



TEC - IN BRIEF

This Month

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Discoveries in Kimmeridge

March hasn't provided many opportunities for collecting, but the museum has been remarkably busy with other projects which has limited collecting time. However, it doesn't mean discoveries aren't being made. Curation and Collections care make up a vital part of the museums activities as does further examination and research of our specimens, which yields some extraordinary things. When re-examining some material from an ichthyosaur we discovered something small but potentially very exciting, (see pictured below). This fossil, although it doesn't look like much at about 3mm across, is believed to be the beak of a Coleoid specimen. Given its size it may be the first example of an ammonite beak in our collection, which is very exciting. Discoveries like these, although they are small, can be very significant and can help us understand these amazing creatures like never before.



Why not join us on Social Media



Fossil Festival

Lyme Regis **2023**

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter

Dear Friends,

April is always a busy month for our museum and this April is no different. We have just kicked off the Childrens Fossil Competition, which is in its second year now. The inaugural competition was incredibly popular and produced some amazing entries; you can still see last year's 6 winners on display at the museum. If you would like to learn more about this year's competition, you can visit the competition webpage. This year's sponsorship sees the return of our old friends at PetroStrat and a brand new sponsor, Foster Care Associates. The museum is grateful to both PetroStrat and Foster Care Associates for their support and we look forward to working with them on another successful competition.

Our museum is a key partner in helping to save this year's Lyme Regis Fossil Festival, which takes place on April 29-30, after it was initially cancelled by organisers back in January. The Lyme Regis Museum was instrumental in bringing the festival back to life, and we are delighted and proud to be able to provide our support, both to them and to this important annual event. (BBC article). So, why not join us at this FREE family festival where there will be plenty of Dinosaurs, Talks, Walks, Science, Fossils, Storytelling, Exhibitions & Street Performers. You will get to meet our wonderful, friendly, and helpful team and learn all about our museum. We will also have our powerful new microscope and our famous fossil lucky dips! We are also very excited to be taking part in the education day on the Friday before the festival when Nick Nugent, our museum education coordinator, will be delivering a selection of our education programmes.





Message from Steve

Spring is finally here, and the lighter nights mean I can spend more time down at the bay collecting, depending on the tides. You may or may not know that I collect fossils around the beaches within a 6-mile radius of the museum. Not every fossil collecting trip yields great finds, but you just never know. Earlier this week I got the chance to sit down with both of the Nicks (Nugent and Meacham) who work on education and outreach here at the museum, to discuss their vision for education. They have started to work on the museum's 3-year plan for Education. It's ambitious yet truly inspiring to hear their vision and passion for the future. We have watched the programme grow over the past year and a half and Nick Nugent has brought the plan to life so well. We will continue to develop the museum's education programme and I have no doubt it will continue to engage, educate, and inspire many young people in the coming years.



Check out our Online Shop!

The Etches Collection Online Shop has all your needs covered when it comes to all you geology, fossil and dinosaur needs. Discover something for all ages from fossils, clothing, toys 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/>

Bay Tours are Back

The Children's Fossil Competition is back! Yes, the fabulous competition is back for its second year.

So, to all of you, young fossil collectors, palaeontologists, and geologists out there, we have a few questions for you... Have you ever found a fossil? Maybe you have a collection of fossils? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have your fossil on display at The Etches Collection where thousands of visitors will get to see it?

If the answer is a big YES! to any or all of those questions, then visit the Fossil Comp webpage for more information on how to enter. We are grateful to both of this year's sponsors, coming back for a second year PetroStrat and our new sponsor Foster Care Associates. For more information,

please email the team: fossilcomp@theetchescollection.org

Bay Tours are Back

The long awaited and much anticipated Kimmeridge Bay Tours are back on! Join the world-renowned fossil collector and palaeontologist Dr. Steve Etches, MBE on a tour that will take you back 157 million years into the past, when Kimmeridge Bay was a tropical sea teeming with marine reptiles.

The tour of the bay usually takes around two hours, and you will need to purchase a ticket in advance. For more information please or to purchase tickets please visit our online shop.

The next available date is:
April 23rd, 2023 at 2:30pm – Book your tickets now!

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.

Unique opportunities to help grow the imaginative, inquisitive, and wonderful minds of children: We welcome many school groups for educational visits each year, where children learn about geology and palaeontology. With a generous donation towards our education fund many more children could learn with us. The museum also hosts many wonderful activities throughout the year, such as the Children's Fossil Competition. We are continually looking for sponsorship opportunities and donations to promote earth sciences. For more information, please visit our website.