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#1

THE SCOTTISH MINERAL
& LAPIDARY CLUB
NEWSLETTER

SMaLTALK

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<http://lapidary.org.uk/>

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of SMaLTalk, 2019. I hope this is a successful year for your collecting, cutting, polishing and all things lapidary. At the AGM there was little change in the Committee and convenors which made the proceedings flow extremely smoothly to the other business. It was good to hear that finances are healthy and that membership fees will not be increasing this year. Tributes were paid to members who have sadly been lost in 2018, and in particular Bill Wilson who gave so much to the club, and whose family has donated some of his extensive collection. Part of the collection is in the display cabinets and it is hoped will become available to members. The chairmans address is featured in this edition.

The membership continues to grow strongly with 75 full members and 18 associates signed up. With the all courses this year already full, it is hoped that membership and in particular regular attendance will increase. It was proposed that those applying for the courses from the local area should be encouraged, and that there may be a training and induction course through mentoring instruction introduced to help speed up the introduction of new and active local members. To this end a training session for instructors was held at the end of December.

In this edition we have some new articles and one of the convenors reports on a news from their area.

Scott Porter in the Members Profile provides some background to his many years as a member and lets us know a little more about his interest in lapidary as well as a selection of his work over the years. We hope to run a different profile in each edition to help us get to know individuals, and appreciate the different aspects of the club that are of importance to them.

We have a roundup of the first field trips this year, and some of the finds that have resulted from these. With the plan to hold a field trip once a month in the spring, we are looking to encourage members to come forward to help lead trips with the help of myself as co-ordinator.



New Club display cases

So far numbers have been limited, so if you want to find some rough material that you can claim ownership to, why not come along. There may be some great finds still to be had out there as our selection so far this year shows.

The book review focuses on two books that provide background to the wide variety of all things colourful that we would all love to have in our collections. Both are well illustrated and show lapidary at its best. Both copies are still available for sale and may find their way into the library.

We all have collections of agates and minerals, and the club has an extensive collection that Ian Marshall and Richard Gillanders oversee and help display so well. Do take time to look at the changing collection and hopefully be inspired to create your own collection.

Finally, I have included an article from the 1993 Archives. Helen Crichton was the editor of SMaLTalk 26 years ago and described her trip with the club to Germany that year. I know some of you will remember these trips, and how enjoyable they were. The last trip organised by Arthur Nicolson carried on this tradition so successfully. I'm sure that having read the article you too may wish to experience the journey to the heart of what was the centre of lapidary for many years. Maybe if there is enough interest, we can look at organising another visit in 2020.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our 60th anniversary year was an eventful one, culminating in a celebration lunch attended by about 70 club members and guests at the Royal Scots Club on Saturday 8 December. The event was a great success, and a photo featured in the January/February edition of *Edinburgh Life*. We thank Ayesha Nickson and her staff for all their efforts with the catering, and Emma Bewsey who made the "agate" birthday cake.

The Club and its 60th anniversary featured in a display of agates at the National Museum of Scotland, and Mary Bownes arranged a special visit to this display for some of our members. On another occasion, a group of members were taken to see the mineral collections held by the National Museum of Scotland at their Granton store. We thank Rachel Walcott of NMS for arranging this.

The Rock, Gem 'n' Bead Show came to Scotland for the

first time in over 20 years with an event at Musselburgh Racecourse in April, and the Club had a very well-received stand there. Thanks to Richard Butler for negotiating our presence at the show, and to Ian Marshall who laid out our display. Ian also put on displays at Dynamic Earth in February, April and October, an Open Day in June during the Leith Festival, and another during "Open Doors" weekend in September. All these events were very successful, and we thank Ian and his team of helpers. Our At Home in November was run for just one day this year. Attendance was very good throughout the day, and the raffle and shop made a significant contribution to Club funds. Thanks to all those who worked hard to make the event a success.

The annual Heddle Lecture was given by John Faithfull, curator of mineralogy and petrology at the Hunterian Museum, who gave a fascinating account of Heddle's agate collection which

Photo by Peter Bourhill



is housed in the Hunterian. Other lectures were given by Ian Marshall on his travels through Kenya, and by Carmen Garcia-Carballido and Peter Scott-Wilson on opal collecting in the Outback of Australia. A planned lecture by Alistir Tait on ethical gemstone mining had to be cancelled due to heavy snow. Alistir will give his lecture as part of the 2019 programme.

