

### Secretary's Report for 1972-73

At the beginning of its ninth year, the Society contended successfully with the power cuts and blackouts resulting from the coal strike. Before the end of February, evening bookings at the University had been cancelled, and it was decided that the Annual General Meeting should be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of March 9th instead of in the evening.

The A.G.M. was uneventful, there was no controversy, the same officers were re-elected and the same Council was re-elected en bloc; but there was a remarkable attendance of some 60 members when the meeting opened, the seal of approval indeed to Council's decision to hold the Collectors' Meeting after the business. The Swinnerton Laboratory had been opened at 2 o'clock so that items could be arranged, and by 3 o'clock the enormous room was crowded by no less than 39 separate exhibits. As the afternoon progressed there were greater crowds, until the whole Society seemed to be present, interested, enthusiastic, and very appreciative.

Perhaps the most popular feature was Mr. Sykes' Bring and Buy Rock Sale, the success of which passed all expectations, and which enabled Mr. Sykes to donate £16.38 to the Society's Trust Fund.

A list of exhibits follows:

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| 1.  | V. Paling                        | a. Geological samples from the China Clay country.<br>b. Semi-precious stones.                                      |
| 2.  | A. Shelton                       | Mineral specimens from Ashover.                                                                                     |
| 3.  | B.M. Logan                       | a. Plaster casts of fossils made in the Dept. of Geology.<br>b. Collection of fish teeth from the Dept. of Geology. |
| 4.  | I.D. Sutton                      | Collection of minerals.                                                                                             |
| 5.  | R.W. Morrell                     | a. Vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.<br>b. Modern molluscs.<br>c. Geological books.                              |
| 6.  | J.C. Macdonald and<br>G. Rothnie | a. Mineral collection and problematica.<br>b. Fossil collection.                                                    |
| 7.  | A.E.G. Allsop                    | Rocks from Skye, photographs and minerals.                                                                          |
| 8.  | M. and D. Beaumont               | a. "Two amateurs in the Askrigg Block."<br>b. Underground in Craven.                                                |
| 9.  | J. Fletcher                      | Problematica and a dinosaur fossil.                                                                                 |
| 10. | D.M. Morrow                      | Collection of British igneous rocks.                                                                                |
| 11. | D. Manning                       | a. Rocks from Argyll and Skye.<br>b. Problematica.                                                                  |
| 12. | C. Champion                      | a. Silicified fossils from a Visèan limestone block.<br>b. Spiriferidina collection.                                |
| 13. | N. Leiter                        | Biological specimens.                                                                                               |
| 14. | H.B. Briggs                      | "The Present is the Key to the Past" - corals, graptolites and a mammalian tooth.                                   |
| 15. | W.S. Moffatt                     | Demonstration: Proton magnetometer.                                                                                 |
| 16. | E. Taylor                        | Fossils of the future from the Isle of St. Kitts.                                                                   |
| 17. | P.H. Hanford                     | Rocks, minerals and fossils.                                                                                        |
| 18. | J.C. and A. Summers              | Polished stones and rocks.                                                                                          |
| 19. | M. Wild                          | Minerals from Italy, Tunisia and Nigeria.                                                                           |
| 20. | R.E. Jeffcoat                    | Rocks, Minerals and fossils.                                                                                        |
| 21. | A.D. Uppadine                    | a. Manners' Brickyard Quarry, Eastwood.<br>b. Granodiorites from Mountsorrel and Dorset.                            |
| 22. | M. Boneham                       | Permo-Triassic rocks from Nottinghamshire.                                                                          |

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| 23. | R. Bright      | Fossil collection.                                                                                                                |
| 24. | R.J.A. Travis  | Specimens of Oxynoticeras from the Frodingham Ironstone of Scunthorpe.                                                            |
| 25. | F.M. Taylor    | Reported "shell bed" in the Bunter Sandstone, actually a "tip" of oyster shells above Trent alluvial deposits and below the road. |
| 26. | P.H. Speed     | Argentiferous galena.                                                                                                             |
| 27. | E.M. Colthorpe | Basic dyke rock in Lewisian Gneiss, Scourie.                                                                                      |
| 28. | P. Spencer     | Geological specimens from local areas.                                                                                            |
| 29. | E. Ramsell     | Fossils from North America.                                                                                                       |
| 30. | F.M. Taylor    | The Mercian Geologist collation process.                                                                                          |

The last indoor meeting of the season was held in April, when Mr. P.H. Speed, Treasurer of the Society and Regional Geologist for British Railways, described the work of Engineering Geologists. He spoke of the difficulties encountered in the construction of railway cuttings, canal excavations and building sites, and his lecture was startlingly illustrated by his own professional slides.

