

## FOSSILS AND HOW WE CAN STUDY THEM

**First or Top shelf:** A **3D-model** of the skull of the Elgin reptile, *Dicynodon traquairi*, recently renamed *Gordonia traquairi* by Dr Christian Kammerer, Berlin. The model, is derived from Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of the block of sandstone from the Clashach Quarry, Hopeman, with a strange hole in it. The block is usually behind you in the display of Permian reptiles, but from July 2021 is on loan to the University of Edinburgh for further CT scanning.

**2nd shelf:** A **life-sized model** of the close relative of the dinosaurs, *Saltopus elginensis*, made by Stephen Caine and on loan from local geologist, Bob Davidson, MBE, who with Stephen deduced this interpretation from the fossil remains.

**3rd shelf:** 19th Century **plaster casts** of the Devonian fish fossil *Bothriolepis*. The casts seem to have been painted to look realistic, and are linked with the same Professor Ramsay Heatley Traquair, FRSE, FRS whose name was given to the reptile fossil on the top shelf.

**4th shelf: Model, but not life-size!** *Palaeocharinus* was a carnivorous spider-like animal, but only about 12 mm (half an inch) long in life, 400 million years ago. It is found fossilised in the Rhynie Chert. [Trigger to his friends!]

**Lowest shelf:** A **silicone cast** of the fossil *Leptopleuron lacertinum* made by Dr Laura Säilä - Corfe, Helsinki for her PhD which was a study of this small Triassic reptile from Moray.