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A POCKET GUIDE TO THE

# Rocks of the Sedgwick

being a short walk through the galleries, for the use  
of the careful visitor

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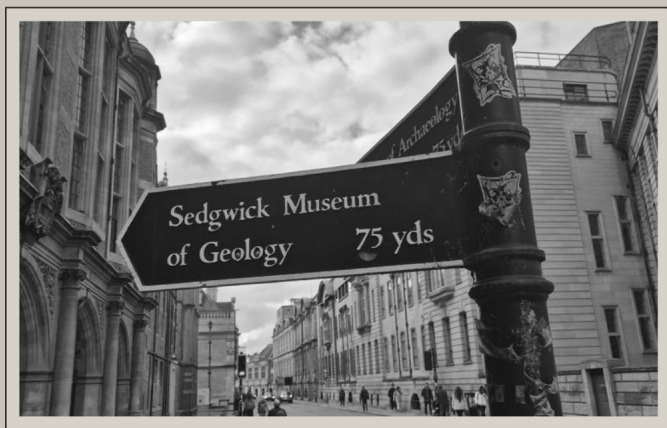


Fig. 1. The approach from Downing Street.

Contents: minerals; fossils; a map; sundry persons of note.



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

**Crystal:** Hello, my loves. Both earbuds in, please. Your left ear hears the label. Your right ear hears the life.

[QR CODE:  
AUDIO]

**1. Wear a code.** Pick one below.

**2. Press play** at the front door.

**3. Follow the stars** on the trail labels.

**4. Pause any time.** Skip any stop.

## THE CODES

- **A green carnation.** Wilde's circle, 1892.
- **A single earring.** Once a quiet signal. Now just fabulous.
- ◻ **A carabiner** on a belt loop. Never climbed anything.
- ◆ **Violets or lavender.** Sappho approves.
- **A pinky ring.** For the discreet gentleman, and anyone else.

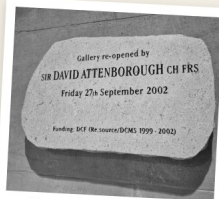
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**The nod.** Spot someone else wearing a code? A small nod will do. Nobody has to say a word.

## 1 THE FRONT DOOR

Meet **Norman Flint**, museum porter. Forty years this February. Mustard overall, a bunch of keys, and a fact for every case.

"On your left, a rock. On your right, another rock. Slightly older."



He polishes it on Tuesdays.

## 2 THE WHEWELL GALLERY



**Crystal:** Norman, sweetheart, coming out is what I do.



Among the gem cases, something cracks. **Crystal Formation**, drag queen, four and a half billion years old, steps out of the rock. She takes it from here.

4.5 billion years ago  
Minerals grow in the dark

1834  
Whewell coins "scientist"

## ★ 3 · SUE THE T. REX

LEFT EAR · THE LABEL

Specimen: *T. rex*.

Sex: ~~female~~

RIGHT EAR · THE LIFE

You can't sex a skeleton.

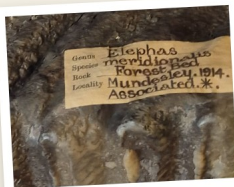
SUE has been they/them since 2017.

**Crystal:** Sixty-seven million years old, and they still came out before most of my uncles. Nature never got the memo about tidy categories. The rocks have the receipts.

## ★ 4 · ANNA GURNEY

Born 1795. Polio as a baby, a wheelchair most of her life. Fossil hunter on the Norfolk cliffs. Taught herself Anglo-Saxon for fun.

**LABEL:** Resided with her cousin by marriage.



Norfolk elephants.  
Really.

HER GRAVE · THE LIFE

**"They were partners and chosen Sisters, knit together in the Love of God."**

67 million yrs ago  
SUE walks the earth

1795  
Anna born

1834  
Lister & Walker

## 5 DARWIN THE GEOLOGIST



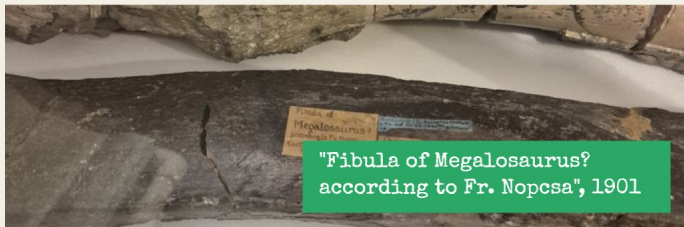
"Pounding the NW mountains"

Before the beard, Charles went rock-bashing in Wales with Adam Sedgwick. Then eight years on barnacles, and one female who kept "a little husband" in each of two pockets.

**Crystal:** Charles, sweetheart. I know several.

James Pratt. John Smith. Hanged 1835. We say their names.

## ★ 6 · BARON NOPCSA



Transylvanian baron, flagrant dandy, very nearly King of Albania. His name is on a bone from a Peterborough brick pit. Nearly thirty years beside his secretary, **Bajazid Elmaz Doda**.

**The Catalogue:** The question mark is original. **Crystal:** A question mark is how science flirts.

1831  
Wales

1835  
Pratt & Smith

1895  
Wilde jailed

1901  
Nopcsa's bone

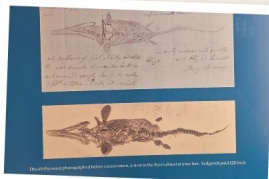
## ★ 7 · MARY ANNING

### THE LABEL

Evidence of romantic attachments: none recorded.

### THE LIFE

She was busy. With a hammer. And she found the poo.

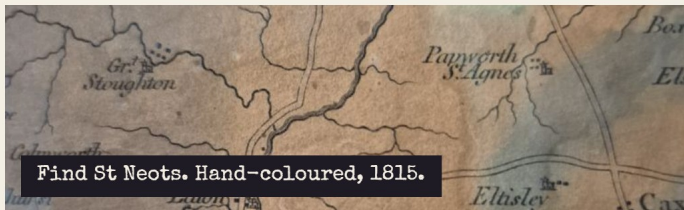


Her letter to Sedgwick, 1843

She offered Sedgwick an ichthyosaur "as perfect as if just taken from a dissecting room", and sketched it. Her love letter to rocks.

**Fossil poo** started the Cambridgeshire coprolite rush, and the diggers at Barrington found hippos.

## 8 WILLIAM SMITH'S MAP



Find St Neots. Hand-coloured, 1815.

300 m yrs  
Coal forms

1815  
The map

1843  
Mary writes

2013  
Unfolded

## ★ 9 · JONATHAN CUTBILL

"Jon" helped put this museum's catalogue on a computer in the late 1960s. One of the first in the world.

In 1979 he co-founded **Gay's the Word**, 66 Marchmont Street. Raided by Customs in 1984. Home to LGSM, who twinned with **Onllwyn**.



The purple star

BOTH EARS, AT LAST

**Jonathan Cutbill. Geologist. Bookseller. Out gay man.**

## GAY'S.

In the beginning was the Word.  
Here's the word:



### FINALE: THE GIFT SHOP

A Pride T. rex. A Trans Pride T. rex. SUE would be thrilled. Norman buys a rainbow badge.

**Norman: "I'm free!"**

1960s  
Catalogue

1979  
The shop

1984  
The raid

1985  
Miners march



SEDGWICK MUSEUM · NEW ACCESSION

Specimen    You

Age            Older than you look

Found        At the door, wearing a green  
                  carnation

Status        Part of the collection. Always were.

**Need to talk?** Switchboard, the LGBT+ helpline: 0800 0119 100,  
switchboard.lgbt

A student prototype by Nick Gellatly, BA (Hons) Digital Media  
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trail.