



The Tertiary Research Group

Programme No. 60 for 2014

Programme Organiser: David J. Ward

Telephone: 07971 567 325

Email: david@fossil.ws

TRG Homepage: <http://www.trg.org>

Because of the low field trip attendance of recent, we have reduced the number. Both the AGM and the Autumn Abbey Wood dig are well attended and tend to be the glue that holds the Group together. When the group was founded, sites such as Sheppey, Harwich, Bracklesham and Barton were both poorly known and for many, finding written descriptions was hard. The internet has changed this. With a few clicks of a keyboard, it is possible to find maps, locality information and, in some cases, spectacular images of the fossils. Perhaps, as far as our fieldtrips are concerned, we have outlived our usefulness.

Over the last few years we have enjoyed a number of joint visits to Tertiary sites with the Essex Rock & Mineral Society. Their programme can be viewed at <http://www.erms.org/>. Please contact the ERMS Field Visits Secretary to reserve a place.

Details of this Programme are as complete as possible at the time of printing. Updates will be posted on our Web site.

Sunday 23rd February AGM at 81 Crofton Lane, Orpington, Kent.

Hosts: David and Alison Ward

- All TRG members are welcome to the Annual General Meeting. Please bring any interesting, spectacular or unidentified finds from the previous year.
- Arrive from 1pm onwards. The formal meeting starts at 2pm. Cold food will be available from 1pm; hot food and drink for those attending the AGM from about 4pm or earlier. Nearest railway station: Petts Wood - 15mins by foot.
- For further details, contact David Ward (landline: 01689 871 565, mobile: 07971 567 325).

Saturday March 29th Field Meeting to Medmerry and Bracklesham, West Sussex

Director: David Bone **NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGES**

Recent sea defence works by Bunn Leisure and coastal management works by the Environment Agency have significantly altered the Selsey end of the Bracklesham Bay foreshore beyond all recognition. We will initially meet at high tide at the Bunn Leisure site in Selsey. Here we will discuss the detrimental impact of the sea defences on the geology and then visit the former location of the Broad Rife sluice at Medmerry (now a major tidal outlet from the new tidally flooded Earnley Marshes).

In the afternoon, we will drive over to Bracklesham and meet (provisionally **2.00pm**) at the seafront pay & display car park (SZ 804 963) to collect from the foreshore as the tide falls. For the more athletic (and if exposures make the long walk worthwhile), we can visit the Medmerry breach from the western side at low tide to appreciate the phenomenal outflow that now separates Selsey from Bracklesham. Low tide is **15.40**.

- Following the meeting, attendees are welcome to a hot buffet at the leader's home in Chichester (by pre-arrangement, please and subject to manageable numbers).
- Meet **10.30** noon at the far end of the seafront car park (SZ 836 938) at Bunn Leisure (<http://www.bunnleisure.co.uk/contact-us/directions.aspx>) just beyond the Embassy Club (the large leisure complex building).
- Waterproof boots are recommended on the foreshore, a digging implement and sieve will be needed if you intend to collect from the Bracklesham Beds and a bottle of wine if you are going on to the buffet!

Sunday 5th October Abbey Wood, Kent.

Director: Jerry Hooker

This is a rare opportunity for TRG members to see and wet sieve the early Eocene Blackheath Formation shell bed.

- **Attendance requires all participants to retain and search all material over 0.5mm.** Participants may keep all they find, with the exception of reptile, bird and mammal remains, which should be brought to the Director's attention. Please bring a digging tool, a large bucket or bowl, bags and your own set of graded sieves. Water for wet sieving and a few sieves should be available.
- Meet at 12 noon. (NOT BEFORE PLEASE!) at the excavation within the woods. We are normally required to be out of the enclosure by 5pm. Abbey Wood station is within walking distance. Drivers please park on Abbey Road (the B213), not in the woods.
- As previously, we must hire a mechanical digger. This is a costly undertaking, so it is hoped that all active participants will make an appropriate donation, in the order of £20 (Members) and £25 (Guests). Without this voluntary donation we would not be able to afford this excavation.
- We have been fortunate in the past in being able to extract adequate quantities of shell bed. However, as time goes on, the pockets left by previous excavations are becoming increasingly difficult to locate. Participants must be aware that there is no guarantees of that we will be able to find and excavate the shell bed.

The *Tertiary Research Group* cannot accept liability for any loss or accident incurred whilst on out field meetings. Everyone who attends does so at his or her own risk. Always wear suitable footwear and clothing and for quarry visits, please bring your own hardhat and high visibility vest.