

**DORSET GEOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION GROUP**

**DGAG IS AN AFFILIATED MEMBER OF THE GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION**

Public Website: <https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/>

DGAG Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups>

**Event Write Up: DGAG GEOFEST: Saturday 26 October 2024**

**Theme:** A festival celebrating Geoscience: Fossils, Rocks and Earth Science. A DGAG inaugural event that was a small part of October's two global events:

→ International Geodiversity Day sponsored by Oxford University Museum of Natural History (#GeodiversityDay) and

→ Earth Science week organized by The Geological Society and American Geoscience Institute.

**Location:** Main Hall; United Church, 49/51 Charles Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT11EE

**Summary:** Volunteer DGAG members and some invited guests exhibited their collections and shared their Geoscience/Earth Science knowledge in the hall from 10am till about 3:30 pm.

A total of 12 tables with displays and activities were enjoyed by the exhibitors and visitors of all ages and abilities. It was estimated that about 70-100 members of the public visited and the feed back indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

On this basis it is likely we will make this an annual event in the future.

Attached are photos taken at various times during the course of the event and showing some of the activities, discussions, with engaged and happy customers (photos taken with approval).

**Tables at the event and contributors:**

1. We were privileged to see a special ("World Class") display of fossil corals collected and specially prepared by Phil James of the Dorset Geologists Association Group and the Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society. Phil has been collecting fossil corals and other fossils for over 50 years and spends a great deal of his time carefully preparing and extracting the fossils from their matrix for all to enjoy. Phil was helped by friend and fellow geology enthusiast Martyn Downs.
2. Ammonites plus extravaganza from Andy Steadman & Jackie Steadman. Another good selection of various fossils from the Inferior Oolite of Middle Jurassic age (163-174 million year old). Plus some neat small models of what the living creatures may have looked like in colour! Some of the larger ammonites were impressively detailed and obvious care had been taken in their extraction and presentation.
3. An important display of Igneous/metamorphic Rocks (University/school teaching set) with deep knowledge from Giles Droop. Really informative exhibit of microscopic images on laptop screen and hand specimens from earths special deep mantle (almost glowing!) hand specimens, a sight unfortunately rare in educational arenas these days.
4. Etches Collection information with leaflets and display material to demonstrate the educational aspects was ably shown by Nick Nugent who is the Education Coordinator from The Etches Collection: Museum of Jurassic Marine Life. Jurassic (Kimmeridge Clay) 148-157 million year old. This included hands on activity puzzle using various fossil sea reptile vertebrae and teeth to place on identity photos of sea reptiles. Also supplied a table with A4 size drawings of various Late Jurassic age sea creatures for colouring in with pencils – a popular activity for children and some adults too!
5. Chris Webb displayed some Late Jurassic age (Kimmeridge Clay: 148-152 million years old) microfossils as images on posters. Additional table display courtesy of Sheila Alderman/Jeremy Cranmer of some Somerset and further afield; lucky dip for the

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youngsters; a selection of labeled samples that were donated during the OUGS 2024 symposium held in Bath. The lucky dip proved to be attractive to many youngsters and parents.

