

The Secretary's Report, August 1968 - February, 1969

Introduction

During the latter part of the 1968/69 session, the Society's programme provided for two excursions, four lecture meetings and the fourth Annual Dinner.

Excursions

The September excursion was originally planned as an exploratory tour of the country south of Nottingham, but, as arrangements were being completed, the Society was grateful for the offer received from Mr. A. Ludford to take us to three exposures to see Upper Cretaceous, Lower Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic rocks of the Bedford-Luton area.

The 1968 week-end excursion was led by Dr. R.J. Firman and illustrated to members some aspects of the geology of the northern Lake District. The excursion was based on Keswick and about 35 members attended this most interesting visit. The records of both these excursions are published in Vol. 3, No. 2 of the "Mercian Geologist" (this issue).

The 1968-1969 lecture programme.

The spectacle of magnificent mountains seen in the field on the Lake District excursion was continued, on the screen, at the first lecture on November 2nd, 1968. Dr. R.B. Elliott, Department of Geology, University of Nottingham, illustrated his lecture on the "Volcanoes of Western Scotland" with many colour slides. The very large audience much appreciated the way this vast subject was presented to them; and the original thoughts at the end provoked considerable discussion.

In December, Mr. H.R. Potter, of the Trent River Board described some aspects of his work as a hydrologist. His account was illustrated with some of the equipment which he had modified for his particular hydrological studies.

Due to the cancellation of the South Pennines Geological Conference, the Society was asked by the conference secretary, Dr. T.D. Ford, if we could accommodate in our programme some of the papers which had been offered. This the Society was pleased to do and an additional meeting was arranged for January 18th, 1969, which was attended by 50 people. Three papers were read, by D.V. Frost, N. Aitkenhead and P.C.D. Cazalet respectively, on the geology and structure of the Wirksworth area; the Deep Bore-hole at Duffield; and on certain drift deposits in Derbyshire. The latter was published in "Mercian Geologist" Vol. 3, No. 1.

All these meetings were held in the Department of Geology, University of Nottingham, through the generosity of the University and of Lord Energlyn, and, once again, the Society is grateful for the facilities freely made available to it.

The final lecture of the 1968-1969 programme was held at Matlock on the 25th January, 1969. The lecture, held jointly with the Matlock Field Club, was given by Professor F.W. Cope of the University of Keele, well known for his researches on Derbyshire Carboniferous limestones; these formed the subject for his talk. The joint meeting with the Matlock Field Club is becoming a well established fixture in the Annual Programme.

The fourth Annual Dinner, 4th January, 1969.

As an experiment the Society's Annual Dinner was held on a Saturday evening, in response to a number of requests. The function was held on this occasion in the Dining Hall of the Cavendish Hall of Residence, University of

Nottingham. It is a pleasure to report that the previous average attendance of 33 was increased to 45. The highlight of the evening was the presentation made on behalf of members to Lord and Lady Energlyn, to mark the honour singularly bestowed upon them in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June, 1968, and also to express the pleasure and satisfaction of the Society that such a distinction was made. The President also spoke of the contribution made by Lord Energlyn, supported by Lady Energlyn, to geology and to the affairs of the Society. The evening was concluded with illustrations of 1968 field excursions shown by Mr. R.J.A. Travis and Mr. A.E.G. Allsop. Mr. A. Morrow showed members some geological pictures taken during 1968 whilst on a visit to North America.

Membership. It is possible once again to record a substantial increase in membership. These increases are reflected in the following table:-

	February 1968	February 1969	Increase
Ordinary Members	165	188	23
Joint Members	48	58	10
Junior Members	6	7	1
Honorary Members	2	2	-
Institutional Members and subscribers	102	105	3
TOTALS	<u>323</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>37</u>

During the year, 23 members resigned, including 3 Institutions.

In January, 1969, Vol. 3, No.1 of the "Mercian Geologist" was distributed to Members. The collating team worked extremely hard in putting the issue together and I am pleased to record that their speed of action has increased to such an extent that it now takes only two-thirds of the time that was spent on this chore initially.

Conclusions. I would like to conclude by once again thanking Mrs. D.M. Morrow for her invaluable assistance with secretarial chores and also to record the thanks of the Council to her for inviting it to hold its meetings in her Mapperley home and for the welcome it has received there over the past year. I would also like to thank Mrs. M. Owen for her assistance in the preparation of the circular and also for the supply at cost of much of the stationery used by the Society. I am also conscious of the fact that immediately before and after meetings members may have received only a part of my attention when asking questions or seeking advice. No slight is intended here, only pressure of Secretarial duties and the fact that somebody or something else is also requiring attention. If your questions are answered in an unsatisfactory manner or remain completely unanswered, please contact me again.

Frank M. Taylor