

Issue No 33  
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# Hugh's News

Newsletter of  
The Friends of Hugh Miller



*A happy and peaceful New Year to you all*

## WRITING COMPETITION II

# FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

by Lara Reid and Martin Gostwick

What do these traces on seashore, loch-side or riverbank, mean to you? Are they your own steps, on the lookout for something you have never seen before, or two sets belonging to you and a companion on the same quest together? Or could they be enormous footprints, left by some gigantic reptile in the primordial mud, and which over eons of time became preserved in stone?

If, like Hugh Miller himself, you have a strong religious faith, then they could be "footprints of the creator," the title of the book he wrote in the late 1840s affirming the role of a divine being in all nature's works.

It is a phrase designed to fire your imagination, and inspire you to describe your own adventures in what is still the wild country which covers much of Scotland.

We are inviting you, our members and readers, to take part in the second Hugh Miller Writing Competition, with an entry for adults of up to 1000 words, about a treasured geological experience you have had, inspired by recent exciting fossil discoveries, or by Hugh's own writings.

This, like the first competition held in 2015/16, is a unique event, unlike any other we know of, in that it combines involvement in the natural sciences with creative writing.

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Mike Taylor and Ralph O'Connor discuss "why Miller still matters"

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

# BIG CHANGE IN AGM VENUE

We are delighted to confirm that our next, 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be held in Edinburgh, to coincide with the second writing competition's prize-giving ceremony. The following are the details:

### TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the **Scottish Poetry Library**

5, Crichton's Close, Canongate, EDINBURGH EH8 8DT,

**on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

starting on the Mezzanine floor at **10.30am**

**It will be followed at the same venue by the awards ceremony at 2.00pm.**

For more information on the venue, please visit: [www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk)



## Love Scotland's landscapes and geology?

Then enter the Hugh Miller Writing Competition II

inspired by the fossil discoveries made in Scotland over the past 30 years.

Open to all ages.

**Closing date: Midnight, 15th April 2018**

**Details from:**

**[www.scottishgeology.com/hughmiller](http://www.scottishgeology.com/hughmiller)**

"Creatures whose very type is lost -  
fantastic and uncouth...boat-like animals,  
furnished with oars and a rudder -  
fish plated over, like a tortoise, above and below,  
with a strong armour of bone..."

Hugh Miller, Old Red Sandstone, 1841

*continued from page 1*

The second competition has the support of some highly regarded writers, including Robert Macfarlane, author of such best-sellers as *Mountains of the Mind*, and James Robertson, popular novelist and editor of two Miller books which first relaunched him in the public eye.

Says Robert: "Hugh Miller is one of the writers who gave me 'deep-time spectacles'; his remarkable prose helped me, as it has helped so many people, to see back into earth history, and read our planet's ancient past from its present surface. He was, really, a visionary, and it is wonderful to see him still celebrated today."

The competition is being organised by no less than 10 partners in the fields of geology and education, whose names you see on the flyer. It was launched at a public meeting held by the Edinburgh Geological Society on 1<sup>st</sup> November, and has a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The prize-giving ceremony will take place on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July in the Scottish Poetry Library at 5 Crichton Close in Edinburgh's Canongate district.



*Dinosaur footprints from Clashach quarry, near Elgin, looking as fresh as if they had been made yesterday.*

### **Competition Rules**

1. There are two categories; young people aged under 16 (on the closing date) and adults aged 16 and over.
2. Competition entries can be in any written format, fiction, non-fiction or poetry and should be directly inspired by fossil discoveries made in Scotland within the last 30 years. We are looking for work celebrating Scotland's fossils, alongside the geology and landscapes they are found in, and will accept direct links / references to Hugh Miller although this is not a compulsory element of entering.
3. Entries must be the entrant's own work and not have been previously published. They must be no more than 200 words in length for under 16s and no more than 1000 words for adults.
4. The competition closes at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018. All entries must be submitted by email as outlined below.
5. Copyright of submitted entries will rest with the author. The Scottish Geodiversity Forum request a non-exclusive licence to publish a selection of entries, for example on [www.scottishgeology.com](http://www.scottishgeology.com).
6. The competition is open to all and there is no charge to enter. The judges will be freelance science writer Lara Reid, naturalist Kenny Taylor, writer Jane Verburg (1<sup>st</sup> prize in prose winner of the first Hugh Miller Writing Competition), together with geologist Simon Cuthbert (University of the West of Scotland) and palaeontologist and science writer Elsa Panciroli (University of Edinburgh & the National Museums Scotland). If your anonymised work is likely to be recognisable by any of these judges, please declare this when you submit your entry so that we can assess any conflict of interest.
7. Winners will be notified by 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The judges' decision is final.

### **Awards Ceremony and Prizes**

Winners will be invited to an Awards ceremony in Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018; the day will include a geological tour of Edinburgh taking in sites relevant to Hugh Miller. Other prizes include a weekend for two in Cromarty, Black Isle, books related to Hugh Miller, geopoetics and Scotland's landscapes and geology, geological maps, family passes for Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, and more.

### **How to Enter**

Submit your entry as an email attachment in word or pdf format to [competition@scottishgeodiversityforum.org](mailto:competition@scottishgeodiversityforum.org). Please include your name and contact details only in your covering email, not in the entry itself, which should be anonymous. Please also declare in your covering email if you think your identity as the author of your (anonymised) entry could be recognised by any of the named judges. These are precautionary steps to avoid any possible conflict of interest in the judging process. Thank you for your co-operation. All entries will be acknowledged within 72 hours. We are happy to accept batches of entries from schools, please get in touch to arrange this.

For more details, please visit [www.scottishgeology.com](http://www.scottishgeology.com)



# OLD RED: HUGH MILLER'S GEOLOGICAL LEGACY

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

We lead off our reports of our conference, "The Old Red: Hugh Miller's Geological Legacy," with the following delightful, impressionistic account from a true enthusiast.

### "A little like a fish out of water"

by Lara Reid\*

While Hugh Miller once spent hours, days, weeks, painstakingly puzzling out fish parts from scales to skulls, we now have the technology to recreate fish anatomies using 3D printing, or design beautiful computer animations of the fish and their surroundings. I have no doubt that Miller would, at first, simply stare in disbelief, before launching into a characteristically enthusiastic, stream-of-consciousness response to such wonders.

Such as it was for me, listening to the lectures at Miller's legacy conference, The Old Red, in Cromarty, September 2017. I was, at first, feeling a little like a fish out of water – an enthused amateur in the midst of some of palaeontology's big names. But I soon settled in; the thought of Miller's possible time travel and subsequent floundering at such an event was strangely reassuring.