Five field trips were organised by David Andrews, Simon Ackroyd, and Richard Butler during the year: to Thorntonloch (East Lothian); Bowmont Water (Cheviot); Culzean (Ayrshire); Binn Hill/Glenfarg (Perthshire); and a weekend trip to Montrose (Angus).

You will have noticed several changes in the Club over the past year, including a new fire-alarm system and a relocated gas supply. The Club Secretary, Alan Hayes, commissioned and supervised these projects. Alec McCreadie and Scott Porter have developed an updated and expanded training manual, and relevant material is displayed beside the equipment. Other improvements to the Club and its facilities are planned for next year, and the Committee



anticipate a busy year ahead.

Items on the Committee's agenda for next year will include the replacement of some of our diamond saws, and further discussions on the possibility of becoming a registered charity. The charity issue was discussed during the past year, and we have received advice from Chris Priestley, a lawyer who specialises in charity work. We decided not to progress this during 2018 because we were busy with all our other projects, but we'll return to it this year. The Club members will be consulted before we finally decide whether to embark on this. Emma

Hollands will be organising a meeting next month to discuss the roles of Session Supervisors (formerly Duty Members), and we hope to organise a workshop-safety and first-aid course.

The end of our anniversary year found the Club in excellent shape and we have renewed our lease on 20 Maritime Lane for another five years. Our finances are healthy, Club membership continues to increase, and our training courses are fully booked right through 2019. In order to reduce our training back-log we have started an alternative training process in which prospective members undergo one-on-one

training during regular Club sessions. The success of this will be monitored and possibly extended during the year.

A full programme of events is planned for 2019. Ian Marshall and Alistir Tait will give lectures, and the Heddle lecture, on Scottish dinosaurs, will be given by Dr. Steve Brusatte, an eminent dinosaur expert from the University of Edinburgh. Field trips to Fife, the Cheviots and Turnberry (Ayrshire) are also planned.

We hope that 2019 will be another productive and enjoyable year in the Lapidary Club.
Godfrey Fitton

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND REMINDER

So far this year 95 members have renewed their membership, whereof 75 full members, 18 associate and 2 juniors. I am still expecting more members to renew, 21 full member and 4 associate members have yet to renew. Hopefully some of these members will renew their membership for this year, but time starts to run out for renewal. I will take in renewals during March but then a quarter of the year has gone,

and all should be sorted by then.

We have a long list of people who want to attend our basic lapidary course, most of them from Lothian which hopefully will generate new full members for the future, but we also have people coming from Belgium and Spain to attend our course. Now we have full classes during all this year and still people booked in for January next year. We have started a mentor based 1-2-1

training to shorten the waiting list for the courses and so far, three people are being trained this way.

During last years basic lapidary courses, we had 24 adults and 2 juniors going through the training. So far we have got 11 full members, 2 associate and 2 junior members from last years training program.

Marie Henderson
SMLC Membership Secretary



Photos by Peter Bourhill, editor of Edinburgh Life magazine

MEMBERS PROFILE - SCOTT PORTER



I joined the Scottish Mineral & Lapidary Club in 2007 after being introduced to Bob Gray, who became my tutor, not long after moving back to Edinburgh from Nottingham.

I had always had a strong interest in Rocks and Minerals going back to when I was a child. I found my first interesting rock, a quartz geode with some amethyst, as I was rooting around a neighbours shed when I was



about 6 or 7 years old. Looking at it now, I probably wouldn't even take it home from a collecting trip if I happened upon it these days, but it now lives in my shed and every time I see it, it reminds me of that moment of wonder I experienced when I first turned it over in my hands.

When I discovered that the club existed I knew I had to find out more, and as I was being shown around the workshop with all its machines, tools and specimens on display, I experienced that same feeling of wonder as I did when I was 7 and I turned over that first geode. I knew then that I had to join.

So join I did and after what seemed like an eternity in training, most likely because I chose to make my apprentice piece a round cabochon about 60mm across

and 10mm deep, but also because it wasn't finished until I'd eliminated every scratch and blemish and famously been able to 'read the wattage of the bulb' from the light source above. (That Bob is a hard taskmaster!) I was hooked!

After a couple of years of getting to know the club and its



members I began to get involved in the organisational side of the club after being invited to a committee meeting to discuss updating the club website that existed at the time. I'll admit it all seemed very official and I was just a little bit apprehensive. Since then I have served on the committee as a duty member, vice chairman, chairman and now as a kind of assistant helping and supporting where I can.

