

Keep in touch with GeoSuffolk Times. Welcome to issue number 13 of our newsletter - for those who value Suffolk's geodiversity. Caroline Markham 06.07.12 [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

### Suffolk Olympians?

For many years James Reid Moir carried out geological and archaeological investigations at Dales Road brickfield in Ipswich. In 1935 he excavated some presumed Roman shafts and as work continued ground water poured in, necessitating the use of pumps. A further problem came in the form of high-diving frogs! Every morning several were found swimming apparently happily at the bottom of the 75 feet deep shaft. 'Do the Ipswich frogs hold the high-diving record?' James Reid Moir wrote in a letter to The Times (03.08.1935). Today the descendents of those frogs live in the ponds at Dales Open Space (part of the old brickfield) – do they still have those Olympian genes, I wonder?  
Bob Markham (RM)

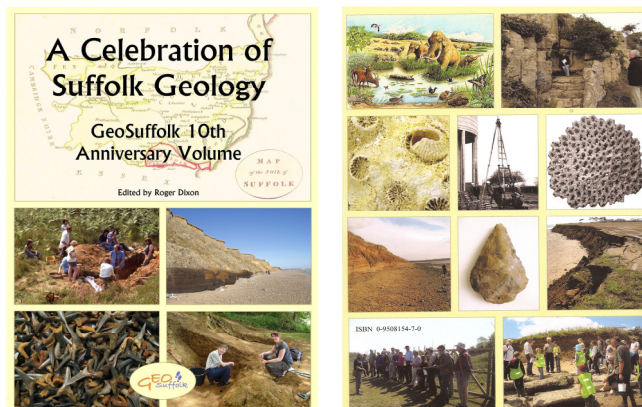
### Have you read...?

The Chalk of Suffolk by Mark Woods, Rory Mortimore and Christopher Wood.

The Chalk is the major bedrock unit across Suffolk, dipping gently beneath younger strata to the east and with a cover of glacial till in the west. Thus our understanding of it has to be assembled from chalk quarries and borehole data.

This seminal article in *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* has descriptions of 15+ Chalk exposures from Brandon and Sudbury in the west to Claydon in the east. At Brandon the Chalk has layers of marl (chalky clay), including the Grimes Graves Marl, and many flint seams – the Brandon Flint Series. Further east the younger Chalk exposed in the Gipping valley is softer and mostly flint-free.

Borehole data includes never-before published information on the Project Orwell (flood relief) Tunnel under Ipswich. There is an A3 fold-out colour section of this (sponsored by the Ipswich Society) from the Westbourne allotments in the north-west to Cliff Road on the Orwell estuary. The top of the Chalk, buried beneath later glacial sediments, is approx. at sea level at Ipswich and forms a sound foundation for engineering projects such as this.  
CM



### A New Geology Book for Suffolk

*A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* was published by GeoSuffolk at its 10th AGM on May 12th. It is A4 paperback format with 476 pages, illustrated in colour. Editor Roger Dixon invited contributions from those with an interest in Suffolk Geology and the result is a comprehensive and up-to-date compendium with 40+ authors, numerous colour photos, maps and diagrams. A full list of contents is given on the Suffolk Naturalists' Society web site [http://www.boxvalley.co.uk/nature/sns/org/suff\\_geo.asp](http://www.boxvalley.co.uk/nature/sns/org/suff_geo.asp) GeoSuffolk's 10th birthday party and the launch event for *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* was attended by 50+ people - sponsors, contributors, and GeoSuffolk members. It was held at the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park in Ipswich and the book was 'launched' by Lord Cranbrook. There was a glass of champagne, a delicious buffet lunch, a geo-tour of the park by Bob Markham with sarsen stones much to the fore, and tree-planting to commemorate our anniversary by Professor Rory Mortimore, President of the Geologists' Association (and author of an article – see *Have you read?* in this newsletter). The weather was fabulous throughout and the event and publication a big success for GeoSuffolk.  
CM

GeoSuffolk's 10th Anniversary Volume *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* published on May 12th 2012 is now available at £20 (£28 p&p) - enquire at [info@geosuffolk.co.uk](mailto:info@geosuffolk.co.uk).

