



The Second Circular

for the

64th Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and
Comparative Anatomy

and the

25th Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and
Conservation with the Geological Curators' Group.

Liverpool

August 22nd - 26th, 2016

*Announcing opening of
registration,
preliminary programme,
and other matters*





Registration

Registration for SPPC/GCG and SVPCA will open in Late April/Early May 2016. Please visit the SVPCA website (www.svPCA.org) in order to register for SPPC, SVPCA, or both. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to Liverpool University's secure payment website.

The deadline for registration is Sunday 17th July 2016.

Fees

Registration costs have been kept as low as possible, but ultimately reflect the cost of booking lecture theatres and associated facilities. Students are reminded to apply for the Jones-Fenleigh Memorial Fund if eligible (see below). We are awaiting confirmation on additional funding, but prices are expected to be:

	Full Rate	Student Rate
<u>SPPC/GCG</u>	<u>£20</u>	<u>£10</u>
<u>SVPCA</u>	<u>£55</u>	<u>£28</u>
<u>Both conferences</u>	<u>£60</u>	<u>£30</u>
<u>Conference Dinner</u>	<u>£38</u>	
<u>Conference T-shirt</u>	<u>£12</u>	
<u>Field Trip (Chester Zoo)</u>	<u>£25</u>	

Abstracts

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations can be submitted after registration via the SVPCA website. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length and will be evaluated double-blind by an abstract committee. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes in length (including question time). There will be a dedicated poster session again this year and poster submissions are therefore encouraged (note that poster presenters will be able to give a lightning talk – see below). Your preference for an oral or poster presentation will be taken into account as far as possible, but number of oral presentations is limited.

Submitted abstracts will be collated into a symposium abstracts volume which will be made available in PDF format on the SVPCA website.

The abstract deadline is Sunday 17th July 2016, as for registration.

T-shirts

Conference T-shirts will be available featuring the SVPCA 2016 logo. The logo features two Liver birds; semi-mythical birds associated with Liverpool, and which adorn the Liver Building by the waterfront – one looking out to sea, the other staring back over the city. You can read more about the logo by [clicking here](#).

The T-shirts will be available at £12 each, and should be ordered during registration as only limited quantities will be available to purchase during the conference.

Field Trips

SPPC Field Trip, 22nd August

The SPPC/GCG meeting will include a visit to the Liverpool World Museum, and a tour of the collections.

SVPCA Field Trip, 26th August

This year, the SVPCA fieldtrip will eschew the more traditional fossil hunting trip in favour of the 'CA' part of SVPCA. To that end, the fieldtrip will be a day trip to [Chester Zoo](#). A bus will transport participants to and from Chester Zoo. There is no specific tour planned for the day, rather it is a chance for delegates to explore at their own pace.

Lightening Poster Presentations

This year, there will be a short session devoted to lightning talks given by delegates presenting a poster. Each author will be given 3 minutes and up to 5 slides to introduce their poster. Unless requested otherwise, all poster presenters will be given a lightning slot.

Events

Monday 22nd August - Ice Breaker Event

The evening of Monday 22nd will see an Ice Breaker event at the Liverpool World Museum. This event is free to attend, and delegates will receive a complimentary drink.

Wednesday 24th August – Annual Auction

There will be a drinks reception and Annual Auction in the Chapel at the Foresight centre. As always, the auction will be in aid of the Jones-Fenleigh fund.

Thursday 25th August - Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be held at the [Victoria Gallery and Museum](#). The VG&M was built to act as the main building for the University of Liverpool from 1892 until 1938. Constructed from ordinary bricks and terracotta dressings, this building was the origin of the term ‘red-brick university.’ The beautiful interior will host the three course annual dinner.

Jones-Fenleigh Award

The Jones-Fenleigh fund awards grants covering registration fees, accommodation costs, and basic subsistence in order to help delegates with no institutional financial support attend the conference.

Applications to the fund should be sent to Peter Falkingham (p.l.falkingham@ljam.ac.uk) before June 30th. Applications should include an abstract, covering letter explaining your circumstances, and a letter of support from your employer/institution that also confirms you will not be financially supported by them. Selection of successful candidates will be made on the basis of the relevance, originality and the general quality of the abstract. For more information click on the [Jones-Fenleigh tab](#) on the SVPCA website.

Social Media

There is an active Facebook group, ‘SVPCA 2016 Liverpool’ where notices will be posted (in addition to the mailing lists. Note that there is also a group for the SVPCA more generally: ‘Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy.

What conference would be complete without a hashtag? SVPCA 2016 will use the imaginative hashtag [#SVPCA2016](#).

