

Welcome to issue number 21 of our GeoSuffolk Times - for those who value Suffolk's geodiversity. Caroline Markham 13.07.14

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A Moving Experience

From our new high-up home we look down on a rocky coast. The steep cliffs and various ledges are ideal habitat for the sea-gulls which are our neighbours, many of them rearing families. So what is the rock and where are we? The rock is 'thermally metamorphosed' clay, known as bricks and tiles to the local humans, and the locality is central Ipswich and close to the tidal Orwell. What a fascinating landscape we have discovered high above the streets and shops more familiar to most of our species. Bob Markham (RM)

New Blue Plaque in Ipswich

An Ipswich Society Blue Plaque was unveiled on Morpeth House, Lacey Street, on June 28th, to commemorate Charles Whitfield King (1855-1930), one of the world's largest stamp dealers. In 1902 he donated to Ipswich Museum a sample of volcanic dust from the streets of Kingston, St Vincent, in the West Indies, resulting from that year's eruption of Soufrière which devastated some of the most fertile parts of the island. RM and CM attended the unveiling and noted a good exposure of buff-coloured chalky boulder clay (till) in a roadworks excavation outside no.50 Lacey Street. For 'down memory lane' the long-gone Ford Thames van used to convey Ipswich Geological Group members in the 1960s and 70s was bought at a (also long gone) car dealers in Lacey Street! RM

BBC Springwatch

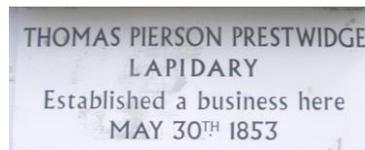
Broadcast from RSPB Minsmere nature reserve in May and June, Springwatch took this wonderful area to the nation. Animal-geologists featured were ant-lions using sand grains; sand martins eroding sand exposures during nesting; and a number of species, nesting and eating, on the artificial landform in the alluvium. Excellent viewing! RM

Touching the Tide (TtT)

Bill Jenman, TtT Project Manager used the complexity behind coastal change at East Lane, Bawdsey, to discuss some principles of the project in the East Anglian Daily Times Environment Supplement. 14.06.14

Have you visited Southwold?

Packed with stunning specimens, the Amber Shop is a good place to start your geological tour of this coastal resort. There is raw amber, including the largest piece found onshore in Britain (on Dunwich Beach) which must be all of 20cm across. Magnifiers show specimens with insects and other inclusions; one piece with 50++ midges. What were they annoying perhaps 40 million years ago? There is also fabulous amber jewellery, some of it a century or more old, with a photo of actress Ellen Terry wearing a necklace made by the Amber Shop in 1896. Gemstones are something of a tradition here – not far from the Amber Shop look out for the sign of Thomas Prestwidge, Lapidary 1853 on the gable of Mantins Solicitors.



If you are a Norwich Crag fan, Southwold Museum is the place for you with a large display of mammalian fossils, including a *Gazella* horn core, a *Trichechus* (walrus) front flipper, a large *Mammuthus meridionalis* tooth and *Rhinoceros* jaw. It is good to see local collectors Alan Caistor, Ian Cruikshanks and Tom Gardner cited in the display. Most of the material is from a quarry at Wangford or from Easton Bavents cliff. A walk along the pier gives a good view of these cliffs to the north of Southwold and with binoculars you can see from Easton Bavents to Covehithe and towards Kessingland Ness. CM

Beyond the Surge

October 8th – Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Community Conference 2014 at the Orbis Centre, Lowestoft. The programme includes a review of the impact of the December 2013 storm surge, by Charles Beardall, Environment Agency. To book a place contact communications.eastern@environment-agency.gov.uk

August at Ipswich Museum

Hands On in the Discovery Room - drop in from 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30. £2. *Bones and Teeth* on the 19th, *Bugs and Butterflies* on the 26th. GeoSuffolk will also be at the Museum in the Geology Gallery showing fossil mammal teeth on the 19th and Trilobites on the 26th.

