



# TEC - IN BRIEF

This Month

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## Discoveries in Kimmeridge

The end of December proved to be quite a productive time for the collecting of new fossils here at the museum. The cold weather can deter many people, but it never stops Steve from heading out on a hunt for fossils, including Christmas Day! As a result, the museum is now home to several new additions to the collection, and hopefully there will be many more to come in the new year. Interestingly, it wasn't just Steve who brought back some new specimens, Ash Hall our media guy also came back with some specimens that have made it into the reserve collection. The new additions include a new *Aspidorhynchus* specimen, a plesiosaur belly rib, an isolated fish bone (pictured below) and some more ichthyosaur material. These additions all add to the story we are telling here at the museum, by providing further evidence of Kimmeridgian life. As with all of Steve's trips out, he comes across many fossils, most do not make it into the collection, but that is not always the case though. Nick Nugent our Museum Education Coordinator sent Steve out with a specific request to collect some coprolite fossils suitable for use as "show and tell" pieces for our educational visits. Steve very kindly obliged.



## Why not join us on Social Media



## Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the January edition of our monthly e-newsletter. Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you have had a restful and fun festive period and you are looking forward to the New Year as much as we are here at the museum. Work continues on a number of projects that encapsulate the importance of outreach, education, and fun. You may or may not be aware that the museum has its very own digital streaming service called 'Etches Online' and it is one of the best ways to support and stay up to date with all of the goings on here at the museum. Subscribers get regular blog posts from Dr. Steve Etches MBE, our team at the museum and special guest videos along with behind-the-scenes footage and access to the museum workshop and reserve collection. There is also exclusive access to all of our scientific articles and papers and the museum's extensive online archives from 'behind the scenes'. To find out more and subscribe visit:

<https://www.theetchescollection.org/etchesonline>



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## Message from Steve

The new year brings new opportunities for us all, and I'm really excited about this coming year. We announced the news in December that the museum was awarded with £219,500 towards the gallery refit project from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund. This is massive for the museum; I am absolutely delighted with the news, because we are a Designated and Accredited Museum, it is vital that we continue the important work of preserving our collection for future generations. The gallery refit will also enable us to prepare, conserve as well as develop and expand the Collection as a visitor attraction, research facility and educational centre. We have not confirmed the dates that the refit will take place, but I'm sure the team will keep you up to date with everything that is going on. Although this money will go a long way to completing the project, we still need to raise a considerable amount of money for this critical gallery refit project. If you would be interested in donating money to this project check out our website.



## Check out our Online Shop!

Why not check out The Etches Collection 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/>

## New for 2023

You may know by now that we are an ever evolving and working museum, with big ideas and massive potential. Part of that ambition is to improve the scientific value of understanding past and present life on our planet and all things that are new to science. Some of our museums new discoveries are stunning, awe-inspiring, and thought-provoking specimens. The museum continues to update the display collection in the gallery with such specimens. Pictured below are two such items, the specimen at the top, you may have seen in one of our previous newsletters, which is a mysterious fossil that we are yet to identify and at the bottom is a very large Ichthyosaur rostrum.



## 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.