

Welcome to GeoSuffolk Times, keeping you up-to-date with geodiversity news, achievements and activities in Suffolk. Please pass it on to anyone who may be interested.

Caroline Markham (Secretary GeoSuffolk)  
01.06.09 [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

## Times in GeoSuffolk

Suffolk has played a perhaps too unsung part in the history of geology. Times have come to put that right. Three early items come to mind.

- One of the first uses of the word 'geology' as a title of a book was by Erasmus Warren, rector of Worlingham, in 1690: *Geologia: or, a Discourse Concerning the Earth before the Deluge*. Published by Southby, London, it was of course a long time before modern geology.
- One of the first places to yield evidence of a 'people who had not the use of metal' and belonging 'to a very remote period indeed' was Hoxne when John Frere described flint 'weapons' (Acheulian hand-axes in modern terms) in a letter to the Society of Antiquaries (*Archaeologia*) in 1797.
- One of the first to describe construction of geological hammers (in Loudon's Magazine of Natural History in 1828) was Rev. William Branwhite Clarke of East Bergholt. He later emigrated and has been called the 'Father of Australian Geology'.

Gone, but not forgotten, they are part of our heritage. Bob Markham (Chairman GeoSuffolk).

## From Brandon to Bungay...

is the title of Richard West's exploration of the landscape history and geology of the Little Ouse and Waveney rivers. Published 2009 by the Suffolk Naturalists' Society, with support from GeoSuffolk, the book is A4 soft back, 137 pages, numerous figures and 38 colour plates. It is available from the SNS, c/o Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3HQ, price £12 (including p&p) or £10 if you can collect from the Museum. Highly recommended. BM

Congratulation to the Little Ouse Headwaters Project on winning the 2009 Greenest County Award in the Landscape and Biodiversity section. See [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk) for more on this community project.

## Stay Safe Campaign

The Minerals Products Association has launched its annual *Stay Safe* campaign, to deter children from being injured in East Anglia's quarries. A survey of quarry managers found that more than ¾ of quarries in the region had experienced trespassers in the past 12 months. – from Ipswich Evening Star 25.05.09.

## Have you visited

the Chalk landscape at Little Blakenham? You can park at TM 108490 and walk northwards along the public footpath. There are good views of a disused Little Blakenham Chalk pit (no access). The Woodland Garden makes an excellent diversion - it is mainly on sand with a turf art feature spiralling down to a 'plughole' in the Chalk beneath the sand. See [www.blakenhamwoodlandgarden.org.uk](http://www.blakenhamwoodlandgarden.org.uk) for opening times and prices. Their car park gives a good view of another adjacent Chalk quarry (no access). Just beyond the garden entrance there are short public footpaths across attractive Chalk downland.

The *Limeburners* at Offton to the west is a good idea for a refreshment stop. There is a Chalk quarry (no access) opposite and geological photos on the pub walls and also their web site.

<http://www.limeburners.co.uk>

CM



Geo-East's Chalk East project is up and running – watch out for events across the East of England Region.

## Chalk Activity Event at Ipswich Museum

As part of the Chalk East project, Ann Ainsworth at Ipswich Museum, with GeoSuffolk, will be running a day of children's activities on September 26th. Ideas include 'hands on' fossils and craft activities - *foraminifera mobiles* and *coccolith crowns*.

Pick up your copy of Geo-East's new leaflet, *Chalk in the East*, at Ipswich Museum. It has details of 11 publicly accessible Chalk geo-sites to visit in the East of England.

Suffolk GAP\* Column - for Partners in Geodiversity (This replaces the former Suffolk Geodiversity Partners Newsletter).

#### Geodiversity in Ipswich

Following on from meetings in Santon Downham and Needham Market the March 12th 2009 meeting was held at the Reg Driver Centre, Christchurch Park, Ipswich, thanks to Sam Pollard, Park Manager. It was attended by representatives from the IBC Planning Policy, Development Control and Drainage Engineering Departments; Mid Suffolk DC; Colchester and Ipswich Museum's service; IBC Park Ranger Service; Dedham Vale AONB and GeoSuffolk.

