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## PRESS RELEASE

# BRLSI Collections Lecture Series

The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution launch an exciting series of lectures this Autumn relating to their rich and varied collection. The BRLSI collection takes in many disciplines including archaeology, ethnology, zoology, mineralogy, botany, and palaeontology, and although at present the collection is not currently on permanent display the institution promotes its use through annual thematic exhibitions and a dynamic programme of research. There are plans afoot to put more of the collection on permanent display, as a taster in the meanwhile Collections Manager, Matt Williams, and the volunteer team he works with will be giving a series of talks highlighting some of the gems of the collection and its history.

The keynote lecture in this series takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> October and is entitled *Charles Moore and his Fossils*. In it, Matt Williams, a palaeontologist by specialism, will detail how early member Moore, on joining the early incarnation of the institution in 1854, proceeded to create a fossil museum for the people of Bath; a city which later came to be regarded by many as 'the cradle of geology'. The talk will centre on how Moore donated his already substantial collection of fossils to be exhibited for 'the public benefit' and how that collection subsequently came to be recognised as being one having international importance.

Matt Williams will give a fascinating insight into how this unique collection was gathered, used over time, and the ways in which it is able to yield new scientific discoveries even to the present day. The talk is a must both for those interested in the history of Bath and for those with a wider interest in Geology and Science.

Further lectures in the series will take in varied aspects of BRLSI's collection including:

- Wednesday 17 October 2018: Charles Moore and his Fossils, Matt Williams
- Wednesday 14 November 2018: Our Historic Library and Archives, Evelyn Lewis, Rob Randall et al
- Wednesday 16 January 2019: Artefacts and All Sorts, TBA
- Wednesday 13 February 2019: From Hades to the Machine Age, Matt Williams

At the end of each talk a member of the BRLSI collections team will be taking questions from the floor on both the subject of the talk and the fascinating work of caring for such a collection. If there is something you have always wanted to know about the identification of fossils or the unearthing of dinosaurs this is your big chance!

Each lecture takes approximately 45 minutes and allows 45 minutes for questions.

Visitors: £4.00 BRLSI Members £2.00 All Welcome.

Income from ticket sales is used to cover the cost of making this lecture available to the public.

**Note for Editors:** The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) is an educational charity based in the centre of Bath. The Institution runs a programme of more than 150 public lectures each year of topics including science, philosophy, art and literature. It also maintains collections of minerals, fossils and other items, as well as a library of rare books. The BRLSI's Jenyns Room is one of Bath's leading gallery spaces with a year-round programme of art and museum exhibitions.



## Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution

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