

Newsletter

Issue 02 December 2023



Firth of Forth Bridge, Scotland

From the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of the SMLS Newsletter.

This edition follows a similar format to the first, with some extra features to keep you going over the festive period. My thanks to all those contributors of articles for this issue, keep them coming!

I wish you a peaceful and warm Christmas.

Samantha

smlsnews72@gmail.com



Inside this issue

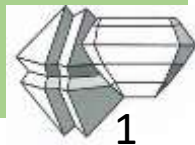
Pg2 – From the Chair

Pg3 – Events, a roundup of what's on over the next couple of months

Pg4-5 – News, a selection of articles covering, minerals, fossils, gemstones and more

Pg6-12 - Articles, topical selection for your interest

Pg13 - Literature





From the Chair

This period (Sept/Oct/Nov) is perhaps the busiest months as we plan next year's program and of course final preparations for the show. There is a separate show report but I would like to say a big thank you to everybody that contributed to make it a great success. In total, including invited exhibitors, speakers, activity events and helpers there are over 40 people that make it all work, without your contribution there would not be a show.

The 2024 program is now published, I think it is a great and varied line up, I hope you agree. One key task was to try and get SMLS field trips back on track post Covid. As well as the local Sussex trips we have planned trips to Skye, Wanlockhead, East Scotland and Northern Ireland, that's a lot of travelling I know but worth it. Skye is now booked as we have to be well ahead to get accommodation, it's a popular and busy place. We will let you know as the other trips progress. John Taylor is talking in December by way of an introduction to the East Scotland trip, Jon Evans is talking in January as an introduction to the Wanlockhead trip and Norman Moles is talking In April (end of April) as an introduction to the Northern Ireland trip. As per my comment in the October Newsletter, please join by Zoom if you cannot attend the meetings, its very easy, just select the link in the e-mail invite.

This year SMLS has benefited from a number of mineral collection donations; John Burgess, David Everitt, Gavin Malcolm and Ivan Tingley. It has been a challenge to prepare minerals for sale but I am happy to say that the majority are now sold, with the last few sold at the show, a big thanks to Nick. There are some UV specimens to shift and that is the final challenge, thanks to Trevor and Fiona for the use of their garage as a mineral store.

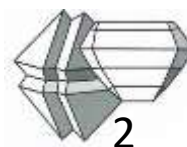
Finally, a thank you to our two speakers, Tony Lee on '20 years of Cornish Collecting' and Peter Nancarrow on 'What can we learn from thin section microscopy.' These talks did highlight some technical issues so we will be investing in a new projector, improved sound system and improved speaker microphone.

Time to relax over Christmas, but please remember subscriptions are due in January so please help Alan by being timely.

Colin



Neist Point, Isle of Skye



Events & Notices

25th-26th November – The London Gem & Mineral Show – details and voucher [here](#)

1st December – SMLS Club Meeting, zoom only

5th January – SMLS Club Meeting, zoom only. “The Mining History and Mineralogy of the Wanlockhead & Leadhills Orefield” By Jon Evans Zoom link [here](#)

23rd January – Society of Jewellery [Historians](#) lecture “For a banquet of vampires: Scottish stones in jewellery” By Sarah Laurenson

2nd February – SMLS Club Meeting, zoom only. “Minerals of Yorkshire” By Steve Warren.

8th-11th February – Tucson Gem & Mineral Show

17th February – Field trip to Sheppey.

17th February – Essex Gem & Mineral [Show](#)

Does anyone have a camcorder?

Brian Craik-Smith is in need of a mini DV camcorder so he can convert the video of a SMLS field trip to mp4. If you can lend Brian one please get in touch (brian_craiksmith@yahoo.co.uk)

Membership Renewals

Renewal subs are due on 1st January 2024, please make sure you send your payment on time and notify Alan of any changes, the form to notify changes is at the end of the Newsletter.

