

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## Pterodactyls of the Sahara Desert

**By Professor David Martill. University of Portsmouth**

This talk examines the pterosaur assemblage of an ancient river system represented by the famous Kem Kem Group strata of south eastern Morocco, and summarises the discoveries of an international team of scientists working for more than a decade in the border regions of Morocco and Algeria. Achievements of the team include the discovery of eight genera of pterosaurs.

The Cretaceous Kem Kem Group strata have become famous for the iconic theropod dinosaur *Spinosaurus*, as well as giant sauropods, crocodiles, turtles, saw sharks and bony fishes. The abundance of fossils, especially the teeth of dinosaurs, has resulted in a thriving fossil trade and a proliferation of fossil mines spread across more than 200km of outcrop.

Pterosaur remains in the Kem Kem have revealed a diverse assemblage of forms, from tiny juvenile individuals to considerable giants with wingspans of 6 or more metres. The Kem Kem pterosaur fauna is unique in Africa, and has the highest diversity of any pterosaur locality for the entire continent. Despite the fragmentary nature of the material, its three-dimensional preservation makes it some of the best-preserved material known.



**A fossil mine in the Kem Kem Group at Begaa, SE Morocco.**

**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)

