
Dorset Geologist's Association Group (DGAG) is hosting a GEOFEST on the Saturday 18 October 2025.

Theme: A festival celebrating Geoscience: Fossils, Rocks and Earth Science. A DGAG annual event that is 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.

Selected DGAG members and some invited guests will exhibit their collections and share their Geoscience/Earth Science knowledge. **(See the list of contributors below)**

Anyone is welcome to come and see what is on show. If there are any Geoscience questions or puzzling rocks/fossils that people want advice on, these would be welcome also. Our inaugural event last year was a success, so should be even better this year – see the link below for the summary of last years event.

Time: The GEOFEST will start at 10.00 am; finish 3.00 pm

Entry Cost: Free

Booking: There is no need to book.

Event Contact: DGAG events at email: events@dorsetgeologistsassociation.org

Note: Food or drink **is not** being supplied at the venue, but there are plenty of nearby cafés etc.





Venue: The main Hall at the United Church, 49/51 Charles Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EE (postal address and rear entrance to church buildings). South Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1BY (front entrance to church 29 South St, Dorchester DT1 1BY)

Entrance can be from either of the 2 entrances: (See map at the end)

- Perhaps easiest for pedestrians will be from the alleyway entrance on the South street pedestrian zone where we will have a colourful advertising board (image below) pointing the way to the GEOFEST. Exact location using what 3 words: <http://whips.cooked.denser> (link to free app <https://what3words.com/about>).

- Otherwise enter from the Charles Street opposite to the Dorchester Library and car parks.

Event Description: (Initial list of presenters and their displays and this will be updated on the DGAG website nearer the date of the event, if required)

Display 1: Phil James of the Dorset Geologists Association Group and the Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society. Phil is promising special display of bivalves from quite a varied collection, including some large show pieces. This is sure to be as good as the fascinating fossil corals he showed last year (Photo)



Display 2: Ammonites plus extravaganza! Andy & Jackie Steadman. 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! Photo from 2023 DGAG workshop.



Display 3: Giles Droop : Igneous Rocks (University/ school teaching set). Last year and in 2023 had a really neat set covering various igneous type rocks, the olivine rich basalts were cool! Photo from 2023 DGAG workshop. An important display of Igneous/metamorphic Rocks Really informative exhibit of microscopic images on laptop screen and hand specimens from earth's special deep mantle (almost glowing!) hand specimens.



Display 4: Etches Collection information with leaflets and display material to demonstrate the educational aspects; 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!



Display 5: Chris Webb and Jurassic age (Kimmeridge Clay (148-152 million years old) microfossils shown as images on posters and perhaps other material,

Display 6: Wessex OUGS (Open University Geological Society). Bill Hinton. Last year display on Normandy and plate tectonics, this year Bill is promising something different and just as engaging. Possibly from the OUGS symposium in Nancy (France) where the theme is "Space Rocks", plus maybe something on the Winchcombe meteorite from some images courtesy of Dr Ashley King, but lets see what surprises he brings on the day!

Display 7: Alan Driscoll: Last year (2024) displayed a selection of fossils amassed over more than sixty years of collecting, selected to illustrate 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.

Display 8: Roger and Janet Brown: What promises to be a new and sure to be a delightful outing of some of their newest collected specimens. In 2024 we were delighted by Folkestone area fossils mainly from the Gault Clay (Lower Cretaceous (Albian) 100-112 million years old. In 2023 some very nice Jurassic age fossil fish scales from Ringstead Bay, Dorset. In 2022: Impressive collection including a large slab with *Saccocoma pectinata* (Pelagic "Floating" Crinoids /Sea Lilies) from the Solnhofen Limestone of Bavaria.

Display 9: Richard Barrett: Selection of guide books, building stone guides, fonated maps and micro-mount specimens.

Display 10: Alan Holiday (Posters, photos, maps for sale: DGAG, DIGS presentation boards and material)

Jonathan Stiby: (Key helper and Assistance at all stalls)

Display 11: John Scott: Sure to be a an entertaining display of educational material on rocks and/or fossils as John has presented such at many different venues with a great deal of interest. A great communicator of sometimes complex things so that all can understand.



Possible Contributors

Display: Perhaps Adrian Smith: In 2023 we had great display of well preserved Mollusca fossils from the Barton Group of Late Eocene age (~40 million years ago)

Display Perhaps Adrian Brokenshire – a small portion of his immense collection of superb small fossils – microscope

References & Website links:

1. Previous event GEOFEST October 2024

https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/1.18-Writeup-for-DGAG-Geofest-26OCT_2024.pdf