Next Club Meeting – Friday 1st December

“Scotland’s Carboniferous Firth of Forth coast” By John Taylor

The talk will take place at 1945 on Zoom - details [here](#)

Scottish Classics

With thanks to Peter Briscoe for the images



Smoky quartz
Steetley ref [2100](#)



Strontianite
Steetley ref [2281](#)



Paris Show

Information [here](#) and free 28 page downloadable show booklet [here](#)



Hunterian Museum, Glasgow

Fossils

Vectidromeus discovered on the Isle of [Wight](#)

Fossils reveal "gnarly-looking" predators who roamed Earth long before [dinosaurs](#)

Three eyed fossil monster could explain how insects [evolved](#)

Human fossils trip to space raises [questions](#)

Giant fossil spider found in [Australia](#)

Identity of Portland Plesiosaur could be [revealed](#)

Bird like dinosaur fossil challenges evolution [theory](#)

New dinosaur discovery challenges [thinking](#)

What happens when you find a [dinosaur](#)

Fossilised trilobite gut [contents](#)

Historic fossil [squabbles](#)

Use Ctrl + Click on the underlined text to link straight to the articles.

Minerals & Rocks

A trip to the Hunterian Museum [Glasgow](#)

Mining and refining [quartz](#)

Ultimate Guide To Collecting [Selenite](#)

The history of rockhounding in the [US](#)

Fossil Professor explains why scientists lick [rocks](#)

Why are rare earths so [rare?](#)

Cornish Tin granted approval for gold [search](#)

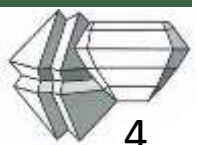
New mineral named after Greek [Scientist](#)

Mining within the NZ Whangarei [Collection](#)

Trevor Devon receives award

Trevor Devon has been awarded the British Micromount Society's Founder's Cup in recognition of his long and careful Curatorship of the National Micromount Reference Collection. Thanks to Trevor, members of the BMS - many of whom are also SMLS members -

have been able to make use of this valuable resource for many years. Trevor is pictured with a magnificent and very heavy trophy!



Gems & Lapidary

The story behind Dragon [Garnets](#)

Opal & Pearl care [guide](#)

How Gemfields is bringing [traceability](#) to gem mining

G7 plans Russian diamond [ban](#)

The 10 biggest diamonds on [earth](#)

Fuli Gemstones unveils new peridot [cut](#)

Greenlands rubies and [sapphires](#)

Rare cache of pink diamonds formed when supercontinent broke apart study [says](#)

Worlds first auction of rough [tourmaline](#)

Tiffany unveils jaw-dropping yellow [diamonds](#)

Wallace Chan discusses his life as an [artist](#)



The Beauty of Greatness Brooch (Wallace Chan)

Something to share?

If you have read or watched something interesting email it to The Editor at smlsnews72@gmail.com and it will be considered for future issues.

Use Ctrl + Click on the underlined text to link straight to the articles.



Videos

Two day fossil hunt and fossil fish prep from Yorkshire [Fossils](#)

Incredible Gem Hoards | A Look Inside Private [Collections](#)

Inside India's lab grown diamond [industry](#)

Objects of Vertu

A happy accident created sparkling [aventurine](#)

Inside Hatton Gardens turbo charged watch [market](#)

94ct Paraiba at Sothebys Geneva [sale](#)

Bulgari 75yrs of [Serpenti](#)



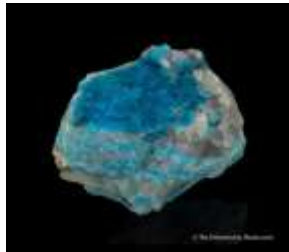
December is for Turquoise

Turquoise is traditionally the gemstone for December. When Turkish traders introduced this “Persian blue” stone to Europe via the Silk Road in the 13th century, they influenced the gemstone’s name. The word “turquoise” comes from the French pierre tourques for “Turkish stone.” Read more about turquoise in the following selection.

All about turquoise from [GIA](#)

Turquoise Minerology from [mindat](#)

This beauty is on [I-Rocks](#)



Mineral Identification Competition

How good are your mineral identification skills? Take part for a chance to win a specimen, points will be accumulated over the year. Identity = 2 points, Country = 1 point, specific locality = 1 point. Email answers to smlsnews72@gmail.com



Specimen 01



Sir Douglas Mawson

I was chatting to an Aussie chap in the pub and he told me about Sir Douglas Mawson and the amazing mineral collections on display in the Australian Museum. Sir Douglas Mawson's heroic 1911–14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition opened up this mysterious, unknown territory and demonstrated a surprising diversity of Antarctic rocks and minerals. It's a bit of a hike to see the collection in person but the Museum's website is fantastic. Check out the other galleries too they have some amazing specimens. It was such a fascinating story I thought I would share the link [here](#).

