



TEC - IN BRIEF

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Discoveries in Kimmeridge

Although the temperature is still very mild for this time of year, the wind and the rain have come in very strong for November and early December. This weather is changing the coastline around Kimmeridge, which is making more things visible. From a collecting point of view Steve still wishes for stronger and harsher winds to batter the coastline and cause more rock movement and with it more fossils to be uncovered.

This recent weather event has revealed several interesting things for us, most exciting of which is part of a fossilised turtle. These kinds of fossilised remains are incredibly rare here in the Kimmeridge Clay. Steve's primary focus is on the location that were deep tropical seas, which was not the normal habitat for turtles at that time, as they preferred shallower waters. This is indicative of a turtle further out into the ocean, so, makes such a find even more special. As you can see these in-situ remains are incredibly thin and fragile and need to be extracted and prepared very carefully.



Why not join us on Social Media



Seasons greetings from The Etches Collection

Dear Friends,

A year in review... 2022 has been a very eventful year here at the museum. There are many success stories, so, let's look at just a few of the highlights from the past 12 months. We launched this newsletter in both the e-mail and print formats, both of which continue to be popular. The redevelopment of our education programme continued apace, giving students a unique opportunity to learn about Earth's natural history using topics connected to national curriculum learning outcomes. Our lecture series 'An Exploration of Planet Earth' was launched, you can check out and purchase these lectures on our website. Another success story was our Inaugural Children's Fossil Competition that kicked off in March and ended with six winners having their fossils on display at the museum alongside our collection. The team travelled over to Lyme Regis for a weekend of fun at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival. Steve gave two very popular talks at the Chalke Valley History Festival. There was an international collaboration between our museum, The University of Southampton, and the Instituto de Ciencias Geológicas in Uruguay on the topic of mawsoniid coelacanths from the Kimmeridge Clay Formation. The museum successfully launched our online subscription service Etches Online and our Friends Membership too. There are many more accomplishments over the past 12 months, but this gives you a taste of what we have been up to.



Message from Steve

December is the time when we get to sit back and reflect on the past year at the museum, as you can see from the opening section, we have had a whirlwind of a year and that only tells a small part of the story. There are many more exciting and important projects taking place that will continue to shape the future of our museum for years to come. I am profoundly grateful to our staff, trustees, and volunteers for all their hard work, commitment, and support this past 12 months. We have an excellent group of people that work behind the scenes to make the museum successful and contribute enormously to its future growth. I am also grateful to all of you, our visitors, and supporters; you play a key role in making sure that our museum will continue to benefit future generations.



Why not get all your Jurassic Stocking fillers here!

Check out The Etches Collection Online Shop. Our Online Shop has all your needs covered when it comes to holiday gifts for family and friends. Discover something for all ages from fossils, clothing, toys, along with geological and educational items.

Don't forget that if you become a friend of the museum you receive 15% off all shop purchases.

<https://www.theetchescollectionshop.org/>

The Inaugural Children's Fossil Competition Update

When we came up with the concept for the children's fossil competition, on the back of a comment that Steve Etches made in passing one morning last September (2021), we worked through all the logistics in the autumn of last year and we honestly had no idea how this would go or if we could get such a competition off the ground. The team here at the museum banded together with a dogged determination to make the competition happen. So, now when we look at the display case with the six winners' fossils, there is a huge collective sense of accomplishment within the team. The Children's Fossil Competition was truly an enormous success and succeeded in all the areas that we hoped it would, particularly in the promotion of earth sciences, education, fun, fossil hunting and family engagement. Again, we would like to thank PetroStrat for their sponsorship of the competition.



Opportunities to Support the Museum

Etches Collection Friends Membership Package: Support us by subscribing to our Etches Annual 'Friends' Membership package of £49.99. To find out more about this exclusive opportunity and how to purchase, please speak to a member of our team

Etches Online: The Etches Collection Digital Subscription (Etches Online). Your chance to have exclusive virtual access to our amazing museum from wherever you are in the world. Support the museum 'virtually' for a monthly recurring subscription of only £4.99 per month or £54.99 for the full year. To find out more speak to our team or visit our website.

YouTube: You may or may not know that we have a very interesting and rapidly expanding YouTube channel that puts out videos every week. Our YouTube channel is a FREE resource to watch and subscribe to... It is well worth checking out, but don't forget to subscribe to the channel and like our content. This will help us grow our channel and develop new content.