However, given issues in previous years (both at SVPCA and elsewhere), with presentations being

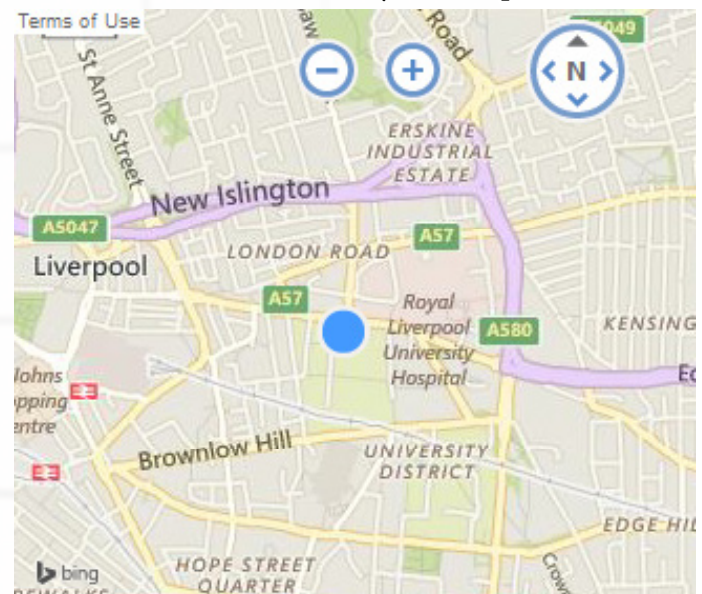
tweeted without the author’s permission, *the policy for SVPCA 2016 will be that unless a presenter has explicitly given permission, delegates are asked to refrain from posting any details or photographs on social media.* If permission is not explicit, please keep posts vague (e.g. “great talk by <presenter>”). This applies to both talks and posters.

Abstracts Volume

This year, in an effort to save trees, the printed version of the abstracts volume will be optional. Many people find the abstracts volume unnecessary, preferring instead to use digital versions on phones/tablets/laptops, and so it seems wasteful to provide printed abstracts books for everyone. Delegates will all receive a PDF version of the abstracts book, but will be able to request a printed book during registration *at no extra cost*. Limited hard copies will also be available at the meeting for a small fee.

Venue

The conference venue will be the Foresight Centre (Brownlow Street), University of Liverpool.



Accommodation

Accommodation will be available through the University of Liverpool – a link will be added to the SVPCA webpage. Delegates should of course also feel free to source their own accommodation.



Getting to Liverpool

By Plane:

Liverpool does have its own airport – Liverpool John Lennon airport, and this airport is connected to the city via the MerseyRail metro link. However, Liverpool John Lennon is a small regional airport, and delegates travelling by plane may find it cheaper and easier to fly into **Manchester airport**, and then take a direct train to Liverpool Lime Street (~1hr).

By Train:

Liverpool is easily accessible by rail into **Liverpool Lime Street**, which is a major train station, and is located in the centre of the city. If you come by train, note the stunning rock-cuttings as you pull into the station – An excellent example of cross bedding is visible in the red sandstone.

By Car:

Parking is difficult in any major city, and specific parking will not be provided. Delegates wishing to travel to Liverpool by car will need to make their own arrangements.

SVPCA App

This year, we are hoping to have a Windows 10/ Windows phone app available that will work on laptops/tablets/phones running Windows 10.

Exhibitors

Space will be available within the Foresight centre for exhibits and displays. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact Peter Falkingham

(p.l.falkingham@ljmu.ac.uk).

Things to see and do in Liverpool

Tuesday 23rd August – Guided walking tour of the Albert Dock/Waterfront

Visit Liverpool will be arranging a guided tour of the Waterfront area and Albert on the evening of the 23rd. The tour will be led by a fully qualified Blue-Badge Guide, and will cost approximately £10, ending at the waterfront/Albert Dock which are excellent places to eat and drink. [You can book a place on this walk by clicking this link.](#)

St George's Quarter

Historic [St George's Quarter](#) is located near the city centre and near to Liverpool Lime Street. The area forms part of Liverpool's World Heritage Site,

and boasts one of the finest collections of Victorian architecture in the UK, including the World Museum (where the SPPC fieldtrip and SVPCA Ice Breaker event will take place), the Central Library, and the Walker Art Gallery. The area is also home to St John's Gardens and the Empire Theatre.



Liverpool Cathedral

Liverpool Cathedral is a truly stunning piece of architecture built on St James's Mount, overlooking the city. The imposing building is 189 m long, making it the longest cathedral in the world, also ranking fifth in the world in terms of volume.

Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge sponsorship from the Palaeontological Association.



Further Details

A future circular will be sent out confirming all details, and providing an outline programme. In the mean time, if you have any questions, please contact me Peter Falkingham at p.l.falkingham@ljmu.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to Liverpool in August!