## News: Geodiversity Providers and Owners

Pliocene Forest Open Day

GeoSuffolk joined in with the Sutton Village Open Gardens event on May 27<sup>th</sup> - an opportunity for the public to view the 'Pliocene Forest'. Preparations included cleaning up the Coralline Crag exposures; strimming the grass; writing 'Pliocene Plant Profile' labels for key specimens and creating our 'Open Gardens' scarecrow, Captain Fitzroy! The Captain of the Beagle, with his famous passenger Charles Darwin, was one of the first to bring some of these exotic tree species back to Britain.

GeoSuffolk members showed nearly 60 people around the site, including geo-visits to the Coralline Crag and our tour of the 'Pliocene Forest'. Landowner Jenny Quilter planted a tree - *Glyptostrobus pensilis* (a Chinese swamp cypress) - to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The whole event was a big success for the village with 13 gardens open and almost £900 was raised for the church and village hall fund. Sutton has a very geological church built from the spoils of the 19th Century coprolite industry - Mio-Pliocene boxstones and flints with Red Crag barnacles.

[For a comprehensive account of management at Sutton Knoll and the 'Pliocene Forest' read Barry Hall's article, *Life, the Universe and Sutton Knoll* in *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology*.] CM

Aspects of Ipswich Geology

In May and June GeoSuffolk ran a display based around the geology of Ipswich, in the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park. Created by Bob Markham it included:

- Ipswich's River Humber – a lost drainage system on the chalky till.
- Coprolite Street.
- Glacial buried channels under the Gipping/Orwell valley.
- Sarsens and pudding stones.
- Crag springs in east Ipswich, including Holywells and Christchurch Parks.
- The Project Orwell Tunnel in the Chalk.
- Archive photos of glacially disturbed ground in Civic Drive and Hadleigh Road railway cutting.
- Ipswich brickearths. CM

A big thank you to the sponsors of *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology* - Geologists' Association, Quaternary Research Association, Geological Society of Norfolk, UKGE, Ipswich Institute, Ipswich Society, Southampton University, UBS, Beavis Morgan, Lovewell Blake, Marshall Hatchick. Without their support it would cost much more than £20 – excellent value! RM

In the News

Ipswich Star 17.05.12 - Anglian Water has replaced two ageing boreholes at the Whitton Water Pumping Station in Thurleston Lane and plans to replace another. The boreholes are stated to be over 100 years old. [In 1924 the Whitton borehole was capable of pumping up over 3 million gallons per day from the Chalk. It was pumping into the High Service Reservoir in Park Road, from where it flowed by gravitation to the town area. RM]

The East Anglian Daily Times 26.05.12 had an article by Andrew Nicholson (of Barker Gotelee) in the *Country Life* section – *Who owns the mineral rights?*, of interest to landowners concerning the ownership of minerals beneath their land.

Events

Melton Old Church Society's programme includes open days on September 1<sup>st</sup> (Morning Market 10am – 1pm), September 8<sup>th</sup> (9am – 6pm) and November 11<sup>th</sup> (Remembrance 12noon – 4pm) 2012. The church contains memorials to geologists Searles Valentine Wood Senior and Junior.

Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project's programme includes – Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 10am – 1.30pm, visit the Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, then autumnal walk (approx. 6½ miles) around Wickham St Paul and Gestingthorpe.

Mid Suffolk Discovery Project

Congratulations to Mid Suffolk DC on completing 5 years of their successful Discovery Project. Newsletter no.7 announces the end of the project which includes the *Aggregates Trail* along the Gipping Valley River Path and the *X Traction* schools resources. Download it at <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/countryside/discovery-newsletter/>

East Anglia's Buried Channels

This article, by British Geological Survey authors Stephanie Bricker, Jonathan Lee, Vanessa Banks, Anthony Morigi and Marieta Garcia-Bajo, in *Geoscientist* May 2012 delineates buried valleys in 3D. It commemorates earlier work by Austin Woodland on buried channels and water supply.

➔ By now you will all have decided to buy a copy of *A Celebration of Suffolk Geology!*

Here are some sales outlets:

Ipswich Museum (ask for Suffolk Naturalists' Society); Reg Driver Centre, Ipswich; Woodbridge Books, Woodbridge (at £24).

Or enquire at [info@geosuffolk.co.uk](mailto:info@geosuffolk.co.uk)