The first excursion of the year, a visit to the Malverns was held, as customarily, during the first weekend in May, and led by Dr. W.G. Hardie of the University of Birmingham. The party drove to Great Malvern on Friday evening through torrential rain, and assembled after dinner to hear the leader describe the rocks of the area - an act of faith, since the Malvern Hills were invisible. The weather, however, improved, and the party spent two happy days covering the geology of the whole area. Mr. Hardie will surely not forget his station wagonload of geological ladies who, after the climax of "Miss Phillips' Conglomerate" accompanied him to the summit of Worcestershire Beacon. We were fortunate also to have with us, Mr. D. Bullard of Nottingham University, who was currently conducting research in the area, and who made a great contribution to the excursion.

In June, Mr. D.B. Smith of the Institute of Geological Sciences led an excursion to the Permian rocks of the Doncaster area. Some four years earlier, Mr. Smith had been leader of a joint Y.G.S. and E.M.G.S. weekend excursion to the Permian of Yorkshire, based in York. It was good to have this acknowledged expert again to describe his latest conclusions.

In July, excursion, arranged by Mr. W.S. Moffat of Loughborough University, brought a large party to the site of the new Empingham Reservoir in Rutland. After hearing from the site geologist a description of the underlying rocks, the geological problems involved, and the methods used by the engineers in dealing with them, the party was shown over the site, to the appalling din of the tractors, tearing back and forth at breakneck speed, and shifting earth as if life depended on it.

Later, in Ketton Quarry, Mr. Moffat gave a demonstration of seismic survey equipment, a most interesting addition to an unusual excursion.

The September excursion made a geological traverse from Chesterfield to Ollerton and was led by Mr. R.E. Elliott, Vice-Chairman of the Society. Because of the narrow roads and difficulties of parking at the various exposures, the party was restricted to one coach load. There were many very interesting features to be seen during the traverse, and an unforgettable smell associated with the River Lee and the adjoining Coalite plant.

Once again in October, Dr. T.D. Ford found time to lead a Society excursion, this time to the abandoned Monsal Dale Railway Cutting. At the start of the meeting, however, he set a field exercise. The party was divided into four groups, and each given a section of the cutting wall to map. Members reacted with enthusiasm, and appreciated very much the instruction in mapping techniques which Dr. Ford gave some half an hour later. It was felt that this was a valuable addition to the excursion. The traverse along Monsal Dale completed the section which members saw with Professor Cope in 1970.

The first indoor meeting of the winter was held at the end of October. Dr. A.C. Waltham of Trent Polytechnic gave a brilliant description of his expedition to the Himalayas in 1970. The immense audience was amused and delighted by his admirable slides and his rapid, witty narrative.

A decision had been made by Council to hold some indoor meetings during the afternoon, and the first of these took place in the middle of November in St. Helen's House, Derby. There was not, however, the customary large audience, and as a result, subsequent meetings were rearranged for evenings. On this occasion, Dr. R.J. Allen of the University of Reading spoke of the Old Red Sandstone of Southern Britain, a subject which had considerable bearing on the field excursion to the Wye Valley, Herefordshire, led by Dr. P.L. Hancock in 1971. Dr. Allen's excellent description of conditions of deposition of the beds linked together the diverse rocks collected on the excursion.

Early in December, Mr. P.J.E. Woods of Cleveland Potash Ltd., gave an interesting lecture which described the methods used by his firm to mine the potash deposits of North Yorkshire.

The Eighth Annual Dinner was held in December at the University of Nottingham Staff Club. This has always been a very informal and friendly occasion, and one which seems year by year to become more so. It was good to see that many of our newest members were present.

After dinner there was a showing of excursion slides which brought back happy recollections of our earlier meetings of the year.

The new year brought an increase in activities, and three meetings were held in January.

Dr. R.J. Firman had informed Council of sedimentary structures to be seen in the settling pond at the old Mill Close Lead Mine in Derbyshire, at the present time being worked for fluorspar and other minerals. It would be necessary to arrange a visit at once, before the entire mass was removed, and it was decided that notice should be given in the circular, and members should be invited to make their own way to the site at 2.30 p.m.