Miller's focus, determination and enthusiasm lives on today, channelled into the extensions of the very research he kickstarted back in the mid-1800s. I found myself reeled in, hook line and sinker, a little after 10am, by John Long's humorous and intriguing account of the sex lives of Devonian fish. His research, widely broadcast at the time of its first publication, uncovered what is now considered to be the first instances of internal fertilization. Discussing (and indeed watching!) sex in a Scottish lake proved tantalising at the very least so early on in the conference.

Long's talk was complemented beautifully by Martin Brazeau of Imperial College, London. Moving deftly from fish sex to the wider implications of fish behaviour and their evolution, we found ourselves swimming through the evolutionary tree among a cast of characters from jawless fish through to Devonian jawed vertebrates, placoderms and eventually, to us human beings. Brazeau is working to clarify how the diversity within the early jawed fishes fits into the evolutionary tree of life, searching for similarities to find shared ancestry, and also looking for those fossils that will help bridge the gaps in current understanding. This is something Miller started by piecing together his beloved fossil fish at his desk 170 years ago.

Throughout these two talks, and the many others that I heard that day, I saw

*On this page:*

*Top Australian palaeontologist John Long examines a *Microbachius* fossil, found on Orkney in 2014*

*A male *Microbachius* specimen showing claspers (male reproductive organs)*

*Artist's reconstruction of mating *Microbachius* by Dr Brian Choo (Flinders University)*

*Jaw of a Jurassic mammal, *Wareolestes rex*, found on Skye,*

*On facing page:*

*Elsa on Eigg*

*Lara Reid*

*Jim C Mackintosh*





direct evidence of Miller's own philosophies of science flowing through them. I even went as far as to imagine Miller sitting next to me at one point, taking notes, commenting, questioning... He would have applauded the wonderful collaborations between palaeontologists across the globe, and recognised the trials of backbreaking searches through seashore and rockface describing by Elsa Panciroli in her description of recent fossil finds on the Isle of Skye. Extensive, detailed examination and re-examination of fish fossils still forms the backbone of research today, even though we now have incredible technologies on hand to help. Miller urged all to '*learn to make a right use of your eyes*'; and, for me at least, at the Old Red conference we celebrated what can be achieved as a direct result of that philosophy.

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\*Lara Reid is a freelance science writer, organiser of the Hugh Miller Writing Competitions, and a member of The Friends' management committee.



## Old Reds and New Horizons

by Jim C Mackintosh

The subtle reminder of the sea a single row back folding in and about the jacket of the new lad passing the house of the man himself, respectfully nodding in its direction. Its white canvas of Cromarty stone corried doon under the confident, precise curve of thatch waiting for a fresh batch of converts to his discoveries and the ever-narrowing gap between the fossils and us.

But this apprentice has business up by the park in the Hall where the guid fowk of the Burgh guard soft, looking down from the walls – sentries full of wisdom and stories but welcoming of strangers here to listen to the words fashioned from the Old Red, between the sounds and shapes where voices old and new would take away Miller's Legacy over hills and oceans.

Complete dawns and revelations blossomed in attentive air, seeping in to our imaginations, all of us, deep time travellers; homostius milleri, motherfish, placoderms, tetrapods materpiscis attenboroughi, pterichthyodes milleri and sex on a dreich Saturday morning with the tease of gold before lunch – no vestige of a beginning, no prospect of an end. Even Hutton's bones welcomed the intrusion of it all.



Ends and beginnings with the voids in between are under constant scrutiny. We see them coming and write towards their roughly hewn edges only for fresh lit minds to open up new fissures, to scrape clear alleys once blind and remove the smoosh to make more sense, to birth new ends, debate new beginnings, to be nourished and urged to tell their stories, and there to put flesh on fossil bone with renewed energy.

And before you knew it, a fish swam through a turtle, died, fell into the anoxic stagnant mud of a Sunday underpinned by the simmer of the previous evening's craic where the world was sorted and a score draw declared in the precious embrace of a dram or two between friends declaring the world to be flat, round and everything in between. Everything spoke of inquisitive minds, of many new beginnings.

But still the rocks will remain - measured, registered G.1859.33. The care of curious curators fearless of ever-changing influences in an ever-changing world. The catalogue of images, calotyped daguerreotyped, digitised, shaped in 3D and of Miller in front of the camera, ahead of his time, yet still behind us all overseeing our pilgrimages below the Sutors, between low tide and the high bar he set back then by the subtle reminder of the sea a single row back.



## CONFERENCE REPORTS (continued)

### Covered in a “coat of magic”

by Martin Gostwick

A “coat of magic” is how one speaker described the thrill of discovery and that seems to sum up the experience of our whole conference.

It was held over a day and a half at the Victoria Hall, Cromarty, on September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and achieved outstanding success according to all those present. It received sponsorship in the form of £1,000 grant-in-aid from the Palaeontological Association, £500 from Edinburgh Geological Society, and £500 from the Cromarty Trust. It was attended by 49 delegates, and two volunteers, and was addressed by 12 speakers.

Opening the conference, we received a “good luck” message from the late Professor Nigel Trewin which expressed perfectly his generosity and lightheartedness, telling us that the social side of such meetings is “frequently the most productive time, when friendships are made or renewed, and new projects formulated.” And so it proved.

Among the many highlights was a tour de force on the subject of Hugh Miller's classic geological work, *The Old Red Sandstone*, by the editors who are working on a comprehensive new edition of the great work which has been out of print for nearly a century. The editors, Ralph O'Connor, Aberdeen University professor in the literature and culture of Britain, Ireland, and Iceland, and Dr Michael A Taylor, research associate, National Museums Scotland (NMS), emphasised with many examples why its outstanding literary qualities make it as worth reading today as it was when first published in 1841.

Keynote speaker palaeontology Professor John Long, of Flinders University, South Australia, presented new revelations concerning the complex reproduction structures in Devonian era fossil fish - including in some of the very same animals Hugh Miller first discovered nearly 200 years ago. He showed how, while placoderms reproduced principally by spawning (external fertilisation), internal fertilisation (copulation) must have been lost and regained at least once, indicated by evidence of strong claspers similar to those used by sharks.

Dr Martin Brazeau, Imperial College faculty of natural sciences, further developed the theme of vertebrate evolu-



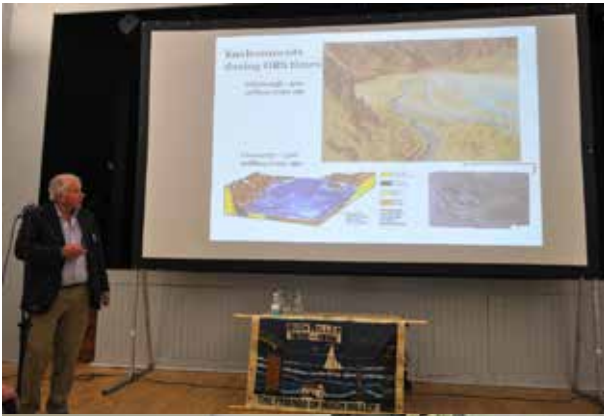
*Friends chairman Bob Davidson shows slides of the fossil models in his collection.*

*Bob Davidson's fossil models*

*Cheery delegates' group, from left Christopher Moore, John Armstrong and Roger Jones*

*The conference in session*

*All conference photos: Laura Thompson*



tion, exploring how fishes from the Orcadian basin have helped shape our understanding of evolutionary relationships, ranging from the origin of jaws, teeth, and paired appendages, to the eventual conquest of the land by tetrapods. A lively and productive scientific debate was stimulating researchers to revisit and revive interest in these fossils.