News: Geodiversity Providers and Owners

Pliocene Forest Open Day

GeoSuffolk's 'Pliocene Forest' at Rockhall Wood SSSI has reached its 5th anniversary and we have 180+ trees and shrubs including *Metasequoia*, *Tsuga*, *Sciadopitys*, *Pterocarya* and many more - all represented in the pollen record of the Coralline Crag. They have thrived in this last mild wet winter and early spring – some are 2m+ tall and starting to 'paint the sky', many have fruiting bodies for the first time. GeoSuffolk is mindful that the forest is on private land and so we joined in with the Sutton village Open Gardens day on June 15th and showed about 40 people round our 'Pliocene Forest'. There were many from Sutton itself, plus a large group from the Lowestoft area, some from Cambridgeshire and VIPs - Professor Richard West, and Susan Brown from the GA Curry Fund. Sales of Barry Hall's booklet *Pliocene Plant Profiles*, created especially for the event were brisk (£4 by post) contact info@geosuffolk.co.uk. CM

Tidal Margins

This exhibition at the Ipswich Art School Gallery, High Street, shows work of a group of artists inspired by the 2010 Crown Estate report *Art as a tool in the support of the understanding of coastal changes in East Anglia* (see GeoSuffolk Times no.8). One work in particular caught my eye – a bronze casting *The Wrack Line* by Jennifer Hall, where one specimen was a Crag fossil gastropod *Scaphella lamberti*. Entry is free and the exhibition runs until September 7th.

- Scrapbook Coast at Ipswich Museum, August 7th, 6.30pm. Under the official title *The Suffolk Coast Through Pictures*, Bob and Caroline Markham will celebrate our coast using GeoSuffolk's scrapbooks and Ipswich Museum's geological specimens. £6 per person, booking required 01473 433691 RM

(More) Touching the Tide

Congratulations to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB TtT team for their excellent Celebrations Day on June 8th at Southwold. GeoSuffolk joined in and we had lots of visitors to our stand with Norwich Crag fossils and other geological specimens on display.

Secret Sea Shore GeoSuffolk will have a stand with shoreline finds on display at this Landguard Partnership/TtT event in the Felixstowe Museum grounds on August 3rd. For details see <http://landguard.onesuffolk.net/attractions/landguard-nature-reserve/events/the-secret-seashore/> Come and join us! CM

Stanton: Memorial to the Great War 1914-1918

This is a cross of Creetown granite on a cairn of Ingleton (Carboniferous) Limestone. There is also a red granite (?) near the top but I could not inspect it closely. The cross is of grey granite (perhaps nearer to granodiorite) from an igneous mass south of Creetown in South Galloway, where it is quarried for monumental stone, buildings, setts and kerbs. Radiometric age-determinations date the granite as about 390 million years old, of Devonian age. RM

Michael Graves: 1940-2014

Many people remember Michael from his work in his well-respected family butchery business formerly at the High Street/Crown Street junction in Ipswich. Michael was also a talented artist and an exhibition of his drawings, paintings and ceramics was held in Admiral House, Tower Street, on July 5th. However, it is his enthusiasm for geology that must be mentioned here – he was a long-time member of the former Ipswich Geological Group, and a good friend. On one occasion when he and I visited Coe's/Brush's pit at Bramford we witnessed a spectacular massive fall of material when the back wall of the quarry collapsed. Fortunately we were standing near the entrance to the pit and well away from that face. RM

GeoAnglia

Cambridgeshire Geology Club's one day seminar, *The Geology and Landscape of the Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire*, will be held in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, on September 13th 2014. The programme includes work by Cranfield University on Landscape Topographic Mapping of the Fen Edge. See www.cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org

- Suffolk has two County Geodiversity Sites on the Fen Edge – Lakenheath Church (building stones) and Aspal Close (periglacial landforms). CM