- Tim Holt-Wilson (GeoSuffolk) presented an excellent overview of *Geodiversity in Ipswich*.
- Dr Steven Plunkett gave an inspirational talk on the national and scientific importance of the Foxhall Road Palaeolithic site.
- Bob Markham's *A lost drainage system of Ipswich* outlined the Humberdoucy Lane ponds (all lost to development) on glacial Boulder Clay, which drained into the Rushmere Heath valley. He then moved on to other valley, lake and terrace deposits of note in Ipswich.
- BM then reported on progress on the *Earth Heritage Suffolk* document. Alongside the Suffolk GAP, it will contain site-based geodiversity information, with the pages on Holywells Park and Claydon Church pit written so far. The proforma for the partners' pages and GeoSuffolk's draft of its own pages were shown.
- The afternoon walk through Christchurch Park was led by BM and SP, and showcased the improvements to the landscaping financed by a recent HLF grant. The springs at the Red Crag - London Clay junction have been sympathetically managed and the sarsen stones in the rockery have been cleared of overgrown vegetation. A really good meeting - CM

Download the NE publication recommended by TH-W - *Natural foundations: geodiversity for people, places and nature* - from <http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/>

#### NI197

On March 5th GeoSuffolk members met with Suffolk CC Landscape Development Officer to discuss NI197. GeoSuffolk will be responsible for reporting geodiversity sites in Suffolk to the local sites partnership.

\*Geodiversity Action Plan

#### Sutton Knoll 'Crag Island' SSSI

The opening ceremony for GeoSuffolk's information panel at Sutton Knoll on May 14th was a huge success, with representatives from Lion Associates (board design), NE, the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, East Midlands Geol Soc, Herts Geol Soc, U3A and GeoSuffolk, with Prof Richard West and landowners Guy and Jenny Quilter.

BM, Barry Hall and Roger Dixon gave short talks (*Earlier Visitors to Rockhall Wood Pits, Conservation & Management at Rockhall Wood* and *My Research at Rockhall Wood Pits* respectively) and Jenny Quilter was invited to cut the ribbon around the panel. Champagne and sandwiches (thanks to RD and CM) were served by the 'Pliocene forest' (trees which genera lived in Coralline Crag times, *Tsuga*, *Sciadopitys* and *Liquidamber*, planted by BH) before setting off on a tour of the site.

Look out for the panel if you are walking in this area. It is by the footpath north of Rockhall Wood at TM 305441. CM

#### Ipswich BC Park Ranger 'Geo' Events

June 7th 11-1 Geology walk at Pipers Vale.

June 18th 7-9.30pm Orwell River Cruise.

Booking essential 01473 433994.

#### West Stow Country Park

July 11th Meet the Flintstone – with flint knapping demonstration. Booking details 01284 728718 (Bury St Edmunds BC).

#### Ken Gardner

Ken Gardner died in 2008. He worked at Lowestoft Grammar School from 1951, teaching A-level geology, and geography at all levels. In 1979 he founded his company Landform Slides, marketing his geological and geomorphological slides. A keen photographer, his catalogue: *Geography and Earth Sciences 4th edition*, consists of 191 pages and is a textbook by itself. 30 examples of his photography may be seen in Peter Toghill's book *The Geology of Britain* (Swan-Hill Press, 2000) and also (from a 35mm slide!) the giant picture of an Arctic Canadian pingo behind the 'mammoth' in Ipswich Museum. My favourite Suffolk photo in his catalogue is R0356 *Totally Flooded Floodplain R Waveney at Shipmeadow*. RM (=BM)

#### Butley Pottery

Chillesford Ware is a new range of pottery on sale here, made by Lisa Berry from Chillesford Clay. The jugs, mugs and dishes, glazed a rich chocolate brown with creamy motifs are reasonably priced – an unusual gift for a geologically minded friend! (Info from BH) (Mill Lane, Butley 01394 450785)