



# GEOSUFFOLK TIMES

Newsletter 33  
July 2017

Welcome to issue no.33 of GeoSuffolk Times – for those who value Suffolk’s Geodiversity. Caroline Markham 20.07.17 [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

## Transport Rocks

I enjoy visiting transport museums, not least because of finding geological specimens. I have already mentioned (GeoSuffolk Times 24) the block of Aswan (Egypt) granite in Ipswich Transport Museum. On its home ground it was a popular stone with Kings Djedefre, Khafre and Menkaure who used it for casing on the outside of their pyramids. Returning to Suffolk, visit the East Anglian Transport Museum at Carlton Colville to see ‘granite’ kerbstones in ‘Herting Street’. They came from the former Silvertown flyover in East London and were a showpiece in wearing qualities for the granite industry. They include specimens from Aberdeen, Cornwall, Guernsey, Leicester, Mysore and Norway, as named on cast iron blocks. Their surfaces are not easy to study after their ‘showpiece’ history. A visitor to the Museum of the Great Western Railway (‘Steam’) at Swindon will see Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s geological collection, including for example a specimen of Blue Lias as used in Bridgend Station. Bob Markham (RM)

## Fossils for Primary Schools

On June 30th GeoSuffolk exhibited fossils at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Fayre at Hartismere High School in Eye. We enjoyed talking to pupils from the six north Suffolk primary schools which attended. The *Smilodon* skull and *Tyrannosaurus* tooth replicas were great favourites on our stand. The children were also very interested in the Palaeozoic specimens - unfamiliar to Suffolk eyes, and our microscopic foraminifera. CM

## West Suffolk Geo-events

Treasures from the Earth – GeoSuffolk is joining this ‘show and tell’ event at Brandon Country Park on July 26th. <http://www.brandoncountrypark.org.uk/events/treasures-from-the-earth/>  
Knettishall Fair – visit GeoSuffolk’s stand at this event run by the SWT on Knettishall Heath on August 13th. <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2017/08/13/knettishall-fair?instance=0>

GeoSuffolk is on Facebook and Twitter – find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GeoSuffolk>

<https://twitter.com/geosuffolk>

## Three Interglacials

Hoxnian: GeoSuffolk’s visit to the interglacial site at Barnham (on private ground) on July 2nd proved to be most interesting, thanks to Nick Ashton (British Museum), Rob Davis and Peter Hoare (Queen Mary University of London) and Simon Parfitt (Natural History Museum). Barnham is fast becoming the most fossiliferous Hoxnian site in the country, with brickearth from a lake deposit yielding plant material, non-marine molluscs, fish, amphibians, freshwater turtles, bats, elephants, voles, bison and deer. In another exposure a bed of fluvialite flint cobbles has Clactonian and Acheulian age flint implements. We look forward to further publication of the material from this exciting site. For more information see <http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/research/breckland/> CM

Ipswichian: On June 11th the Suffolk Wildlife Trust invited GeoSuffolk to join in with their ‘bioblitz’ in the Kiln Meadow part of Belstead Brook Park in Ipswich. The type site of the Ipswichian interglacial is at the Bobbitshole sewage works just to the east of Kiln Meadow and GeoSuffolk has an information panel in the car park there, so we decided it would be interesting to ‘geoblitz’ the fossil plants in Richard West’s Ipswichian list (published in The Transactions of the Royal Society May 1957) and see how many are living there today. Of the 105 plants identified by Professor West, we found 39, i.e. 37% - not bad for a day’s work! CM

Flandrian: On May 11th RM took the Ipswich Society for a walk from *Barrack Corner to Bobby Robson Bridge* along the Devensian terraces and Flandrian floodplain on which the foundations of the lower part of Ipswich rest. He talked about fossils, flint implements, earthquakes and building stones\*. For more see

<http://www.ipswichsociety.org.uk/newsletter/newsletter-july-2017-issue-208/> CM

\*If you enjoy urban geology RM and other GeoSuffolk members will be on duty at Blackfriars in Ipswich on Heritage Open Days – September 10th.