Before I joined I only had an interest, but membership has turned that interest into real skills,

something I hadn't ever really considered I would gain, but now seem unthinkable to be without.

While I still collect minerals (SHHHH!!! don't tell my wife) I now tend to favour material I can work with. Mostly local agates and jaspers hold sway but various hard woods and even red deer antler has found its way into my work. With a resurgence of interest in the crafts of lapidary and jewellery making in general, there is a great wealth of material coming onto the market so the choice these days is only really limited

by the depth of one's pockets. While the skills I've learned have given me great satisfaction, the real wealth of the club lies in the members. From the sharing of skills, techniques and experience to getting involved and lending a hand, I count so many of our members as good friends. People of different ages, backgrounds and walks of life who all share a very similar interest, and it's the way they share that interest - enthusiastically, encouragingly and selflessly - that what really makes the SM&LC shine.



FROM THE ARCHIVE.

In this piece we look back 25 years when Bill Wilson was Chairman and Helen Crichton was editor of SML-Talk. Her article may be of interest to those who have, and those who have not been to Germany on a club outing. It wasn't the last. Who knows...until we meet again?

Come Taste the Wine.

All the little villages that line the riverbanks of the Mosel and the Rhine are theatrically pretty. Window boxes, terraces and balconies drip with geraniums and lobelia; Tudor type timbering, like a child's bold black cross-stitch, overlays buildings washed white, pale blue, pale pink. The whole thing looks like Act 1 Scene 1 of a Steven Romberg operetta. A thigh slapping principal boy in lederhosen should appear at any moment around the next corner. But no, more often what appears is a respectable, middle class British Matron – white hair, white cardigan and sensible shoes. The tourist. The economy of this region leans heavily on selling things to the tourist, and what they sell after accommodation, food, and the German equivalent of the tartan dolly trade, is wine, wine and wine.

Not that I'm complaining. In our first four days based on Ernst, we went to a wine-tasting (six glasses of different wines in an hour and a half; keep the glass as a souvenir), a tour of the Asbach brandy distillery with generous tastings and free post-cards, and a winefest at a place called Winningen, where the fountain in the village square dispensed wine instead of water. The cost 2 DM 80, a bit more than £1 for a small glass, but you

did get to keep the glass. It was not in fact my fantasy of a fountain of wine, in that there were little taps that the madchen turned on and off, as distinct from cascades shooting skywards and tinkling into a stone basin. Still...

It was at Winningen that Aunty Helen was almost abducted. Out of the dancing throng appeared a blonde German giant who fell upon me with glad cries. Trouble was, it was a girl giant. I tell you, if that woman had been an Olympic pot-shutter (or do I mean shot putter? – whatever), she would never have passed the chromosome test. Uttering the German equivalent of, 'Well, if it's no' Aunty Helen ...' she clutched me to the third button of her straining and danced off with me, my feet dangling six inches above the ground like a stuffed doll. I recognised faces as we whirled to the Oompah band. There was Avril Nicholson. 'Rescue me!' I cried weakly. Avril laughed. Second time around I gasped 'Help, help' and Avril laughed louder. I tell you, that Avril is a cruel and callous woman. I mean, there were others, but she was the worst. But don't worry. I've got them on my list. All of them. But let us, like the White Rabbit, begin at the beginning, which for me was the day before departure, when I had to put

Peachy-Puss into the boarding kennels. I left her sleepy basket, her toys, and my son's phone number, but I still didn't sleep that night, hearing her piteous cries in my dreams. (I know, I know, if you don't sleep, you don't dream – Don't spoil the scenario!)

Anyway, first thing Sunday morning we gathered at the Waverley Bridge. Aileen Moyes said a prayer, and the cat people cried on each other's shoulders. Ruth got us organised and our driver and the luggage crew (all available able-bodied males) got us loaded, and off we went. At Hull, we were joined by Howard and Wendy Ecker from Boston, Massachusetts, who are associate Members who had visited the Club last year, and put their names down the Idar-Oberstein trip. The crossing was smooth and in no time we were at Venlo on the German border, and spending our first DM on ham sandwiches and similar delights. Dull, drizzly, not cold. On to Cochem where we stopped to take pictures looking down on the little town. Then Ernst and our hotel, Hotel Pollmans. Simple, adequate, lovely breakfast buffets...

