

THE GeOSSIP

The official newsletter of the Geology Department



13th November 2024 | Issue 27

Hi everyone, and welcome back! The winter weather is settling in and our days are getting shorter, but as always our department is as active as ever. Read on to find out what some of our department members have been up to this month!

With the holidays around the corner, we would like to remind everyone that there will be no December issue – but don't fret! We will be back in January to share any news from over the holidays. We hope everyone has a wonderful rest of their year and safe travels to any members of our department going on holiday adventures back home!

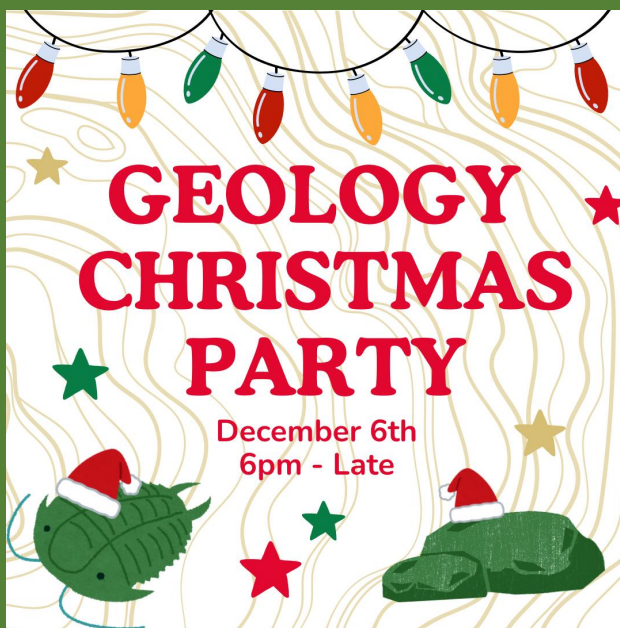
The G(e)ossip will be released every month. Past issues are archived and uploaded on the Geology website which you can access [here](#).

If you have feedback or anything to be added to upcoming newsletter issues, please send us an email at geossip.tcd@gmail.com.

-The G(e)ossip Team

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The department Christmas Party will be held on the 6th of December!



Festivities will begin at 6pm in the Common Room (with beer, mulled wine, Christmas crackers, Christmas-themed games, and overall holiday merriment! Keep an eye on your email for more information as we approach the date!

Tickets are available for purchase from Eshbal or Dani (postgrad offices) for €10. We hope to see you all there!

Please direct any queries you may have to the organisers, Eshbal (geifmane@tcd.ie) and Dani (vitareld@tcd.ie).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- **VMSG-MDSG 2025** (6-8 January, TCD)
Submission deadline passed
- **Goldschmidt 2025** (6-11 July, Prague)
Submission deadline: 26 February

CONTRIBUTIONS



We want to hear from you!

Did we miss something? Have you got any news to share with the department? Please let us know at geossip.tcd@gmail.com to be featured in the next newsletter. We would love to hear from you!

FIELD WORK

In early October, **Daniela Vitarelli**, **Emma Tomlinson**, and **Jack Beckwith** ventured to Beara Peninsula, Co. Cork on a day trip to find and collect samples of a lava flow and an exposed diatrema. These samples will be analysed to further explore, characterise, and date Carboniferous volcanism across Ireland.



Jack & Dani sampling (left) and geology-enthused sheep (right). Photos courtesy of Emma.



Pipe-like vertical zone of ultramafic nodules (left) and megacrysts (right) found in the diatrema.

COMMUNITY

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
CHORAL SOCIETY**

Presents

BACH'S

**MASS IN B MINOR (I, II)
& CANTATA 140, WACHET AUF**

13th & 14th November 2024, 7:30 pm
TCD Exam Hall (Public Theatre)

Tickets available on **FIXR**:
€20 (general)
€15 (concession)
€8 (student)



You are all warmly invited to the Choral Society's concert, where Bach's Mass in B minor (I, II) and Cantata 140 (Wachet auf) will be performed. The concerts will be held this week, on the **13th and 14th of November** in the Trinity Exam Hall (Public Theatre). Tickets are available at [FIXR](#).



View overlooking the diatrema and out into the Atlantic (left) and Black Ball Head watchtower (right).

GEOLOGY TECHNICAL LABORATORY - GREEN LABS INITIATIVE

The **Geology Technical Laboratory** is taking part in the [Green Labs](#) initiative with the support of the new Greens Labs Officer, Dumitru Anton from the Trinity Sustainability Office. We're taking part along with a number of other labs across SNS and the wider university.



my green lab.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Filtration + Separation (online) magazine (<https://www.filtsep.com/>) has published an article about the study in which **Rémi Rateau, Melanie Maddin, Adrienn M. Szucs, Luca Terribili, Kerstin Drost, Paul C. Guyett, and Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco** investigate how eggshell waste could recover rare earth elements from water in an environmentally friendly manner. This study was funded by Research Ireland, Geological Survey Ireland and iCRAG - SFI Research Centre in Applied Geosciences.

Click [here](#) to read all about it in the October issue of Filtration + Separation or click [here](#) to read the published paper on this research.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

RARE EARTH EXTRACTION

Sustainable REE separation

Meet the professor who is part of a wider team at Trinity College Dublin investigating how humble eggshell waste could recover rare earth elements from water in an environmentally friendly manner



DEPARTMENT NEWS - ALUMNI AFTERNOON



On Friday 18 October, from 14.00-17.00, Geology hosted its second Fall Alumni afternoon, an event where past Trinity students come back to the Museum Building and share their careers since graduating.