2. Dorset Geologists Association Group (DGAG) website

<https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/>

3. DGAG Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1706340262955772>

4. International Geodiversity Day website (#GeodiversityDay)

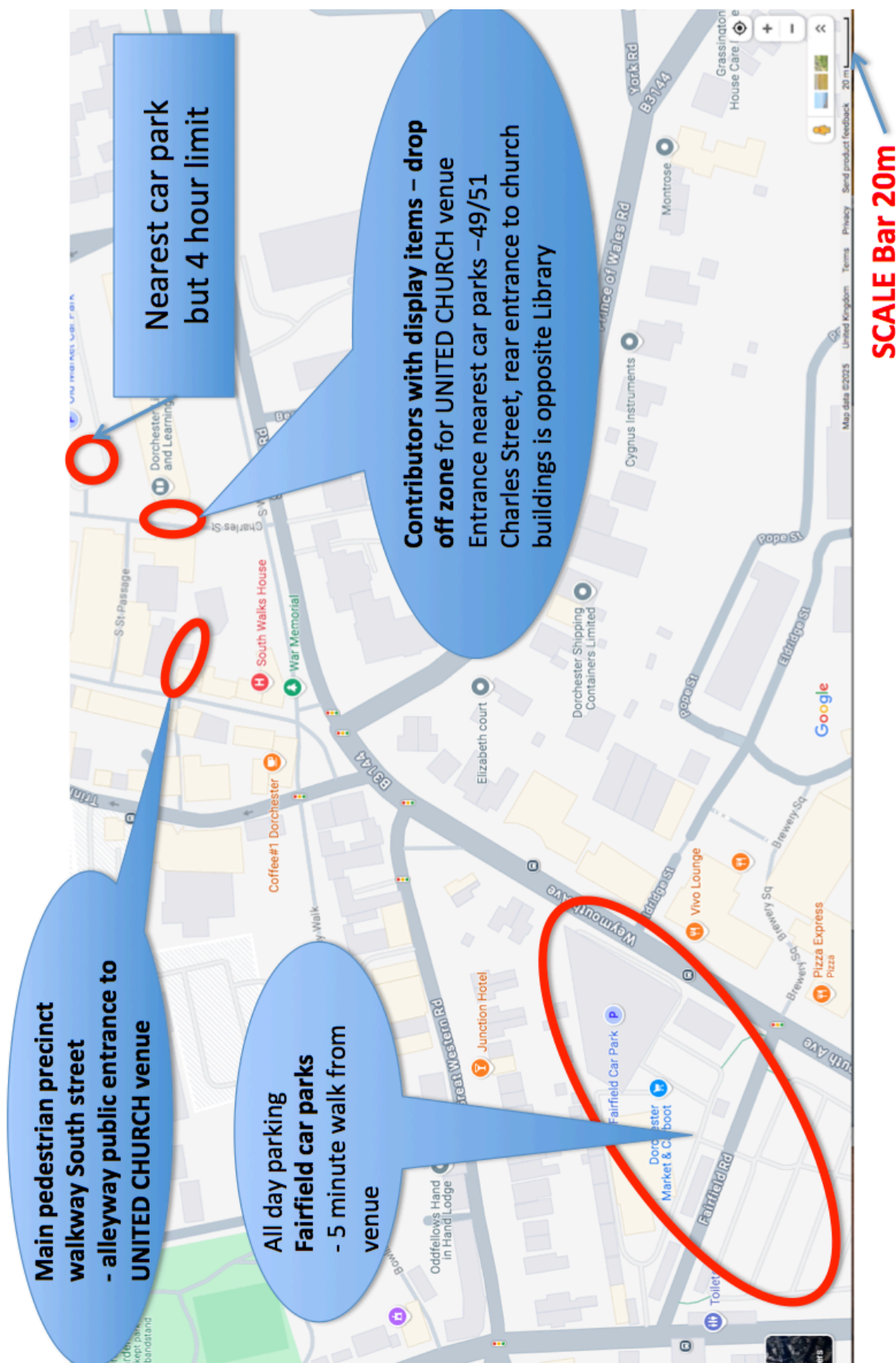
<https://www.geodiversityday.org/news>

5. Earth Science week website

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/outreach-and-policy>

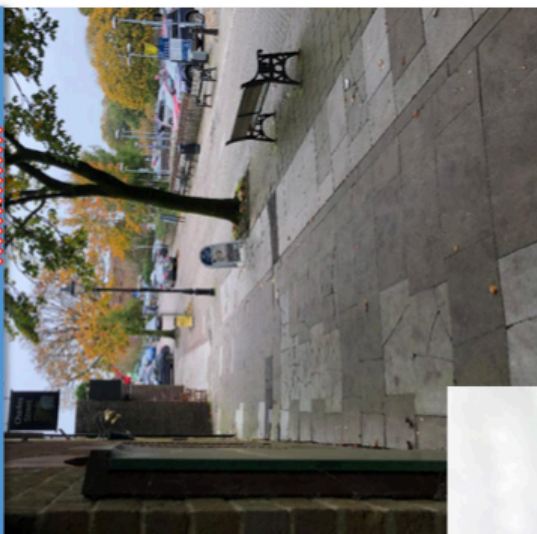
Location Map

DGAG GEOFEST – United Church Main Hall, Dorchester – venue entrances & parking



Rear Entrance of Venue, Loading Zone and Carparks

View from rear entrance
across loading zone and
nearest carpark

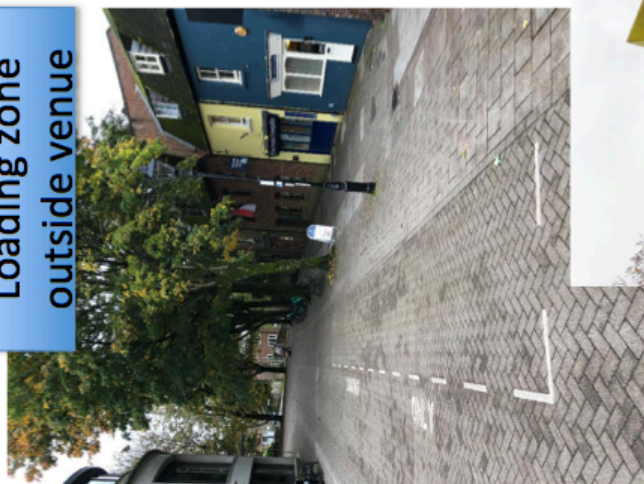


Nearest car park
but 4 hour limit

PAY
HERE
↓



Loading zone
outside venue



Fairfield all day
parking

