

Bucks Geology Group 2025 events programme

Cost: Unless otherwise stated, all events are *FREE* to members. Non-members may be asked to pay a charge of £4.00 for attending field meetings and indoor events (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 from 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 clothing. Please enquire with the event leader or see event flier nearer the time for details.

Saturday 18th January 4 – 5pm: Exoplanets and the search for life. A Zoom talk by Bucks Geology Group member, Mary Garbett, based on a recent British Astronomical Society event looking at techniques used to find exoplanets, what is currently known about them and the possibilities of detecting signs of life. A link will be sent out to members a few days before the talk. Non-members should contact Ian Hudson at membersbucksgeology@gmail.com several days before the talk to request a link

Saturday 8th February, 2.30 – 3.30pm (plus time for questions): Niplands Kiln, an unexpected encounter with historical brick making in the Chilterns. A talk by geo-environmental consultant and Bourne End resident, James Mortimer. In 2020 and 2023 the former Niplands Brick Works, near Bourne End, suffered two separate collapse events relating to former shafts/ bell pits used to extract clay and chalk which were used in the brick and tile making process. These events led to a flurry of activity including the use of the latest laser technology to map the features ahead of their remediation. This talk looks into the history of the Site and the events which occurred more recently.

This is a joint event with the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and will be held at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury (see <https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/getting-here> for directions). Entrance to the museum for this event is free - please arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the talk and allow extra time at the end if paying for car parking. Alternatively, you can register at <https://bas1.org.uk/lectures-and-talks/> to view the talk online.

Saturday 22nd March, 11am – 3pm: Microfossils for Beginners - a talk and hands-on workshop with professional micropalaeontologist Steve Packer. This event will comprise a one-hour introductory talk followed by hands-on sessions using microscopes to explore a range of microfossil groups. The session will also include a short lunch break so please bring packed lunch (tea and coffee will be available). This event is limited to 12 people - EARLY BOOKING ESSENTIAL. For more information and to book your place, contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Saturday 12th April, 10.30am – 4pm: A Geological Excursion to Bedfordshire exploring the Clophill Geo-trail, Silso Quarry and ending close to the Bucks border for a look at Husborne Crawley's amazing church (inside and out), famous for having the only green Greensand stones this side of Cambridgeshire. Please bring a packed lunch or join us for lunch at a nearby pub. This is a joint trip with the Bedfordshire Geology Group led by Bev Fowlston. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. For more information and to register your interest / book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Sunday 4th May, 12 noon – 3pm: The Bucks Geology Group and Rockwatch, the UK's nationwide geology club for children present **Rock & Fossil Day at Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury**. Explore a range of hands-on geology displays, meet experts from the Bucks Geology Group and bring along your own mystery items for identification. Plus, craft and hands-on activities for children courtesy of **Rockwatch** and the **Discover Bucks Learning Team**. Entry to the event is by a donation. For more information contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org.

Saturday 14th June, 10am – 4pm: A North Bucks Geological Odessey with Jill Eyers exploring Buckingham Sandpit and town centre in the morning followed by a trip to Coombs Quarry in the afternoon. This is a joint event with the Open University Geology Group. PLACES LIMITED – EARLY BOOKING ESSENTIAL. For more information and to book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Saturday 28th June, 4 - 5pm: Bucks Geology Group AGM. Join us on Zoom for a look back over the Group's 2024/early 2025 activities and have your say about what events and projects we run in the future. The AGM will be followed by a 30-minute Zoom peak at Mick Oates' **Barrow upon Humber Geology Museum** which members will be able to visit during the Group's geological excursion to North Lincolnshire in September. Mick will also provide a brief preview of possible sites to visit during the trip. Agenda and reports will be circulated to members prior to the meeting and a link to the AGM sent out a few days before.

Sunday 6th July, 11am start: Walton-on-the-Naze fossil hunt. An opportunity to visit this iconic coastal fossil collecting site with Essex-based geological expert, Gerald Lucy. Walton-on-the-Naze is famous for fossils finds from the London Clay (54million years ago) and the Red Crag (2.5mya) including sharks teeth, bivalves and gastropods. This is a joint trip with the Essex Rock and Mineral Society. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** For more information and to register your interest / book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September: A two-day geological excursion to North Lincolnshire in the company of Bucks Geology Group founding member, Mick Oates. Itinerary to be finalised but will include a quarry visit or two along with a rare chance to explore Mick's own Barrow-on-Humber Geological Museum. More information to follow nearer the time. To register you interest / book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Sunday 5th October, 10am – 12 noon: Hiding in Plain Sight – a geological walk around Aylesbury town centre with Jill Eyers and Mike Palmer to discover rocks and fossils from near and far now residing in our County town. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** For more information and to register your interest / book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Saturday 1st November, 10am – 12 noon: Echinoids and Crinoids – a hands-on fossil workshop with Jill Eyers. **PLACES LIMITED – EARLY BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** For more information and to register your interest / book your place, please contact Mike Palmer at mpalmer@discoverbucksmuseum.org

Saturday 13th December, 4 – 5pm: How glaciers work – a Zoom talk by Jill Eyers - How and why do glaciers form? How do they move and why are some advancing while most are retreating? We will look at the ice mechanics of modern glaciers, and then look at past evidence from Bucks. A link will be sent out to members a few days before the talk. Non-members should contact Ian Hudson at membersbucksgeology@gmail.com several days before the talk to request a link

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Saturday 5th April, 10am – 5pm: Rocks and Trains around the Chilterns: some past excursions revisited – A Geologists' Association event led by Tom Hose. **Morning session:** An exploration of the geology of Aylesbury's town centre plus a visit to Discover Bucks Museum. **Afternoon session:** A walk from Monks Risborough station to Whiteleaf Hill taking in the Whiteleaf Cross, neolithic barrow and quarry plus St Dunstan's Church on our return to Monks Risborough station. Cost (including museum admission fee) - £8.00 for GA members, £15 for non-GA members – see www.geologistsassociation.org.uk for more information

Saturday 1st November, 10.30am – 4.30pm: Geologists' Association's Festival of Geology. A series of free lectures plus exhibits by local geology groups, museums, universities, mineral and fossil dealers, second-hand book sales and hands-on children's activities courtesy of **Rockwatch**, the UK's nationwide geology club for children. Admission free - Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG.

Sunday 2nd November: A choice of three London-based guided geological walks as part of the **Geologists Association's Festival of Geology.** A small charge is made for these walks - further details to follow nearer the time.