The programme for 2024 started with **Liam Fahy (2023)** who presented on lithium mining in Western Australia, **Tommie Tormey (2023)** who discussed VMS mining in Manitoba, and **Simon Kelly (2020)** who showed environmental field projects around Ireland. **Niall McCormack (1989)**, from Alliemore and Causeway Technologies, then gave an overview talk on “systems in geoscience” from his extensive international experience, including the importance of Trinity Geology links.

All was followed by a reception. Thank you to our alumni, and we look forward to a third alumni afternoon!

Images courtesy of **Jerry Dickens: Tommie Tormey (2023)** and other recent alumni, **Adam Mann & Faolan Doecke-Launders**, with current 4th year students at the reception (top), current 4th year students at the reception (middle), and **Niall McCormack (1989)** presents a seminar on “systems in geoscience” (bottom).

Congratulations to **Oliver Higgins** who has been awarded the Arditì Prize by the University of Geneva for his PhD thesis which he completed in 2022. He will be attending the prize ceremony in November.

COMMUNITY - NORTHERN LIGHTS & T-ATLAS

As we are currently approaching the solar maximum, the northern lights can be sometimes seen from Dublin. The maximum of the solar cycle is expected in July 2025, so there could be more opportunities to enjoy these nice views.

Also, comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS visited us for the first time! The orbit of this small body shows that it came directly from the Oort cloud. After going through perihelion on September 27, it started to be visible in the Northern hemisphere. The comet could be seen with the naked eye on the western horizon after sunset during early October.



Pictures of the northern lights taken by **Conor Smith** from Wicklow on October 11.

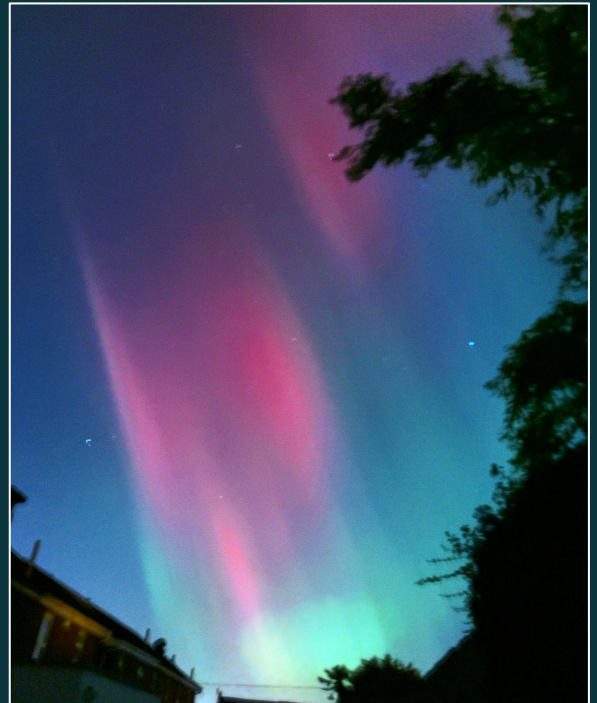


A picture of the northern lights taken by **Daniela Vitarelli** from Skerries on October 11.

Turn off the light!



Please make sure when you're leaving your office for the day to close the door properly, turn off all the lights and appliances. This includes the hallway lights as well.



A picture of the northern lights taken by **Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco** from his back garden on October 11.



Images of Tsuchinshan-ATLAS comet taken by **Juan Diego Rodriguez-Blanco** on October 14.

COMMUNITY



As a member of the **Trinity community**, you have the right to study or work in an environment that is **free from bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct**. [Speak Out](#) provides the opportunity for you to make the University aware of incidents that you have either experienced or witnessed by reporting them anonymously.

STUDENT 2 STUDENT PEER SUPPORT

Student 2 Student Peer Support is back!

Thanks to the support of Trinity Trust, Student 2 Student is delighted to announce the return of our Peer Support Programme after 4 long years! **This is not the same as our Mentoring Programme**. S2S Mentors are student volunteers who offer group support to every incoming undergraduate student. Peer Supporters are student volunteers who provide **face-to-face, confidential listening and support to any TCD student** on request! [Request a Peer Supporter here!](#)

You can find [more information about the Peer Support programme here](#) or email student2student@tcd.ie with any questions.

S2S  **Peer Support**

Student2Student

CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE

[NiteLine](#) is an anonymous and confidential listening service run by students for students. Our service is completely free and open every night of term from 9pm to 2.30am through instant messaging and over the phone. We are run by a team of dedicated volunteer students who have undergone rigorous training with the intention of supporting our peers.



Free
Anonymous
No problem too big or too small

Freephone: 1800 793 793
Instant messaging: niteline.ie
9pm - 2:30 am every night of term

COMMUNICATION



Dublin Magmatism Group at TCD brings together researchers from across different volcanology and magmatism research teams aiming to facilitate collaboration across different institutions invested in volcanological research across Dublin.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

TCD's Student Counselling Services is open and available to all registered students.

Check out their [website](#) to read about the services they provide, email them at student-counselling@tcd.ie to request an appointment, or follow them on Instagram ([@tcd_headspace](#)) for both mindfulness and mental health awareness tips. They now offer [PhD research support groups](#) to help keep you focused and on track!

WELLBEING

The [Silver Cloud programme](#) provides a great online tool to help you improve and maintain your wellbeing by addressing issues that can have a negative impact on your life. The program is provided by Student Counselling and is available to everyone in the Trinity Community.