The next day was our first wine tasting, and we went by river cruiser to Beilstein. The following day we went to Rudesheim on the Rhine, and there I discovered the great German sausage on a bun:

the bratwurst. Only 3DM (approx. £1.20) with a glass Pepsi, this made my day, and the day after, and several days after that too. In Rudesheim we visited the Asbach distillery, and that night was the winefest in Winnigen. But we will draw a veil over that. Day three – or was it four? – the wine was beginning to tell – we went to Koblenz, where was Betty Smith and I got lost because (she said), I went into a shop by one door and came out by another. Obviously I am still here, so we got found again. And as the sun sank in the west, we said goodbye to the lovely wineries of the Mosel valley. Not yet. We went to Bernkastel for another wine tasting, en route to Idar. Reached Idar about 5.30 pm on. I think, the Friday.

For many years, Club Members have been telling me about Idar-Oberstein, and in my mind's eye I had visualised something like the Mosel villages. It came as quite a surprise to me to find that Idar is a big, commercial town, with office blocks, traffic roundabouts, men digging up the streets, just like home, and skyscraper hotels. We stayed in the biggest of these, the Merian, where I was on the twelfth floor, and totally unable to look out of the window. The Deutsch-Edelstein Museum is alongside the ground floor of this hotel, almost part of the same building in fact. As we settled in, I realised that every second place of business was a gem merchant or jewellery shop, and the

windows and street level glass showcases are filled with priceless pieces, day and night. I can only suppose that these cases are armoured glass, and /or alarmed for they are left completely unattended and you can stand and gape when you go out at night for ice-cream or kaffee and kuchen. It's surprising how much of the German language you can absorb. For instance, if you did not already know it, you soon latch on that edelstein means precious stone, and that schmuck (actually ornament) is used generically as a term for jewellery and related finery.

As you all probably know better than I, Idar-Oberstein is actually two places which used to be separated by a river, but some few years ago they put a lid on the river and built an autobahn over it, so that you now drive from Idar to Oberstein and back without really seeing the water. How much the scenic value of the area has suffered because of this, I cannot say, as I never saw it any other way. Certainly, the transition from the Idar bit to the Oberstien bit is quite dramatic. Suddenly, you are back in picture postcard land.

Virtually every shop – and there is a row of them along what used to be the riverside – is a jeweller's. Aunty Helen's war-cry was, 'Do you take credit cards?' There are more mundane premises beyond the Heimat museum, in a shopping arcade of department stores, boutiques, shoe-shops etc, but even here there are

may places selling stones, polished and otherwise and jewellery by the ton. Both the Heimat and the Deutsch-Edelstein Museums have displays of Scottish agates donated by our Club, but at the Heimat they are prominently displayed in a section of their own, with a card stating that they were presented to the Museum by Donald McKay on behalf of the SMLC in 1982. It was quite an emotional moment, seeing this, for we were all aware, at all times, of the fact that our holiday was to a certain extent the fulfilling by Ruth, of a promise made to us by Donald. It must have been sad for Ruth, on that and other occasions, to be there without him, but she never showed it. She was guppenfuhrer!

Fascinating as all that was, the real thrill was when we started to visit the merchants. If you can imagine a builder's yard with piles of brick, stone, rubble and gravel, and then change these piles into agates, aventurine, amethyst, bloodstone and jaspers, you will get some idea of the impact made on me by my first sight of the forecourt of the premises we visited first at Kirschweiler. We visited so many of these treasure troves that our coach was in danger of going down through its springs with the weight of stones we were all buying. One day I was told we were going to 'the tailgaters.' I had no idea what this might be, and the others would not tell me. I think they just like to see me stagger back in amazement as the goodies appeared

before me. Anyway, the tailgaters turned out to be a sort of car boot sale, but all the car boots and stalls were selling stones. Stones, and minerals, and artefacts made of stone, and jewellery. Fortunately, none of these took credit cards, so I was restrained to a certain extent. Not a lot. The highlight of the trip was out visit to Ruppenthal's. This is a sort of merchants, museum, workshop with elements of gracious home combined. Literally, for some of the galleries and rooms were beautifully carpeted, furnished with lovely antique furniture, with tiger-skin rugs and Oriental cabinets and vases just standing around. We were allowed to wander freely, to look, to ask questions: showcases were unlocked for us and I, at least, tried on jewellery I could only dream of owning. We all bought something, and the staff, who

