career had been as a medical practitioner.

Anthony (Tony) Leonard Harris was a renowned hard-rock structural geologist who carried out research in the Precambrian rocks of the Scottish Highlands. Bernard Leake writes, with contributions from Robert (Bob)

Holdsworth and others: Born in 1935 and schooled in Cardiff, Tony graduated in Geology (BSc 1956; PhD 1959) at Aberystwyth University and excelled as hockey goalkeeper, playing at school and University to an international level. His PhD with Nicholas Rast studied the southern Dalradian between Pitlochry and Blair Atholl. In 1959 he married Noreen Jones, joined the Geological Survey in Edinburgh, and also joined the EGS where he served on Council (1964-7), as Scientific Editor (1969-74), and as Lectures Secretary (2006-10). He continued to map Dalradian rocks and parts of the Moine to the northwest, eventually becoming Principal Geologist at the Survey.



Tony Harris on the beach at the Ross of Mull in 1981.

Photo courtesy of Alan Roberts.

Joining Liverpool University as Lecturer (1971), he rose to Professor (1987), publishing many important papers unravelling the structure and stratigraphy of both the Moine and Dalradian strata. This work profoundly contributed to these rock units eventually being assigned Supergroup status. He led an outstanding school of post-graduate field geologists, publishing a voluminous output of new work. He linked the structures seen in these reworked metamorphic rocks of the orogenic hinterland to those seen in the more external Moine Thrust Zone to the NW, and was one of the first geologists to do this.

Through the IGCP, he played a leading role bringing international Caledonian-Appalachian geoscientists together, convening a series of ground-breaking conferences and associated publications (1978-95). He made many contributions to the Geological Society of London, where he served as President (1990-92).

At Liverpool, he served as Head of Department (1983-94), overseeing the rapid growth of the Department, which achieved top ratings during the Earth Science Review (1987) and successive Research Assessment Exercise cycles. He was twice Dean of the Faculty of Science (1994-2000), and after all his Science Departments were top-rated in the first RAE, he became an advisor to other University Earth Sciences departments and HEFCE.

His Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1988) recognised his many contributions to Scottish geology, as did the award of the Clough Memorial Award (1972-3) and Clough Medal of the EGS (1988-9). Fiercely proud of his Welsh heritage, he was made an Honorary Professor at Aberystwyth, and retired in 2001 to live near Cardiff, working as an Honorary Research Professor at Cardiff University.

Tony was an exceptionally sociable - and at times gently mischievous - person, with a great love of good food, drink and conversation. These he

loved to share with his students and colleagues, many of whom became lifelong friends. He was scrupulously loyal to all and supportive of his staff at Liverpool and the Geological Society, where he is still fondly remembered as a great leader. He died on 05/08/2025 aged 90 years after a long illness. He leaves Noreen, his children Elisabeth Sian and David Huw, and four grandchildren.

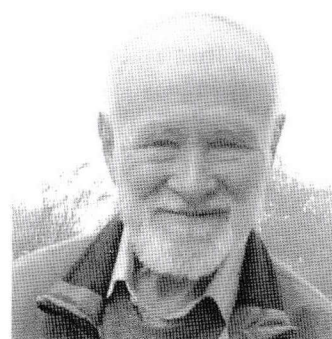
Sir John Jennings, who passed away in August 2024, had been a member of our Society since 1958. An obituary for Sir John was published by the Daily Telegraph on 25th October 2024. In summary, he completed a PhD at the University of Edinburgh before joining the Royal Dutch Shell Group in 1961. From well-site geologist, he rose rapidly through the company to being in charge of UK exploration and production and then chairman of Shell Transport and Trading until his retirement in 1997, the year in which he was knighted. Amongst other post-Shell activities, he was Chancellor of Loughborough University from 2003 to 2010. He spent his final years living in Guernsey.

David Leather taught geology at Ilkley in West Yorkshire until his retirement, and had been a member of our Society since 2015. Apart from 2 papers published in the *Scottish Journal of Geology* in 2020 and 2024 on Orkney geology, David had also written an article in 2018 in our *Edinburgh Geologist* (Issue 64) on the possible fish producer of a Devonian coprolite from Orkney.

Jim Martin, who died in August 2025, had a lifelong interest in geology. Jim came from Dumfries, where he lived close to the sandstone quarry at Locharbriggs. His first job after leaving school was as a lab technician at Morrinton Quarry Dunscore, Dumfries, where he tested the quality of the greywacke that was used for roads. Later in life, he was an active member of the Geological Society of Glasgow for many years, including a stint as Excursions Secretary. Jim and his wife Lynne moved to Edinburgh in 2011, and kept up their association with Glasgow while becoming enthusiastic members of both EGS and the Edinburgh u3a Geology Group. He always enjoyed learning about geology and also enjoyed the interesting chats he had with other people on trips. He was a kind, thoughtful and generous man, remembered for his ability to contribute and support helpfully, without fuss.

