

20th Anniversary Special Edition



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Introduction

When, in early March 2020, a group of the Friends gathered in the Watson Gallery for our usual pre-talk get together we were anticipating a year of talks, field trips, a dinner and Christmas Party with the dates already in our diaries. However, within a fortnight all had changed and events, like a row of dominoes, cancelled as the restrictions continued and the time that we could meet in person receded into the future. Thus, we have no reports from the field or photographs of members earnestly

examining specimens to share. However, with the assistance of the Museum and Department we have been able to offer, via Zoom, a range of monthly talks. These have proved popular and enabled us to reach members from far away. As to the future – the on-line monthly talks will continue for as long as required – but any other arrangements await changes in the restrictions that are beyond our control. The committee continue to work to arrange the events that are permitted and make tentative plans for life in more normal times and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their continuing support to us all.

Margaret Sanderson [Chair]

Forthcoming Friend's Events

At this time talks are taking place via Zoom and links are sent to all members for whom we have a current email address. If you are a member and not receiving the links please email the Friends to verify your current email address. (friendsofsedgwickmuseum@gmail.com)

Tuesday 19th January 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm

Why a Geology degree just got 52,750,000,000 times more useful.

Speaker: Dr Oliver Shorttle, University of Cambridge

Tuesday 16th February 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm

A brief history of Cambridge stone

Speaker: Dr Nigel Woodcock, University of Cambridge

Tuesday 16th March 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm

Mary Anning, Thomas Hawkins and the Sedgwick Museum

Speaker: Dr Liz Hide, Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge

Tuesday 20th April 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm

The Wonderchicken discovery, relevance, and museum exhibit

Speaker: Dr Daniel Field, University of Cambridge

Tuesday 18th May 2021

The Core Mantle

Speaker: Jenny Jenkins, Durham

Tuesday 8th June 2021, 6.30pm

AGM

(7.00pm TBC)

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

Opening hours: Temporarily closed, see website for details.

☎ (01223) 333456 ✉ sedgwickmuseum@esc.cam.ac.uk 🏠 www.sedgwickmuseum.org

✉ Friends of the Sedgwick Museum friendsofsedgwickmuseum@gmail.com

Registered Charity (No. 1091393)



News from the Museum Director



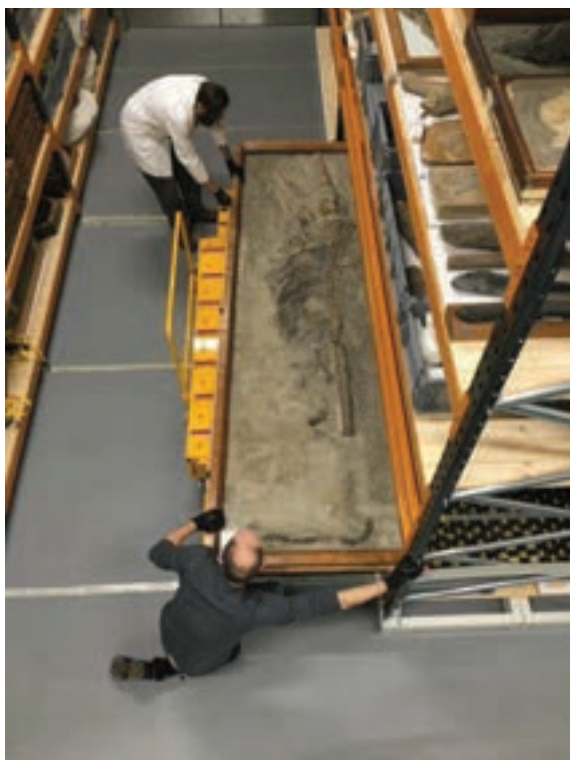
Photos of crowds of happy families and bumper visitor figures are what I might have liked to have been sharing with you about 2020 at the Sedgwick Museum. But with the Museum closed for more than half the year, and with substantial restrictions on visiting during much of the time we were open, the Museum team have thought hard about how the Sedgwick can continue to be an important and relevant place for researchers, students and the public. While there is no doubt that we have taken a big hit in terms of shop and visitor donation income, our year-long collections relocation has been substantially delayed, and – as I write in early January – there is no prospect of the Museum reopening until at least March, some extremely positive projects and activities have come out of the challenges of lockdown.

Our Gravel Hunters project has encouraged young people to find fossils in the everyday gravel around them, and our online exhibitions have showcased Daniel Field's research on the earliest modern bird, the Wonderchicken. Online drawing workshops with artist/geologist Emma Jude attracted participants from the US and Canada as well as closer to home. We have given online talks for U3A groups and a virtual museum tour as part of the popular Animal Crossing game, while our plastic dinosaurs and Lego Sedgwick Museum have been a hit on social media. Our downloadable activities for teachers and home schoolers have been promoted through the University of Cambridge Museums consortium and have also reached families who don't have digital access through inclusion in printed packs distributed through the City Council's food hubs.



