

Welcome to GeoSuffolk Times, with geodiversity news, achievements and activities in Suffolk. Please pass it on to anyone who may be interested. Caroline Markham 02.07.11 www.geosuffolk.co.uk

Rolling Stones....

Quantities of 'stone' have been brought to Suffolk by rail freight at various times in the last few years, so what is it and where is it from? 'Granite' (actually granodiorite) from Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, has been delivered to Barham and Kennett, for use as rail ballast, and diorite ('markfieldite') from Stud Farm near Cliffe Hill, also Leicestershire, to Bury St Edmunds for railway ballast and roadstone.

Carboniferous Limestone has come from Tunstead, near Buxton, Derbyshire, to Brandon, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich (for use in the sugar factories), from Dowlow also in the Peak district, to Barham and Kennett (for railway ballast), and from the Mendips to Barham.

Travelling out of Suffolk is sea-dredged aggregate and sand from Griffin Wharf, Ipswich, to Watford.

(With thanks to Ipswich Transport Society Journal for certain information.)

Bob Markham (RM)

The GeoSuffolk 10th Anniversary Volume

A reminder from editor, Dr Roger Dixon:

A handful of completed papers are with me already and I have seen several drafts, some of which are now just about complete. I believe some others are also nearing completion. And they are looking so good! Although the 'official' deadline is December, it would of course be advantageous for me to have them earlier, and with the long summer vacation ahead ...

Bob Markham: The Halstead Medal Award →

Congratulations to our GeoSuffolk Chairman, who has been awarded the prestigious Halstead Medal by the Geologists' Association for "his outstanding contribution to East Anglian geology and Crag palaeontology". The photograph shows Bob (second from right) with GA President David Bridgland and other Award winners at the presentation on May 6th at their AGM at Burlington House, London. CM

Gunfleet and Gabbard Wind Farms

The offshore wind farm on the Gunfleet sand-bank (since 2009) is visible from Felixstowe cliff-top on a clear day. Look to the south and off Walton-Naze (the tower on the Naze is easily picked out). London Clay provides the solid foundation for the shafts of the turbines. Turbine spotters at Felixstowe can now see the wind farm development on the Greater (Outer) Gabbard off our Suffolk coast, due to be completed in 2012. Construction and support vessels operate from Harwich and a support helicopter from Lowestoft.

The mobility of the off-shore sediments gives rise to 'scour' (seabed erosion) which can undercut turbine foundations. In the *East Anglian Daily Times* 10.03.11 Lowestoft-based Scour Prevention Systems proposed a trial using old tyres to protect the turbine bases. RM

Woolpit Museum

Woolpit is famous for its bricks. For example, in Bury St Edmunds, Gibraltar Barracks, St John's Church and the railway station are all made with them. Bricks were manufactured in the Woolpit area for hundreds of years – white bricks from the chalky boulder clay (glacial till) and red bricks from a brickearth (lake deposit) just to the east of the village.

The Museum has an excellent display of Woolpit bricks plus a model of the local brick pits & workings and an informative booklet *The History of Woolpit Brickmaking*. Enquiries to www.woolpit.org/museum/index.html

Open April – September 2.30-5 pm Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays but check the web site. CM



News: Geodiversity Providers and Owners

Heritage Open Day September 10th

Heritage Open Days in Ipswich are run by the Ipswich Society www.ipswichsociety.org.uk. Join GeoSuffolk on the Saturday at our stand at St Peter's Church in Ipswich for a guide to the building stones of this fascinating Church and other Ipswich buildings. CM

Ipswich MuseumHenslow Display:

To mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the Reverend Professor John Stevens Henslow, (Founder and President of Ipswich Museum from 1850-1861) the Museum is hosting a small display in his honour. He is famously remembered as Charles Darwin's tutor and the man who encouraged Darwin to accept the position on the HMS Beagle voyage. But he was deeply entwined with the early days of Ipswich Museum, the development of the collections and placing the Museum at the forefront of the eminent scientific community of the time. Henslow's legacy remains at the Museum to this day where the original 1847 cabinets are still in use and the cases are still arranged according to his design. On display are some of the objects he collected and donated to the museum as well as the documents which tell us about his life and personality.

September 17th - Spectacular Sea Urchins and Exciting Echinoids:

Join in the fun as Ipswich Museum and GeoSuffolk explore the exciting world of fossil echinoids (sea urchins). Find out about these sea creatures which have been around for millions of years and are still abundant today. How do they live? How do they fossilize? Explore the variety of shapes and structures. Look at fossils from the museum collection and have a go at the hands-on echinoid craft activities. See the spines and take the test!

Ann Ainsworth

A Living Landscape for Suffolk

This book by Steve Aylward, 2011, celebrates Suffolk Wildlife Trust's nature reserves and vision for the future. Many of the sites, such as Newbourne Springs, Cornard Mere and Market Weston Fen, have much geological interest. This lavishly illustrated book is for SWT members and for those who join the Trust. RM

Are you a member of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society? Don't miss the SNS field trip to study the geology of the Butley/Orford area on July 31st. Contact Bob Markham for more details info@geosuffolk.co.uk

Have you visited Lowestoft – springs, building stones and the ness?

Lowestoft has a wealth of interesting building stones, from the attractive vernacular (mostly flint) materials in older buildings to exciting modern uses of exotic stones.

The northern part of the town is particularly fruitful, so make your way up to High Street with its 'scores' – ancient fishermen's paths – running down the old cliff to the one-time 'beach village'. Look out for the **Flint House** on the corner of Wilde Score, its dressed flints exhibit some of the best 'cones of percussion' in the county.

Continue north along High Street to the Sparrow's Nest park. This landscaped stretch of cliff has springs emerging at the junction of the (permeable) sands on top of the (impermeable) glacial till. Spring water flows down **Cart Score** in all but the driest weather.

Walk west from here along St Margaret's Road to the **Oxford Road Home Zone**. This street improvement scheme uses a variety of igneous and metamorphic rocks for visual impact. Notable are the white granite pillars and some very fine banded metamorphics.

No visit to Lowestoft is complete without a visit to **Ness Point** – the most easterly point in Britain. The ness here has been stabilised with spectacular larvikite and gneiss rip-rap sea defences, and has a brass compass set into the ground with 'landmarks' such as the Leman Gas Field and the Summer Solstice sunrise. CM

Rockhall Wood SSSI

- Just published in the Proceedings of the GA (Vol. 122, Issue 3, June 2011), Roger Dixon's paper, *Field meeting to the Bawdsey Peninsula, Suffolk, England, 22nd May 2010, to examine London Clay, Coralline Crag and Red Crag deposits*, has an excellent account of the geology of Rockhall Wood and other sites.
- The 'Pliocene Forest' is thriving despite the dry spring (thanks to GeoSuffolk watering duties!) and with 80+ trees is looking impressive. Thanks to all those who have sponsored trees – there are about 20 'orphans' left to be sponsored. Please contact Barry Hall bj.hall2@mypostoffice.co.uk

Quaternary Research Association: for sale

Central East Anglia and the Fen Basin by S.Lewis et.al, 1991 (£6, incl p&p)

Quaternary Mammals of S & E England by D. Schreve, 2004 (£18, incl p&p)

The Quaternary of Northern East Anglia by I Candy et.al., 2008 (£22, incl p&p)

Order from val@bethesda.demon.co.uk (Val Siviter). There are reductions for QRA members.