James Douglas Peacock, a long-standing member of the Edinburgh Geological Society, passed away on Sunday 27th April 2025 at the age of 97. Professor Jim Rose (Royal Holloway, University of London) writes: Doug was a past ordinary member of EGS Council and also past Scientific Editor of the *Scottish Journal of Geology*. He was awarded our Society's Clough Medal in 1989-90 for his contributions to understanding the geology of Scotland.

Doug was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He began adult life with military service in 1946, beginning his academic career at King's College, Newcastle in 1948. At that time Kings College, Newcastle was part of Durham University, and it was from Durham University that he received a first class honours degree in Geology in 1952.



Doug's research began as an undergraduate with fieldwork in the Cairngorms and Svartisen in north Norway. After graduating, he took part in the British North Greenland Expedition from 1952 to 1954, and it was while part of this project that Doug began his PhD degree covering an area of over 6000 km² in north-east Greenland, travelling with husky dogs and surviving in tented accommodation with provisions sourced from base camp. As a result of this achievement he was awarded, by the sovereign, the Polar Medal.

After being awarded his PhD in 1956, Doug joined the British Geological Survey in London, as part of the Atomic Energy Division, where he carried out fieldwork, searching for uranium in Guyana, Jamaica and Botswana. In 1961 he moved to the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, becoming Senior Geologist in 1963. Throughout this time, he worked on the geology of many parts of Scotland, especially in the Highlands and Islands, and was responsible for a number of Geological Survey Memoirs. He was particularly interested in the glacial deposits and the effects of glaciation on crustal deformation and sea-level change, along with the timing of geological events. After being Acting Head of the Highland and Islands Unit from 1984 to 1985, Doug retired from the BGS in 1985.

However, Doug's activities had always extended into the wider academic community. He communicated his work to national and international journals such as *Scottish Journal of Geology* and *Nature*, publishing 72 peer-reviewed papers over his career. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE) in 1977.

After retirement Doug became even more active. He was appointed Honorary Professor of Environmental Geology in the Department of Civil Engineering at Heriot-Watt University 1987-1993. From 1997 to 2012 he was an Honorary Research Associate of the British Geological Survey.

Doug was not afraid of controversy, and in many ways he reflected the alternative school that existed in Scotland when Edinburgh geomorphologists were changing that subject. What was so nice was that he was always happy to engage in debate but never sought to cause offence. In recent

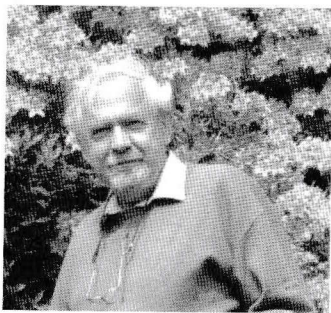
years he maintained his views on the glacial landforms and deposits of Scotland, and at 97 years of age he had a paper published posthumously on the area around Glen Roy in Volume 136 of the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association. This is currently topical in light of controversy over the potential desecration of an SSSI in the Glen Roy area.

William (Bill) Petrie of Balmedie had been a member of our Society since 2021. An obituary for Bill has been published by the Press and Journal. Described by his colleagues as 'an oilfield legend', he had worked in business management in the industry between 1978 and 2015, for the last 12 years of his career with Wireline Engineering. Geology had been his lifelong passion, however, and he completed many modules at Aberdeen University, and self-guided excursions in the north-west Highlands. Bill passed away in December 2024.

Jack Edward Treagus was a structural geologist and Clough Medallist, who made an immense contribution to our understanding of Caledonian deformation in Britain.

Richard Pattrick and Sue Treagus write: Jack Treagus was born in Portsmouth on 20th December 1935. He studied geology at Liverpool University, graduating in 1960. Student fieldwork in the deformed and metamorphosed Dalradian of Connemara and the Precambrian of Holy Island, Anglesey, were to define his future career. He stayed at Liverpool to undertake a PhD on the Moine and Dalradian rocks of the Loch Rannoch area of Perthshire. Jack obtained a lectureship at the University of Manchester in 1966, where he stayed for the rest of his career, teaching structural geology and geological mapping. He was much loved by students for his patience and kindness.

Jack's research forte was in the field, and his work on the Caledonides of northern Britain brought new interpretations based on meticulous field observations of meso- and micro-structures. He leaves a seminal body of work in unravelling the stratigraphy, metamorphism and structural evolution of the Dalradian of the Southwest and Central Highlands of Scotland, from Kintyre to Aberdeenshire. The multiple episodes of Caledonian deformation that Jack identified and correlated right across this terrane now define our understanding of the Dalradian. A host of high-quality publications are characterised by detailed evidence and



structural cross-sections, and this work is also made accessible in the impressive GA Guide No 7, *The Dalradian of Scotland* (2009). Jack managed and contributed extensively to the BGS-funded mapping project redefining a most complex area of the Grampians and resulting in *Treagus et al.*

Schiehallion: Solid Geology Map: Sheet S55w (1: 50 000 Series Geological Maps, Scotland) in 2001, with an accompanying full-scale memoir. He also reassessed the relative dip and slip components of major sinistral fault suites (Loch Tay, Ericht and Tyndrum Faults) of the Central Highland Terrane, and their relationship to epigenetic mineralisation.