### Dr Peter Long

Peter, for many years a Mycologist at the University of Leicester, died 14th March 2017 aged 79. Hailing from a Lowestoft family, his father, R A Long was a founder member of the Lowestoft Field Club. Twins, Peter and David were introduced to the crag at Covehithe in the 1950s and became keen geologists. They found many shells elsewhere rare in the Norwich Crag, as recorded by Peter in the 1958 Lowestoft Field Club publication vol.2 part 3 (see also Ipswich Geological Group Bulletin 10 August 1971 <http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk/images/ipswich-geological-group/iggbulletin10.pdf>) Peter's enthusiasm for and knowledge of the Crag was further recognised by editor Dr Roger Dixon for articles in the Geological Society of Norfolk's *50th Anniversary Jubilee Volume*, 2000 (on Scrobicularia Crag) and GeoSuffolk's *Celebration of Suffolk Geology*, 2012 (on Coralline Crag). RM

### Visit Museums this Summer

Meet GeoSuffolk and learn more about your own geological finds at these 'show and tell' events:

Colchester Natural History Museum August 2nd, 10-12 and 2-4 <https://cimuseums.org.uk/event/fantastic-fossils/>

Ipswich Museum August 9th 10.30am – 3pm

<https://cimuseums.org.uk/event/show-and-tell-3/>

Also at Ipswich Museum, *Real Granites* – a chance to see specimens from the reserve collection. August 16th, 11am – 3pm.

### *Amoeboceras*

ammonite fossil (an erratic from Flixton, Suffolk) – identified at the last Colchester Museum event. Photo: Wayne Dutnall



Have you visited Mildenhall Museum? A recent visit revealed some excellent local geology in the displays. Highlights include – ichthyosaur and plesiosaur vertebrae from Lakenheath; some Palaeolithic 'scrapers' from High Lodge; the Sydney Ford collection of flint technology ranging from early Palaeolithic implements to 19th century gunflints. Upstairs there is bog oak, and a useful display of local building materials, including bricks from Elveden, Hengrave and Burwell brickyards. CM

<http://mildenhallmuseum.co.uk/>

Visit GeoSuffolk's stand, *Planet Earth* at the Orwell Astronomical Society 50th Anniversary Convention on July 29th at the University of Suffolk Waterfront Building in Ipswich.

<http://www.oasi.org.uk/index.php>

### Snippets

- September 19th, Ipswich Museum – join Conservator Bob Entwistle and Museum Assistant Will Hepps as they tackle the annual cleaning of Ipswich Museum resident mammoth, Wool-I-Am. <https://cimuseums.org.uk/event/museum-secrets-cleaning-wool-i-am/>
- Left-handed garden snail news (see GeoSuffolk Times 31) – the Ipswich snail and another from Majorca produced 170 offspring, all right-handed. The 'original' left-handed snail from London remains lonely (from Ipswich Star 19.05.17).
- As we look forward to having a GeoSuffolk stand at the OASI 50th Anniversary event, I enjoyed Paul Whiting's article on *19th Century Aurora Observations in Suffolk* in their recent newsletter (July 2017). Paul tells us that one 'mechanic' measured the acceleration due to gravity on Earth as  $7.1 \times 10^{10}$  furlongs per fortnight squared! RM

### Geo-Anglia

- August 14<sup>th</sup> - see the West Runton Mammoth with Dr David Waterhouse at Gressenhall Museum, Norfolk. <https://www.arttickets.org.uk/gressenhall-farm-workhouse/mammoth-tour>
- The University of East Anglia demonstrated work on bio-batteries in the Innovation Hub at the Royal Norfolk Show 2017. The bacteria *Shewanella oneidensis* can use iron oxide for respiration, producing electricity as a side product (electrons transferred during reduction – change of state – from ferric to ferrous iron), which can be used to charge batteries. A thought: can we use the Red Crag as a gigantic power station?! RM

### Suffolk Underwater Studies

Stuart Bacon's Orford craft shop, and with it his Suffolk Underwater Studies Exhibition, has closed on his retirement. Born in Aldeburgh, Stuart was taken to Dunwich as a boy by his parents c. 1947 when they sat on the ruins of All Saints Church (which fell over the cliff earlier that century) on the beach for a picnic. Years later Stuart qualified as a diver and found remains of the church underwater in 1971. Further work followed, not helped by sediment in suspension limiting visibility. *The Suffolk Shoreline and the Sea* by Jean and Stuart Bacon, published by Segment, Colchester in 1984, gives a good flavour of our coast. RM