were as kind and friendly as could be, gathered around to wave us goodbye when we left. -Oh, we were each presented with a little gift on leaving I was in a daze for hours afterwards. Idar-Oberstein and stones were the meat in a sandwich of wines, and so our trip ended with three days in Trier, staying at a lovely hotel situated in a converted old building which must have been a monastery or something similar at one time. It rained nearly all the time we were there, but that did not stop us taking advantage of the great shopping centre with its fountains, courtyards, pedestrian precincts and cafes etc. Needless to say, there were more wine tastings, including a fantastic tasting and lunch at Fritz von Nell's. The food was great, the building picturesque and the people wonderful.

All through the trip, we met with friendship, kindness and courtesy. For myself I am indebted to all the gallant men who carried my luggage, helped me on and off the coach, and generally looked after me. There are certain advantages in being a little old lady. Our driver, Craig, was first class, and became a good friend to us all before the holiday was over. I hope we see him at the Club in the future. And finally, my special thanks to Ian Stuart, who ran errands for me and got me my essential Coca-Cola, without which I cannot live - You've got a good lad there, Wanda! I am eternally grateful to Ruth McKay for giving me this chance to see Idar, for I have the feeling this trip may well have been the last, and it is not a journey I could undertake under my own steam.

Helen Crichton

'WELCOME NEW MEMBERS'



Following the course in January the following completed their induction training:
 - Sara Keith,
 - Louise Duncan,
 - Neil Gair,
 - Alex Tait,
 - Petra Palkova,
 - Viab Tyagi.

FIELD TRIPS

KINNOULL HILL - JANUARY MOONZIE - FEBRUARY

An exploratory visit to Kinnoull was made in January to assess the suitability of the site for a club visit. Peter Dolderson and myself struggled up the very steep hill to explore the undercliff and look for the best potential. We quickly decided that the site is unsuitable from a health and safety perspective as to have more than a couple of people working would be a problem. The danger is from the steepness of the slope and potential for dislodged rock to bound down the hill. However, if individuals are interested in attempting a visit to the site I can provide details of access and the best areas to look.

Coming Soon:

Names on the board please.

Cheviot - 24th March

Turnberry - 31st March

Having had to cancel the planned Sunday outing at the beginning of the month, an excursion was arranged for the following Saturday. This proved to be only taken up by three members, but proved profitable, and as so many fields were under plough bode well for another trip later in the month. Large agates were evident as was the amount of quartz, but as usual there were plenty of fragments, and of course the usual cracks. The weather was a bonus with great views across the whole area making this definitely one of the best collecting days for this time of year.

The second trip later in the month was much better attended with 12 members attending on a split between Murdochcairn and Moonzie. The foggy weather persisted all the day, but again there were still plenty of agates to be had, if you got your eye in. I hope that the cutting and polishing turns up some really good examples from this varied site. It seemed everyone had a good day and came away with plenty of work for the clubrooms.

*Agate of the month:
 Found by
 Peter
 Dolderson
 at Kinnoull
 Hill*



AGM 2018, RESUME BY ALAN HAYES HON. SECRETARY

The 2018 AGM, held on 6th December, was chaired by our chairman Godfrey Fitton, with 23 full and one associate member in attendance.

At the start of the meeting a minutes silence was held for members who had passed away during the year. Those remembered were Bill Wilson, Ken Stewart, Fiona McClintock and Betty McDermott.

The Chairman reviewed the years activities, summarised in his report in this edition. Highlights included in the 60th Anniversary year featured a display of agates in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh; the well attended anniversary celebration lunch at the Royal Scot club at which Bob Gray, one of our longest serving members, cut the Anniversary cake. An article and photographs were published and is mentioned by Ian Marshall in his roundup article.

An unusually quick

appointments for committee and office bearers was concluded when the existing appointments were re-elected en-bloc.

The Rock 'n Bead show came to Musselburgh for the first time, where the club put on a well attended stand. Other outreach included representation at Dynamic Earth, the Leith festival and our own 'Open Doors' event. Amongst the generous donation from other clubs was a large selection of American agates and minerals by Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson from the Ventura club in California.

The annual Heddle lecture was delivered by John Faithfull of the Hunterian Museum in which he described that part of the Heddle's collection housed at the Hunterian.

