

Shell London Lecture Series - Geology in the Age of Man

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Geological Society of London

Incoming: Learning to love the meteorite



SPEAKER: *Ted Nield (GSL)*

INCOMING! or why we should stop worrying and learn to love the meteorite

Meteorites have been the stuff of legend throughout human history, and since 1980 the idea that dinosaurs were wiped out by a meteorite strike 65 million years ago has become one of the most widely known scientific ideas of all. However, as this book shows, the causes of the end Cretaceous mass extinction were complex, and the idea that major meteorite strikes are always bound to be bad news for life on Earth is being challenged by fresh discoveries.

New research is suggesting that 470 million years ago, a stupendous collision in the Asteroid Belt (whose debris is still falling, to this very day) bombarded the Earth with meteorites of all sizes. A revolutionary idea is emerging that the resulting ecological disturbance may have been responsible not only for massive worldwide submarine landslides, but for the single greatest increase in biological diversity since the origin of complex life – the hitherto unexplained Great Ordovician Biodiversity Event.

Date: Wednesday 19 December 2012

Timings: This lecture will be given at 3pm and 6pm on this day (with tea/coffee served for half an hour before each), so please let us know, when applying for tickets, which talk you would like to attend.

Venue: The Geological Society of London, Burlington House

Entry to this lecture is free to all, but by ticket only. Please call at reception (to your right) or contact the Society by post, phone, fax or email (see below).



For further information, please contact:
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2012 Programme

18 January	Earthquakes and tsunamis in the modern world	<i>James Jackson, University of Cambridge</i>
15 February	Rocks and climate change: How we can stop pulling the carbon trigger	<i>Bryan Lovell, GSL President</i>
28 March	Life at the edge: Sinking deltas	<i>James Syvitski, University of Colorado</i>
18 April	Impacts and Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise	<i>Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton</i>
9 May	Unconventional gas	<i>Melvyn Giles, Shell</i>
27 June	Sustainability of groundwater in a changing world	<i>Paul Younger, Newcastle University</i>
26 September	Volcanoes and man	<i>Kathy Cashman, University of Bristol</i>
10 October	Pollutants and human health in the age of man	<i>Jane Plant, Imperial College London</i>
14 November	Geological aspects of renewable energy	<i>Bruce Levell, Shell</i>
19 December	Incoming: Learning to love the meteorite	<i>Ted Nield, GSL</i>



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