In spite of the bitterly cold day, the fog, the ice-laden wind and the total lack of shelter, an Arctic-clad party of 26 assembled, and spent a most interesting afternoon examining the structure and contents of the former dam. Dr. Firman was assisted by Mr. R. Ridgeway, who had been involved in the project, and Mr. G. Wozencroft a mining post-graduate student who has conducted research on the material.

Later in the same day, the annual joint meeting was held in Tawney House, Matlock Green with the Matlock Field Club. The subject of the lecture was the Economic Geology of Derbyshire, and the Speaker, Dr. P.R. Ineson of Sheffield University. The tireless E.M.G.S. were again present at the meeting among the large audience of 110, who made it evident that the exploitation of Derbyshire minerals was a matter of much concern to them.

Later in January a programme of geological films was arranged by Mr. E.H. Marriott, and shown in the University of Nottingham. The theme was oil exploration, and the following films were shown: Oil Search, North Sea Quest, and Angle Bay, Pembrokeshire.

At the last meeting of the Society's year, the President of the Society, Dr. F.M. Taylor gave his third Presidential Address, "The Permian and Lower Triassic Landscapes of Nottinghamshire". He gave a vivid picture of the geography of Permo-Triassic times, and related the deposits most convincingly with those of present day desert areas north of the equator. The address will be published in the "Mercian Geologist" in due course.

Perhaps the most popular innovation of the year was the Buffet Supper which following the meeting, and which rounded off the President's term of office. Mrs. Taylor and her helpers arranged the food, the wine was provided by the President and the Treasurer, and some 50 members of the Society were present to enjoy it, a most happy ending to the year's activities.

In all, there were 15 meetings during 1972-73, 6 field excursions, 5 lectures in Nottingham, Derby and Matlock, an A.G.M., and Collectors' Meeting, a Presidential Address, a film show and an Annual Dinner.

The Editor had many reverses and difficulties during 1972, and Vol. 4, no.3 of the Mercian Geologist was delayed until very late in the year. Work was in hand, however, for subsequent issues, and it was expected that later parts could be published at shorter intervals.

Eleven monthly circulars were sent out during the year, a big item in postal costs, but greatly reduced by the 17 members who kindly continue to deliver by hand to people who live in the same district.

Membership rose considerably in 1972, 52 new members were elected, including 27 Ordinary members, 16 Juniors, 2 Joint memberships and 1 Institution. There was an increase in membership of 44.

The present state of membership is as follows:

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional	Total
2	260	100	39	128	529

The Society learned with regret of the death of Mr. C.H. Milner, a founder member, and a keen supporter of Society affairs.

It is pleasant to report that the Society is lively and vigorous at the end of its ninth year, and grateful to all those who made its many activities possible, to the excursion leaders, Messrs. W.H. Hardie, D.B. Smith, W.S. Moffat, R.E. Elliott, Dr. T.D. Ford and Dr. R.J. Firman, and the speakers, Mr. P.H. Speed, Dr. A.C. Waltham, Dr. R.J. Allen, Mr. P.J.E. Woods, Dr. P.R. Ineson, and not the least, the President, Dr. F.M. Taylor.

The Society also recognises with gratitude the support given by Professor the Lord Energlyn and the University of Nottingham, who continue to make us welcome on their premises.

1973 publications continued from p. 84.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TREWIN, N.H. and<br>HOLDSWORTH, B.K. | 1973. Sedimentation in the Lower Namurian Rocks of the North Staffordshire Basin. <i>Proc. Yorks. geol. Soc.</i> vol. 39, pt. 3, pp. 371-408.               |
| TURNER, S.                           | 1973. Siluro-Devonian thelodonts from the Welsh Borderland. <i>Q. Jl. geol. Soc. Lond.</i> vol. 129, pp. 557-584.                                           |
| WALTER, B. and<br>POWELL, H.P.       | 1973. Exceptional preservation in cyclostome Bryozoa from the Middle Lias of Northamptonshire. <i>Palaeontology</i> . vol. 16, pt. 1, pp. 219-220. 1 plate. |

1973, 1974, papers on Midlands Geology **not** noted in the above list, should be sent to The Editor, E.M.G.S., Department of Geology, The University, Nottingham, if they would like an entry in the next issue of the Mercian Geologist.