

GEOSUFFOLK TIMES

Newsletter 42
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The Quarry at Rockhall Wood SSSI

Welcome to issue no.42 of GeoSuffolk Times.

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Earth Science Week

As its contribution to Earth Science Week this year GeoSuffolk is holding an exhibition on Ipswich's early 19th century geologist, Elizabeth Knipe Cobbold. We have visited Elizabeth Cobbold (1764-1824) briefly before in these columns (GeoSuffolk Times nos. 8 and 18). Further research by Bob Markham (RM) into her Red Crag fossils, published by James Sowerby, has revealed she was indeed a very early palaeontologist of some merit. She may well be a contender for the epithet 'first woman geologist' and Down to Earth August 2019 published a letter of mine to this effect.

Earth Science Week is co-ordinated by the Geological Society of London and our display will be in the Geology Gallery of Ipswich Museum from 10.30-1.30 on October 19th. As well as information on Elizabeth Cobbold, putting her science into context, there will be a geology map of Holywells Park and examples of the fossils she collected there.

Also available will be RM's list of her contributions to James Sowerby, who thought so highly of her that in 1817 he named a Crag mollusc, *Nucula cobboldiae* after her.

CM

For the GSL Earth Science Week calendar see

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Policy-and-Media/Earth-Science-Week/calendar-2019>



GeoSuffolk's work in the AONB

Over the past few years GeoSuffolk has been working closely with Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB to manage and promote the geology of the Suffolk coastal area. This year we are taking some of the results of our endeavours to the Geologists' Association Festival of Geology in London. Our stand will feature site management work, including at Neutral Farm Pit SSSI and Butley Forest Pit CGS, plus our recent interpretive projects - the Westleton Common panel, the coprolite leaflet and the Pliocene Forest.

The Festival of Geology at University College London on November 2nd is free to all - see the GA website.

<https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival/>

October 17th sees our next SCH AONB volunteers' work party – this one at Rockhall Wood SSSI helping to prepare the Pliocene Forest for the winter. If you would like to take part, please contact Neil Lister- his details are on the SCH AONB website <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/work-parties/> CM

Harwich Polar base

Harwich Port is now the base for the UK's polar exploration vessel RSS *James Clark Ross*. It is due to arrive back at Harwich (Parkeston) on October 6th from Spitzbergen's UK Arctic Research Station. After loading, it will depart Harwich on October 14th bound for the Falkland Islands and Antarctica – its work to include seafloor geology and iceberg research. It is scheduled to return to Harwich on June 2020 and is due to be replaced by the British Antarctic Survey's new polar research ship *Sir David Attenborough*. RM

Perseid Meteors

The Orwell Astronomical Society October 2019 newsletter contains images and observations of Perseid meteors from cameras run by Alan Smith and James Appleton.



A Puddingstone

The large puddingstone (conglomerate) boulder in the south courtyard of Ipswich Museum, featured in a recent GA magazine (Vol.18 no.2), was stated to be from the River Orwell. It was actually found in an excavation for sand and gravel near the Mill House on the Tuddenham Road, Ipswich. Mr T N Fonnereau presented it to Ipswich Museum and, on the night of April 15th 1890, Dr J E Taylor (the Curator) and a dozen men brought it in chains (it weighed about a ton and a half) from the Tuddenham Road sand pit to the museum grounds, taking five hours and finishing at midnight. They were 'true Britishers' said Dr Taylor!
RM



Is Ipswich a National Geosite?

An article in GeoScientist (the GSL's Magazine) August 2019, has suggestions made by Murray Gray for Global Geo(tourism)sites. As well as localities with scenic wonders, he suggests Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro for their important and close association with their physical setting. I have always thought that the site of Ipswich deserves greater recognition today. It is no coincidence that it is England's oldest continuously settled town. Its sheltered harbour, south-facing terraces and spring water from the Red Crag were certainly appreciated by Anglo-Saxon migrants some 1400 years ago. See *Foundatons* by CM in *Ipswich - a town to be proud of* by the Ipswich Society. <http://www.ipswichsociety.org.uk/a-town-to-be-proud-of/> CM

Plio-Pleistocene Lectures:

- Geological Society of Norfolk, October 17th 7.30pm Zuckerman building, University of East Anglia. *Little Heath – a Pliocene shoreline on the Chiltern Hills* by Tim Atkinson. <http://www.norfolkgeology.co.uk/lectures.htm>
- Essex Rock and Mineral Society, October 17th 7.30pm Stanway village hall. *The Pre-Glacial Thames – its evolution in the context of Cenozoic Neotectonics* by Jonathan Lee, British Geological Survey. <http://www.erms.org/meetings.html>

Meet GeoSuffolk at Ipswich Museum

Identification Day – October 23rd, 10.30am – 3.30pm, see <https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/events/ask-the-expert/> We look forward to seeing your finds! Specimens brought in for us to see so far in 2019 have included – a late cervical or early dorsal vertebra of a plesiosaur from the Oxford Clay of Peterborough (identified by the Natural History Museum of London); a dinosaur vertebra from the Isle of Wight; an incomplete tooth of a straight-tusked elephant, found in (dredged and) recharged material on Felixstowe beach. RM



GeoAnglia

- A plaque to mark the Colchester Earthquake was 'unveiled' on Lion Walk United Reform Church, by the Mayor of Colchester Peter Chillingworth, at the precise minute when the earthquake occurred 135 years ago, at 9.18 am on April 22nd. The plaque was organised by Colchester High Steward Sir Bob Russell in partnership with the church. The owners of Lion Walk Shopping Centre paid for the plaque. (For information about the Colchester earthquake see GeoSuffolk Notes no.46 <http://geosuffolk.co.uk/index.php/archive/geosuffolk-notes>)
- Paintings of sunsets help the study of previous volcanic eruptions, using the red to green ratio painted along the horizon, according to atmospheric physicists in Athens. Ash and gas released by major eruptions penetrates the stratosphere and spreads around the world. The 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora volcano, Sumbawa, Indonesia is recorded in the orange sunsets of John Crome's 1816 *The Windmill near Norwich and Yarmouth Harbour – Evening* - in the Tate Gallery.
- The Otter Trust owns Dickleburgh Moor (Nature Reserve) near Diss following purchases in 2016 and this year. This former mere occupies a hollow in the till. A British Geological Survey borehole showed 14.3m of post-glacial freshwater deposits resting on glacial till. Peat occurs at the surface and there has been much vertical shrinkage (2m or more) since it was drained 50 years ago. RM