Ethics – Myanmar Amber

Review article - Ethics, law, and politics in palaeontological research: The case of Myanmar [amber](#)

Blood amber' may be a portal into dinosaur times, but the fossils are an ethical minefield for [palaeontologists](#)



What I learned last month....

I recently acquired the specimen shown below, I knew it was a fossil but no more. A friend helpfully told me it was shipworm borings from Sheppey, which enabled me to learn about London Clay and Teredinidae.



I fondly remember a teacher called Mr Brooks who took a small group of kids (including me) to Sheppey fossil hunting. I was only about eight, it was so exciting! After that I pestered my parents constantly to take me to Folkestone, which they patiently did, and on numerous occasions I spent many happy hours looking for wondrous treasure. I suspect that without the knowledge and enthusiasm from Ken Brooks I would not have embarked on a lifetime of collecting or be writing this newsletter today. I am grateful to him. Below are some articles on shipworm borings.

Overview from [Wikipedia](#)

Carbonate concretions from the London Clay and the exceptional preservation of wood-boring communities, technical paper from [Researchgate](#)

Shipworm - The scourge of wooden [wrecks](#)

Samantha Durrant

Maghemite and the Wealden bloomeries

Many will no doubt be aware of the scores of ancient, iron-working sites in the Weald of Sussex, Kent and Surrey. But it may not be appreciated that there is a particular mineral that has an important and common association with these sites.

When I first joined the Wealden Iron Research Group in their forays to identify new bloomery sites, I couldn't immediately see why the use of a magnet was important. Obviously the presence of slag is one fairly distinctive indicator of a smelting site. But the identification of roasted ore is also useful.

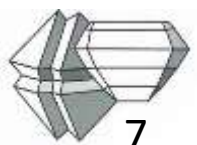
For the smelting process, the natural siderite ore first had to be roasted, an action that transformed the iron carbonate to iron oxide which could then be directly smelted. The resulting iron oxide typically consists of some hematite and magnetite but is dominated by the unusual mineral Maghemite and it is this phase which is (ferri)magnetic; thus the use of a magnet.

The mineral Maghemite has a similar chemical formula to that of hematite (Fe_2O_3) but it has a spinel structure like that of magnetite (thus the name MAG-HEM-ite). It is a mineral that is usually found in weathered terrains where it forms the yellow and reddish brown pigment in the soils.

However, it has also been identified in environments which have suffered bush and forest fires, where the original iron minerals have been transformed (a formation presumably rather analogous to that of the Wealden bloomery occurrences).



David Alderton



SMLS Annual Show 2023

The show is a huge commitment by SMLS and requires support from over 40 people to make it work. Why do we do it? It does raise funds for SMLS and keeps our membership subscriptions low but it's more than that. We need to promote our hobby to a new and younger audience, engage with families and children and of course enjoy it ourselves. We had just over 870 visitors this year, slightly down on last year but the weather was against us. It is also a good time to buy yourself that mineral Christmas present you never new you wanted until you saw it. That was my mistake this year, one I have made before. My Christmas specimen was on Christian Montabone's table, a lovely group of pink Thomsonite with Mesolite. I walked away to check if any other specimens were calling to me, returned , but too late already sold.

We had 34 mineral dealers in the main hall, together with Russel Society, West Sussex Geological Society, Natural History Museum, SMLS Lapidary demonstration and a SMLS table for selling minerals. It was a busy place and seemed to be buzzing all day. Nick generally does a round-up of the dealer tables but unfortunately missed this year's show.

However, Nick did a great job in arranging the 3 displays; Northern England (Steve Warren), Greenlaws Mine (Pete Ward) and Fossil Corals (Phil James)) and also arranging the three talks from Phil James, Pete Ward and David Alderton. Personally, I think they were some of the best displays we have had. All the talks were standing room only, so maybe a few more chairs next year. We also invited Chris Smith-Duque to display some of his mineral and landscape acrylic paintings in the atrium, bright, vibrant and impressive originals and prints, look him up. <https://chrissmithduque.myportfolio.com>.