The Museum reopened to the public on 24th September with full social distancing measures in place, free bookable timeslots, and a one-way system. Finally, visitors could come and see the Wonderchicken for themselves. Instead of our usual gallery interactives, we offered visiting families a free activity pack, while during half-term we offered an exclusive opening for

children on the autistic spectrum and their families. We used reopening as an opportunity to retrain staff in offering a warm welcome, which has resulted in very positive visitor feedback.



Of course, the Museum is not just about its public side – the vital work that the collections team do supporting research and teaching has been especially important as Department colleagues put together online teaching resources and look for student projects to replace fieldwork. We had originally anticipated that our new Collections Research Centre would be welcoming researchers later this year. Relocation of the rock collections continues well, but at a much slower pace as the fifty or so volunteers we had recruited and trained have not been able to help us.

This last year has demonstrated that the Museum is very much able to adapt and develop in response to the challenges presented. We have a really strong and resilient team, with a clear understanding of our role in supporting research, teaching and the public, and strong support from colleagues in the Department.

We were delighted to welcome a small group of Friends to an exclusive Museum visit just before the November lockdown. The Museum is very grateful for the ongoing support of the Friends and look forward to welcoming more of you back to the Museum later in 2021.

Liz Hide, Director

January 2021

A Short History of the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum by Douglas Palmer

Part One

Douglas Palmer has drawn on archival material and personal recollections to draw together this Short History of the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the present charitable organization in 2001. Part one covers the early attempts to establish a Friends organisation and Part two, to appear in a future edition of *Trilobite*, will cover the period from the foundation to the present.

Founding the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum

What are Friends for?

Twenty years ago, on March 23rd, 2001 the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum was launched as a registered charitable organization (No. 1091393). The stated aim of the Friends is the “education of the public by promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the Sedgwick Museum in cooperation with the management and staff”. (Fig. 1)



Figure 1. Invitation to the launch of the Friends on March 23rd, 2001 (image Gerald Lucy)

The Constitution of the Friends lists how these objectives may be fulfilled:

- (a) raise money and invite and receive contributions to be applied to the Sedgwick Museum’s projects subject to Clause 4;
- (b) generally further the charitable purposes of the Museum and encourage the development of the facilities which it affords;

- (c) appoint delegates and representatives and subscribe to any other bodies with whom the Friends may be concerned;
- (d) engage in, support and co-ordinate research, publishing, education, advertising and other charitable work for the furtherance of the said objective;
- (e) engage in any other lawful activities to promote the objective.'

Who needs Friends?

The date in 2001 chosen for the establishment of the Friends marked the birthdate on 22nd March, 1785 of the Reverend Professor Adam Sedgwick, the 7th Woodwardian lecturer in the University of Cambridge. Sedgwick had devoted much of his professional life to building on the original 18th century Woodwardian bequest of some 11,000 specimens to the University of Cambridge. His extensive acquisitions reflected the 19th century revolution in understanding of the history of life and Earth's past environments. By the time of Sedgwick's death in 1873 all the available space in the Woodwardian Museum, then situated on the ground floor of the Cockerell Building in Senate House Passage, had been filled to overflowing. (Fig. 2)



Figure 2. Adam Sedgwick welcomes Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to the Woodwardian Museum in 1843

The present Museum was built to accommodate the greatly expanded collections and as a memorial to Sedgwick, one of the most eminent of English 19th century geologists. Opened by King Edward VII in 1904, the collections of the Sedgwick Museum have now grown to over 2

million specimens. To keep pace with the times, with new expectations and audiences, the Museum has, over the last few decades, been extensively renovated. Its displays have been redeveloped, its staff increased and services to the community at large have expanded. All this has made many demands on a University Museum, but the Museum has acquired some good Friends who have provided invaluable support over the last 20 years.

Building the membership and income

The success of the launch of the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum was reflected in the initial recruitment of 90 members by July 2001, increasing to 138 by the beginning of May 2002. For the last decade there have been around 200 members with additional 40 or so family and honorary members.

The background income of the Friends was initially provided by the annual subscriptions of members, ranging from £18 for a family to £6 for a young person and, with charitable status, successive Treasurers have been able to claim VAT as Gift Aid. Subscriptions have covered running costs, such as newsletter printing and postage. The costs of the main educational programme for members, such as talks, summer visits and social events, have been covered directly by payments from attending members. In recent years voluntary donations have been invited from participants in larger events, donations which are also eligible for Gift Aid. The income of the Friends has been further enlarged to a significant extent by several very generous bequests. These have included three large donations, two of £10,000 pounds, from former members Dr Muriel Arber (1913-2004), and Dr R.B.B. Bishton and another of £3,000 from Dr Colin Forbes (1922-2014). Curiously, little seems to be known about the late Dr Bishton or his connection with the Friends. Altogether, these bequests have allowed the Friends to respond with increased flexibility to requests for assistance from the Museum.

