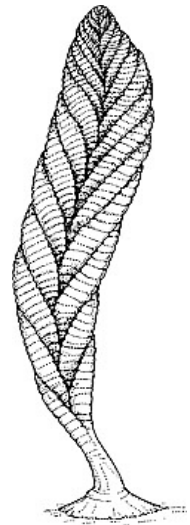


# Leicester's fossil celebrity: *Charnia* and the evolution of early life

Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society Section C (Geology)  
in conjunction with  
Dept of Geology, University of Leicester  
& Leicester Museums and Galleries

Annual Saturday Seminar, 10 March 2007  
9.00 am – 5.00 pm  
Bennett Building, LT1, University of Leicester

The Precambrian fossil biota preserved in Charnwood Forest is of major international significance. *Charnia* and *Charniodiscus* were the first 'Ediacarans' to be recognised as the macroscopic remains of Precambrian life, even before the significance of the famous Australian biota was realised. (Ediacarans are bizarre extinct multicellular organisms which may, or may not, be the first fossil animals). This Seminar will highlight the global importance of the Ediacaran biota from Charnwood Forest. 2007 and 2008 mark the 50th anniversaries of the discovery and description of the biota, so it is an ideal time to celebrate *Charnia* and the Charnwood Ediacarans. The Charnwood fossils continue to generate controversy and debate, and the latest hi-tech methods are providing surprising new insights into their evolutionary significance. This and other exciting science will be presented at the meeting by distinguished speakers and researchers from Australia, Canada, Ireland, and the UK. Everyone is welcome and the talks are aimed to appeal to the widest range of listeners. The Seminar is running in conjunction with National Science & Engineering Week and is part of the Geological Society's Bicentennial and the Geologists' Association's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.



In association with the Seminar, there will be a Reception at Leicester's New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, sponsored by the British Geological Survey, which will take place at 6pm. The reception will formally open an exhibition of local and international Ediacaran fossils called 'Charni@ 50' and will launch a new BGS map of the geology of Charnwood. The exhibition will be open to the general public from 11 March – 15 April 2007.

Tickets for the Seminar and Reception are £20.00 with a buffet lunch or £15.00 without. If you would like tickets, please use the form below.

For more details of the *Charnia* meeting and events, please contact either Mark Purnell (map2@le.ac.uk), Mark Evans (0116 2254904; mark.evans@leicester.gov.uk;) or Joanne Norris (0116 2833127; joanne.norris@ntu.ac.uk).

Tear off slip

To: Mrs E. Johnson, Rosedean, Park Lane, Bagworth, Leicester LE67 1BB

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Please send me ..... ticket(s) at £20.00 / £15.00\*. I/We\* will/will not\* attend the reception at New Walk Museum & Art Gallery.

Total amount £..... . Please make cheques payable to 'Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society Section C Geology'.

NAME (Block capitals) .....

ADDRESS .....

..... Tel No .....

N.B. Please book before 3 March 2007.

\* delete as appropriate

## Programme

- 09.00 **Assemble**
- 09.30 **Opening and Welcome**
- 09.35 **The discovery of *Charnia masoni***  
Prof. Roger Mason, London, UK and Wuhan, China
- 09.55 **The discovery and naming of *Charnia* and *Charniodiscus***  
Dr. Trevor Ford, Dept. of Geology, University of Leicester, UK
- 10.05 **Further discoveries of Charnian fossils**  
Dr. Helen Boynton, Leicester, UK
- 10.15 **Geological setting, environment and age of the Charnwood biota**  
Dr. John Carney and Dr. Steve Noble, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, UK
- 10.45 *Break*
- 11.15 **Sequencing the Neoproterozoic**  
Dr. Dan Condon, NERC Isotope Geoscience Laboratories, Keyworth, UK, and Prof. Sam Bowring, MIT, Cambridge, Ma, USA
- 11.45 **The Great Divide: Life on Earth before and after the Ediacaran transition**  
Dr. Nicholas Butterfield, University of Cambridge, UK
- 12.20 *Lunch*
- 13.30 **The Ediacaran Diaspora: Diversity of the Ediacara Biota in South Australia**  
Dr. James Gehling, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
- 14.15 **Life after Snowball: The Mistaken Point Biota and the Origin of Animal Ecosystems**  
Dr. Guy Narbonne, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- 15.00 *Break*
- 15.30 **The Charnwood Biota as seen from Arctic Russia – Ediacarans and their environments**  
Dr. Dima Grahzdankin, University College Dublin, Ireland
- 16.00 **Towards a new evolutionary framework for the Ediacaran biota**  
Prof. Martin Brasier and Jonathan Antcliffe, University of Oxford, UK
- 16.30 **Discussion and Concluding Remarks**
- 17.00 *Close*
- 18.00 **Reception and Exhibition Opening at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery**  
Refreshments will be available. (17.30 for 18.00 start, until 20.00)