

# Geologists' Association

## Forthcoming talk



*Whilst government restrictions are in place we are delivering a schedule of virtual, 'vLectures' instead of our usual monthly talks at Burlington House. These will be freely available to all. Join us for an interesting and informative evening.*

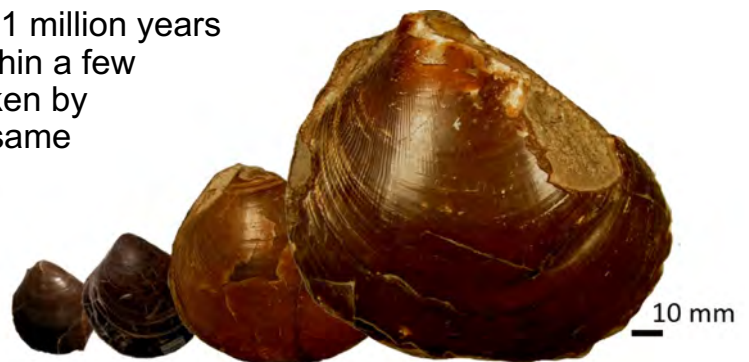
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

## **A journey from Lilliput to Brobdingnag: Bivalve mollusc body size trends across the end-Triassic mass extinction and recovery**

**By Dr J.W. Atkinson. University of Leeds**

Lemuel Gulliver (Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift) encountered lands of both the extremely small (Lilliput) and the gigantic (Brobdingnag). His fictional travels gave their name to the Lilliput Effect, a phenomenon encountered in the wake of mass extinction when a great many of the organisms are small, just as though we were studying the fossilised inhabitants of Lilliput. The Effect, in its original and strictest sense, is a temporary reduction in body size following a mass extinction, but expressly in a species that survived from before the extinction event. This is therefore a rare occurrence yet populations of small individuals are common after many of the worst ecological crises throughout Earth's history.

The end-Triassic mass extinction event (c. 201 million years ago) left behind a "Lilliput World" although within a few million years the Lilliputians had been overtaken by Brobdingnagians. Comparative giants of the same species that evolved to fill the vacated early Jurassic seas. Here I shall discuss the journey many species took from Lilliput to Brobdingnag and explore the possible reasons behind such dramatic changes in body size.



**Lecture starts at 6pm (18:00)**

The talk will be via Zoom. Members will receive an access code via email before the meeting. Non-members should telephone 020 7434 9298 or email the Secretary ([sarah@geologistsassociation.org.uk](mailto:sarah@geologistsassociation.org.uk)) for details.

[www.geologistsassociation.org.uk](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk)