Over the last 20 years, the Friends have supported the Museum in many ways - from raising significant sums of money for big projects to a great variety of smaller scale projects. A total of well over £96,000 has been donated to the Museum over the last 20 years. One of the first projects was the conservation work on the antlers of the Museum's giant deer originally bought by Adam Sedgwick in 1834. (Fig. 3) Subsequent projects have included substantial sums for the conservation and redisplay of the Barrington hippo (2007), exhibition panels (2007), archival assistance (2012), restoration of the William Smith map (2014-6), the new Ice Age display (2017-8) and ongoing support for undergraduate winners of the Sedgwick Prize (from 2008). More recently, the Friends have supported the purchase of folding stools for the use of visitors in the gallery and supported the Museum's public programmes.

Restoring the Irish Elk

One of the museum's most spectacular specimens, the skull of the Irish Elk, was taken down well over a year



ago because of concerns about its stability. Bits of the antlers were starting to break off so we decided to take it off display and undertake restoration work on the specimen before it became dangerous. The skull will soon be back on display in the Mahogany Wing, which will be remaining open throughout the first phase of the redevelopment.

Over the 100 years or so that the specimen has been in the museum, and through many different restorations, the skull and antlers had been covered in paint and resins which were either holding the specimen together or just covering up faked pieces. In the lab at the Sedgwick Museum's Geological Conservation Unit, all the resins, adhesives and gap-fillers were removed from the skull and antlers. The original Victorian wooden structure supporting the inside of the antlers was restored and the copper and wooden rivets that attach the specimen to the support structure were re-exposed. These can clearly be seen on the antlers. Any major structural gaps were filled with modern gap-fillers. Finally the gap-fills were coated with a resin and the skull reunited with the rest of the skeleton.

Figure 3. Museum volunteer Ken Harvey restoring the Giant deer skull, from *Trilobite*, issue 1, 2000.

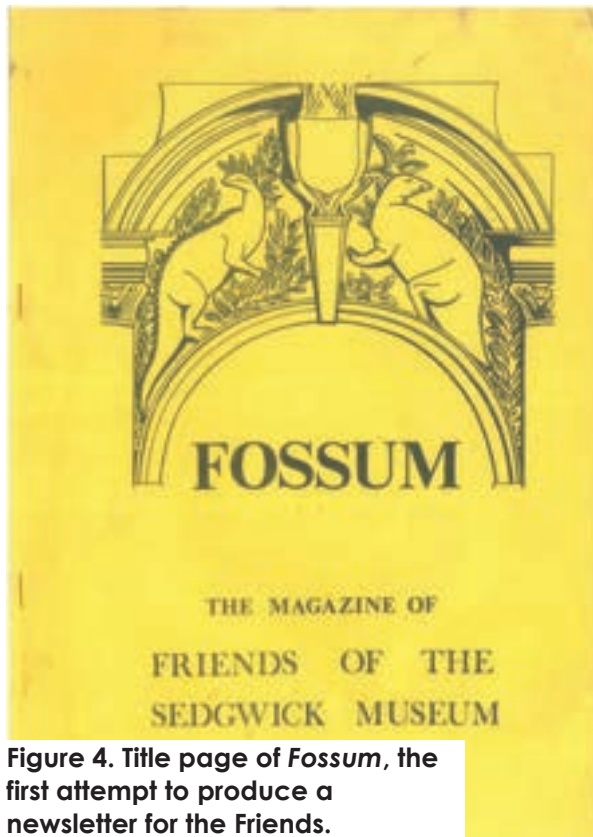


Figure 4. Title page of *Fossum*, the first attempt to produce a newsletter for the Friends.

First Friends

The idea of establishing a Friends organization for the Sedgwick Museum developed over many years, perhaps stretching back into the 1950s but so far, no documentation from this time has been found. It was in the 1980s that a more serious attempt was made and luckily some documentation from this period has been preserved by Dr Mike Howe, who was a postgraduate student at the time and in the Museum archives. Most important is a copy of *Fossum 1: The Magazine of Friends of the Sedgwick Museum*, published in December 1984. (Fig. 4)

Fossum includes an article on the 'Background to the 'Friends'', which describes how an 'Editorial team' was formed in 1981 and 'began to take action... after approaches from Departmental members' and 'knowing that there was already local support, decided to sound feeling nationally and

internationally towards a 'Friends' organization'. The positive response they received resulted in the formation of a committee whose officers were announced in 1982 on what was described as a 'yellow poster'. This declared A.G. 'Bertie' Brighton (1900-1988, retired Curator of the Sedgwick Museum, Fig. 5) as President, Dr H. W. 'Bill' Ball (1926-? Keeper of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London), Dr D.A. Bassett (1927-2009, Director of the National Museum of Wales) and the recently retired Woodwardian Professor Harry Whittington (1916-2010) acting as Vice-Presidents. Other officers included Dr David Price (?-1991, Museum Curator), Mike Dorling (1943-2019, Museum Collections Assistant in Palaeontology) and Dr Barrie Rickards (1938-2009, Museum Curator and Reader in Geology) with Dr Mike Howe as Social Secretary. There was also an advisory Committee consisting of Dr M.G. Bassett (National Museum of Wales), Dr P.R. Crowther (Leicester City Museum) and Dr S. Tunnicliffe (Geological Survey Museum).