Among the most pleasant, indeed thrilling aspects, of the event, was the post-conference excursion to Miller's famous Cromarty Fish Bed, during which several delegates and some speakers found remarkable Devonian fish specimens., virtually in the same locality as he did.

The conference delegates were treated by retired oil and gas consultant Roger Jones to most of them's first sight of an extraordinary fossil named for Miller, *Homostius milleri*, at 66cm long and 40cm wide, probably the largest and most complete specimen of this species known.

Roger forms one of a group lead by Professor Nigel Trewin known as 'The Old Red Fish Filleters,' and because of his particular interest in new techniques for high quality fossil preparation, which reveal morphological detail not seen in traditionally 'split' fish, he has had five exceptionally good casts made of it, one of which the delegates were later able to see on display during their tour of Hugh Miller Museum.

Dr Andrew Ross, National Museums of Scotland's principal curator of palaeontology, brought to public attention several hardly, if ever before seen samples from archives of the NMS Miller collection purchased from his family after his death. He said they numbered some 4,000 fossils, a small proportion of NMS holdings which amount to a quarter of a million specimens.

John Hudson, emeritus professor of geology at the University of Leicester, has researched the Jurassic rocks of the Inner Hebrides since 1956, and used many quotations from Miller's writings in co-authoring *The Geology of Eigg* (2nd edition) published by Edinburgh Geological Society in 2016.

Miller's "*Lias*" was now known to be late Jurassic, Kimmeridgian, in age. His observations on the brackish "estuarine" molluscan faunas on Eigg were notable in anticipating later research. In general, Miller was more interested in fossils than in rocks, but striking phenomena like the co

*continued on page 8*

*Alan McKirdy shows Scotland in Devonian times; our Friends banner can be seen in the foreground*

*Andrew Ross of NMS (left) in animated discussion with an attentive audience*

*Jenny Henderson (right), proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Cromarty, and a member of staff jovially serve the tea and coffee breaks. The Royal also put on our conference dinner.*

*Gavin Berkenheger in the field on the hunt for gold*

*All conference photos: Laura Thompson*



concretionary sandstones on Eigg, and the modern “musical sands” derived from them, called forth enthusiastic descriptions and speculations.

Elsa Panciroli, a palaeobiologist from the Highlands of Scotland, is a member of the Isle of Skye teams from NMS, and the Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford. She described how their field work has yielded exceptionally complete mammal skeletons. Many of these are revealed through micro-CT scanning and digital reconstruction in unprecedented detail.

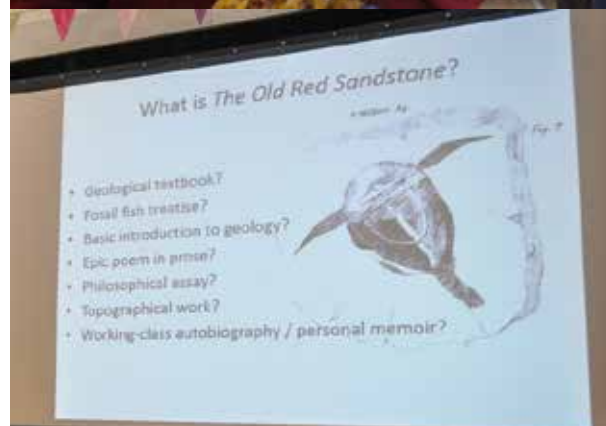
She mentioned the National Geographic-sponsored field work in 2017, including revisiting Miller's Reptile Bed on Eigg. She also reviewed the larger animals and fossil localities being studied on Skye: dinosaurs, flying and marine reptiles, expansive fossil footprint sites, and elusive fish groups.

Alan McKirdy, author of a wide-ranging series of geological guidebooks, took as his starting point Miller's quote: “*Let me qualify myself to stand as interpreter between nature and the public.*” He said a challenge was facing today's earth scientists: “Geology is still one of the lesser known of the sciences. Many of the exciting facts about the geology of Scotland remain locked in academic texts and are not widely known by the general public.”

Gold prospector Gavin Berkenheger raised the audience's spirits invoking how two of Miller's maxims inspired his work, about using your eyes properly, and treating life itself as a “school,” through which new discoveries in the natural world could become covered in “a coat of magic.”

The Friends of Hugh Miller's chairman, palaeontologist Bob Davidson said Miller was one of many scientists who attempted to rationalise body plans of the fossils they collected by producing models of them. His eventual paper version of his *Pterichthyodes* remained reasonably accurate. Today technological advancement allowed the recreation of ancient forms via computer media in place of the rubber moulds, gutta percha and plaster materials of old.

Dr Alison Morrison-Low, writer and publisher on the history of NMS science and photography collections, gave a visually striking account of geology's early years as represented in the new art form, encompassing the Hill/Adamson calotypes of the early 1840s, and photography's meteoric rise from the 1850s onwards.



Gavin Berkenheger's slide gives the answers to his own question: How does Hugh Miller inspire me today?

Gavin allows daughter Conevieve to steal the show

What is The Old Red Sandstone, ask Ralph O'Connor and Mike Taylor: Geological textbook; fossil fish treatise; basic introduction to geology; epic poem in prose; philosophical essay; topographical work; working-class autobiography/ personal memoir? And their answer was: All these and more.

Sarah Davidson, smiling at the projecting station.

