

President's Message



This wretched Covid 19 virus has caused all of us to rethink our lives, our work, and our leisure. Everyone is suffering some form of disruption and The Moray Society and Elgin Museum are included in that. We have complied with all the recommendations issued by H M Government and we will continue to do that until the virus is cleared.

This means we cannot open to the public and we have cancelled events and activities. We were meant to hold our AGM in late April. This will not now happen but we will keep you informed about our accounts and what is happening behind closed doors.

I had intimated that I wished to retire as President after many years in office at this next AGM. However, I am anxious to support our hard-working Management Team and Finance Committee and so, if approved at what will be a "virtual" AGM, I will stay on for another year.

I am so sorry that our hard-working team of staff and volunteers are having to not attend the museum. Except as agreed and then rarely.

I am going to tackle some of the many books about Moray I have acquired over the years and not got around to reading!

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Grenville Johnston

Hon President

IMPORTANT

Please note that, due to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency and the need to protect our members, volunteers and employees, we are unable to open the Museum and so, unless agreed with a member of the Finance Committee, no-one will be allowed access to the Museum. All events in the Museum are cancelled until further notice, including, this month, our planned opening event, our opening art exhibition and, obviously our museum opening for the season. During April, we have had to postpone our AGM and the planned fossil finders weekend with associated exhibition 'At the Water's Edge.

I will send a further update to members and volunteers when circumstances change. If you have any queries in the meantime, see the website for more details or send an email to curator@elginmuseum.org.uk. For anything **urgent** contact me at 01309-676157.

Bill Dalgarno

Museum funding

During the last week, we have had a generous donation from the Welsh Family Trust of £2500 as well as a private donation of £1500. Since we are closed to the public for the foreseeable future, this will be a considerable help towards our ongoing finances as we will have no visitors to help fill our donations boxes or to make purchases in our shop. Looking to the future and our lack of cashflow, I would ask, if you are thinking of making a donation to good causes, that you think of Elgin Museum and the Moray Society.

Albert Bonici / Two Red Shoes

David Dills, a Californian now resident in Elgin, has worked for many years on the biography of Albert Bonici, who was one of the leaders in the pop industry in the 60's and 70's and was the man who first brought the Beatles to Scotland (for £42 per night). David has put together a two case exhibition on Albert and on the Two Red Shoes which is ready to be seen as soon as we are able to open to the public. Alas, the opening day with local band, Windy Miller, has had to be postponed. Watch for details in the press and on our website for news of our opening when it is possible.

Geology Group Report – Mar 2020



The new display cases in position

Exhibition to be revealed in due course!

Davidson are now in place. There are minor niggles to resolve but the space is looking good!

The temporary exhibition *At the Water's Edge* is almost ready for what should have been the opening weekend. The cases have been installed and the interpretation panels hung. Alison has collected the fossils on loan from Oxford University Museum of Natural History; the loan of fossils from the British Geological Survey and from National Museums Scotland was cancelled at the last minute as NMS acted in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. The 3D printed footprint panel and the models on loan from Bob

Janet has been working on Case 11 which will highlight the work of Elgin Museum's first curator and discover of the Scaat Craig fossil site, John Martin.

After a soft launch, the splash page for the exhibition went live on 17th February and has generated a lot of positive interest. To date the site has been viewed by 163 people in 7 countries! The interactive inner pages include 3d animation of 3 of the BGS fossils; the site remains live and will be actively promoted for the duration of the exhibition but the official opening scheduled for 25th April has been postponed. You can view the site at: <https://elginmuseum.org.uk/atwe2020/>

The Fossil Finders' Weekend planned for 25th-26th April has also been postponed. Many thanks to all the volunteers who agreed to help with these events and hopefully we can reschedule in due course.

Dave and Alison have had articles published in the 2019 Moray Field Club Bulletin about Clashach Quarry and *Elginerpeton* respectively. Dave gave two talks last month, one to the Burghead BALL group on the local coast and quarrying and the second to the Highland Geological Society on Elgin's Triassic reptiles. The latter included 3d animations of the tail pieces supplied by Emily Keeble as part of her research published below.

Recognised Collection

Emily Keeble and Mike Benton's paper about the aetosaur (fossil reptile) tail fossils found at Spynie in 2018 has now been published in the online edition of the *Scottish Journal of Geology*; the authors thank the EMGG for their help and Dave, quite rightly, is acknowledged for making the original find.

Moray Society Prize Draw

The Prize Draw has been running since April 2000 and has raised over £8000 for Elgin Museum. This helps with the day to day running costs and the Society is very grateful for this income. Sales of the Draw tickets are strictly limited to Moray Society members and income from the sale of tickets is paid directly into the Moray Society Prize Draw account. All proceeds are used for the exclusive benefit of the Moray Society.

Tickets are priced at £10 each per annum and are valid for 4 draws. Draws are held quarterly with prizes of £25, £15 and £10 respectively for the first 3 numbers drawn, in sequence, at each draw. These prizes are based on an income of £1000 in tickets sold ie. 100 tickets. Many members have annual standing orders with their banks, which greatly reduces our costs. Standing orders can only be amended or cancelled by the persons concerned. Mandates for standing orders are available from the Museum, or myself, on request. Cash, or cheques made payable to the Moray Society Prize Draw, are also accepted. There is no limit imposed by the Society on the number of tickets that may be held by individual members. Please contact me at the museum for queries about the draw or for application forms. Mary Shand (Prize Draw Organiser) Museum Tel. No. 01343 543675 Email curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

Moray Society Prize Draw

Please allocate me tickets in the Moray Society Prize Draw @ £10 each.

*I enclose my payment of £ *Please forward me a standing order mandate *Delete as appropriate

Name

Address

Post Code

Email address



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