Figure 5. Bertie Brighton, the highly esteemed curator of the Museum and first President of the Friends in the 1980s.

An accompanying undated document, headed 'Friends of the Sedgwick Museum', briefly outlines the history of the Museum, its collections, and the relationship between the Museum and the recently reconstituted and enlarged Department of Earth Sciences. There was a hope that aspects of the Museum's functions could be expanded to include 'display work, computer work, and interdisciplinary museum concepts'. It further hoped that the Friends 'will not be seen only as a formal society but as something between that and a club where social contacts

have a high priority. Hence we envisage social functions, dinners, meetings, taking place most years'. The mention of an 'intention to print and publish at intervals an informal Newsletter ...with accounts of what is happening in the Sedgwick Museum in terms of cataloguing, display, computerization and all related matters' indicates that the document predated the publication of *Fossum* in 1984.

With the benefit of hindsight, whilst there was plenty of ambition in the scheme, there was not enough focus in its initial aims nor a clearly workable structure. Perhaps this is why there was a significant delay between the formation of the first committee in 1982 and the first newsletter in December 1984. The approach of the bicentenary of Sedgwick's birth at 2 am on March 22nd, 1985 may have been influential in revitalizing this nascent 'Friends'. The publication of *Fossum* began with a more formal statement that the 'Friends of the Sedgwick Museum is intended to be an informal organization of people willing to take a supportive interest in the Museum and to concern themselves with its future development...'.

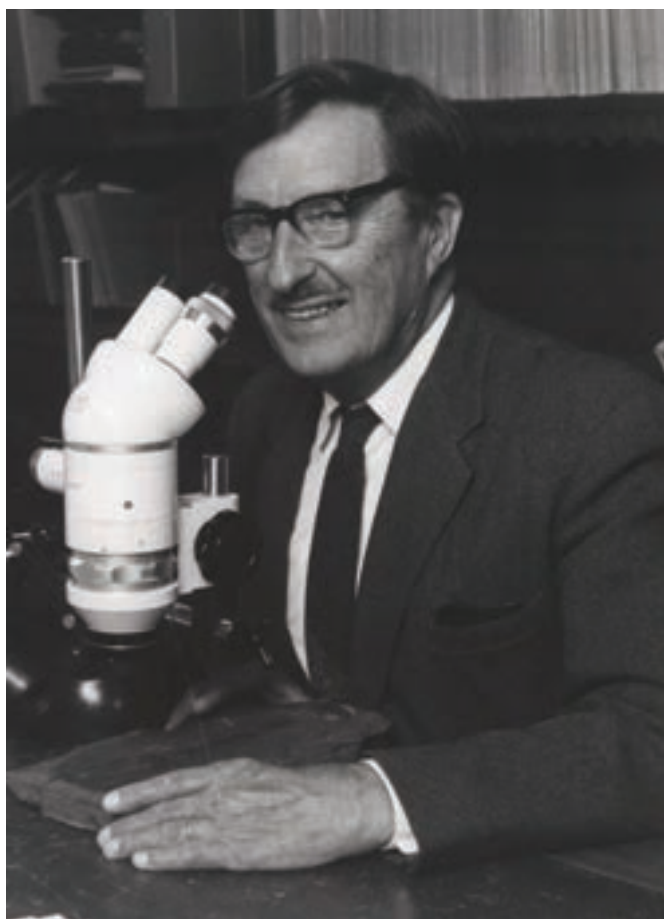


Figure 6. Harry Whittington, Woodwardian Professor and Vice-President of the Friends in the 1980s.

The newsletter included a notice of the Bicentenary and planning for a joint meeting of the Museum with the Society for the History of Natural History and papers on Sedgwick's life and work. In addition, the Museum was preparing a Sedgwick display for the Royal Society soirée from May to June 1985 with subsequent travel to Sedgwick's hometown of Dent to join the local celebrations. The latter included a commemorative service in Dent Church with Professor Whittington's participation and the establishment of an Adam Sedgwick geology trail with help from the Museum. (Fig. 6)

Further publicity for the Museum and its new exhibit on the life and work of Sedgwick was generated by a short article on the Sedgwick Museum in *Geology Today's* 'Museum file series' number 5 in Nov-Dec issue for 1985 (pp 184-5), authored by Barrie Rickards and David Price.

Further planning for 1985 included an Open Day and Dinner for the Friends on October 5th, 1985

but when it was realized that the date was too close to the beginning of term it was postponed to the New Year. If or when it then did take place is unclear. Unfortunately, there was no further development of this putative Friends organization in the 1980s. Bertie Brighton died in 1988 and then there was the tragic death of David Price in 1991.

Third Time lucky - A new start in the late 1990s

By the time Dr David Norman was appointed as the new Director of the Sedgwick Museum in 1991, several Cambridge museums had Friends organizations. Both the Friends of Kettles Yard and of the Botanic Garden were established in the mid-1980s. David Norman knew the late Michael Harrison (1947-2013), then Director of Kettle's Yard and Margaret Greaves, Deputy Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. Consequently, he discussed with them the implications of a Friends organization and its relationship with the Museum. As a result, he reinstated planning for a 'Friends' organization for the Sedgwick Museum.

