

Learn How Making Gemstones

Welcome! So you are interested in making your very own polished gemstones? In this article you are going to find out how easy it is to turn rough rocks into smooth gemstones or for an easier description, to turn the rocks shown on the left side of the photo into the gemstones shown on the right side of the photo. We will go through the process step by step so that you can understand exactly how it's done. This month's newsletter focuses on step one. **Tumble polishing.**

The tumbling process is simple. You start with some broken rocks

(as shown on the left of the photo) and place them into a tumbling barrel with some grit and water. The barrel is then continuously rotated for 24 hours a day on a rock tumbler, powered by a small motor.

All of this tumbling wears the rough edges of the stones down and produces the rounded, smooth and shiny gemstones (shown in the right side of the photo).

Have a go at making smooth, gemstones yourself; it's easy and fun. Look in next month's newsletter for how to prepare these stones for polishing.



Matt Wilson

Picture of broken rocks (left) and gemstones (right)

Next Months Competition



Dan Owen

prize. This month's competition involves writing a caption to the picture on the left. The funniest caption as voted by the EAGA committee members will be the winner. To find out if you are the winner and what the

prize is, you will have to read next month's newsletter. You can enter by post or by

email; Send your caption to: EAGA Competition, PO BOX 713, Redford Street, Redford

or by email to: competition@EAGA.co.er

Good luck to everyone taking part. The winning caption will be printed in next month's newsletter.

Become a member of the EAGA

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, maybe you should think about becoming a member of the EAGA. Membership will allow you to go on fieldtrips and discover the fascinating world of geology.

To apply ring: 07906 935537

Alternatively you can download a membership form at www.EAGA.co.er and return it to: EAGA Membership, PO BOX 173, Redford Street, Haselby

THE EAGA NEWSLETTER
Sponsored by Peter Holden

Visit the Website at: www.EAGA.co.er for more stories, competitions and upcoming Events



EAGA

Erewhon Amateur Geological Association

Monday 15th January 2007

www.EAGA.co.er

No. 105283

FESTIVAL OF GEOLOGY

Saturday 4TH February 2007

10.00 am - 4.30pm

University College Petisbourg,
Gower Street, Petisbourg WC1E 6BT

free entrance



Erewhon Amateur Geologist Wins Golden Prize

You may or may not have been aware but last month was the international Amateur Geologist Road show, where amateur geologists from around the globe meet at the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center in London, England to showcase interesting artifacts that they have found and to win prizes for them. This event is a good chance to see a variety of interest-

ing and unusual geological materials from around the world, to hear about new geological discoveries and to get the chance to meet and talk with professional geologists, which could help put you on track to becoming a great geologist yourself.

Dennis Newberry from Haselby Amateur Geology club in Erewhon



Peter Fielding

Flexicalymene Trilobite

went to this event taking with him a Flexicalymene on a shale nodule, that he found during a fieldtrip to Waynesville. After spending hours carefully cleaning and polishing his finding, the club felt it was good

enough to enter into the International Road show, and they were right, as Dennis picked up the gold award in the category of the best presented Fossil. Well done!

Learn How

To Encourage more youngsters to take interest in Geology the EAGA has decided to come up with a scheme called Learn How. Learn how will provide readers with fun ideas related to geology, which they will then be able to

go away and do for themselves. In this weeks newsletter for instance is a guide on how to make smooth gemstones. The scheme is aimed at youngsters but anyone can do it.

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EAGAs Biggest Ever Giveaway

The EAGA is giving the chance for one of Erewhon's geology clubs to win its members a fieldtrip to one of four fantastic destinations.

As you are probably aware, in recent months the attendance to some of Erewhon's Geology activities, meetings

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This Months News

2 Pound Erewhon Meteorite

Documented cases of meteorites striking people, homes, cars or other human property are very rare. However, on Saturday the 13th January an event like this did happen. At four o'clock in the afternoon in Cheshire Street, Waynesville a meteorite crashed through the roof of a family home and into their bathroom, where it bounced off the tiled floor and ended up being em-



Photograph by Detective R. Gelber

bedded in the wall. The meteorite was just over 2 inches in diameter and weighed a little less than 3 pounds. Thankfully no one in the family sustained any injuries.

