

The Unification of the British Isles

A Lesson in Geology



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**Presented by Banstead, Epsom & Ewell and
Sutton u3a Science Group**

Wednesday 2nd September 2026, 2.30pm (doors open at 2pm)

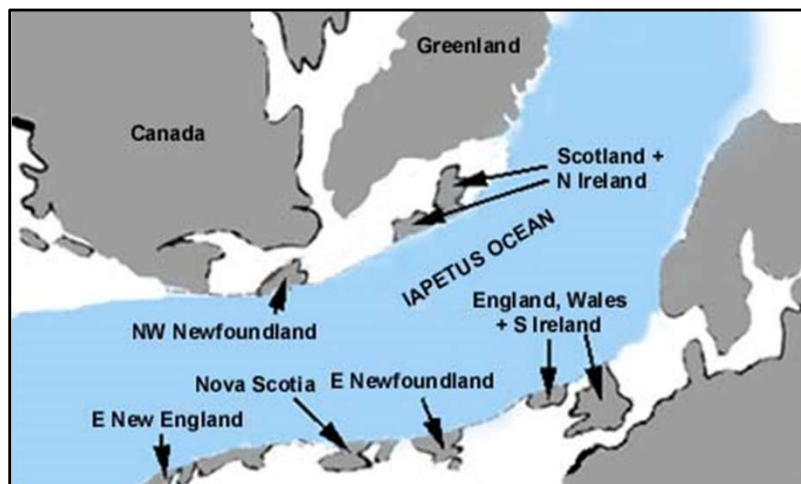
Banstead Community Hall, Park Road SM7 3AJ

Free on-site parking

**£5 for any u3a members, £10 for non-members,
includes tea/coffee & biscuits**



Cambrian Palaeogeography c500 million years



Closure of Iapetus Ocean Ordovician c450 million years)

**A discussion of how England and Wales collided with Scotland, then Europe with Britain
and finally the breakaway of America.**

Some 500 million years ago, barmy Scotland was situated near to the equator. It was separated by a vast ocean from England and much of Europe, which lay close to the South Pole with ice sheets over the Sahara and Amazon.

England headed northwards and collided with Scotland around 400 million years ago, together with North America, to form a vast Himalayan-style Mountain belt. Southern Europe and Africa joined a little later (some 100 million years after) to form the super continent of Pangea.

Relatively recently (circa 50 million years ago) North America decided to break away and is currently hurtling westwards forming the growing Atlantic Ocean. America tried to take Britain along for the ride, initially causing a lot of volcanism in Scotland but failed, leaving Britain perched on the edge of Europe.