

Welcome to issue number 22 of our GeoSuffolk Times - for those who value Suffolk's geodiversity. Caroline Markham 16.10.14

www.geosuffolk.co.uk

Burtonite

The polished larvikite frontages of Burton's shops were once very much a part of Burton's image and that rock gained the informal name 'Burtonite' from a number of geologists. Many former Burton's premises retain their foundation stones, especially from the 1930s, as at Felixstowe where still shows: 'This stone laid by Stanley Howard Burton 1933'. Two specimens in Lowestoft are of fine-grained rock and earlier date: 'This stone laid by Barbara Jessica Burton 1924' and the other by Stanley Howard Burton in 1924. Is the name 'Burtonite' still used by anyone? RM (Bob Markham)

Clare: Memorial to the Great War 1914-1918

Clare has this cross of Clipsham Stone, a Jurassic limestone which takes its name from the village of Clipsham in Rutland. About 170 million years old, it is cream in colour, has an uneven oolitic structure and shell fragments. RM
(This beautiful gothic cross at Clare concludes RM's series on the geology of Suffolk WWI memorials.)



Jurassic Monsters at Ipswich Museum.

On Monday October 27th (1.30-3.30pm) and Tuesday 28th (10.30-12.30) GeoSuffolk will be demonstrating some of the Museum's collection of Jurassic fossil reptile bones. If you like your fossils heavy this is for you!

Pitldown Notes

CM's *Have you visited Southwold* in GeoSuffolk Times no.21 reminded me of Dennis Collings of Southwold and his reminiscences of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Jesuit priest and geologist (1881-1955), and Pitldown Man. Dennis was assistant curator of Raffles Museum, Singapore, before WWII and used to see a good deal of Teilhard who had, in the years just before WWI when at Hastings, become acquainted with Charles Dawson the discoverer of Pitldown Man. Teilhard was an eager talker but would never discuss Pitldown - "a most difficult subject and full of problems" - with Dennis.

Dennis's possible solution to this was that Dawson, as a Roman Catholic, may have confessed to Teilhard what had happened. The secrets of the confessional cannot be given away and hence Teilhard's refusal to discuss the subject. Pitldown Man was exposed as a forgery shortly before Teilhard's death. Dennis Collings died in 2001. RM

Ipswich Building Stones

RM's building stones walk, *Deserts on the Cornhill*, on 19.06.14 with Ipswich Society members is online in their October 2014 Newsletter, issue 197 at <http://www.ipswichsociety.org.uk/newsletter/disptoc.php?issue=197>. Highlights include the Portland and Bath stones in the Town Hall plus the red Mansfield Stone (an ancient desert sandstone). Also the Tournai limestone fonts in St Peters at the Waterfront and the giant sarsen stones at Stoke Bridge.

Also, in *Ipswich Icons* (East Anglian Daily Times 16.08.14) Ipswich Society Chairman John Norman explains that some properties in California (Ipswich) contain flint (a poor insulator against heat loss, but available, cheap and durable), as until October 1850 there was a tax on bricks. Heath Cottage (formerly Kossuth Cottage), 14 Freehold Road is one example.

Happy 20th Birthday to the Greenways Project
<http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/>

Geologists' Association Festival of Geology

Join GeoSuffolk at University College London in Gower Street on Saturday November 1st.

We will be taking the Pliocene Forest to London! You know how Shakespeare moved Burnham Wood - now find out how GeoSuffolk does it.....

For more information see

<http://geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival.html>

News: Geodiversity Providers and Owners

GeoSuffolk's Summer at Ipswich Museum

Crinoids in July, mammal teeth and trilobites (not together!) in August, - museum specimens from 'behind the scenes' demonstrated by GeoSuffolk to visitors in the public galleries. The mammal teeth in particular (19 August) had an international flavour: a toxodont from Patagonia, Argentina; an oreodont from South Dakota, USA; a stegodon from China; a hippopotamus from Malta.

