

Buckinghamshire Geology Group – forthcoming events

as of 19.02.2024

Cost: Unless otherwise stated, all events are FREE to members. Non-members may be asked to pay a charge of £3.00 for attending field meetings and indoor events (please contact the BGG secretary mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org for further information).

Booking: Booking is usually required for all field meetings and indoor events. This avoids meetings becoming oversubscribed and allows the organiser to contact attendees with any last-minute changes.

Clothing: Some trips, especially quarry visits, may require protective clothing such as helmets and high-vis jackets. Please enquire with the event leader or see event flier nearer the time for details.

Saturday 9th March, 2.30 – 3.30pm Sarsen Stone Quarrying in Southern England – a lost Buckinghamshire Industry. This talk by Dr Katy Whitaker (formerly of University of Reading and now Historic England) is being run as a joint event with the Bucks Archaeological Society. The speaker has carried out extensive research into the sources and uses of sarsen stones for both ancient monuments and more recent inclusions in towns and villages. The talk will cover the geology of sarsen stones and their distribution before telling the story of the once important but now vanished post-medieval sarsen stone industry that once flourished in Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire.

Venue: Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury (see <https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/getting-here>) for directions. There is no charge for this event but if you are not a member of the Bucks Archaeological Society, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org to guarantee your place. Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the start time and allow extra time at the end if paying for car parking.

Saturday 27th April, A visit to Great Tew Quarry, Oxfordshire. This is an Amateur Geological Society event led by Gabriel Hodes to which BGG members have kindly been invited. Sturdy boots and high-vis coats/vests essential. Further details to follow. BOOKING ESSENTIAL - to register your interest please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Saturday 11th May, 11am to 4pm A sarsen odyssey to Avebury and West Woods, Wiltshire. Following on from March's sarsen-quarrying talk, Dr Katy Woods will be leading a walk around the Neolithic sarsens of Avebury in the morning with an afternoon visit to West Woods, near Marlborough, source of the Stonehenge sarsens. BOOKING ESSENTIAL - for further details and to book your place please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Saturday 22nd June, times tbc Exploring the geology of South Bucks. This is a joint meeting with the Amateur Geological Society led by Mike Howgate. This full-day trip will explore West Wycombe Hill and the Hell-Fire Caves, the Lyde gardens in Bledlow and Bradenham with its eponymous puddingstones. BOOKING ESSENTIAL - for further details and to book your place please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Please note that the Hellfire Caves charge for admission - see <https://www.hellfirecaves.co.uk> for details.

July – date to be confirmed A visit to Totternhoe Quarry with Dr Haydon Bailey. We are currently awaiting confirmation of this event along with further details and PPE requirements. BOOKING ESSENTIAL - to register your interest please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Sunday 18th August, 10.30 – 1.30 Great Linford and Stonepit Field, Milton Keynes. Dr Jill Evers will lead walk looking at the local geology through building stones, a little disused quarry, 'stone circle' and Stonepit Field. Jurassic geology with an Ice Age flurry and a few fossils! **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - for further details and to book your place please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Saturday 28th September Megalosaur 200 – A Bucks Rock & Fossil Day Dinosaur Special
The event will combine a traditional Bucks Rock & Fossil Day with a special dinosaur focus to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the naming of the first dinosaur, *Megalosaurus bucklandii*. Explore hands-on displays, meet local geologists and bring in your own mystery objects for identification. No need to book, just turn up. Venue: Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury (see <https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/getting-here> for directions). More information to follow

Saturday 19th October The Devil is in the Detail – How to read geological maps. Mike Howgate will lead this workshop providing an introduction to what's what on a geological map, using the British Geological Survey's Aylesbury sheet as an example. Venue: Discover Bucks Museum Resource Centre, Halton. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - for further details and to book your place please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Other geological events that may be of interest

The Chalk, Cherries and Chairs scheme and **the Chilterns Landscape Partnership** are celebrating the special chalk bedrock of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through a series of events. Remaining events include

- Sunday 24th March: **Celebrating Chilterns Chalk** – Microscopic algae to mammoths
- Thursday 11th April: **Chalk on the Railway** at the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway
- For more information see [Chilterns Chalk: Celebrating the special landscape of the Chilterns AONB | Chalk Cherries and Chairs](#)

The Hertfordshire Geological Society is organising the following one-day event

- Saturday 20th July: **The Water Table – a one -day event exploring the hydrogeology of the subsurface wate system through the chalk in the Hertfordshire.** For more information see www.hertsgeolsoc.org.uk

The Geologists' Association will be holding their ***Festival of Geology*** on

- Saturday 2nd November at University College, London. A free event featuring geological exhibitors from around the world – including fossil and mineral displays from local geology groups and affiliated geological societies, books, maps, photo-competition and much more! Special exhibits and lecture tbc.