The magic appeal of the Mineral Tombola continues, The "Silverstein team" gave out 1250 prizes, it raised over £650 and there were hundreds of beaming children. Many thanks to members who have provided prizes during the year and at the Show (for next year). John is now starting to think about the 2024 Show and needs your donated minerals, with labels and first wrapped (the target is 1500 prizes) and also used Xmas present paper. jppearce@talktalk.net

Gold Panning and Fossil Quest were also ever popular, not least with my two Grandsons. The UV display benefited from a revamp this year with new cabinets, I was outside chatting to people as they came out, they were amazed and buzzing, one comment 'best in the world' and I cannot disagree with that.

SMLS minerals sales were also a success, not something we normally do, but helped complete the sale of donated specimens, as well as clearing space in Nick and Trevor's garage.

Paul Plows took photographs for us, and we will make these available on our website. As an interim you can see some [photos](#) posted on Mindat by Roy. Great day. Loved it. See you next year.

Colin Brough



UK Customs are “not interested” in minerals

A couple of months ago, I decided to transport 28 mineral specimens of my own private collection from my home in France, to the UK. The specimens were from sites in the UK and France, but also from other countries such as Namibia, Australia, Portugal etc, reputed for their minerals.

My first thought was to send them, suitably packaged, via one of the many courier services, such as UPS etc, but I had no idea what duty might be payable following Brexit. I spoke by phone to an “adviser” in the UK, who thought that the “country of origin” was important, and that I would have to fill in a separate form for the specimens from each country. When I told him that the two minerals from Namibia were different, one azurite and one diopside, he thought that I should declare each separately, likening the situation to a company importing, say, meat from Australia, where they would have to declare lamb separately from beef! Advice which was, in practice, useless. I gave up!

So I decided that I would pack up all the specimens carefully into two suitcases, and fly from Nice to the UK, taking everything as check-in hold luggage, and declare the lot via the Red Channel at Heathrow.

All went well at bag drop at Nice airport, and I cleared security quickly. Relaxing with a coffee in the departure lounge, I heard an announcement over the PA, in French, of course, “Passenger Peter Moore please report to gate B37”, which I duly did. They told me that there was a problem with my luggage, and took me down into the bowels of the terminal, where I was confronted by a terrifying-looking security officer.

She asked me to open the case, and when she saw the small packages inside, all neatly wrapped up, her face lit up. She probably thought she had caught a big-time drug smuggler. She started ripping the bubble wrap off one of the specimens, but I produced the set of photos of the specimens, and said “That’s number 3, it’s baryte from Bowyers quarry in Portland, and it looks like this” showing her the picture. When she finished unwrapping, and found out that it was, indeed, a “lump of rock”, she grumpily let me re-pack and go on my way.

Now let’s move to Heathrow, where my two suitcases appeared on the carousel. I loaded them onto a luggage trolley, and headed for the red channel. A uniformed officer was leaning against the wall at the entrance, and he said “No, sir, you have to go through that way”, indicating the green channel next to him, “This exit here is only for people who have something to declare”.

“I have things to declare”, I said. “Oh. Oh well, you had better come in then” he replied. Continued over the page.....



I followed him into a small room, in which was a table and a 2 metre high Perspex screen next to it.

“What have you got then?” he enquired.

“Well, unfortunately, I am suffering from prostate cancer”, I said, “ and I have to take medication every day, some of which is controlled medication. I have enough of everything for my stay in UK, and I have all the prescriptions with me, plus a certificate from my oncologist. Separately, I also have some mineral specimens to declare”

“Cancer?” he said. “have you had any of that X-ray treatment?”

“Yes” I replied.

The look on his face changed. He took two steps back away from me, and moved behind his Perspex screen. “You’re not radioactive are you?” he asked fearfully. “Of course not” I replied.

He clearly didn’t believe me, and he asked, still behind his screen, “Are you transporting any alcohol?” “No” I replied

“Any cigarettes?” “No”

“Well off you go then” he said. “What about the minerals?” I asked”, and I received the reply “Oh, I’m not interested in those. Off you go then”

So off I went then! Clearly, he was very relieved to see the back of someone who, in his opinion, might have been radioactive and glowing in the dark!