On 11th and 12th July the visually impaired theatre group *Unscene Suffolk* presented *Fossils* at Ipswich Museum. Inspired by the tactile qualities of fossils, this was a fictional voyage of discovery – of fossils, history, time and personal agenda. RM gave help with information on fossils, the coprolite industry, and scientific investigation in Victorian times (I used the Foxhall human jaw case for this). Also see www.unscenesuffolk.co.uk

On 7th August RM and CM presented *Scrapbook Coast* (The Suffolk Coast Through Pictures), based on GeoSuffolk scrapbooks and Ipswich Museum specimens. The wide-ranging theme included: the social protest of Dicken's 1843 *Christmas Carol* and the discovery of coprolite in Felixstowe; the 220,000+ days and nights that have passed since ancient Dunwich was defeated by the sea (should Dunwich bill Sizewell for the eroded cliff gravel delivered there by longshore drift?); Pakefield and when early humans reached the gates of Suffolk; our coastal towns, built on a collision course with the sea; (the four legs of) dogs dealing with the near-oleaginous surface of the platimore at Bawdsey. RM

Westleton Heath Pit CGS

This disused gravel pit on the RSPB reserve (also a biological SSSI) has good exposures of sands and gravels of Norwich Crag age, and on October 9th a small party of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB volunteers and GeoSuffolk members freshened up parts of the face. A 3m high exposure was cleared in the west side of the pit, showing the large gravel characteristic of the Westleton area at the base, with horizontally bedded sands above and a further gravel layer on top. A smaller section cleared in the north face showed some periglacial disturbance of the sand and (smaller-sized) gravel beds. It was an energetic day out on the heath with spades and wheelbarrows, plus beautiful weather and the occasional sound of the red deer beginning their rut – fantastic! Thank you RSPB! This CGS has public access – it is a short distance south of the Westleton to Dunwich road at TM 457693. CM

Snippets

- Ipswich Film Theatre screened *Dinosaur* on 17th and 18th September. Directed by Todd Douglas Miller, US, 2014, 95 minutes, it tells the story of Tyrannosaurus Rex 'Sue' found in South Dakota in 1990. Palaeontologists, the US Government, Native American tribes, museums, prison, an auction and Sue! A powerful and enjoyable film.
- GeoSuffolk's *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* is featured in *Down to Earth* magazine. Chris Darmon recently led a field trip to the East Midlands for Suffolk One 'A' level geology students and was presented with a copy. Find out more about Chris's Sheffield-based organisation at www.geosupplies.co.uk
- Young Haeyden Cruickshanks exploring geology is featured on the cover of the August 2014 issue (no.39) of *Deposits* magazine. Haeyden is the son of the magazine's editor Alister and research coordinator Alison. Find out more about their Suffolk-based organisation at www.ukge.com
- Elephant Summer! Ipswich Museum's replica mammoth was formally named *Wool-I-Am* on 5th August. Norfolk Museums Service 'walked' a replica of the West Runton mammoth along the beach on 13th August. The 150th anniversary of the finding of the Ilford proboscidean was celebrated at the Mammoth Steppes Festival at Redbridge on 27-28 September. RM

GeoAnglia

Hill Farm Gestingthorpe, Essex Congratulations to Ashley Cooper on winning conservation farming's Silver Lapwing Award (EADT 27.09.14). Ashley was host to the Essex Rock and Mineral Society and GeoSuffolk members on his farm on July 12th. With till at the surface, with gravel beneath and Chalk at depth, Hill Farm is prone to subsidence, with doline-like features appearing every 12 years or so. We were shown a subsidence hollow, about 7m across and 3m deep which appeared in 2002. Solution of the Chalk, about 10m below the surface here, has undermined and allowed collapse of the overburden of till/gravel. Ashley has a most interesting private museum of finds including many from the Roman villa discovered on the farm in 1947, with much geological material: an onyx cygnet ring; a puddingstone quern; burnt flints (Bronze Age boiling stones); peat showing vivianite crystals. CM

Hunstanton, Norfolk The wonderful cliff with its dipping strata of white Chalk, red limestone (Hunstanton Red Rock) and brown Carstone is one of the top ten *Great Geological Sites* featured in the Geological Society of London's competition for Earth Science Week (this month). To see the photograph and more, visit <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/100geosites> - Hunstanton is in the *Coastal* category. RM