The Vice-Chairman produced a detailed 'Complaints Procedure' focusing on 'Dignity within the club'. The Secretary alluded to the successful completion of a new

5 year lease, and the improvements made, including safe storage of hazardous materials, new fire alarm, and proper storage of propane gas all part of the ongoing safety assessment of our premises.

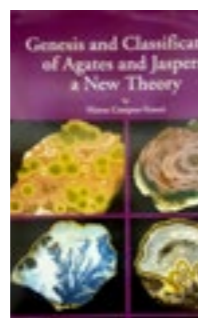
The Treasurer reported that finances were in a healthy state, and therefore saw no reason to increase subscriptions or attendance charges for 2019. The membership was 93 Full Members and 23 Associates. Whilst the quarterly Training courses continue to be popular with a waiting list, it was raised that those trained do not necessarily continue to continue membership and that 'local' prospective members may be encouraged to become regular attendees after their course. To that end a mentoring training programme was proposed with more instructors recruited to help overcome the waiting times for courses.

BOOK REVIEW

Two books worth a look this month, neither are in the library yet but who knows, they may make an appearance in the future.



The Lure of coloured rocks and gemstone jewellery, Steve Bennett £14.99 (£4.50 ebay) Folklore, legends as well as a different angle on all the main stones suitable for lapidary



Genesis and Classification of Agates and Jaspers: a New Theory, Marco Campos-Venuti \$46.50 This is a well illustrated book showing a new geological model that explains the formation of most varieties of silica that has been written for collectors and amateurs such as ourselves. It analyses

many collectable varieties of Jasper, agate and chalcedony. Listed in alphabetic order, it details each stone and their sources, so worth considering for technical detail, and as a good read supported by images and illustrations.

The author is a Phd volcanologist with a passion for these stones and their origin. The extensive pictures and diagrams help support his credible theories.

Available from marcocamposvenuti@hotmail.com www.agatesandjaspers.com for more details.

NEWS BY IAN MARSHALL

Fabulous Fossil February at Dynamic Earth

Once again the Club was invited to participate during schools' holiday week to showcase parts of our work (rock, mineral, fossil, lapidary and silverwork) from both Club and individual collections. The displays are greatly admired by the visitors and appreciated by the Dynamic Earth staff and a donation of £250 has been made to Club funds. Thanks go to the small group of Members who willingly give up their time and specimens to support this.



Mary and Maureen describing the specimens in the cases from examples of lapidary work done by themselves, Janet, John and Donald - and the Club Collection including pieces by Johnny Marr and Bill Wilson.



JP relaxes during a quiet moment whilst Rod decides to feed the dinosaur!



It is intended that a small display be prepared for the weekend of Friday 19 to Monday 22 July to commemorate 50 years since the Moon Landing.

UP AND COMING:

- 14th March - 19.15 Duty Members Meeting
- 24th March - Field trip The Cheviot (Now full)
- 28th March - 19.00 Club Talk Ethical Mining
 - 31st March - Field trip, Turnberry area
- 12, 14th and 15th April - Training and induction course
 - 25th April, 20.00, Club Talk Scottish Dinosaurs
- 6th & 7th July, Rock Gem 'n Bead show, Edinburgh Academy Juniors School

TALKS

The Spring talks started at the end of February with the second part of Ian's adventures from "Nairobi to the coast".

The rain forest and mountain environments were exchanged for the contrasts between the modern urban capital, the traditional rural bush villages on the edge of the Somali Desert and the ancient Arab/Portuguese settlements on the coast.

Alistir Tait's talk on "Ethical Mining in Tanzania and Sri Lanka"

cancelled from last year is reset for the 28th March

- providing the snow doesn't reappear -

and the Heddle Lecture arranged for Thursday 25th of April.

American palaeontologist Steve Brusatte,

currently at Edinburgh University,

will be describing his discoveries of footprints on Skye

under the intriguing title "Scottish Dinosaurs".

NOTICE THE NOTICE!

Do you check the various boards in the Club?

Did you realise that mineral displays in the side cabinets

are being changed every 6 - 8 weeks to let Members

see the huge range of curated minerals

and discover what they are. (Formulae)

Do you check the Club website, <http://lapidary.org.uk>

Dates, fieldtrips, training, etc

Also - check out the new weekly website

for Rock&Gem magazine.

Magazine will be available online on Club website, <http://lapidary.org.uk>

and hard copy on the notice board.



*It is the saddest regret that we announce
the death of Jim McClure on March 13.*