

# THE **Future** OF THE **Past**

## PALAEONTOLOGY OPEN DAY

Thursday 11 November 2010, from 10am



### **The Palaeontology Department would like to invite you to its Open Day.**

This special event will showcase aspects of the work undertaken 'behind the scenes' by the Department in areas such as research, curation, conservation and consultancy.

It's a rare opportunity for you to come and observe areas in the Museum that are normally behind closed doors. Attendance at this event is by Invitation only.

As valued associates and partners we hope you are able to join us, to share in the excitement and energy of the Palaeontology Department and take this chance to explore how we can help you deliver

**THE Future OF THE Past...**

**RSVP:** To accept our invitation and to reserve your place on the exciting talks and tours, please use our guest booking system [www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday) or complete the form on the back of this invitation.

**We look forward to welcoming you!**

The Department of Palaeontology is one of 5 scientific departments within The Natural History Museum. Housing the Museum's collections of fossils, the Department employs staff specialising in curation, conservation and scientific research. We host a vibrant community of young scientists and benefit from the experience and contribution of our Scientific Associates.

Come and meet the team and find out more about our work...

## Displays and Activities

- Join in our Fossil Roadshow - take part in sieving for fossils, bring your favourite fossils for identification and see our replica displays.
- We will be demonstrating some of the latest technologies such as forensic scans, CT scanning and 3D scanning.
- There will be posters from staff on subjects such as CT Scanned teeth, Eligminae and ancient DNA.
- Get a first look at our upcoming 'Age of the Dinosaur' exhibition!
- You can also see some of the work done by our volunteers and examples of documentation through the ages.
- Take a look at a fascinating special exhibit on the Geology of London and the geological timeline.

And what's more, meet the Scientists themselves!



## TALKS

We have put together an exciting programme of talks covering diverse subjects ranging from Human Origins, dinosaurs and forensic anthropology.

Professor Richard Fortey FRS will be chairing these talks.

Guests can attend as few or as many as their agendas will allow. Choose from the following:

**i Prof Chris Stringer – Out of Africa**

Evidence points strongly to Africa as the major centre for the genetic, physical and behavioural origins of both ancient and modern humans, but new discoveries are prompting a rethink of some aspects of our evolutionary origins.

**ii Heather Bonney – Beyond recognition**

The uses of forensic anthropology: Forensic anthropology can be used to identify individuals when circumstances prohibit the use of routine methods. This talk discusses the techniques used to assist various types of investigation.

**iii Prof Adrian Lister – Evolution and Extinction in the Ice Age**

Quaternary (Ice Age) mammals provide a uniquely detailed look at the evolution and extinction of species using techniques as varied as DNA and radiocarbon dating.

**iv Dr Margaret Clegg – Headhunters & Bone Collectors**

The story of human remains at the NHM: Human remains have been part of the Natural History Museum since Hans Sloane left his collection to the nation in the 18th century. Since then the museum has amassed over 20,000 sets of remains – find out how they got here and what has happened to them since they arrived.

**v Dr Ken Johnson – 25 Million years of change on Caribbean and Southeast Asian Coral Reefs**

New collections of fossils provide new insights into the history of the diversity and ecology of coral reefs in the two main modern-day regions with substantial reef-building. In particular, study of the response coral reef ecosystems to past episodes of change can be used to assess potential future responses of modern reefs to accelerating human-caused environmental change.

**vi Dr Paul Barrett – Dinosaurs and plants: searching for co-evolutionary patterns in the fossil record**

Living herbivores exert strong pressures on the plants that they eat, and in turn plants affect many aspects of animal biology and behaviour. It's often suggested that dinosaurs and their plant contemporaries would have had a similar relationship, but how good is the evidence?



# TOURS



As the Palaeontology Department opens its doors, take the opportunity to look behind the scenes at the Department at work. This is a unique opportunity to see otherwise hidden areas of the Museum's work.

Tours are repeated throughout the day, just select your tour and time:

## 1 Highlights

Taking in the wide range of collections held in the Palaeontology Department you will see some of our most famous fossils, including Dinosaurs, trilobites and plant fossils.

## 2 Vertebrates

This tour will take you around our Vertebrate collections to see some of our most significant specimens, including fossil birds, Pterosaurs and dinosaurs.

## 3 Invertebrates & Plants

Join a member of the team to explore the world of fossil plants and Invertebrates, including Darwin's specimens.

## 4 Micropalaeontology

Take a chance to see historically important microfossil collections from the Challenger expedition, as well as model collections made by d'Orbigny dating back from the early days of classification of the Foraminifera. The tour will finish with the opportunity to view the famous Heron-Allen Christmas card slides.

