



# GEOSUFFOLK TIMES

Bawdsey Cliff SSSI

Welcome to issue no.38 of GeoSuffolk Times.

Caroline Markham 09.10.18 [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

## Sedgwick Bicentenary

200 years ago the Reverend Adam Sedgwick was appointed the Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge University. For many he is best known for naming the Cambrian System in 1835, after strata exposed in North Wales. However, upon his appointment in 1818 he basically had no knowledge of geology. One of the earliest places he visited as he commenced to study geology was, in 1819, Suffolk to acquaint himself with our 'crag'. He started at Aldeburgh but was kicked (presumably by a horse) in the same field three times in the first week. He had to lie on a sofa for nearly three weeks before he could return to Cambridge. Suffolk geology was obviously too dangerous a pursuit, one he decided to leave to somebody else.

Bob Markham (RM)

## George Slater and Glacial Tectonics

### An Ipswich Story

This is the header for GeoSuffolk's stand at the Geologists' Association Festival of Geology on November 3rd. The term 'glacial tectonics', meaning strata moved and distorted by ice, was coined by George Slater in a GA publication in 1927. He used exposures in the Hadleigh Road railway cutting and other Gipping valley sites as exemplars, creating exceptionally detailed maps, sections and models, many of which were shown at the GA's Reunion Festival in 1943. GeoSuffolk is taking some of his work back to display at the Festival 75 years later! To find out more about George Slater see Howard Mottram's article in Suffolk Natural History Vol.50, 2014 <http://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/node/174>.

The GA Festival, at University College, London is free and open to all – see the GA website for more details <https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival/> CM

## Light Geology

- The East Anglian Daily Times 29.06.18 reported a trackway found at a Neolithic site near Woodbridge- there were substantial numbers of white pebbles, 'not common in the area', found beside the track. White stones which are common in the area are quartz pebbles in the Kesgrave sand and gravel deposit. (Perhaps the trackway pebbles showed up well in the moonlight.)
- 'Oven clocks', as recorded at Bildeston, were a block of quartz on the inside wall of a wood-fired oven. The temperature was raised until the block glowed, a guide to the bread-maker.
- James Sainty of West Runton, Norfolk used to pick quartz/quartzite pebbles out of the local beach shingle to demonstrate they produce light when they are rubbed together. Known as triboluminescence, this has been explained as energy released by dislodged electrons. I visited James Sainty (1882-1967) in the early 1960s to see some fossils but I was unaware of his making light.

RM

## Orford Castle

English Heritage is planning to re-render some areas of the walls of Orford Castle. The dark brown rock is mudstone/septaria from the local London Clay. The EADT 27.08.18 says that 'Loose material will be removed voids dubbed out and render applied with a rough-textured appearance'. Does the recent photo below show a trial section?

RM



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### Geo-Anglia

- Paragon C20051 drilling rig was at Parkeston, Essex from August 25<sup>th</sup> (arrived from Woolaston gas production field off East Yorkshire) until September 25<sup>th</sup> (left for Netherlands).
- The Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area has been extended to include Scroby sand bank off Great Yarmouth. For a historical note on Scroby sands see GeoSuffolk Notes no. 40 <http://geosuffolk.co.uk/index.php/archive/geosuf-folk-notes>
- A copper Threepence token of 1797, used to pay workmen at the Marl Pit, Wroxham, Norfolk was auctioned (Lot 1160) at Lockdales in Martlesham in July. For another (the same?) see GeoSuffolk Times no.18.
- The unstable calcium carbonate mineral Vaterite has been reported as being exuded from hydathodes (pores) on the leaves of *Saxifraga* at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. An incident of carbonate whiting (Vaterite precipitation) was reported (in Nature Phys. Sci. 229) at Holkham Lake, Norfolk in 1971. For more, see Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk no.42 (1995 for 1992).
- The EADT 14.04.18 reported Tollesbury Wick Nature reserve, Essex to be much covered in small hummocks – domes built by yellow meadow ants above their nests to regulate temperature and humidity. Some years earlier ‘evenly spaced mounds (not touching) in grass and thickets at the east end of the island’ were reported from Ray Island, Essex – the same feature?
- The Essex Rock and Mineral Society’s meeting at Stanway, Essex on November 15th will feature a lecture ‘The West Runton Mammoth’, by Dr David Waterhouse of the Norfolk and Norwich Museum. For more information on the ERMS meetings see <http://www.erm.org/meetings-programmes.html>

RM

### Identification Day at Ipswich Museum

GeoSuffolk will be at the Museum on October 24th from 10.30am – 3pm. Do bring your geological treasures to show us.

### Suffolk Coast and Heaths Work Parties

GeoSuffolk has been working with SCH AONB volunteers to refresh some of the Crag pits scattered throughout the heathlands of coastal Suffolk. These ‘windows on the past’ are a valuable part of the landscape here and clearing vegetation and talus ensures their survival into the near future. It also makes them more accessible - Neutral Farm pit SSSI in Butley, for example has seen visits by geological field parties to study its Red Crag since it was cleared last winter. The Norwich Crag pit at Westleton Common, cleared in 2015, has public access and GeoSuffolk is designing and producing an explanatory panel for visitors to this County Geodiversity Site.

SCH AONB is organising two more geological work parties this winter. The first is at the Red Crag pit in Butley Forest on December 4th – also a CGS with public access. The second is at a Red Crag pit in Alderton on February 5th 2019. Anyone can join in – it’s an excellent physical work-out and you can do as much or as little as you wish. You do need to register with the AONB – see their web site for more details. <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/work-parties/>

CM

### The Rocks Remember

To mark the Centenary of the end of the First World War, Historic England has given Grade II Listed status to several war memorials, including (in Suffolk) Barnby (see GeoSuffolk Times no.19); Clare (see GeoSuffolk Times no. 22) and Great Livermore (marble cross on pedestal of Portland Stone). The beautiful 127 foot tall Weldon and Portland Stone Memorial for the villages of Elvedon, Eriswell and Icklingham has been given Grade II\* Listing.

Our photo shows the WWI Memorial Cross of Cornish Granite at Great Bealings Church.

RM