All conference photos: Laura Thompson





*Left column, top to bottom:*  
 Bob Davidson: fossil models good and bad  
 Roger Jones: the "Big Fish" from Spittal  
 Martin Brazeau: tree of life evolution

*Centre column, top to bottom:*  
 Elsa Panciroli: Inner Hebrides discoveries  
 Andrew Ross: NMS Miller Collection  
 curator  
 Alan McKirdy: Hutton his hero

*Right column, top to bottom:*  
 Alison Morrison-Low: dawn of Scottish  
 photography  
 John Hudson: doyen of research on Eigg

*On page 7:*  
 Gavin Berkenheger: Miller his inspiration

*All conference photos: Laura Thompson*



# CONFERENCE REPORTS (continued)

## MUSEUM VISIT



*Delegates pour into the Museum*



*Inspecting the "hands-on" fossils table*



*Enjoying a joke in front of The Witness newspaper*



## CONFERENCE REPORTS (continued)



*Fossil-hunters enjoyed a quite remarkably successful post-conference afternoon excursion to Miller's Cromarty Fish Bed, discovering at least four new fossils in what is now already a heavily worked site.*

*Sidney Johnston with a specimen of *Coccosteus*.*

*Elsa Panciroli and Jane Verburg are both clearly delighted with their finds*

*John Long and Chris Moore examine a nodule they have just opened*

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*Two Hill/Adamson calotypes, as shown by Ms Morrison-Low:  
Right: Two rather overdressed early geologists.  
Below: Hugh Miller instantly recognisable in his shepherd's plaid with friend John Robertson.*





# CONFERENCE REPORTS (continued)

## Observation for new Science: Inspiration from two local heroes

by Caroline Vawdrey

*'Belemnites, that lie like heaps of boarding pikes thrown carelessly on a vessel's deck on the surrender of the crew', jellyfish floating like 'crystal globes pulsating with life and gleaming with all the colours of the rainbow': these were the sights that inspired Hugh Miller (1802 – 1856) and George John Romanes (1848 – 1894).*

Born a generation apart Hugh Miller (1802 – 1856) and George John Romanes (1848 – 1894) had much in common, including an endless curiosity about the natural world. George had Cromarty connections too. His mother, Isabella, was the daughter of a Cromarty minister – Robert Smith. He served his parish for 35 years from 1789 – 1824, and Hugh would have attended the Reverend's services in the Parish (now East) Church. The Romanes family retained close ties with the area, and spent their summers across the firth from Cromarty at Dunskaith House (largely burnt down in the 1960s).



Above: Five panels formed an exhibition mounted during the Old Red conference. This is one of them.

Below: Images of George and Hugh by Marcus Bow



Both Hugh and George enjoyed the childhood freedom to wander, explore and wonder, and for both of them this seems to have given a determination to follow their own course and stand up for what they believed - sometimes against the odds. Christianity was important to both men, but in neither case did they let this cloud their clear scientific thinking, their desire to learn and to understand.

Hugh Miller's achievements will be well known to readers of this 'Friends' magazine, but Romanes has been largely forgotten. In his lifetime, his work was ground breaking. His meticulous study of the nervous system of jellyfish, undertaken at Dunskaith House, won the Royal Society prize for best biology paper of the year in 1876, and remains accurate today.

Charles Darwin had links to both men. We know that he read and admired Hugh Miller's work, and several decades later he was to become a friend and frequent correspondent with George Romanes. Together they discussed many of the scientific issues of the day, and encouraged one another in their work. Their letters reveal both men's attempts to understand the processes of evolution, and after Darwin's death Romanes published 'An additional suggestion on the origin of species' which looked at role of physiological selection in evolution. The publication of the paper angered the scientists who believed that natural selection explained everything. Romanes' 'suggestion' holds true today, supported by our detailed understanding of genetics.

Romanes' interest in evolution led him to look at animal and human behaviour - a field of study then in its early stages, and for which he is now considered one of the founders.

## CONTINUING TO INSPIRE

The award of a Royal Society 'Local Heroes' grant led to a joint project between Cromarty Courthouse, NTS Hugh Miller's and Aberdeen University Lighthouse Field Station. We have worked together to share Miller and Romanes' achievements and to inspire others to look afresh at their local area. Two exhibitions have been created and displayed during the 2017 summer season, and NTS and Aberdeen University staff have worked with Cromarty Primary school pupils.

This has been a rewarding project to work on – sharing ideas, and bringing together history and science. And what more appropriate place to be working than by the shores of the Cromarty Firth – provider of inspiration to Hugh and George, home of the first zoological field station in Britain, and now home to Aberdeen University Lighthouse Field Station who, nearly 150 years on, continue to use keen observation to create new scientific understanding.

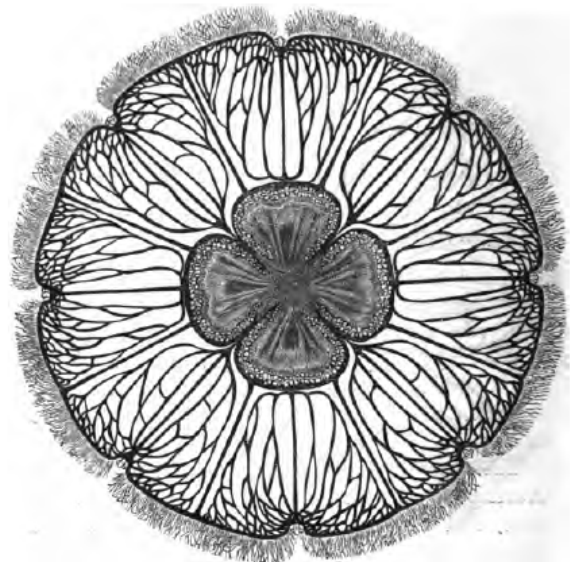


Fig. 8.



*Illustration by George of a jellyfish's nervous system, said to be still accurate today.*

*Baby crying: A study of human emotion*

*Children's group studying with the Lighthouse team*





# OBITUARY

## EMERITUS PROFESSOR NIGEL H. TREWIN

IT is no exaggeration to say that Nigel Trewin gave everything he had in terms of commitment to The Friends of Hugh Miller, as its patron, founder chairman, and key adviser on every aspect of our operations. And that he gave the same dedication to Hugh's Museum goes without saying.

In this obituary, we can only concentrate chiefly on these contributions, which he brought to us on the back of his outstanding academic career at Aberdeen University's department of geology and petroleum geology, and groundbreaking work in the field. The Highland Geological Society has recorded this tribute: "Nigel's extensive professional knowledge, generosity and irrepressible sense of humour made him an extremely popular lecturer and field geologist at Aberdeen and he was in much demand as a speaker and leader at geological events elsewhere. The Society benefited greatly from his support over the years, spending many happy days in the field in Cromarty, Helmsdale and at various localities along the Aberdeenshire coast.

They added: "He has written and co-authored numerous scientific papers and books over the years but will be particularly remembered for his considerable efforts as editor of the 2002 edition of *The Geology of Scotland*."

He was a prolific writer on fossil collecting, and a co-author of the *Scottish Fossil Code* published by Scottish Natural Heritage, launched in Cromarty itself in 2008 by then Scottish environment minister Michael Russell, who visited the Museum during the proceedings.

Among his most enjoyable books are *Fossils Alive*, a time travel journey through geological eras, and *Scottish Fossils*, in which he takes you through a virtual museum featuring more than 100 of our country's most interesting fossils.

He never missed a chance to broaden public knowledge of Miller's beloved Devonian fish. He gave a paper "*Hugh Miller's Fish: 'the winged Pterichthys'*" to the international Bicentenary Conference, *Celebrating the Life and Times of Hugh Miller*, held in Cromarty in October 2002.