## 5 Imaging Suite

We invite you to see demonstrations of our excellent and cutting edge analytical and imaging facilities such as the a 3D laser scanner, Infinite-Focus Microscope and Axiocam Digital Photography system, used by artists and scientists alike!

## 6 Rare Books Room

An introduction to the Library and the opportunity to view a display of rare and manuscript material from its Earth Sciences collection, such as photographs from the Challenger Expedition and artwork by Waterhouse Hawkins.

## 7 Palaeontology Conservation Unit

On this tour you will be able to see some of the incredible preparation, replication and conservation work taking place, not to mention oxygen storage, lasers, environmental monitoring and 3D imaging with a replica produced from the 3D image, and of course there are Dinosaurs and Blaschkas!

## The Marsh Award

4.30pm onwards

**Come and see the Award and a special talk by Professor Iain Stewart, eminent television geologist from the University of Plymouth.**

The Marsh Award for Palaeontology recognises those who have contributed significant work to the field, whose efforts have not necessarily been widely acknowledged. Nominees can be of amateur or professional status and should have made an outstanding or cumulative contribution to Palaeontology in the UK. The Marsh Trust is a grant-making body supporting registered charities. Founded in 1981, by Brian Marsh OBE, it now runs over 40 Awards with a number of partner organisations and supports a growing number of smaller charities. The Award is comprised of a certificate and prize.



## Venue & Travel Information

Guests are welcome to arrive from 9:30am and registration will take place at the Flett Theatre entrance on Exhibition Road.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/access-guide/museum-entrances/index.html>

There will be tea & coffee on arrival and a light sandwich lunch will be served between 12:30pm and 2:30pm

There are many ways to find us:

### By Tube:

We are within walking distance of South Kensington station on the District, Circle and Piccadilly lines.

### By Bus:

Routes 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 414 and C1 stop near us.

Please see the online booking form for our Terms and Conditions

# THE Future OF THE Past

## PALAEONTOLOGY OPEN DAY

### WAYS TO BOOK

1. Register online at [www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday)
2. Complete this form and fax it to 0207 942 5546
3. Complete this form and post it to Open Day, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

Thursday 11 November 2010. The Natural History Museum, London

### 1 Personal Information and Contact Details

Please write clearly in CAPITAL LETTERS

By providing your details you consent to being contacted with relevant updates from the Palaeontology Department regarding your participation at this event. The Natural History Museum will process the information collected from this form in accordance with Data Protection Act 1988. Your details will not be passed to any third party.

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Ms  Prof.  Dr  Other; .....

Name ..... Organisation .....

Street Address .....

Town/City ..... County ..... Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Fax .....

Email .....

Dietary requirements: (Please select)  Vegan  Vegetarian  No beef  No pork  No seafood  No fish  No dairy

Allergy/Other: .....

Please tick if you would like someone to contact you to discuss access needs or any special assistance

Please tick if you would like to receive regular copies of the Palaeontology Department Newsletter "Set in Stone"

Please tick if you would like to receive further updates on activities and the work of the Department

### 2 Events

In order for us to plan your schedule, please indicate which events you would like to attend.

Please ensure that the times that you select for the Talks and Tours don't clash.

**TALKS:** Please select which talks you would like to attend, you can select as many as your time allows!

		10.15am	11.05am	11.55am		2pm	2.50pm	3.45pm
i	Prof Chris Stringer	<input type="checkbox"/>						
ii	Heather Bonney		<input type="checkbox"/>					
iii	Prof Adrian Lister			<input type="checkbox"/>				
iv	Dr Margaret Clegg					<input type="checkbox"/>		
v	Dr Ken Johnson						<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi	Dr Paul Barrett							<input type="checkbox"/>

**TOURS:** Please select your preferred time for each tour you would like to participate in. Details of the tours are listed overleaf. Places are limited.

		10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm
1	Highlights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Vertebrates	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
3	Invertebrates & Plants		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Micropalaeontology			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Imaging Suite	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	Rare Books		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Conservation Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3 The Marsh Award

The Marsh Award will take place at 4.30pm followed by a Talk by Prof Iain Stewart and a Reception. Please indicate if you are able to attend:

Yes, I am able to attend the Marsh Award, Talk and Reception

No, I am unable to attend the Marsh Award, Talk and Reception

CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT ONCE YOUR BOOKING AS BEEN PROCESSED

Book online at [www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/palaeoopenday) or call 020 7942 5519