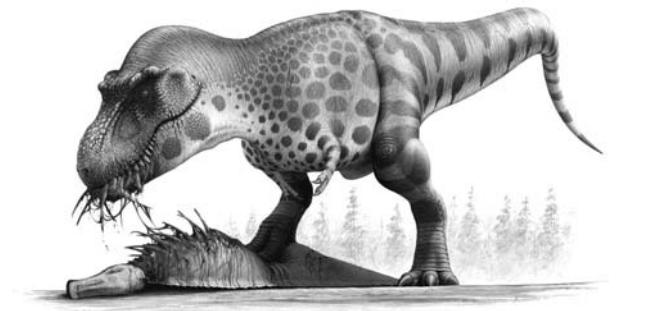


A preliminary sketch of *T.rex*



The finished image of *T.rex*



Members of the project team celebrate the installation of the completed panels

## Reconstructing the Past

The Sedgwick Museum has just installed 18 new interpretative panels in the Mahogany Wing Gallery to provide information about the fossils on display.

The motivation for this project came from visitor feedback requesting more information about the objects in the Museum. Our first step was to consider what types of information would help visitors get the most from their visit to the Museum. Included in this list were an understanding that the fossils are arranged in the Museum with respect to geological time, the age range of a particular geological period or rock unit, what sea-level has been doing over geological time and what the animals that have left their remains as fossils might have looked like.

This led us to create three panel types: one covering the geological time periods, one for the specific rock units that have significant fossil collections in the Museum and one on individual objects on display in the Museum.

We chose the fossil animals that we would like to include in the reconstructions of prehistoric scenes and also selected four iconic individual animals as subjects for single panels.

Staff member Rob Theodore researched the original text content whilst I worked with palaeoartist Robert Nicholls to create images of eight prehistoric landscapes and seascapes and four reconstructions of prehistoric animals. Scientists working at the University of Cambridge were consulted with respect to the artwork to make sure that reconstructions were as accurate as possible.

Many of the artworks went through several preliminary sketch stages to make sure each animal in a landscape was correctly illustrated. For example, we spent quite a long time developing a credible camouflage for the reconstruction of *T.rex*, which was an open forest hunter. While there is nothing living today remotely like *T.rex*, we took camouflage ideas from several forest-dwelling animals – including Cuvier's dwarf caiman, Burmese python, ocelot and giraffe!

We worked with designers to develop graphics to show the movement of the major continents and the changes in sea level that have taken place over geological time. Local families took part in evaluation sessions to see what they thought of the panels and many of their suggestions were incorporated into the final versions. Finally, Museum Education Officer Annette Shelford ensured the content of the panels was appropriate for the target audience of families and adults with no previous geological knowledge. The panels are now mounted in the Museum, so if you haven't yet seen them please do pay a visit, we hope you enjoy them!

Dan Pemberton, Collections Manager

**The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ**

**Opening hours:** Monday – Friday 10 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 5 pm Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

**Telephone:** (01223) 333456

**Fax:** (01223) 333450

**Email:** [sedgwickmuseum@esc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sedgwickmuseum@esc.cam.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.sedgwickmuseum.org](http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org)



## Archives - Boxing Clever



### Archivist Sandra Marsh in the Conservation Unit

A grant of £46,000 from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has allowed the Museum to employ a professional archivist for a year to re-box, arrange and describe some of the Museum's archive collections.

The records of the Sedgwick Museum and some of those relating to key individuals from the Department of Earth Sciences are being stored at the Museum's Geological Conservation Unit. The Project Archivist, Sandra Marsh, will be working until March 2011, continuing the work of Dr Lyall Anderson who has been box listing the material (over 500 boxes so far!). Future tasks involve re-packaging the records into conservation grade boxes, and arranging and describing some of them to enable researchers to locate material safely and more easily.

The collections contain records dating from 1680 onwards, and are still growing today and includes:

- The notebooks of Adam Sedgwick, Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge from 1818 until his death in 1873, and tutor to Charles Darwin in 1831.
- Field notebooks including those of Sir Vivien Fuchs (geologist and explorer), Alfred Harker (petrologist), and Professor James Marr (Woodwardian Professor).
- Photographs and manuscript catalogues of specimens in the Museum, which also includes Albert 'Bertie' Brighton's original card indexes.

The collections will provide a wonderful resource for those studying the history of geology in the 20th century, as well as the social history of the period in which these individuals lived and worked. In some cases they may also provide invaluable additional information about specimens already in the Museum's collections.

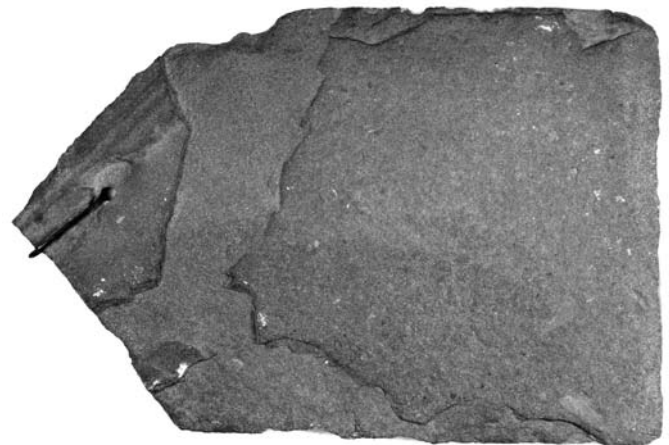
The aim in the future will be to describe these collections in greater detail at file level, to enable researchers to locate material of interest more easily. Specialized archive management software has been installed, enabling links between specimens and documentation in the archives.

