

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Almost like being there: new approaches to deciphering animal behaviour from trace fossils**

**By Dr Jon Noad. Sedimental Services;  
Mount Royal University, Calgary *Live from Canada***

Traces are structures produced in rocks and sediments by the life processes of organisms. They include footprints, burrows, skin impressions and many other weird and wonderful signs that tell stories of the behaviour of animals through time. Ichnology is the study of trace fossils in ancient rocks, but what this talk aims to show is that we should also be looking at modern traces, to help to identify their analogues in the fossil record.

What is so special about traces is that they record animal activity, rather than body fossils which merely reflect that once upon a time a particular animal was alive. Deciphering what these traces mean is all part of the fun.

Contrasting the many modern traces with the ancient will hopefully convince even the sceptics amongst you that neoichnology has an important role to play in interpreting ancient spoor, and I suspect that many of you will be looking down, scouring the ground for footprints, after leaving the meeting.



Thalassinoides burrows made by shrimps from Miocene rocks outcropping in Libya

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

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)