He was the principal organiser of another conference, *Hugh Miller, Local Hero*, again held in Cromarty, in 2008, and timed to coincide with the launch of the Fossil Code, and to which he gave a paper, "*Hugh Miller's fossil fish studies*."

It is worth saying that the fossil code has proved extremely valuable in curbing some of the abuses of over-collecting and other damage to key sites. Nigel was thus instrumental, with the simultaneous code launch and conference, in putting fossil conservation, Cromarty and Miller all "on the map" at the same time.

When the Museum received the shock threat from the National Trust for Scotland of immediate closure in 2009, Nigel came to the rescue with a strong appeal to members for funds to help maintain it open to the public. This paved the way for Henry McKenzie Johnston's rescue with a £600,000 endowment the following year.

He was for many years a keen collector of Miller's books in the Victorian hardback editions up to 1889, from auctions and book dealers, and wrote an authoritative article on the subject (*Hugh's News*, Autumn 2015, issue no 26), including illustrations of the many bindings of the different editions.





One of his “coups” was the discovery, quite by chance, in a Moray Firth second hand bookshop, of a first edition of *Footprints of the Creator*, containing inside it a handwritten dedication to Alex Rose, the ‘father’ of Edinburgh Geological Society, “with the author’s kind regards.” It was going for a song (*Hugh’s News*, Summer 2015, issue no 25)

Another coup, deemed a “priceless acquisition” for the Museum, was Nigel’s purchase for £300 of a complementary copy of *The Cruise of the Betsey* donated by Lydia with a handwritten dedication to family friend Lady Kinnaird (*Hugh’s News*, Summer 2012, Issue no 14). He presented this volume to property manager Dr Alix Powers-Jones in 2012 at the Museum’s stand at the British Science Association’s annual festival, held in Aberdeen that year.



One of my favourite memories is of Nigel introducing, from on high, delegates to a conference in Elgin, Sea to Sand, to the famous reptile footprints at Clashach Quarry.

Among the most fascinating and touching items in Nigel’s hunt for memorabilia were items recording Hugh and his then fiancée Lydia Fraser’s efforts to help a young man apparently in straitened circumstances, named James Milne. One of the items was a printed bank draft for £1 10/-, dated 1832, with a covering letter from Hugh declaring “all your friends are very much interested in your success.” Lydia’s letter said she and her pupils understood James was “in want of an outfit.” In the sale collection was also a very rare postal mark, a stamp stating “to pay one penny.”

Nigel recounted the story fully in an article for this newsletter (*Hugh’s News*, Spring 2013, issue no 16). He followed this up with a second article detailing flyleaf dedications to recipients of his books (*Hugh’s News*, Summer 2013, issue no 17).

Nigel, a proud native of Cornwall, was, at bottom, a modest man, who would probably be embarrassed by this notice. However, he was also a commanding figure, said to be a demanding tutor, and he certainly expected high standards of performance in everybody he dealt with.

However, he lightened every meeting, whether business or social, with a delightful dry humour, which helped no end his efficiency and effectiveness as our chairman. His firmness and wit ensured every annual meeting started and ended on time, and was actually enjoyable!

Nigel was the main driving force behind the charity’s progress from its inception in 2006, serving as our patron until his death, and as our chairman for 10 years, until ill health forced his resignation in 2015 and then from our management committee in 2016.

In spite of his failing health, Nigel was the author, with his successor as chairman, Bob Davidson, of the proposal to have another major earth sciences conference in Cromarty, following on the success of the Bicentenary series, and Local Hero in 2008.

He played a key role during the year and a half of planning for this momentous event, in the discussions around such as its very title, the programme, and the most suitable speakers. “*The Old Red: Hugh Miller’s Geological Legacy*” proved an outstanding success, as the reports in this edition show.

His last visit to the Museum was to deliver as a gift a cast of a spectacular fossil, *Homostius milleri*, found at Achanarras Quarry, Spittal, the biggest specimen yet to be uncovered.

His last act in support of the Museum was to bequeath his collection of Miller editions in a handsome Globe Wernicke bookcase, now on display in the parlour. He additionally donated a fine handling collection of ammonites.

He died peacefully, with his family by his side on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, after a long, brave fight with cancer. It is true to say that for The Friends, Nigel will be irreplaceable, but he has given us a great foundation on which to take our cause forward.

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Footnote: The Editor will welcome any tributes from colleagues on Nigel Trewin’s life and work.

## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

# Master of the Rhynie Chert

The following is an edited version of a citation delivered on behalf of the Society.

Professor Trewin, who was an emeritus professor in the School of Geosciences at the University of Aberdeen, died on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017. He was the editor of the latest, 4<sup>th</sup>, edition of *The Geology of Scotland*.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Professor Trewin received the society's T.N. George medal for his contributions to palaeontology. The following is taken from the citation delivered by Dr Alan Owen:

"The breadth of Professor Nigel Trewin's research is remarkable. His PhD at the University of Keele was on the palaeontology, sedimentology and stratigraphy of Carboniferous rocks in Staffordshire. Since then he has made significant contributions to these three fields from settings ranging in age from the Lower Palaeozoic to the Recent, from the British Isles to the Falkland Islands, Aberdeen to Australia – and in doing all of this he has inspired others to follow him into our science.

"Nigel Trewin's considerable expertise in clastic sedimentology shines through in many of his palaeontological works, not least in his research in palaeoecology and in numerous publications on both marine and non-marine trace fossils. He has been involved in the discovery, identification, description and interpretation of a prodigious range of fossils from bacteria through invertebrates to vertebrates. Amongst the last of these, his painstaking studies of the fish from the Devonian Orcadian Basin are particularly noteworthy.

"Even more renowned is Nigel's work on the world famous Rhynie Chert – the early Devonian hot spring deposit in which the exceptional preservation of plants and an increasing array of animals has provided a unique window into life on Earth during the colonization of the land by complex organisms.

"In addition to all of this primary research, Nigel has also found time to edit geological field guides and, importantly, the most recent edition of the *Geology of Scotland* – a daunting task for which those of us who use the book are extremely grateful. Most recently he has made an impact on the world of popular science with his acclaimed book '*Fossils Alive*'."

## THE FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER

# Nigel Trewin, a Tribute

by Bob Davidson, Chairman

I first met Nigel in 1990 when, after showing one of my fossil finds to staff in the National Museum of Scotland, they advised me to contact him as my fossil contained anatomical features which would be important to research he was currently working on. I was not to know then that this would be the start of a lasting friendship.

Nigel encouraged me to join Aberdeen Geological Society and the Palaeontological Association and I remain a member to this day. We met up regularly in the following years and we would discuss the classic Scottish fossil fish localities that we both loved. These conversations culminated in my daring proposal, to excavate and re-appraise one of these sites, being accepted by Aberdeen University under Nigel's auspices. Our joint scientific paper was subsequently published by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and to witness my name as a co-author alongside that of this internationally acclaimed geologist was a privilege indeed.