## My Favourite Object

### A roofing tile made from Collyweston Slate.

This object, whilst commonly seen in Cambridge and the surrounding area, is unusual for the Sedgwick Museum because it is an artefact that has been crafted from a natural material. Most of the objects in the Museum are naturally occurring and are displayed in their natural form. Usually, objects that have been worked on by man belong next door, in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

This roofing tile is made from Collyweston Slate, a type of limestone quarried from an area 3 miles around the village of Collyweston in Oxfordshire. This limestone is from the lower part of a geological formation known as the Lincolnshire Limestone. The limestone is referred to as a slate because it splits easily into thin sheets, but differs from a 'true' slate because it splits along bedding planes, rather than cleavages. Bedding planes are formed when mud is deposited in distinct episodes and these are preserved as horizontal planes when the mud becomes rock. Cleavages are formed when a rock experiences extreme pressure (usually due to tectonic forces) and can be formed in any orientation.



50 mm

The Lincolnshire Limestone Formation formed at a time when much of the British Isles, in particular East Anglia, was flooded under a sea that stretched from the South Coast to the Wash. Other pieces of Lincolnshire Limestone contain fossils that reflect this, such as ammonites, brachiopods and more marine fauna typical of the Jurassic Period

This roof tile is one example of many tiles that can easily be seen from most local streets. It is my favourite object because you are encouraged to see the world in a different way – this rock can be seen from the street, yet when it is behind glass you pay more attention. It has been collected, and hence given value. It is indeed a good specimen, but it is by no means the best. It is merely a typical representation, displayed so that we may get a closer look at things that are always around us – much like the subject of geology itself.

It is this experience that I have tried to capture whilst writing the Cambridge Geology Trail. The Trail is a self-guided walking tour of Cambridge, using building stones as a convenient way to see geological features in the city centre. It is now in the final stages, and I would welcome anyone who is interested in completing the trail and giving some feedback to contact the Museum.

**Sam Simic, Friends' 2010 Education Prize Winner**



## Professor Harry B. Whittington



The Friends lost a strong supporter when our second President, Professor Harry Whittington died in June 2010, at the age of 94. Many of us have happy memories of his enjoyment of our visits to Flag Fen, Holme Post, Denver Sluice, and Downham Market. We also remember the puzzlement he expressed at the lack of anatomical correctness when we visited the Henry Moore sculpture collection at Much Hadham. This reaction was not surprising because Harry was one of the supreme palaeontologists of his times, excelling in the careful and detailed study of fossil anatomy. We were able to glimpse this when he arranged an evening meeting for us during which he and his colleagues discussed their work on the famous fossils of soft-bodied organisms from the Cambrian Burgess Shale of Canada.

Harry studied geology at the University of Birmingham and returned there as a teacher after arduous experiences during the Second World War in Burma and China, with his wife, Dorothy. In 1950, he became Curator of one of the major fossil collections in the USA, at Harvard University, continuing with field-work in Wales and Newfoundland, and establishing himself as the world's expert on the Trilobites, now extinct, and poorly understood before his work on particularly well-preserved specimens. In 1966, he returned to Britain to take up the Woodwardian Chair at Cambridge, the oldest Professorship of geology in the world. He retired from this position in 1983, continuing to work in Cambridge on his beloved trilobites and supporting the work of his College (Sidney Sussex), the Department of Earth Sciences, and the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum.

**Peter Friend**

### Friends' Committee

The Friends' Charity is run by a volunteer Committee, with other members who join to help with specific matters: Jean Currie (President), Peter Friend (Chairman), Mike Tuke (Vice-Chairman), Margaret Sanderson (Secretary), Paul Rutter (Treasurer), David Norman (Director of the Museum), Dan Pemberton (Collections Manager) Christine Kelsey, Jennifer Maddock, Ken Rolfe, Susie Sinclair, Hilda Stoneley, Marjorie Veale.

## Forthcoming Friends' Events

Unless otherwise stated, events will be held in the Department of Earth Sciences (entrance below the Sedgwick Museum). Parking is available on the Downing Site during these events. At most events we will invite donations of £1/head towards expenses and the support of Museum projects.

### Contacting the Friends

Some of the events will involve pre-booking if a contact name and number is listed, or with the Department reception switchboard (01223 333400) or with the Chairman ([pff1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pff1000@cam.ac.uk)). Talks do not normally require pre-booking, unless you are thinking of bringing a party. The Friends mobile phone (07754 592439) will be switched on for 90 minutes before the start of each event, and kept on for two hours.

