



TEC - IN BRIEF

This Month

Discoveries in Kimmeridge | Message From Steve | New to our Displays
The Inaugural Children's Fossil Competition Update | Opportunities to Support the Museum

Discoveries in Kimmeridge

The weather is getting rougher, the wind stronger, the rain heavier, Winter is coming! The autumnal changes in weather bring dynamic tidal behaviour and violent waves. These changes all aid in fossil collecting, changing environments, and ripping up seaweed, moving and shifting rock, shingle, and sand and it's during these conditions more and more fossils are revealed. As we move through October and into and November the collecting gets more productive with more opportunities to collect unique and scientifically valuable specimens. Including a recent discovery by Steve; this unknown fossil which Steve believes to be a possible jellyfish fossil.



Why not join us on Social Media



Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter

Dear Friends,

As you may have noticed there has been a theme running through the last couple of opening sections of our TEC In-Brief newsletter, namely a Meet the Team theme. We hope that you are enjoying getting to know the staff here at the museum. Our team come from very diverse backgrounds, skill sets, interests, and passions. Ben Blackwood joined the team in July of 2021, he is one of our 'front of house' members, and usually welcomes and supports our visitors on Fridays and Saturdays at the museum. Whilst Ben is a fossil enthusiast, he supports many behind-the-scenes projects here at the museum, including support for social media, education and he also enjoys fossil hunting. Ben's true passion lies with another historically important story, in the form of RMS Titanic, so much so that he is completing a PhD at the University of Chichester in studies related to the doomed vessel. Ben does get slightly teased by the other members of staff at the museum for his Titanic obsession (all in good nature of course). Ben has a wonderful can-do attitude, and he is always willing to lend support to projects, often volunteering his spare time to the museum. Ben says that "I really enjoy my time working here at The Etches Collection, it's great to be part of such an awesome team!"



Message from Steve

November is upon us, and we are ramping up for Christmas already. I've been fascinated by the improvements made to our online shop over the last month. I don't usually get involved with this side of the museum, but I sat down with Ash our Digital Media Specialist a few days ago and he went through everything with me, I must say I'm quite impressed at how much it has grown, and the items are really nice. After some much-needed time off, I have been back in the workshop doing some important fossil preparation work and I've managed to head down to the bay a couple of times too, which is wonderful. It is nice to see that the schools are coming back for return visits. We had two groups of students from St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, located in Poole visit the museum in October. Nick Nugent our Museum Education Coordinator is doing an incredible job, the feedback is amazing and the fact that schools are returning each year means we are really hitting the mark.



A new look for our online shop

We are continually looking at ways to improve our online visitor experience here at the museum, from our YouTube Channel to our social media platforms. We are pleased to announce that our online shop has had a huge makeover over the past month. This makeover has allowed us to add more items that were only available in the physical shop and of course add brand new items, including fossils, books, toys and much, much more. With Christmas coming up fast, why not check out our Online Shop!

The Inaugural Children's Fossil Competition Update

Last month we announced the children's fossil competition winners with much fanfare. We have excitedly received all 6 of the winning fossils and they are now on display, right next to our main gallery. It's been a very exciting journey for us here at the museum and to finally see the winning fossils on display really made the effort worthwhile. We are truly grateful to our sponsors PetroStrat and to all the children who entered the competition. The winning fossils will be on display between now and November 2023, so why not plan a visit to the museum and check out the winning fossils!

New to our Displays

One of the things that sets us apart as a museum is that we are continually updating, adding to, and improving our collection. It is important to say that not all the specimens in our collection have been found by Steve, there are a few donated specimens too, including Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs. The Kimmerosaurus (A Kimmeridgian Plesiosaur) takes its name from the location it was first discovered, The Kimmeridge Clay of Dorset. The museum recently received more materials for a specific specimen of Kimmerosaurus that is already on display in our museum gallery. Adding new specimens to the collection is important, we also want to keep updating our current displays too, so you can see as much of the collection as possible. This new Kimmerosaurus material has joined the display and you can now see several new vertebrae, paddle digits and ribs for this specimen. Pictured on the front.

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.