Independently in 1998, a chance conversation at a Departmental Alumni dinner helped promote the idea. Ann Fuchs and her Cambridge educated husband Peter (Fig 7 and Fig 8) were present and Ann, a professional fundraiser, found herself next to Professor Ekhard Salje, the then head of the Department of Earth Sciences. Ann Fuchs recalls that they 'talked at length about fundraising and.... raising money for a permanent exhibition of Darwin's fossils.' At the time David Norman was already heavily involved in the University Committee that was organising celebrations for the Darwin 200 Festival, marking the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth in 1809 and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species*. Fortunately, Dr Norman had already managed to secure a substantial grant for a "Darwin the Geologist" exhibition from Trinity College, which facilitated the granting of matching funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund. These funds allowed the redevelopment of part of the Oak Wing in the Museum for the display of Darwin's rocks and his associated early scientific work.



Figure 7. (left) Ann Fuchs, founding 'Steering Committee' member in the late 1990s of the present Friends (photo Ann Fuchs).

Figure 8. (right) Peter Fuchs (in profile on the left), Chairman of the Friends in 2001, Peter Friend (right), initially membership secretary to the Friends in 2001 (photo Clive Pickton).

David Norman recalls how he subsequently developed a close relationship with Peter and Ann Fuchs, how they “had a small committee with the Director always present to make sure that they were 'on message' as to why they existed, what the priorities for the Museum were and what the key projects were at any time ... so that they knew how best to focus their fund-raising efforts”. Annette Shelford (Museum Assistant) was asked to make the necessary arrangements and wrote to potential members of a steering committee, including Ann Fuchs. In a letter of August 25th, Annette thanked Ann for her ‘enthusiasm for trying to get the Friends off the ground again...’, hoping that ‘you’re still willing to be involved at the Steering stage’ and promised that ‘this time, we’re going to start it properly and it’s going to work’. Luckily, it did but not without further delays.

The Steering Committee meets

The first meeting of this Steering Committee was held on September 20th, 1999. Luckily, a copy of the minutes has been preserved by Friends member Gerald Lucy. This shows that the first committee was comprised of Annette Shelford, Dr R.B. ‘Barrie’ Rickards (Fig. 9), Dr



Figure 9 R.B. (Barrie) Rickards Museum Curator and member of the Friends Committee in the early 1980s and late 1990s.

Amanda Chapman (Department Safety Officer), Mike Dorling, Ann Fuchs, Dr Muriel Arber, Dr David Norman, with apologies from Chris Collins (Museum Conservator) and Steve Laurie (Museum Collections Assistant in Mineralogy and Petrology).

It was unanimously agreed that name of the organization should remain as the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum and that it should be launched with an appropriate event in the Museum, preferably close to Adam Sedgwick’s birthday on March 22nd, accompanied by a first General Meeting. Before this could happen, a ‘prototype committee’ was needed and it was recognized that this should be comprised mainly of interested members of the public rather than being dominated by Department academics. Consequently, there was a commitment to sounding out potential committee members from ‘within day-to-day users’.

Founder President

Barrie Rickards suggested that Muriel Arber would make an ‘ideal Founder President’ (Fig. 10) and on April 20th David Norman wrote to Dr Arber ‘about reviving the Friends, as part of a definite move to raise funds for the museum over the next few years’. He also asked whether she would ‘be prepared to offer any wisdom, perhaps even be prepared to lend a tiny bit of support ... and how good it would be to have ‘you “on board” in some capacity’. Despite her protestations of age, there was unanimous appreciation of her acceptance of the role. Dr

Arber raised the question of a constitution and a sample constitution drafted by the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) was provided. There was recognition that any Constitution would have to be a legal document and approved by the Charity Commissioners to make it tax effective.

Trilobite

Muriel Arber (1913- 2004)

When the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum was re-launched in 1999, Muriel Arber became our first President, and continued to attend meetings and events, in spite of increasing disabilities. She died at the age of 90, on 10th May. One of my last memories of her is the detailed discussion we had a few days before her death, on the plans for our visit in July to her beloved Lyme Regis.



Muriel Arber in the 1935 Sedgwick Club photograph.

More complete accounts of Muriel's life, work and personality will be published elsewhere. Amongst other bodies planning to publish obituaries are the Geologists Association and the Geological Society of London.

So here we will simply treasure our memories of the kindly and humorous way that she enjoyed getting to know people and their families, and maintained her great enthusiasm for geology and the Sedgwick Museum.

Peter Friend

Figure 10. Dr Muriel Arber, President of the Friends in the late 1990s.

There was an aim to recruit as wide a membership as possible including members of the earlier Friends organization of the 1980s and Departmental Alumni via the existing database. It was hoped that notices posted in the Museum and sent to regional geological associations would reach other potential members. The importance of the organization being family friendly with specific children's events, such as 'rock and fossil days', was stressed. There was a discussion of what Friends might expect to get from their membership and how the Museum

might gain from the members. As a 'standard package', it was considered that members should have access to lectures and fieldtrips, special events, such as an annual dinner, open days, activity days, 'behind the scenes' visits and gallery tours, along with a newsletter and the opportunity of doing voluntary work in a variety of support roles for the Museum. However, it was recognized that such work would require careful training and supervision by Museum staff.