### Talk: Fire and Ice: the link between volcanism and deglaciation in Iceland

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Speaker: Dr John Maclennan (Department of Earth Sciences). Tea and coffee from 6.15 pm in the Department. Talk to start promptly at 7 pm.

### Friends' Christmas Party, with student talks

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

Please bring contributions for our raffle. Donations requested at the door, suggestion of £7 for refreshments and contributions for the Anniversary Fund. 6-8 pm. Please let Susie Sinclair know by email ([susie.sinclair@btinternet.com](mailto:susie.sinclair@btinternet.com)) several days ahead, to allow us to cater).

### Experimental geology: Lava viscosity and flow

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Another of the popular lab classes run by Dr Mike Tuke, this one on "lava viscosity and flow". Please book a place beforehand by phoning Dr Tuke on 01480 457068. Tea and coffee from 6.15 pm in the Department. Class starts promptly at 7 pm.

### Talk: The last glacial cycle in lowland England

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Speaker: Professor P.L. Gibbard (Department of Geography). Tea and Coffee at 6.15 pm in the Department. Talk starts promptly at 7 pm.

*(Events listings continue on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

### **Sedgwick Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**7:00 for 7:30pm, Christ's College**

The speaker will be Dr Jan Zalasiewicz (University of Leicester). Costs are expected to show an annual increase from last year (£35 with soft drinks and £43 with wines). Janet Herdman has kindly agreed to accept bookings and send out tickets to those who have registered with her ([jh403@msm.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jh403@msm.cam.ac.uk)).

### **Visit: Landscapes of the Eastern Fen Edge, around Lakenheath**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

Professors Philip Gibbard and Richard West. Details to follow closer to the time.

### **Visit: Building and ornamental stones of the Cathedral and City of Ely**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Leaders: William Schenck, Margaret Ridley, Peter Hoare and others.

### **Anniversary Celebration Visit to France**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

Visit to explore the volcano and valley landscape round Puy-en-Velay, Haute Loire, southern France. Main leader, Professor Jean-jacques Cocheme (University of Marseilles). Further details are provided on a sheet enclosed with this Newsletter. We plan that the main party will travel by Eurostar train, via St Pancras, and TGV via Lille to Valence. We plan to base ourselves, as far as space will allow, in a holiday centre near Le Puy called the "Domaine de Chadenac" In order to allow us to plan the use of accommodation and local (mini-bus) transport, we ask for return of the form, and a money deposit by 30th November, to our coordinator, Ian Scholey, ([ischoley@aol.com](mailto:ischoley@aol.com)), or 22 Fairfax Rd., London W4 1EW. Our provisional estimate of cost (including accommodation, train transport and leaders' expenses) is £575 per head. We realise that some people may want to travel independently and make their own accommodation arrangements, but we must register these also.

### **Summer short talks and AGM**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

6:00 – 7:30 pm, Department of Earth Sciences

### **Emailing Members**

With now over 400 people on our list of Friends, we find ourselves increasingly using email for communication, because it is so much cheaper than post, even though we still intend to send out our twice-a-year Newsletter by post. We are also intending to use our website to notify people of changes of plans for our events, if these arise.

We ask people to consider two points:

- 1) If you have recently heard from us by email that means that we have your email address correctly. If you have not heard from us by email, and have an email contact address, kindly send this to us at [pff1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pff1000@cam.ac.uk).

If you do not have an email address, do not worry!

- 2) We are hoping to add our listing of email addresses to the data base maintained by the Department of Earth Sciences. Kindly let me know ([pff1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pff1000@cam.ac.uk)) if you do not want your email address included.

### **Cambridgeshire Geology Club**

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in the Friends Meeting House, 91-93 Hartington Grove, Cambridge CB1 7UB, visitors welcome.

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November:** "Shapes of Time: Evolution and the Fossil Record", Dr K.J.McNamara

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> December:** "Tectonostratigraphic Evolution of Cyprus", Dr Tim Kinnaird

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January:** "Cambridgeshire River Systems", Karen Paterson

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February:** "The Mountain Belts of the Himalayas", Dr Thomas Argues

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March:** "That Sinking Feeling or Cambridge-on-Sea", Dr Patrick Doody

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April:** "Geology of the Azores", Dr Sally Gibson

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May:** "Change and Decay", Dr Robert Sansom

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June:** "Roddons of the Fens", Dinah Smith

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> June:** CGC Dinner and Talk, booking essential: "Turning up the Heat on the Late Permian mass extinction", Dr Richard Twitchett

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September:** One day seminar on "The Geology and Landscapes of Cambridgeshire. Main Lecture Theatre, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge - booking essential.

## **Join the Friends**

The Friends of the Sedgwick Museum exists to support and encourage the development of the Sedgwick Museum and promote the collections to a wider audience (Charity no 101911393).

Membership is open to anyone. Annual subscriptions are: £6 (under 18's), £8 (full-time students, unemployed or over 60's), £12 (individual) or £18 (family).

For further details and an application form please ring the Department of Earth Sciences on 01223 333400 or write to Reception (Friends), Department of Earth Sciences, Downing St., Cambridge CB2 3EQ or visit the Museum website [www.sedgwickmuseum.org](http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org)