6. Wessex OUGS (Open University Geological Society) by Bill Hinton and ably assisted by Gill Michaels. With a popular display of some interesting items from a four day field trip (Wessex OUGS) to Cap de la Hague on the Cotentin peninsula (Baie d'Ecalgrain) in Normandy. Also with some graphics on explain continental drift of Avalonia and America. Including some enlarged photos of amphibolite gneiss of age approximately 2,000 million years old. These are from rock outcrops of Precambrian to Silurian age exposed within a huge syncline. There seemed to many interesting discussions by various people attracted to this area!
7. Alan Driscoll had an excellent display of a selection of fossils amassed over more than sixty years of collecting, selected to illustrate the some of the fossil record from the late Precambrian (over 600 million years old) to Pleistocene (less than one million old). The fossils ranging in age from the late Precambrian (a stromatolite), taking in a range of fossils through the Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic up to the Pleistocene. This was so popular even led to unpacking some fossils to show a keen youngster arriving at the end – great job!
8. Roger and Janet Brown delivered as usual a new and very popular large display of Folkestone area fossils mainly from the Gault Clay (Lower Cretaceous (Albian) 100-112 million years old. Many interested people made sure they were kept busy.
9. Richard Barrett was also kept busy on the table with the guide books, building stone guides, fonated maps and micro-mount specimens even the odd one or two DGAG T-shirts!
10. Alan Holiday as ever had a good informative set of table mounted displays for DIGS, DGAG groups and the work they/we do. Alan was also presented with a small gift by Richard Barrett on behalf the group with applause as a token of his very long service at DIGS.
11. Geoff Rowland also had a busy day with his very interesting and informative review of the Geology Ham Hill and partly as a follow-up to the field trip on 19 October in Somerset. The interest being generated by a few hand specimens, leaflets and a rolling PowerPoint on a screen. Apologies to Geoff, the paparazzi did not get many photos of your table!
12. Andy Gordon of Somerset Geologist Group was also present and gave a good account with the support of a tricky rolling PowerPoint presentation on the largely volunteer geological work undertaken by the geology group in Somerset.

Last but not least there was a courageous effort from DGAG committee member Jonathan Stiby: Although not on a specific table, he was key not only to help set up and at the closing clear up but did also a great job during the event by shepherding members of public into the hall access point from the entrance sign on the street.

Congratulations and thanks for a job well done to everyone who contributed.

Chris Webb  
*DGAG Events – Editor*

# Photos: Table 1 – Coral action



# Photos: Table 2 & 1 – Ammonite & Coral discussions



# Photos: Table 2 – Marvellous ammonite model



# Photos: Table 3 - Igneous & Metamorphic aureole



# Photos: Table 4 – Etches: Sea Reptile puzzle

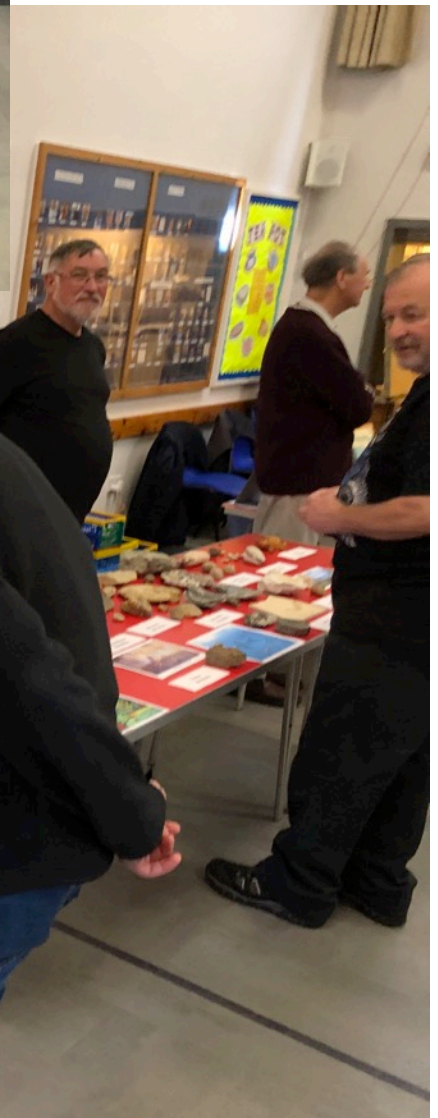


# Photos: Table 5: Lucky dip & labeled rocks puzzle





# Photos: Table 6 & 7 Discussion and explanations



# Photos: Table 7 in action & Table 3 foreground



# Photos: Table 8 – Folkestone fossils explained & shown



# Photos: Table 8 – More discussions & perspectives



# Photos: Table 9 – Geology Maps and books



# Photos: Table 10 – DIGS & DGAG displays



## Photos: Table 11 – Ham Hill Geology & Green Flag

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Website link:

<https://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/24504817.four-somerset-parks-awarded-green-flag-award/>

# Photos: Table 12 – Somerset Geology in action





# Photos: Various Hall & Table scenes