In turn, the Museum would benefit from financial support, voluntary support, an increased and diversified 'footfall' in the Museum, increased publicity along with an input of fresh and helpful ideas for promoting the work of the Museum.

Regarding fundraising, a general discussion raised questions of what any money raised should be used for and there was agreement that Museum staff should generate a list of projects (and their costs) with which the Friends could be involved. It was recognized that inevitably, support of a Friends organization would require some expenditure to cover expenses, such as newsletter and poster production, along with postage etc. Nevertheless, it was generally agreed that the membership fee should be kept as low as possible, following the example set by the previous Friends. Consequently, any special events that incurred extra costs, such as dinners, could then be charged on an ad hoc basis. This also raised the possibility of the Museum being used for private hire corporate functions, which would also help generate funds. Finally, a further meeting in November 1999 was planned with Dr Rickards acting as chairman and Annette Shelford as Secretary but then progress stalled again.

Gerald Lucy recounts how he first became interested in the Friends. Following a chance conversation in late 1999 with Annette Shelford when he had 'complained that the Museum should be better known and that there should be a way of getting members of the public involved in the work of the Museum. Annette told him that 'there was an idea about starting a 'Friends' group ...and that there had already been a meeting about it ...on 20th September 1999', as reported above. However, there was little progress until October 2000.

The first *Trilobite*

Meanwhile in August 2000, Dr Liz Hide (then Gallery Development Project Manager) produced a newsletter, entitled *Trilobite* (Fig 11), which announced the plans for gallery development and progress on that development for the beginning of the millennium. It prompted Gerald Lucy to write to Liz, congratulating her on the newsletter and again asking whether there had been any progress in setting up the Friends. He also mentioned that he would like to be involved in any such organisation and as a result was invited by Annette Shelford to the November meeting of the Steering Group. Annette also wrote again to Ann Fuchs asking whether she 'might still be interested in being involved with the Friends... as part of a founding committee?'



Issue 1, Summer 2000

Trilobite

News from the Sedgwick Museum
Gallery Redevelopment

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Things are changing in the Sedgwick!

Things are definitely changing in the Sedgwick! We have just embarked on a major redevelopment project, with the intention of massively improving public access to the museum's collections. This is the first issue of our project newsletter, in which we will be keeping you in touch with what's been happening in the Sedgwick Museum, and what is planned for the future.

The first phase of the redevelopment will take place over the next two years, and has been made possible by a grant from Resource (The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries)



through its Designation Challenge Fund. We will be completely renovating the Oak Wing of the museum, restoring the original Victorian display cases and completely replacing the exhibitions. Our aim is to make the museum an exciting, comfortable and accessible place for all our visitors, while retaining something of the specimen-richness which makes the Sedgwick so special.

Work is already underway in the museum, and you can read more about it elsewhere in *Trilobite*. You can also find out more on our website – click on Redevelopment at www-sedgwick.esc.cam.ac.uk. Staff in the museum have all contributed to this newsletter and to the website – we hope you enjoy reading about the work we are doing. We'll be producing this newsletter two or three times a year, and look forward to hearing your comments about it, and about the redevelopment in general. Details of how to contact us are on the back page of *Trilobite*.

Liz Hide
Project Manager

Oak Wing highlights remain on display



Closing half the museum to redevelop it means that many of our popular and spectacular specimens have had to be taken off display. To help counteract this, we have picked out some of the best specimens which would otherwise not be available for our visitors to see. They are highlighted in a new display at the entrance to the museum, which lets visitors know what's going on, and where they can find out more about the redevelopment.

The display includes just a few of the fantastic coral fossils from the museum's extensive collection from the 430 million year old Wenlock Limestone, which will eventually form the basis of an exciting new display in the refurbished wing. Amongst the most popular of the fossils in the new display is the giant fossil spider from Argentina (pictured above) which lived about 300 million years ago. It goes by the name of *Megarachne*, and this particular beast had a body that was 30 cm long. Not the sort of thing you'd like to find in the bath!

Why Trilobite?

Initially, we shall be concentrating on improving the displays which cover the earlier part of fossil history - the Palaeozoic era. Of the creatures that lived then, trilobites were some of the more common in the seas up until about 300 million years ago, and will feature in our new displays.

The particular trilobite illustrated above is our very own *Angelina sedgwicki*, named by John Salter after Adam Sedgwick.

Figure 11 The first edition of *Trilobite* in 2000.

