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[www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk](http://www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk)

**Since its formation in 1975, the Hertfordshire Geological Society (formerly the Geological Section of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society) has been welcoming both professional geologists and anyone with a general interest in geology and related subjects, including fossils, minerals, rocks and the landscape. Everyone is welcome to join. Children may also attend meetings if they are accompanied by an adult.**

**The goals of the Society are:**

- to develop the knowledge and enjoyment of its members in Earth Sciences
- to be a focal point in the county for all matters relating to its geology

**The aims to achieve these goals are:**

- Schedule monthly lectures on a broad range of geological or related subjects
- Organise regular field trips both within and outside Hertfordshire
- Maintain and seek opportunities to increase society membership
- Seek opportunities to promote Earth Sciences to a wider audience
- Encourage and assist with geo-conservation and accessibility of SSSIs and RIGS sites in Hertfordshire
- Partner with similar organisations (and when appropriate lobby local and/or national entities) to further public awareness of geology, geomorphology, resource sustainability etc.
- Develop and maintain 2 - 3 local geological projects which should be initiated as funds permit

## Talks programme 2020

Evening meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month (except August when there will be no meeting) at **Oaklands College**, Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL4 0JA at 7.30 p.m. HR = Hartoak Room.

<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Dr. Stephen Hicks, Imperial College London.</b> <i>Surrey earthquake swarm.</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Dr. Simon Drake &amp; Dr Andy Beard, Birkbeck College.</b> <i>The Skye meteorite.</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk.</b> <b>Adrian Champion &amp; Nikki Edwards.</b> <i>Armchair trip to Morocco.</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Percy Evans Lecture & Presidential Address: <b>David McCann, Senior Project Manager, Phase One, HS2 Ltd.</b> <i>Problems in tunnelling in Chalk and the overlying clays through the southern section of the HS2 Chilterns Tunnel.</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Dr Luica Perez Diaz, Post Doctorial Researcher, Seismic Group Oxford.</b> <i>Ups and downs of the South Atlantic</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Prof. Bridget Wade, UCL</b> <i>What can sea floor sediments at the Paleocene-Eocene and Eocene-Oligocene boundaries tell us about ocean productivity and climate?</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Dr Tony Waltham, Engineering geologist and karst specialist</b> <i>Civil engineering meets geology at the Panama Canal</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Summer event: Chalk streams, a series of talks in the morning including a talk by Paul Jennings, Chess River Association, followed by a walk in the afternoon</b> <b>Boxmoor Trust Centre, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE</b>	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Dr Richard Twitchett, Natural History Museum.</b> <i>Mass extinctions.</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Dr. Colin Prosser, Principal Specialist Geoconservation, Natural England.</b> <i>Geoconservation title tbc</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Dr. Jonathan Paul, Imperial College London.</b> <i>The effects of stratigraphy and structure on the London Underground</i>	<b>HR</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Prof. Chris Jackson, Imperial College London.</b> <i>Volanics/tectonics talk, title tbc</i>	<b>HR</b>

(NB: any last minute changes to the programme will be posted on the website)  
 Visitors and new members are always welcome. Visitors will be charged £3.00 per visit up to a maximum of three, to offset the cost of the room hire. This charge will be deduced from the annual subscription rate for anyone taking out membership of the society in the same year. Membership entitles you to free entry to our evening talks.

**Membership of the Society is open to anyone: 2020 Subscription rates**

Adult £24.00 per year    Family (one household) £32.00 per year  
 O.A.P. £21.00 per year                      Student £10.00 per year

Please contact us to ask for a membership form or join as a member at one of our monthly meetings: <http://www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk/contacts.htm>

**Current field trip programme for 2020**

<b>Saturday February</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Field trip to Lapworth Museum, Birmingham.</b>	<b>Leader: Jonathan Clatworthy</b>	<b>Organiser: Nick Pierpoint</b>
<b>Saturday February</b>	<b>22<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Little Heath, Potten End geoconservation.</b>	<b>Leader &amp; Organiser: Clive Maton</b>	
<b>Sunday May</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>William Smith's transects across Hertfordshire</b>	<b>Leader &amp; Organiser: Mike Howgate</b>	
<b>Saturday June</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Haldiegh County Park (near Southend)</b>	<b>Leaders: Ian &amp; Ros Mercer</b>	<b>Organiser: Nick Pierpoint</b>
<b>TBC</b>		<b>Hill End, geoconservation.</b>	<b>Leader &amp; Organiser: Dr. Haydon Bailey</b>	
<b>Mid or late September</b>		<b>Long weekend field trip to Lincolnshire &amp; South Yorkshire.</b>	<b>Leader:</b>	<b>Organiser: Nick Piepoint</b>

We also have some local geological trails for you to try out on the website: <http://www.hertsgeolsoc.ology.org.uk/walksandguides.htm>

**2019/20 COMMITTEE**

**Honorary President:** Linda Hamling; **Chairman:** Dr Haydon Bailey: 01923 404547; **Vice Chairman:** Adrian Champion: 01442 874897; **Secretary:** Lesley Exton: 07503 153532; **Treasurer:** Margaret Selby: 01438 353551; **Field Secretary:** vacant; **Other members:** Mike Howgate (County Recorder), Nikki Edwards, Clive Maton & Nick Pierpoint.

## **Geology of Hertfordshire**

Hertfordshire's main topographic features, such as the Chiltern Hills and Vale of St. Albans, its valley patterns and soil types are all determined by the geological history of the area. These natural features in turn influence the county's varied agriculture and semi-natural habitats and the distribution of its older towns, villages and industries.

The oldest deposits occurring at the land surface are the Gault Clay and Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous (about 100 million years ago). The Gault Clay only occurs in two areas in the northeast, near Tring and Ashwell, but it forms a continuous area of low-lying ground all along the foot of the Chiltern Hills, and occurs at depth beneath southeast Hertfordshire. The main Palaeocene deposit is the Reading Beds, occurring mainly in the south-eastern parts of the county near Radlett and Essendon, which consists of multicoloured clays with irregular patches of yellow sands and occasional bands of small black pebbles. Hertfordshire Puddingstone is sometimes found in these beds. London Clay overlies the Reading Beds in south-east Hertfordshire and on some of the outliers to the north-west.

Partially covering the solid formations are the superficial sediments, formed in the last 2 million years (Quaternary). These are much more variable in nature and include gravel deposits of the River Thames which once flowed through the Vale of St Albans, clays and gravels deposited by a glacier, clay-with-flints and loess deposits. This makes the surface horizons of the soils fertile and very suitable for agriculture as it is easier to cultivate and retains more plant-available water than the underlying gravels or stony clays.

**Interested in finding out more?**