59th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy

20th Meeting of the Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation

Geological Curators' Group

Lyme Regis – 12th to 17th September 2011

Fourth Circular

Booking

Bookings are now officially closed, though we can still accept more if don't you want to make a presentation. If you want a place for the conference dinner, please get a booking in as soon as possible

West Dorset fossil collecting code of conduct Consultation

We are very keen that delegates express their view on the collecting code which Richard Edmonds has been developing, and which tries to accommodate the different needs of those with an interest in the Dorset coast and its fossils.

On-line response questionnaire:

http://tethys.org.uk/dorsetCodeQuestionaire.php

The official web site:

http://www.jurassiccoast.com/299/managing-the-site-37/whs-management-167/fossil-code-review-803.html

The West Dorset fossil collecting code of conduct has been running for 12 years and was developed through a working party of interested groups with wider consultation. The code was accepted by UNESCO as appropriate management for a rapidly eroding coastline. As part of the Dorset and East Devon Coast Management Plan review, it was agreed that now is the time to undertake a review of the code.

The aim of the review is to examine the effectiveness of the code and to consult widely with organisations with an Earth science and Geoconservation interest although views are welcome from individuals with any background.

As academics with a considerable interest in the fossils which come from the coast, your views will be particularly relevant. Please take the time to make a contribution.

Programme and Abstracts

The programme and abstracts have been posted on the web site. Please note that because of the number and quality of abstracts submitted,; it has been decided to hold some SVPCA talks on the late afternoon of Tuesday 13th September. M

http://svpca.org/general/pages/programme.php?y=2011

http://svpca.org/general/pages/talksAndPosters.php?y=2011

Payment

If you have not yet paid, it would be greatly appreciated if you could get your payment in as soon as possible. Because of the venue, and other aspects of organising the conference without the backing of a university, there are rather more up front costs than is perhaps usual.

Auction

The auction raises money for the Jones-Fenleigh Memorial Fund which supports delegates with no institutional backing who wish to attend the conference. Please make bring along items for the auction. Not only is this a very enjoyable event, it raises money for a cause close to our hearts.

T-Shirt

A design for the conference T-shirt, based on one of Bob Nicholl's paintings is posted on the web site.

http://svpca.org/years/2011_lyme_regis/tshirt.php

Cost will be £10. If you did not express an interest in a T-Shirt when you made your booking please let the organisers know as soon as possible so that additional shirts can be printed if necessary.

Field Trips

The Heritage Coast gives so many possibilities for field trips that it has been hard to decide where to go! Three trips are planned:

1. Lyme Regis-Charmouth: the classic trip, covering the exposures of the Lower Lias made famous by centuries of discoveries. This trip will be run on the Tuesday of the week. after the SPPC/GCG conference so that delegates attending the SVPCA can have the opportunity to join. Because of times of tides it will start at 12:00 to make the most of low water. Bring sandwiches if you want lunch!

We are planning two alternative trips for the Saturday of the conference.

2. Kimmeridge and the surrounding area. This will be a chance to visit Steve Etches collection of Kimmeridge Clay fossils, one of the finest private collections from anywhere in the world.
3. Sidmouth and area. The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site extends west of Lyme Regis, and includes lesser-known Triassic deposits. This will be a chance to go to some less familiar localities for those already familiar with the more recent deposits.

…and, of course, given the location for the conference there will be ample opportunity to stroll down to the shore during lunch breaks to collect fossils!

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner will be held in the Marine Theatre, and provided by Sweetlands, a local catering company who specialise in home produced and locally sourced organic food. Details of the menu will be posted on the web site when they are available. Cost will be £37.50/head.

More about them here: http://www.sweetlands.co.uk/

Mary Anning Day – 24th September

Tickets for Mary Anning Day at Lyme Regis are now on sale. It will be a great day for anyone interested in the life and times of Mary Anning, the History of Science, Fossils and Creative Writing! In fact there's something for everyone!. Free museum entry and creative family fun activities.

See www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk for the full programme and booking info.

Accommodation

Delegates will need to make their own arrangements for accommodation, but if they are made in good time there should be little problem in finding B&Bs, hotels, shared flats and houses or caravans. The Tourist Information Centre is a good first point of contact.

Lyme Regis Tourist Information Centre
Church Street, Lyme Regis, DT7 3BS
Telephone: 01297 442138
E-mail: lymeregis.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk
Website: www.westdorset.com

Other contacts are posted on the svpca.org web site.

Getting there

Lyme Regis is easily accessible by road and public transport. Axminster station is 5 miles away on the main Waterloo to Exeter line. Buses or taxis can be used to complete the journey.

More details can be found on the svpca.org web site.

Organisers
Richard Forrest (Electronic ether)
Richard Edmonds (Dorset)
Steve McLean (GCG)