November 2000

The minutes of their meeting on November 21st shows that it was convened by Annette Shelford and Mike Dorling with the President, Muriel Arber, Bob Chappell, Dr Peter Friend (Lecturer in the Department of Earth Sciences), Peter Fuchs, Ros Gourgey, Ken Harvey (retired departmental photographer), Bernard O'Connor and Gerald Lucy with apologies from Dr Amanda Chapman and Stephanie Etchells-Butler. In addition, Margaret Johnston (Department Administrator) acted as committee secretary. She had been closely involved in the amalgamation of three Departments of Geology, Mineralogy & Petrology and Geodesy & Geophysics into a larger Department of Earth Sciences. Miss Johnston (Fig. 12) was a key figure in liaison with the Head of Department along with scheduling and minuting the meetings, which took place in the Department.

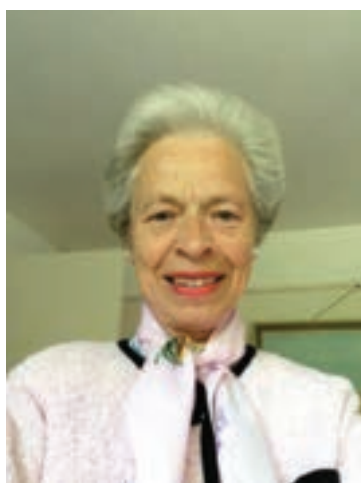


Figure 12. Margaret Johnston, secretary of the Friends committee in the late 1990s (photo Margaret Johnston)

At this meeting, Mike Dorling, outlined the history and setup of the original Friends organization of the 1980s and how the recent major developments in the Museum made it 'timely to go ahead to formally establish the Friends', noting the 'initiative is strongly supported by the Department of Earth Sciences'. The previously stated aims of the Friends were reiterated along with benefits such an organization could bring to members and to the Museum and the necessity of becoming a properly constituted body with charitable status for tax relief. Peter Fuchs took on the task of drafting a constitution and possible affiliation to the BAFM was considered. By 19th December 2000, Peter Fuchs had drafted a Constitution based closely on the model provided by the BAFM and circulated it to members of the Committee.

2001 – Launching the Friends

Issue 2 of *Trilobite* was produced at the end of the year but again was primarily concerned with the major museum redevelopment with special funding from Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries - known as the 'Designation Challenge Fund' in recognition of the international importance of the Museums' collections. Nevertheless, impetus was maintained, and the second meeting of the Steering Group was held on 16th January 2001. Several small changes were made to Peter Fuchs's Draft Constitution and to the publicity leaflet for the Friends (Fig.13) prepared by Gerald Lucy, which was subsequently mailed to 1200 Departmental Alumni. Further arrangements were made for the inaugural wine reception and launch of the Friends on Friday 23rd March, including suggestions for a keynote speaker. An approach to potential patrons for the Friends and the question of the Chairmanship of the Friends Committee were considered.


ADAM SEDGWICK (1785-1873)

The museum, opened in 1904, was built as a memorial to Adam Sedgwick who was professor of geology at Cambridge from 1818 until his death in 1873.


Born in the Yorkshire Dales, he is one of the major figures of geology, deeply involved in unravelling the sequence of ancient rocks called the Palaeozoic, a time when trilobites dominated the oceans.

A charismatic teacher, very active in the life of the university, he was responsible for the rapid expansion of the collections. Many of the museum's finest exhibits were acquired through Sedgwick's efforts.


At his death the size of the collections greatly exceeded the capacity of the former museum and it was decided that a new museum would be a fitting memorial to Sedgwick.



The Sedgwick Museum
University of Cambridge
Downing Street Cambridge CB2 3EQ
Telephone: 01223 333456
Website: www-sedgwick.esc.cam.ac.uk



FRIENDS OF THE



SEDGWICK MUSEUM

How you can support one of the world's great geological museums

ADMISSION FREE

Opening times
Monday to Friday: 9am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
Saturdays: 10am-1pm
(closed Christmas and Easter)

Museum shop
The shop stocks fossil replicas, models, postcards, posters, maps and books.

Access for the disabled
Please telephone if special assistance is needed.

Figure 13. Publicity leaflet for the Friends prepared by Gerald Lucy in early 2000.

At a third and final Steering Group meeting was held on 20th February the Draft Constitution was approved and Peter Fuchs was asked to make formal application to register the Friends with the Charity Commission. Gerald Lucy's membership leaflet had been distributed to both Alumni and *Trilobite* mailing lists together with invitations to the launch of the Friends. There was a need for publicity, a direct debit form and membership card to be prepared and available for the launch on March 23rd. At the launch, Dr Liz Hide was scheduled to give short 'Behind the Scenes' tours about the Oak Wing Gallery redevelopment, Peter Fuchs to give an address followed by a talk by Professor Tjeerd van Andel (1923-2010) about the importance of museum collections in science.

Peter Fuchs agreed to take on the Chairmanship of the Friends Committee for a year and to look for someone with accounting experience to act as treasurer. Additionally, Margaret Johnston agreed to continue as Secretary. Finally, a list of some 20 potential events for the Friends, drawn up by Gerald Lucy, was to be circulated to members to check levels of interest. (Fig. 14)



FRIENDS OF THE SEDGWICK MUSEUM

Potential list of events and activities

1. EVENTS IN THE MUSEUM

- Tour of the mineral collection and the Whewell Gallery.
- Britain's oldest intact geological collection- a tour of the Woodwardian collection.
- Fossil vertebrates in the Sedgwick Museum- tour and talk by the Museum Director Dr. David Norman.
- The Oak Wing Redevelopment- the shape of things to come in 2002.
- Charles Darwin the Geologist.
- Life in the Jurassic Sea.
- Ice Age Day – local fossil faunas and climate change.