Jack also produced a structural reinterpretation of the contorted Hawick Group rocks of the Southern Uplands. He was editor for *'Caledonian Structures in Britain: South of the Midland Valley (Geological Conservation Review Series No. 3, 1992)* and he contributed to other conservation review volumes.

Jack had many successful collaborations, but one that started in 1970 and lasted for 55 years was with wife Sue (née Beech). Structural geology brought them together and they co-authored a number of papers on folding, strain, and deformed conglomerates. They also tackled another Precambrian-Cambrian complex, re-interpreting the highly deformed Monian Supergroup of Anglesey, and producing the delightful book *'The Rocks of Anglesey's Coast'*.

In 2003 Jack was awarded the Clough Medal, for his work on the Geology of Scotland. Jack passed away aged 89 on 7th March 2025. He is survived by wife Sue, daughters Helen and Jane, and three grandsons.

Christine Lesley Thompson: her husband Roy writes: Christine went on to become the first ever female president of the Edinburgh Geological Society (2014 to 2016), as well as one of its Distinguished Fellows. Christine was born in March 1947 and brought up in Bridgnorth, a small Shropshire market town. Her semi-rural childhood was full of exploration and adventure. This was where she first developed her love of nature, geology and the outdoors.



From an early age she and her school friends enjoyed bike rides through the countryside to forage for mushrooms and nuts; roller skating races along the old lanes; fishing trips to the Severn armed with cane, string and wiggly worms, although not terribly successful, always fun; making rafts out of barrels and of course a bit of mischief as they explored the crumbling red sandstone caves that were strictly off limits to children.

Christine believed in the value of observing the world around, as much as traditional education, a philosophy she maintained through her life. Bridgnorth Grammar School beckoned next where Christine was, as one of her school friends described her, *"the brains of the class both academically and in the arts"*. As a role model she naturally went on

to become Head Girl. After completing her school days, Christine had the opportunity to spend a year in Italy as an exchange student at the Università di Perugia. This experience profoundly shaped her, igniting her love for Italian culture, especially its cuisine.

Upon her return, she enrolled at Reading University to read Geology, where her appreciation for nature flourished, particularly during field excursions to the Scottish islands and glens, with the Isle of Arran being a standout location. At Reading she met, and later married in 1971, a fellow geology student - Roy. Christine excelled in competitive sports. She played both hockey and tennis for her school, and throughout her time at university occupied the demanding position of left-half in the hockey 1st team.

Subsequently, after earning a postgraduate certificate in education (from Crewe College), Christine worked as the geology curator at Sunderland Polytechnic for three years. The couple moved to Edinburgh in 1973, where Christine joined the Royal Scottish Museum staff. Here she was the Educational Officer in Science and Technology. Her remit covered topics as diverse as Communications, Transport, Industry, Engineering, History of Science, Aviation and the Earth Sciences. She went on to later become the Director's Research Assistant. Her extensive knowledge wasn't just related to those topics in the workplace. Her general knowledge was amazing; she even had a keen musical ear, being able to recognise almost any musical piece within a few bars.

While in Scotland, Christine's sociable nature led her to join a wide variety of clubs, often taking on onerous voluntary duties. In the Ramblers walking club she formed many lasting friendships, and of course also led many of their outings. As well as being membership secretaries of the Edinburgh Geological Society and the Scottish Industrial Heritage Society, Christine's dedication extended to being secretary and archivist of the Ptarmigan Mountaineering Club for many years. She was always appreciated as both a friendly and highly efficient servant. She approached all such responsibilities with grace and skill. Her contributions have left a lasting mark on each organisation. As Bob Gatliff, who succeeded her as president of the Edinburgh Geological Society noted "*it was difficult to replace her enthusiasm and huge input, I was very proud to follow in her footsteps*".

Even after retirement, Christine remained active, volunteering at the Museum, focusing on the Rhynie Chert and the remarkably detailed plant and animal material preserved within. Stimulated by her many experiences with alpine flowers while on backpacking and wild camping holidays in the Pyrenees, Alps and Sierra Nevada (USA), she established a Rhododendron monitoring programme for citizen scientists at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Here she inspired the other volunteers with her patience and wisdom, and was loved for a wonderful sense of fun and for keeping everyone grounded. She recently published her photographic guide to the

Rhododendron Phenology Project, which will be a model for other botanical gardens around the world.

Christine was a strong, independent woman with a unique perspective, always willing to share her views while also being an attentive listener. She enjoyed company but was equally content in her solitude. Her vibrant spirit, sense of humour, and kindness earned her the respect and affection of everyone who knew her. Christine passed away in October 2024.

Acknowledgements

The affairs of the Society are organised predominantly by voluntary effort, assisted by one paid part-time independent contractor (Angus Miller). Members of Council jointly contribute hundreds of hours of time to the running of the Society, much of this in quiet ways behind the scenes. Council is supported by many other people, including lecturers, excursion leaders and organisers.