Further field trips, excavations and papers followed, including one where my name was elevated to primary author, a pinnacle to which I never thought I would aspire. This was a mark of the mutual respect that had



*Examining specimens on a field visit to Cromarty localities.*

formed between us. We went on to attend conferences and lead excursions together, where Nigel often took a back seat and allowed me to describe how the rocks came to be where they are, why they contain the fossils and what the ancient environment was like. Nigel was renowned for his forthright insistence on academic accuracy from his students and on a couple of occasions on our many excursions I did not escape the odd public ticking off for stating an erroneous detail to the assembled delegates. Looking back I was glad of these character building interventions and I appreciated the lessons that I learned as a result.

He was also a populariser of Geology, and in one of his books *"Fossils Alive!"* I was bestowed the role of central character in chapter 1 where we cruised back in time to explore the Midland Valley of Scotland together 400 million years ago.

After I succeeded Nigel as chairman of the Friends of Hugh Miller, I knew he was a hard act to follow and to an extent I am still finding my feet in a role that came very natural to him with his engaging but commanding ways with people. I was not alone, he inspired others too.

I last saw Nigel in mid-October when, despite being very weak, he still retained his sense of humour. At that visit he gave me a few gifts, one of which is a fine presentation copy of *"The Old Red Sandstone"* with an inscription from one chairman of the Friends to another.

I was his last visitor. I was never his student but he taught me field geology, at first he was a mentor and then a firm friend and supporter, helping me achieve my small triumphs in his field of science.

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## CHECK OUT SCOTLAND'S GEOLOGY HOT SPOTS

Scotland's geological *"51 Best Places"* has been launched by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum in an effort to inspire the Scottish public to come and explore the amazing landscapes right on their doorstep.

And among those places, listed at No 15, is the Black Isle and the Hugh Miller Museum, the entry co-written by the late Nigel Trewin and Bob Davidson (see overleaf)

Here, on the Forum's website, is the chance to find for yourself Scotland's astonishing geological heritage, highlighting the Best Places to go and see the landscapes and landforms that tell Scotland's story.

Our country has travelled right across the globe from Antarctica, and along the way we've gathered evidence stored in our rocks, telling stories of explosive volcanic eruptions, vast desert expanses, the disappearance of oceans, and yes, even our very own dinosaurs.

By visiting the sites listed, the public will have an opportunity to discern evidences of these amazing transformations of the landmass with their own eyes.

The 51 Best Places on the Forum website carries brief descriptions and pictures for all 51 sites by local geologists and historians. It was launched in partnership with Dynamic Earth on 14<sup>th</sup> October. The Friends' entry for the Black Isle and the Museum is reprinted for readers' interest overleaf.

A Geoheritage Festival was also held nationwide, the first of its kind, throughout the month of October, consisting principally of guided walks and talks. It was organised as part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

### CHARTER REVISION

Scotland's Geodiversity Charter has been revised by the Forum and its partners, and was relaunched by the Scottish Government at a conference in Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

*continued on page 18*



# GEOLOGY HOT SPOTS continued

First established by the Forum 17 years ago, it sets out a vision: that Scotland's geodiversity is recognised as an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainable development, to be managed appropriately and safeguarded for this and future generations.

The renewed Charter is supported by more than 70 organisations, and The Friends of Hugh Miller has just signed up. The relaunching conference was supported by Scottish Natural Heritage, the British Geological Survey, the Edinburgh Geological Society, and the Geological Society of Glasgow.

## THE BLACK ISLE AND HUGH MILLER MUSEUM

The gentle topography and rich farmland of the Black Isle is underlain by Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian 'age of fishes', around 416 million to 358 million years ago. The best places to see exposures of the sandstones, many of which were deposited by huge rivers, are in the sea cliffs along the eastern side of the Black Isle. This linear coastline is defined by the Great Glen Fault, and to the east of the fault Jurassic marine shales are exposed in a few localities in the intertidal zone.

The Sutors of Cromarty – vast headlands towering up to 151 metres in height – that guard the entrance to the Cromarty Firth are parts of ancient hills of metamorphic gneiss and granite around which the Old Red Sandstone was deposited. Hugh Miller, pioneering amateur geologist, first discovered fossil fish on the Cromarty shore in shales and limestone deposited in lakes in the first half of the 19th century. This deposit is now known as the Cromarty Fish Bed, and fish fossils can still be found in nodules on the beach. At Eathie shore Devonian fish are also present in cliff exposures, but on the foreshore Jurassic shales yield numerous ammonites, belemnites, and bivalves. Hugh Miller drew a geological section of the rocks at Eathie and Cromarty that appear in his famous book *'The Old Red Sandstone'*.

## HUGH MILLER BIRTHPLACE COTTAGE AND MUSEUM

Fossil hunter, folklorist, Christian evangelist, stonemason, newspaper editor, social justice campaigner – Hugh Miller (1802 – 1856) lives on as one of the great Scots of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both the Cottage, and Miller House, the handsome Georgian villa next door, are Grade A-listed historic buildings. Miller's own son, Hugh Junior, also a geologist, helped found the first museum in the cottage in the late 1880s.

Miller House contains some splendid Miller fossils on loan from the NMS national collection, including samples from the Cromarty Fish Bed and Eathie foreshore. It displays many other significant artefacts, such as his mason's mallet, shepherd's plaid, wife Lydia's marriage bible, his first writing effort *The Village Observer*, and copies of his newspaper, *The Witness*. Facilities for research and lifelong learning are available by appointment.

There are three small gardens. Behind the house, Miller's Yard Garden of Wonders, is themed on geodiversity. Its highlight is a fabulous ammonite sculpture, crafted in scrap metal. Lydia's Garden, at the cottage rear, is dedicated to Lydia, their family and the descendants, with Miller's celebrated ornate sundial as its centrepiece. Adjoining this is a Garden of Contemplation containing the remains of a tiny cottage Hugh built for a homeless aunt.

## Expressing the Earth - living on the edge

by Jane Verburg

*In 2016 I won the inaugural Hugh Miller Writing Competition with a piece called 'Learn to make a right of use your eyes'. The prize included a place at the 'Expressing the Earth' conference on the Isle of Seil in June 2017. The conference was organised by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and the Scottish Centre of Geopoetics.*



The van is packed. Waterproofs. Beer. Chocolate. We (He and I and the Very Small Dog) follow the Great Glen Fault, south and west along the timeline. Silky green fields of wheat and barley shift to granite outcrops and bracken. We cross bridges that would have had my mother calling, "Look, look: a river."

Coming in to Oban a Tempest storm. Lightning. One, two. Thunder. Lightning. One. Thunder. Rain and rain. I've fixated on needing cyanotype paper to capture the light and time and place. "Do you think Oban has an art shop that sells sun-sensitive paper?". He doesn't laugh. He parks up and I run through dollops of rain. I return with an extra waterproof; nothing else.