Back in the good old days, when the UK was a member of the EU, we could travel freely between countries in Europe, and take whatever we liked with us, and we had all become used to this freedom during nearly 50 years of membership. Life was easy. However, with Brexit, the UK chose to join the group of “third” countries, as defined by the EU. To clarify this, here, where I live, the “first country” is France. The second group of countries is basically all other member states of the EU, plus a couple more like Switzerland and Norway, which are in the European Economic Area. The “third group” of countries is all other countries in the world, such as Australia, Colombia, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Syria, Sri Lanka etc. The UK chose to join this group of countries, so British citizens and businesses now have to abide by the rules which exist for that group of countries.

This means, among other things, having our passports stamped on entry to the EU, having to declare what we are transporting, and paying duty on it. This works for travel in both directions.

Fortunately, I can now confirm to you that, despite Brexit, the UK customs is “not interested” in minerals! It seems that you won’t need to go through the red channel if you are transporting mineral specimens into the UK! Especially if you are not radioactive.

Peter Moore



Roy Starkey formally recognised for services to mineralogy

SMLS Life Member Roy Starkey has been presented with the British Empire Medal for services to mineralogy by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mrs Beatrice Grant, at the Guildhall in Worcester. Roy was appointed as a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire in the King's Birthday Honours List in June 2023. The recent award ceremony was watched by family, friends, and members of the mineralogy community, including Robin Hansen, Curator, Minerals at the Natural History Museum London and Tom Cotterell, Senior Curator: Mineralogy and Petrology at Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales.

The British Empire Medal is awarded for meritorious civil or military service that is recognised by the Crown. The award acknowledges Roy's role as the 'go to' person for every collector with a mineralogical question or challenge in the UK. It also celebrates Roy's essential role in sustaining the mineralogical community and helping to preserve Britain's mineral heritage for future generations.

Roy was delighted to be given the award. He said: "I was very surprised, to say the least, when I received the letter notifying me of the award. The study of minerals has been a lifelong passion for me, through which I've met many wonderful people. It has been a huge privilege to work with curators and collections in our national museums. I see the award as being good for mineralogy in general and it was great to be able to celebrate this honour with family and friends in Worcester."

Roy's journey to being appointed as a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire began in May 2020. The process for nominating an individual for an honour is open to all, and a member of the mineral community felt that Roy's selfless work over four decades was worthy of fuller recognition.

With support from Roy's wife Mary, and respected figures in the British mineralogical community, a nomination was submitted. This set out the lengthy catalogue of Roy's work and contributions to the mineralogical community in the United Kingdom, his generosity to other enthusiasts and mineral collectors, and his many contributions to sustaining our mineral heritage.

As well as his long involvement with SMLS, Roy founded the British Micromount Society and has been a member of The Russell Society for more than four decades. He organised several Nature's Treasures symposia and was a key member of the Project Team and Project Board at Birmingham's Lapworth Museum that oversaw a £2.7m redevelopment project. He's also an accomplished author and photographer and his self-funded books on aspects of British mineralogy past and present are enjoyed by enthusiasts around the world.

This is not the first time that Roy's achievements have been recognised. In 2016, Roy was the first recipient of The Marsh Award for Mineralogy. This award recognises 'unsung heroes' who have made a major contribution to the promotion of palaeontology or mineralogy in the UK and abroad.



Roy is congratulated on his award by Mrs Beatrice Grant, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire.

Article by Michael Dunmore

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

I am trying to learn a bit more about AI so I asked Bing “Why is mineral collecting more popular in America than the UK?” This was the response, which took about three seconds.

“Mineral collecting is a popular hobby in both America and the United Kingdom. However, there are a few factors that might contribute to its popularity in America.

One reason is the rising interest in metaphysical healing and the perceived power of natural objects that can be harnessed for one’s benefit. The coronavirus pandemic and a bitter election season have led to increased sales of crystals and other ritual goods associated with metaphysical wellness in America. These goods are believed to possess energies that can promote calmness and courage, which are highly sought after during trying times.

Another factor could be the availability of mineral-rich areas for collecting. The United States has numerous public mining and digging sites that are packed with a wide variety of gems and minerals. These sites, often referred to as “rockhounding” locations, have been popular among collectors for decades. The abundance of such sites provides ample opportunities for mineral enthusiasts to explore and collect specimens.

