

# GEOSUFFOLK TIMES

Bawdsey Cliff SSSI July 2018

Welcome to issue no.39 of GeoSuffolk Times.

Caroline Markham 12.01.19 [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

## 'Identification Days' 2018

GeoSuffolk's 'Identification Days' at Ipswich Museum and Colchester Natural History Museum during 2018 brought in numerous specimens. And what variety! Dressing-table pots from Derbyshire, made from local Triassic-age alabaster; a Jurassic ammonite from Colchester's conservation area (from someone's former collection?); a *Plocoscyphia* (or similar) fossil sponge in flint from Felstead, Essex; fruits (?) from the London Clay at Bawdsey; a Nummulite (Eocene giant foraminifera) from Oman; a cuneiform (front foot bone, *aka* triquetrum, pyramidale, ulnare) of a Southern Mammoth of Norwich Crag age found on Easton Bavents beach; a fine septarian nodule (glacial erratic) from Stonham Aspal; a 'pot-lid' flint, fractured by frost action, from Brightwell (to where it was delivered in gravel). We were as pleased as the owners to see and discuss the specimens.

Bob Markham (RM)



The Nummulite specimen – about 4cm across.

## Ipswich Museum Identification Day

'Show and Tells' return for 2019, starting with a session on April 10th. GeoSuffolk will be at the Museum from 10.30-3.30, so do bring along your geo-finds to discuss with us.

## Pliocene Forest

The trees in GeoSuffolk's 'Pliocene Forest' at Rockhall Wood SSSI in Sutton continue to grow – both in size and number. We have completed the project to unite our various 'copses' and 'spinneys' with a single perimeter deer fence and so have created internal space for more planting. Most of the new trees are taken from the Dutch Pliocene 'Reuverian flora' (see GeoSuffolk Times no.25, July 2015) to compliment those recorded in our Suffolk Pliocene. Examples include *Cornus controversa*, the 'wedding cake tree', native to China; *Styrax japonicus*, the Japanese 'snowbell tree'; *Staphylea pinnata*, the European 'bladdernut' – all available for sponsorship of course, so if you are interested contact me (reply to this email) and I will put you in touch with GeoSuffolk's tree specialist, Barry Hall. CM

## 'Geo-art' at Ipswich

- The Tate (Modern), London, version of 'The Kiss' from Auguste Rodin's workshop, is on loan to Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich until April 29th. The figures appear to sit on a rough-chiselled block, but they and it are, of course, one piece of rock. A fantastic display of white marble - stated to be from Pentelic in Greece.
- 'Athabasca Trail' by Mali Morris is an acrylic on canvas painting in the 'Women 100' exhibition at Ipswich Art Gallery, Upper High Street - until April 5th. There are many off-highway trails in the Athabasca region of Alberta, Canada and the black area in the painting suggests perhaps the Athabasca tar sands, deposits of bitumen emplaced in Cretaceous-age sands – a major commercial oil producer. RM

### Capel St Mary War Memorial

This monument, naming men from Capel who gave their lives in two world wars, was erected on the village green in 2018. The *Capel Times* November 2017 states it to be made from Sadahalli granite from Khamman quarry, Hyderabad and Luxstone of Sudbury were the stonemasons. There are many South Indian granites, and the polished surface of the main part of this memorial shows its crystalline structure with white feldspar, clear quartz and small dark ferromagnesians, no doubt including mica. RM



### Geo-Anglia

- The Essex Rock and Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show at Collier Row in Romford is on February 23rd from 10am to 4pm. Well worth a visit – see <http://www.erms.org/erms-show.html> for more information.
- The New Horizons mission to the outer solar system is in the news at the moment and amongst those researching the data returning from Ultima Thule is Dr Carly Howett. Dr Howett, Assistant Director of the Department of Space Studies at the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado, USA, hails from Braintree and has family near Stowmarket. She studies icy worlds and has an asteroid named after her – (167971) Carlyhowett.
- The Minter family Bulmer Brick & Tile firm, using 'London Clay', won a Historic England Angel Award 2018. Their hand-made bespoke bricks have been used at Hampton Court Palace, the law courts in Lincoln's Inn Fields, Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland and Queen Anne's Summerhouse, Old Warden, Bedfordshire. <https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/angel-awards/best-craftsperson-or-apprentice/>

RM

### Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Work Party

GeoSuffolk is leading a work party with SCH AONB volunteers in a Red Crag pit on private land in Alderton on February 5th. Do join us - helping to keep our geological heritage accessible plus lots of outdoor exercise! You need to register with the AONB. <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/work-parties/>

### Light Geology

Following the note on triboluminescence in the last GeoSuffolk Times (no.38), GeoSuffolk's Peter Brinkley was quick to produce light by rubbing two quartz pebbles (from Butley) together.

Photograph by Margaret Brinkley.



### Forest Bed Cuts

Could early humans have used wood as well as flint? In 1901 (British Association Report) F D Longe recorded the find of a piece of yew from the Kessingland Forest Bed with oblique cuts 'apparently made by Man' on it. In 1917 James Reid Moir (Man, November) described a piece of wood, in his opinion humanly-shaped, found by S A Notcutt of Ipswich in the Cromer Forest Bed near Mundesley. Or are they from a beaver dam as recorded from Keswick near Bacton? Also, in 1937, A C Savin ('History of Cromer') recorded having in his collection three lower jaws and two pieces of humerus of deer and one lower jaw of bear with 'clear made cuts', from Upper Freshwater Beds (of the Forest Bed). RM

### Butley Forest Pit CGS

On December 4th GeoSuffolk and SCH AONB volunteers tackled vegetation and talus on the Red Crag exposures at the pit in Butley Forest. The two faces here are at right-angles and our efforts were concentrated at the junction between them which had become obscured. Re-exposing this area facilitates the interpretation of three-dimensional structures such as current bedding. We made good headway – thank you to all who dug, chopped and raked and also to the Forestry Commission for their permission. This pit is a County Geodiversity Site with public access, so do visit it. CM

