

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 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 with this year's theme One Earth, Many Stories

→ Each October, the Geological Society coordinates Earth Science Week in the UK, in cooperation with the American Geosciences Institute and the wider international geoscience community. This year's Earth Science Week celebrates 'Energy Resources for Our Future'. In our GEOFEST, selected DGAG members and invited guests exhibited their collections and share their Geoscience/Earth Science knowledge.

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 3:00 pm.

A total of 13 displays were on show, similar in many respects to the successful inaugural event run in 2024. Displays and activities were enjoyed by the exhibitors and visitors of all ages and abilities. It was estimated that about 100 to 150 members of the public visited, and the informal feedback indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Attached are photos taken at various times during the event and showing some of the activities and discussions with engaged members of the public of various ages and abilities (photos taken with approval).

Displays at the event and contributors:

1. We were privileged to see a special ("World Class") display of fossil Bivalvia collected and specially prepared by Phil James of the Dorset Geologists Association Group and the Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society. Phil has been collecting fossils for over 50 years, specialising in corals, ammonites, and bivalves and spends a great deal of his time carefully preparing and extracting the fossils from their matrix for all to enjoy. Phil's display included a sizeable Lower Greensand block (Early Cretaceous Period, about 110 to 120 million years ago) which had various large bivalves, a coral, and a section of nautilus, truly a wonder. Phil calls it "a basket of shellfish". There was also a photo of the block before it had been prepared. Phil was helped by fellow geology enthusiast Martyn Downs.
2. A first time outing at GEOFEST this year for an excellent collection of Eocene age (about 56 to 33.9 million years ago) fossil Mollusca ably explained by Adrian Smith. Attractive were the fossil shark teeth, particularly so as give away treats for kids.
3. An important display of ancient (millions to billions of years old) metamorphic Rocks (University/school teaching set) with deep knowledge from Giles Droop. Really informative exhibit and (including microscopic images on laptop screen) composed of hand specimens from the earth's metamorphic belts hand specimens. A sight unfortunately rare in educational arenas these days so quite special.
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 about 148 to 157 million years old). This included hands on activity puzzles using

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various fossil sea reptile vertebrae and teeth to place on ID photos of sea reptiles. Also supplied was a "design-o-saur" puzzle/quiz and 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: 148-157 million years old) microfossils and nannofossils as SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope – images from Jeremy Poole) and optical microscopic images on posters. Attracted attention from the public and even the visiting geological professionals - R. Gallois.
6. Dorset Building Stones group (Somerset and Dorset building stones) display courtesy of Sheila Alderman/Kelvin Huff attracted a lot of interest with hand lenses being used by a variety of interested folk ably guided by Sheila and Kelvin.
7. Wessex OUGS (Open University Geological Society) by Bill Hinton. "Space Rocks" – based on an OUGS Symposium at Nancy in July 2025. Yves Marrochi's lecture "Meteorites to understand the formation of the Solar System" best describes what Bill showed with sketch diagrams and photomicrographs. Bill summarized what others have said about types of meteorites involved in the Solar System. There seemed to many interesting discussions by various people attracted to the coloured model sculpture of a section through a meteorite - well done Bill!
8. Roger and Janet Brown delivered a new and very popular display ranging from mammoth fossils to various fossils from Morocco. Many interested people made sure they were kept busy - lots of material was actively pointed at and described.
9. Richard Barrett was also kept busy on the table with the guidebooks, guides, maps and booklets.
10. Alan Holiday as ever had a good set of vintage paper geological maps free to those interested.
11. DIGS (Dorset Important Geological Sites) group was ably represented by Geoff Pettifer with a series of fold board displays of the important geological conservation work in the area
12. John Scott as expected delivered an entertaining display of educational material on things DINOSAUR! Including a large actual fossil footprint of the front foot of Iguanodon. A great communicator of sometimes complex things so that all can understand.
13. Andy Gordon and Garry Dawson of Somerset Geologist Group, although not present this year (maybe next year!) were represented by rolling PowerPoint wall presentation on the largely volunteer geological work undertaken by the Somerset geology group. Combined with the displays by Sheila and Kelvin.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside anyone's control, displays by Andy and Jackie Steadman, Geoff Rowlands and Alan Driscoll displays were not here this year; so, we await next year's event!

Finally, DGAG committee member Jeremy Cranmer played an important role by guiding visitors from the street entrance to the hall access point.

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

Chris Webb (*DGAG Events – Editor*)

Display 1 – Brilliant Bivalvia



Display 2 – Molluscs - Eocene age excellence



Display 3 - Metamorphic magic



Display 4: Etches Collection – Jurassic Sea Reptiles plus



Display 5– Microscopic Late Jurassic universe



Display 6– Dorset Building Stones Group



Display 7: Wessex OUGS - Meteorites



Display 8 – Mammoths and Morocco fossils



Display 9 - Geological guides and publications



Display 10 – Free Vintage Geolocal maps



Display 11 DIGS



Display 12: DINOSAURS!