In the United Kingdom, mineral extraction is an important industry, with millions of tonnes of minerals extracted from the landmass each year. However, the focus is primarily on commercial extraction rather than individual collecting.



The British Geological Survey reports that crushed rock, construction minerals, and industrial minerals account for a significant portion of the extracted minerals. The emphasis on commercial extraction might explain why mineral collecting as a hobby is relatively less popular compared to America.

It’s worth noting that these are general observations, and individual preferences and cultural factors can also influence the popularity of mineral collecting in different regions”.

I wouldn’t use this data to make decisions but I actually thought that was a pretty good answer, what did you think? I would like to try to learn how to use AI for more complex questions that could be more useful, I need to work on that!

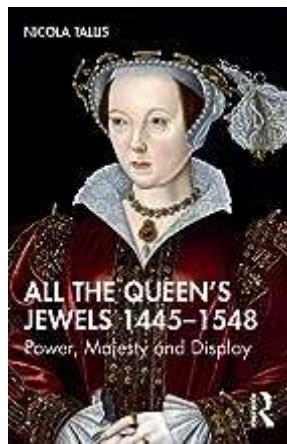
And just for extra fun I asked Firefly (Adobe’s AI image generator) to create a new purple mineral of tetragonal crystalline form! This is what I got, any thoughts on names!?

Samantha Durrant





Fabulous coffee table [book](#)



All the Queen's Jewels examines the jewellery collections of the ten queen consorts of England between 1445–1548



Ni-rich mineral nepouite explains the exceptional green color of [speleothems](#)

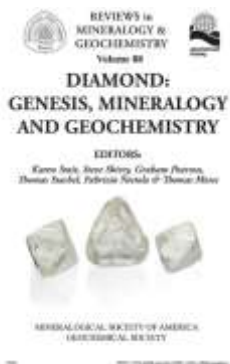


Jean [Baudrillard](#)

Quote of the month

“The traces of the dinosaurs howl in our memories. Had they been alive we would have exterminated them, but we respect their traces. It is the same with the human race: the more we imperil it, the more meticulously we preserve its remains.”

Chuckle Corner



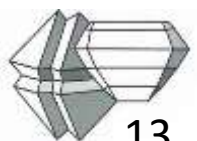
Diamond; Genesis, Mineralogy and Geochemistry – articles devoted to laying down the current state of Earth science research into [diamond](#)



SMLS Online

The club [website](#)

The club Facebook [Pages](#)



SMLS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name..... Date:

Subscriptions are:	£10.00	adults
	£4.00	students
	£18.00	families
	£8.00	associate members

Subscriptions are payable on 1st January each year.

Persons up to 17 years of age and persons taking full-time study up to 21 years of age may opt for student membership.

Persons living over 60 miles from Haywards Heath may opt for associate membership.

Payment by BACS transfer is preferred:

Account name: SMLS, Sort Code: 309292, Account Number: 01050455

Include your name (initial & surname) and 'SMLS subs'.

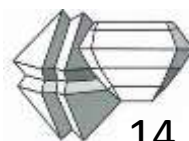
If you are unable to pay by BACS please send a cheque made payable to SMLS to:

Alan Simmonds, 74 Irwin Drive, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1NJ

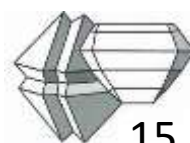
If you have any questions please contact **Alan Simmonds**:

Email: **alan.simmonds@gmx.com** Tel: **01403 274647**

Please advise any changes to your contact details.