The stone Bridge Over the Atlantic has a moment at the crown when I take a breath and say, "Look, look: the sea." A seaweedy low tide, boats stranded - for now - on twin keels.

The rain slows. We park up in Ellenabreich at the Highlands Art Centre and pull on the hand-brake. We check our horizontal axes; 2 degrees out. We reposition ourselves - slightly - and shift from driving to static mode: table, beer, binoculars, Very Small Dog on lap. In this space is every location that we have visited in the van. Like a silver cord trailed behind us and wrapped around a nail at each compass point: Clach an Truiseil, Callanish, Dun Carloway, Rodel, Ness of Brodgar, Raasay, Pentre Ifan, Table des Marchands, Grand Menhir, Gavrinis, Carnac, Camster Cairns. Burial sites and markers from stone-worshippers.

In the morning at the village hall, modern and bright, tables are laid out with circles of chairs. Hello. Hello. I'm Helen, LesleyMay, Janie, Mandy. Tea. Chat. Coffee. Chat. There are chocolate brownies on a plate below a child's signed Brownie promise: *I promise that I will do my best, be true to myself and help other people.* Not sure I'm up to all that.

The day is a striking collage. Talks and words and explanations of meaning. Parallel sessions. Beautiful voices. Themes and stories. I keep having a feeling that I might be about to understand things at some deeper level than I ever have before. I'm teetering. But the feeling has the fringes of a prayer shawl that tickle and elude: all tingly and almost. Edges and islands.

Norman Bissell talks of Geopoetics and finding our common ground; of Orwell and Jura. Michael Hamish Glen talks of using 49 characters to describe a waterfall in the Brecon Beacons; he calls words 'stones' and writing being a drystone dyke. Patsy Dyer tells stories about the landscape, in the landscape; about feeling landscape through tales and myths of the glacial erratics. John E. Gordon talks of Hutton and Geikie and Miller and MacCaig and MacLean; someone says songs and stories travel like rocks across the surface of the earth. Nikita Pfizer plays a river of music flowing



From top:  
Slate mass  
The Verburg van  
Fladda light

On facing page:  
Seil Island

*continued on page 20*

through his land; the sound of the earth. Anna Louise Spencer tells us of living in a community of people who 'hold' her; visits to the shop are only partially about getting the milk and the paper. Laura Hope-Gill, her voice like silver, talks of the 'dance' of writing. Mairead Nic Craith reminds us of our own 'islandness'. James McCarthy talks of Nan Shepherd ('[Water] *does nothing, absolutely nothing, but be itself.*') which leads to talk of Jessie Kesson. Kenny Taylor gives us the recipe for Lake Orcadie. Delicious. Anna-Wendy Stevenson shares music across sea and land. Mark Sheridan, our gentle sorcerer, guides us through this storm of poetry and stories, imagination and imagery, geology and sound-scapes. I feel as full as if I've eaten a thousand of those chocolate brownies. I want to be everywhere, at every talk, all at once, filling my brain with more thoughts and words and learning.

Greed, my mother would have said, is not one of the Brownie promises.

In the evening we (He and I and the Very Small Dog who now smells of the sea) eat in the Oyster Bar and drink cold lager and I gush all that I have heard and half-sensed, half-grasped. We find skittish slates on the beach and hear ravens caw in the crags as we return home to the van.

The next day begins with Neil Simco's talk about how the UHI is a concrete example of interdisciplinary research and learning. I have never heard a manager talk with passion, imagination *and* authority. Sea breeze.

And now we divide into small workshop groups. Later we are going out into the landscape to begin a creative response of our own. But I'm at it again. Wanting to be in the other group when I'm in this one. They're doing cyanotypes (can you believe it?) and I'm doing craft. I keep looking over to the other table which stops me from 'being' at this one. Here at this table Andrew Phillips asks us to consider that the artwork is making us rather than we are making the artwork. I take a breath and try to centre my own skittishness. I'm way more than 2 degrees out. Off kilter. I need to re-position my thinking, more than slightly.

Later, with a coil of silver wire in my raincoat pocket (I make jewellery, so sometimes carry such things) I wander the slate-strewn edge of the Isle of Luing. Fladda Lighthouse to the west. I concentrate only on the ground beneath my feet (avoiding the bigger picture) and decide to twist onto the wire the things that 'speak' to me. A broken roof slate, a pebble, a corkscrew of seaweed, a shell, a square of green netting, a fragment of buoy, a curl of old rope, more slate and more. Each find: a story. I'm more myself out here in the wind and rain and the by the sea.

Back in the hall - that afterwards I realise has become a church to me - Alistair McIntosh talks of Scottish Land Reform Consciousness. With reference to the campaign that stopped the superquarry on the Isle of Harris, he talks of a piece of rock from the peak of Roineabhal being placed into the sacred protection of the Mi'Kmaq chief, Stone Eagle, on Cape Breton Island. This piece of rock was eventually returned and placed again onto the two-billion-year-old mountain of Harris. We have camped in the van below the mountain. And once we anchored in the tide-bound bowl of Rodel. I weep with all this talk of rocks and belonging. For a moment I am in a kirk of stone-worshippers. A prayer shawl over my shoulders. Axes settled.

In the evening: an opera filled with the call of the redshank; a poem in the language of my forbears (Welsh); songs and poems of longing and love in French, German, Italian, Gaelic and English; there are references to living on the edge of things; to mountains and tides and fish and blackbirds; to the slate, the land, the sea and the sky. And as I walk home in this summer gloaming - to where He and the Very Small Dog are waiting - I hear an oystercatcher call, wheep-wheep-wheep.





## SCANDAL AT KIRKMICHAEL

# REVEALED: A SAINTLY LADY'S MOST UNHOLY MATE!

By Martin Gostwick

A return visit to, in Hugh Miller's words, that "pleasant, solitary spot" which is Kirkmichael, yielded a startling item of scandal, revealed among the newly- installed display panels.

Undoubtedly the most unexpected discovery was that the saintly Lady Ardoch, was married to a rogue and crook of the first order.

It was decidedly only half the whole story about the good lady's life, which we related (as far as Hugh himself told it), in our previous edition (*Hugh's News* no 32, Summer 2017).

The panel placed by her mausoleum in the kirkyard reveals that her husband, Sir Alexander Gordon or Ardoch, "made the most of his position as Collector of Customs for Inverness to let many of his brother William's cargoes off duty free - a useful way of increasing the profit from their snuff mill at Gordon's Mill just down the road from the kirk."

A follow-up search of the Kirkmichael.info website tells us even more, saying he "blatantly exploited" his Customs post not only for his brother Sir William, but for himself as well. They both "imported tobacco, spices, brandy and other goods normally subject to high levels of duty."

