

**Meetings on November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>**

We have had two interesting meetings, one at The Witham in November and one on Zoom in December. As in previous years from December to February we have reverted to one hour virtual meetings on Zoom twice a month.

In November, we had another most useful talk from David Saville as he continued his 'Introduction to Geology' series. This one was entitled 'Life in the Ordovician' and David described the general environmental and tectonic conditions over 41 million years from 485 to 444 mya when the world's landmasses were combined into a supercontinent (Gondwana); the climate was generally warm and moist.

During this period, there was the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event with an unprecedented increase in the number and types of life forms, mainly marine species. David provided some excellent coloured slides and described clearly some of the common species at that time. Graptolites and the mysterious conodonts were widespread and because they evolved and changed rapidly, they are useful tools for dating and correlating strata. Towards the end of the Ordovician, there was major volcanic activity that resulted in a mass extinction.

In the December virtual meeting, Trevor Morse posed the question 'What does survive into the geological record?'. He suggested that the evidence of more frequent storms such as those recently in Libya and Spain would enter the geological record; these are termed 'tempestites'. Trevor also recommended that we look at the video 'Igneous Petrology Intro' and he briefly went through some helpful diagrams and graphs which were then sent out to members.

Our next meeting will be on Zoom on Monday morning January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am. All are welcome. Please contact the convenor for the programme for the meeting and the Zoom joining details.