2. EVENTS IN CAMBRIDGE

- Visit to the Sedgwick Museum's Conservation Unit.
- Visit to British Antarctic Survey.
- Visit to University Museum of Zoology.
- Cambridge Building Stones tour, with a visit to the Watson Building Stones Collection.
- Tour of the Building Stones of Ely.

3. TALKS

- East Anglian Fossil diggings and the Coprolite Industry.
- Introduction to the geology of Cambridgeshire.
- Trilobite Stories and the Sedgwick Museum.
- The story of the Sedgwick Museum *Iguanodon*.

4. FIELD TRIPS

- In the footsteps of Sedgwick and Darwin, North Wales (w/end).
- The North Norfolk Coast (1 day).
- Ketton Quarry, Leicestershire (1 day).

5. VISITS TO OTHER MUSEUMS

- Wisbech Museum (and town geological trail).
- Ipswich Museum (including the full size mammoth replica!).
- Peterborough Museum.
- Oxford University Museum of Geology.

Figure 14. Potential list of Friends activities prepared by Gerald Lucy in 2000.

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee on 3rd April 2001 reported on the successful launch of The Friends of the Sedgwick Museum when 38 new members had joined, bringing the total to 65. Anglia Television and the Cambridge News had covered the event, interviewing Mike Dorling about the Museum's magnificent and historic Giant Deer, which had undergone conservation. Peter Fuchs reported that the final process of acquiring charitable status with the appointment of trustees was underway. The Committee agreed that Dr and Mrs Colin Forbes should be given life membership of the Friends following their very generous donation of £5000 to the organization. With several events secured for the following months, the Friends was well and truly launched as a viable organization. These events included a joint lecture with the University's Discovery Series given by Professor Bob White on 'Sleeping Giants: Volcanoes and Climate Change' for 26th April, the inaugural AGM on 29th June, a tour of Cambridge Building Stones by Dr Nigel Woodcock and Gerald Lucy on 29th July and a visit to Ketton Quarry on 22nd September.

The First AGM – 29th June, 2001

Muriel Arber was endorsed as the President at the first AGM on 29th June and she continued to support the Friends up to her death in 2004. Her commitment was further reinforced posthumously when it emerged that she had left a donation £10,000 to the Friends in her will. Peter Fuchs continued as Chairman supported by Gerald Lucy as Vice-Chairman and Margaret Johnston as Secretary. Peter Friend was elected as Membership Secretary with additional committee members including David Norman, Annette Shelford, Mike Howe, Bob and Hilda Stoneley, Mike Dorling, Marjorie Veale and Margaret Sanderson, whilst a Treasurer was yet to be appointed.

Peter Fuchs was to play a central role in arranging several of the Friends' early expeditions and visits and has continued to be supportive over many years. A short article he wrote about the Friends for the Alumni magazine in advance of the AGM was reproduced. In it he emphasized that 'third time lucky', the Friends would this time be successfully launched, especially as it coincided with major developments in the Department and the Museum. Consequently, the 'Friends will be able to play an important supporting role ... and show that the Museum is more than just an adjunct of a university department'. Peter Fuchs also emphasized that a programme of events was to be 'the core of our activities – the way that members of the public will be attracted to the Museum, making it a living, real-time experience in today's world without losing the attraction of the Victorian ambience'.

Throughout 2001, the activities of the Friends got under way with several lectures and successful 'field trips' to the Building Stones of Cambridge (July 29th) and Ketton (September 15th). Further committee meetings (July 31st, September 18th) reported progress on several fronts. There was advice from the Charities Commission that the Committee could be appointed as Trustees, reports on the successful building of the membership and promotion of the Friends through established geological organisations, such as the Geologists

Association, the development of a webpage and an events programme for 2002. The Friends of the Sedgwick Museum were finally well and truly launched.

Part two of this brief history will be published in the next *Trilobite* newsletter later this year.

Acknowledgments: Numerous people have helped enormously in the development of this brief, including Dr Robert Anderson, Dr Peter Friend, Ann and Peter Fuchs, Dr Mike Howe, Miss Margaret Johnston, Steve Laurie, Gerald Lucy, Dr David Norman, Dr David Peel, Clive Pickton, Professor Ekhardt Salje, Margaret Sanderson and Dr Mike Tuke without them it would have been impossible. Although my own knowledge of the Friends extends back to the 1980s, it is very sketchy and largely derived second-hand from acquaintances such as Barrie Rickards and more recently Peter Friend. I have tried as best I can to double check the information. Any remaining errors are my own and when informed I will endeavour to correct them.

Unless otherwise stated, all the images are from the Sedgwick Museum Archives.

Dr Douglas Palmer