Friday 5 th January	General Meeting: The Mining History and Mineralogy of the Wanlockhead & Leadhills Orefield By Jon Evans: Sponsor Colin Brough	Zoom
Friday 2 nd February	General Meeting: Minerals of Yorkshire By Steve Warren: Sponsor Nick Hawes	Zoom
Saturday 17 th February	Field Trip to Sheppey Coordinator Colin Brough	Low tide 11:30
Saturday 17 th Feb.	Essex Gem & Mineral show. 10.00 am-4.00 pm North Romford Community Centre, Colliers Row, Romford	
Sat – Sun 2 nd /3 rd March	Rock 'N' Gem Show 10.00am-5.00pm Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd. East	
Friday 1 st March	General Meeting: Life in the Eocene: Evidence from the London Clay By Margaret Collinson: Sponsor David Alderton	
Saturday 16 th March	Field Trip to Samphire Hoe Coordinator Colin Brough	Low tide 10:30
Sunday 3 rd March	Oxford Mineral and Fossil Show 10.30am – 4.00pm Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd, Kidlington, North Oxford	
Sat – Sun 23 rd /24 th March	Rock 'N' Gem Show 10.00am – 5.00pm Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Rd, Brighton	
12 th -14 th April	2024 Annual Russell Society Meeting (ASM) Cheltenham Chase Hotel at Brockworth, Nr Cheltenham, hosted by Wales & West Branch.	
Friday 5 th April	General Meeting: Members evening: Show and tell.	
Saturday 20 th April	Yorkshire Mineral and Fossil Fair The Market House, Hawes North Yorkshire. 10:00 0 17:00	
20 th /21 st April Sat-Sun	North Pennines Mineral Expo. Village Hall, St Johns Chapel, Weardale, County Durham.	
Friday 26 th April	General Meeting: Minerals of Northern Ireland By Norman Moles: Sponsor Nick Hawes	
1 st May to 11 th May	Field Trip to Wanlockhead and Skye Coordinator Colin Brough	
Sunday 12 th May	Oxford Mineral and Fossil Show 10.30am – 4.00pm Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd, Kidlington, North Oxford	
Friday 7 th June	General Meeting: Novel Lapidary Commissions By John White: Sponsor Colin Brough	



<u>Mid June</u>	Field Trip East Scotland Co-ordinator: Colin Brough/John Taylor	TBC
<i>Thurs - Sun 26th - 30th June</i>	<i>Sainte-Marie-Aux-Mine Mineral and Gem International Show</i>	
Friday 5 th July	AGM and General Meeting. Minerals of South East Wales By Steve Plant: Sponsor Nick Hawes	
<i>Sunday 26th July</i>	<i>Oxford Mineral and Fossil Show 10.30am – 4.00pm Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd, Kidlington, North Oxford</i>	
<i>Sat – Sun 17th/28th July</i>	<i>Rock 'N' Gem Show 10.00am-5.00pm Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd. East</i>	
Saturday 10 th August	SMLS Summer Gathering Coordinator: Nick Hawes	
Friday 6 th September	General Meeting : Minerals of Scordale By Peter Briscoe: Sponsor NH	
Mon-Thurs 9 th -12 th Sept	Field Trip to Northern Ireland Coordinator Nick Hawes/Norman Moles	
<i>Fri -Sun 13th/15th Sept.</i>	<i>2024 BMS Symposium. Salwarpe Village Hall, Droitwich.</i>	
Friday 4 th October	General Meeting: Layrion Minerals By Phil Taylor: Sponsor Colin Brough	
<i>Sat/Sun 12th/14th October</i>	<i>Bakewell Rock Exchange 10.00am – 5.00pm Lady Manners School, Bakewell, Derbyshire</i>	
Friday 1 st November	General Meeting: The Ludlam Collection By Mike Rumsey: Sponsor Nick Hawes	
<i>Sat – Sun 9th/10th Nov.</i>	<i>Rock 'N' Gem Show 10.00am – 5.00pm Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Rd. East</i>	
<i>Saturday November</i>	<i>Festival of Geology University College London</i>	TBC
<i>Sat – Sun 16th/17th Nov.</i>	<i>Rock 'N' Gem Show 10.00am – 5.00pm Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Rd, Brighton</i>	
Saturday 16 th November	SUSSEX MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW 10.00am - 4.30pm, Haywards Heath	
<i>Saturday 23rd Nov</i>	<i>Mineral Gem and Fossil Show Amateur Geological Society, Finchley, London Trinity Church, Nether Street, Finchley, N12 7NN</i>	
<i>Sunday 24th November</i>	<i>Oxford Mineral and Fossil Show 10.30am – 4.00pm Exeter Hall, Oxford Rd, Kidlington, North Oxford</i>	
Friday 6 th December	General Meeting: Highlights from the Spann collection By Gail & Jim Spann: Sponsor Nick Hawes	Zoom

All meetings held Methodist Church Hall, ~~Perrymount~~ Rd, Haywards Heath. 7.30pm to 10.00pm.
Jan/Feb/Dec meetings are zoom only
Items in italics are for members' information only.