Sir Alexander was quarrelsome with most of the neighbouring gentry, and a duellist into the bargain. It is perhaps hardly surprising that his wife's ardent piety vexed him sorely. Says the panel: "It was said that one day, driven mad by her religious devotions, he rushed outside with the intention of ending his life, when a voice spoke to him, saying 'do thyself no harm!'"

He apparently became a changed man, and thereafter coupled his fondness for Lady Ann with godliness. Too good to be true? Possibly. Those of a more cynical disposition might find the whole family saga quite amusing.

She died aged 75, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1762. Her impressive tomb in the kirkyard was erected by her nephew Sir Harry Munro some years later.

Elsewhere in the kirkyard, Hugh and the tomb he inscribed is also marked by a new panel. The website informs us that the relative he buried, and whose imminent death he foresaw only weeks before in a fearful dream, was a farmer of Ardivall, named William Stewart, who passed away aged only 30.

Raised by his mother Elizabeth, also buried with him are his brother John, and sister, Janet, who died within a year of him. No trace of what relations to Hugh they were has as yet been found in any official records.

Some very fine tombstones, ranging from medieval to post-Reformation, have now been erected in the kirk's west end, and its life through the ages is now fully presented.



Top right: This portrait of Lady Ardoch hangs in Clan Munro's Foulis Castle, Easter Ross

Bottom right: This display panel marks the tomb of his relatives inscribed by Hugh Miller



## MUSEUM NEWS

# Young Peoples' Year 2018

Our ever-enterprising property manager, Dr Alix Powers-Jones, has leapt on the opportunity offered by the Scottish Government designating 2018 as the Year of Young People to start creating an exhibition around "the young Hugh."

As every member knows, Hugh's own account of his youth in his autobiography *My Schools and Schoolmasters* is an utterly gripping source which could fire the imagination of today's younger generation, or indeed that of any age. Alix will be applying for a supporting grant under the YOYP 2018 umbrella for the exhibition she is planning at the Museum, and in the spirit of the year, she will be encouraging participation in the event, envisaged to take place in May.

The themes have been set by Scottish young peoples' organisations themselves, such as the Scottish Youth Parliament, and they include encouraging healthy, active lives, more say in education, influencing adults' decisions, and working for a greener Scotland.

## OATMEAL TALK

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, Alix was interviewed by BBC Radio 4's *Food Programme* about the Birthplace Cottage's meal kist, also known as a "porridge drawer," one of the few relics remaining at the Cottage which actually belonged to the Miller family. It is also a rare survivor nationally. It is understood that the half-hour programme, focussing on the virtues as a superfood of oats and oatmeal. is due for broadcast early in January 2018.

## SHAKE-UP CONTINUED

In another Miller House shake-up, the link passage on the top floor between Geology Rooms 5 and 6, has now been closed to the public and converted to a storage space.

This has meant that the cabinet and fossils situated there on long-term loan from Nicholas Kidd, fossil collector-cum-furniture designer, has been moved to Room 6, pending its return to Nick, at his request.

Nick became friends with Frieda Gostwick while she was property manager (1992-2000), and this led to his lending some magnificent Devonian fossils he had collected from the Cromarty fish bed, to adorn the new Museum in Miller House when it was being created in 2004, as well as making the purpose-built cabinet to surround them.

We have expressed our sincerest thanks to Nick for his generosity, for the loan established the continuing interest and value of that fossil deposit, from Miller's discoveries to our own day.

Finally, two of Hugh's most profound sayings, previously placed as "aprons" attached to the now-removed ground floor museum case, have now been excellently repositioned on the top floor landing.



Two of Miller's most memorable sayings back on show  
Nick Kidd's superb cabinet of fossils



year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018

RECOMMENDED READING

# Geological Curator, Hugh Miller

(Vol 10, No 7), by Dr Michael A Taylor and others

published by the Geological Curators' Group.

This is the ultimate reference work, which particularly uncovers many of the previously lost gaps in the story of Miller's life and work, especially his fossil collections, and is the result of years of dedicated, painstaking research led by Dr Taylor.

It opens with a long chapter, co-authored with long time collaborator Dr Lyall Anderson, on "*The Museums of a local, national and supranational hero*," revealing the complex history of Miller's fossil collection, from his own set-up in the back garden of his home, to its purchase for the nation, to the present day.

Then follow supplements on the public appeal for funds to make that purchase, and the Guide to the Royal Scottish Museum collection by various eminent geologists of the day, circa 1920, both edited by Drs Taylor and Anderson.

It is a fascinating account of a Victorian economic crisis which lies behind the raising of a public subscription for, and the building of the Cromarty Monument in 1859, and the first known stereophotographs taken of the monument, to which Dr Alison Morrison-Low contributes.

A chapter on John Goodchild's *Guide to the Geological Collections in the Hugh Miller Cottage* of 1902 explains how the family, with some expert help, were able to establish a fossil display in the Birthplace in its early years as a Museum in its own right.

A most satisfying and compelling account by Dr Sara Stevenson, which closes the volume, sets out how, when and why the celebrated portrait of Miller posing as a stonemason in the Calton Cemetery came to be taken in 1843. It discusses the culture and thinking behind the pose arranged by the photographer, and the subject.

This is a mammoth tome, stretching across some 460 double-columned pages, which has been fairly described by one of our members, as "a distillation of a life's work."

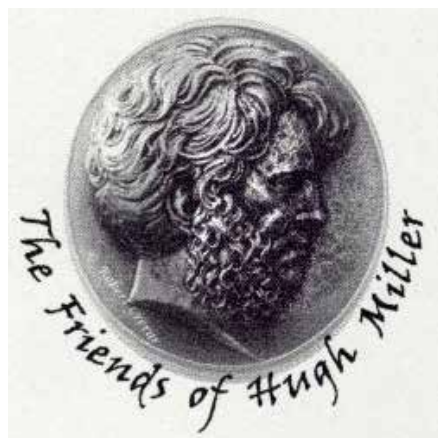
It is not on sale to the general public, but The Friends can offer a few copies to our members and readers at £8.25, plus post and packing £2.75. It has to be first come, first served. Cheques for £11 to the Secretary, please.

MG

## SIX NEW MEMBERS

*We are very happy to inform colleagues that no less than six delegates and speakers took the opportunity of attending the conference to join our ranks.*





## MEMBERSHIP FORM

I WISH to become a member of The Friends of Hugh Miller (Registered charity No SC 037351), in order to support its work in making Miller's life and work better known, and in particular to assist in the development of the Hugh Miller Museum and Birthplace Cottage in Church Street, Cromarty. (SC037351).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

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Emailaddress.....

Membership subscription is £15 annually, payable from 1st April, by cash/cheque or bank standing order. A standing order is preferred for administrative convenience, and if you wish to take up that option, please contact the Secretary, details below. A Gift Aid declaration form is also available, which would enable us to reclaim 25p in the £ tax on your subscription.

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