

Welcome to this special issue of *Geo East* the Newsletter of the East of England Geodiversity Partnership, reporting on the meeting at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge Sept 26th 2008.

Caroline Markham 02.10.08

caroline.markham1@btinternet.com

Introduction

Bob Markham welcomed the 20 participants (representatives from all six counties in the East of England Region) to the meeting and thanked Dr Liz Harper (Cambridge University) for hosting the meeting. He outlined the achievements of Geo-East so far.

- Two meetings.
- Tim Holt-Wilson's input into East of England Regional planning documents.
- three newsletters by CM.
- RM's Chalk Project idea which has attracted £10000 matched funding from the European Landscape Convention via Natural England (to be paid into the Geological Society of Norfolk account – treasurer Jenny Gladstone).

East of England RIGS meeting 2010

RM gave out the publication of the GeoSuffolk-hosted 2007 East Anglian RIGS meeting (short lectures plus field trip with attendance from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex geology groups). This could be extended to all six counties. JG has offered to enquire into hosting in 2010 at Whitlingham Country Park near Norwich. Peterborough RIGS has also offered to host an event.

Natural England £2000 Matched Funding Grant

It was agreed by the meeting this should be used to pay Tim Holt-Wilson to write a Project Plan for the Chalk Project - with £620 from GeoSuffolk towards the matched funding plus time from Geo-East members.

AOB

RM suggested extending the Chalk Project to SE England (for which Chalk is the iconic rock) with a publication in time for Olympic year 2012.

Chalk Project

TH-W's presentation *A Chalk Landscape Interpretation Project for the East of England* was detailed and well-received, attracting many additional suggestions for activities and ideas for title, logo, etc. from around the table, including:

- Graphic identity and logo – green and white with 'turf cut' logo (Jane Tubbs); map of six counties, *Summer of Chalk* (Bev Fowlston).
- Dive into the Chalk museum activities - behind the scenes at Hitchin Museum (BF); Chalk geology display at Ware Museum (Diana Perkins).
- Water Bearer water supply – Hadham bottled water (JT); Davy Down water extraction plant (Peter Allen).
- Larks on the Downs field trips – Fowlmere Nature Reserve watercress beds, Cambs (RSPB); periglacial in Chalk of Chafford Gorges, Essex; glacial thrusting at Barkway quarry, Herts.
- Life in the Cretaceous – Haydon Bailey suggested fossil lessons at KS2.
- Into the Dark – Scott's cavern at Ware, Herts and North Mimms swallow hole were both suggested.

Summary of ideas for the way forward:

- Anthony Morigi – small budget needs a few ideas to concentrate on.
- Adrian Read – a good idea from each county for 2009 and then more from other partners in 2010.
- BF – one or two projects from each group for the summer e.g. Beds & Luton GG could run a Chalk field tip and an educational project.
- It was decided that each county would give TH-W two project ideas by the end of October.

Have you found the BGS site mentioned by AM yet?

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/education/popularGeology.html>

Impressive!