Pic. of the Month



Malcolm donnelly

Flexicalymene retrorsa

If you read last month's newsletter you would have been aware that the competition for this month was to send in an interesting photo that was related to Geology. The EAGA committee received hundreds of photos ranging from fascinating fossils to some unusual gems. The winner of the competition though was Malcolm with their photograph of

a *Flexicalymene retrorsa*. Members of the EAGA felt that it deserved to win the prize of two tickets to the festival of Geology, as these fossils are hard to find, and this one was an excellent example.

Thanks to everyone that entered. You can see other photos that were sent in on the EAGA website at www.EAGA.co.uk

Win Your Geology Club a Fieldtrip



The Devil's Tower, Wyoming

Giants Causeway, Northern Ireland

Niagara Falls, Canada

Grand Canyon, USA

Photos from www.Geologyrocks.co.uk

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and lectures have been poorly attended and EAGA feels that something needs to be done in order to spread the wonders of geology and to encourage more people to join Geology clubs in Erewhon. As a result EAGA has joined up with Thompson Holidays to give the chance for one of Erewhon's Geology clubs to win its members a fieldtrip to one of four destinations that have been voted as some of the best sites to visit for a geologist. Included in the holiday will be a guided tour of the area by a professional geologist,

These destinations include;

The grand canyon, USA: Visit the great chasm carved

over millennia through the rocks of the Colorado Plateau. Experience the awe-inspiring views and get to explore the roads, hike the trails, or float the currents of the turbulent Colorado River.

The Devil's Tower, Big Bend National Park, Wyoming: Visit the nearly vertical monolith known as Devils Tower which rises 1,267 feet above the meandering Belle Fourche River. Once hidden below the earth's surface, erosion has stripped away the softer rock layers revealing the Tower.

Giants Causeway, Northern Ireland: take a trip to the Giants Causeway World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland, which has 40,000 tightly packed basalt columns that developed during volca-

nic eruption 60 million years ago. The columns formed when liquid molten rock was forced up through cracks in the chalk bed to form a lava plateau. The rapid cooling of the lava made it contract into hexagonal basaltic columns.

Niagara Falls, Canada: Take a splash in the 50m high Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls, Canada. The Falls have eroded through Upper Ordovician and Middle Silurian shales, sandstones and dolostones. The actual height of the falls is 91m, but 40m of that is filled by the plunge pool.

In order to win your club the opportunity to visit one of these fantastic places you will be expected to put on a show during the summer holiday period at Erewhon's

Geology Fair that will interest and fascinate various age groups into the exciting wonders of geology. The event, when held will be attended by committee members of the EAGA, and the club that puts on the best show, as deemed by the EAGA committee members will win there club a fieldtrip to one of the four destinations.

We therefore expect the Geology Fair this summer to be one of the best events ever and attract crowds of people from Erewhon and from abroad. Details for when the Geology fair is likely to be held will appear in next month's Newsletter.

Dave Bennett,
EAGA chairman.

Upcoming Events

Fieldtrip to Botanical Gardens, Kew, Erewhon
Saturday 2 February 10.30am - 4.00pm

Join Adrian Rundle of the Natural History Museum for a tour of Kew Gardens. Look at plants, leaves, cones and fruits and see how they can be preserved as fossils.

Erewhon Geological Survey Open Day
Murchison House, West Mains Road, Haselby, EH9 3LA
Saturday 28 February 10.00am - 5.00pm

The Erewhon Geological Survey invites you to explore its headquarters - 5 floors of demonstrations, exhibitions, experiments and talks. Find out about petroleum geology and exploration of the sea bed, see the photographic geology of Erewhon, discover the secrets of building stones, investigate volcanoes and much more.
Entrance free

Fieldtrip to Bracklesham Bay with the Haselby Amateur Geology club
Saturday 7 March 11.30am - 4.00pm

Visit this site famous for its 45 million year old Eocene Fossils, including molluscs, sharks' teeth and microfossils. Low tide 5.40 pm Children must be accompanied by an adult. Must book.
Phone Peter Allan: 01732 457188

Exploration in Watchet
Saturday 14 March 10.00am - 5.30pm

Join Gerald Smith and Gordon Peters to explore the rocks and fossils of Watchet. The meeting will start at Bishops Lydeard station followed by a journey by steam train to Watchet. Once in Watchet, there will be the opportunity to look at the local rocks and fossils both in the town and on the beaches. Hard hats and high visibility vests are essential.
£5 booking fee per family
Phone 020 7734 5398 to book tickets.

