

Secretary's Report for 1975-76

1975 was an important year in the history of the Society. It had been intended from the earliest days that charity status should be sought, and now at last, during the twelfth year, this had been achieved, and the Society had become a registered charity.

Fourteen meetings were held during the year, comprising six field excursions, five lectures, an Annual General Meeting together with a Collectors' Meeting, an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting and an Annual Dinner.

There was a record attendance of over 100 at the Annual General Meeting in March. Business was quickly dispatched; the serving Officers were re-elected for a further term, and Mr. H. Key was elected to Council to replace Mr. E. T. Winks who had resigned upon removal from the Midlands. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Winks for his services to Council.

Before the commencement of the meeting, exhibitions had been arranged, and when the business was completed, members were free to circulate and enjoy the many interesting collections. Throughout the evening there was a continual inflow of new arrivals, and Mrs. M. Taylor and her efficient company of assistants were busily occupied in serving tea.

Again, Mr. J. H. Sykes held a rock sale, his stall concealed by a dense throng. His profit on this occasion was £27.20, and this he later donated to the Society's Trust Fund.

A list of exhibits follows:

1. A. E. G. Allsop Northumbrian holiday.
2. P. G. Baker Microscope slides of micromorphic brachiopods from Westington Hill Quarry, Gloucs.
3. M. Beaumont & J. Allen. The Geology of the Colne Valley.
4. M. Boneham "Housekeeping on the Wilder Shores of Geology" - How did they live? What did they eat?
5. H. B. Briggs "Looking Back." Mammalian tooth, large ammonite, calcite crystals, drilling bore section, Jurassic crinoid, agate boulder, cave pearls.
6. B. & J. Cantrill Selection of rocks from the Isle of Mull.
7. C. Champion Collection of orthid brachiopods.
8. E. & J. R. Clough Miscellany - echinoids, granite, mica schist.
9. R. E. Elliott Borehole core of volcanic ash from Coal Measures near Epperstone.
10. N. & J. Ellor Limestone fossils and plaster casts.
11. H. G. Fryer Rock specimens from Charnwood Forest.
12. D. & E. Hanford Collection of flints from the beach near Sheringham, Norfolk.
13. P. M. Hanford *Teleosaurus* from the Alum Shales.
14. R. C. Gratton Mixed fossils and Blue John slices.
15. P. F. Jones Authigenic gypsum from Pleistocene till, Boulton Moor, Derby.
16. N. Leiter Some common gemstones.
17. R. W. Morrell Recent and fossil mollusca.
18. D. M. Morrow Lava from Lanzaroti, Canary Isles.
19. G. A. Naylor Collection of quartz, calcite and fluorspar in variety.
20. H. R. Potter Sediment sampler used to measure sediment content of small rivers.
21. E. Ramsell Mineral specimens from Cannington Park Quarry, Somerset.
22. G. S. Robson Holiday in Scotland, Graptolites, haematite, metamorphics.
23. M. Stanley Ipswichian mammalian fauna from the Beeston Terrace, Boulton Moor, near Derby (Derby Museum)

- 24. J. H. Sykes Geological quiz.
- 25. Dept. of Geology Examples of fossil preservation.
Univ. of Nottingham. Assortment of geological books from the Dept. library.
- 26. The Editor Back issues of the Mercian Geologist.

In April, the last indoor meeting of the session was held. Mr. J. G. Ford, (Department of Liberal Studies in Science, University of Manchester), described his study of Palaeotides. His paper on this unusual subject was shortly to be published in the Mercian Geologist, and the introductory lecture was welcomed.

The weekend excursion early in May was centred in the Ingleton area and the party of 40 were for the most part accommodated in hotels in Ingleton. The leader, Dr. A. C. Walton of the Department of Geology, Trent Polytechnic, provided transport for the bulk of the Derby and Nottingham members, and also drove the minibus. Before retiring for the first night, he fixed up his screen, gave an introductory talk on the geology of the area, and illustrated it with superb slides. With this energetic start he set the pace for a most delightful and impressive two days in sunny karst country, dramatic caves and waterfalls on the one hand and spectacular limestone pavements on the other, and a second showing of geological slides on Saturday evening. Indeed the enthusiasm of this indefatigable leader was so infectious that the minibus party extended the excursion by visiting Malham Cove on the homeward journey.

In June, Dr. F. Broadhurst of the Department of Geology, University of Manchester, met the party at Buxton to lead an excursion to the Goyt Valley and the Macclesfield area. After visiting Goyts Moss to examine exposures of Coal Measures, the party travelled to Kerridge to see a fine bed of bivalve escape shafts among the sediments. The final locality of the day was Axe Edge which brought to an end a most interesting and informative excursion.

Also in June, Dr. F. M. Taylor (Nottingham University) conducted one of his popular geological coach tours, this time to the Peak District. The outward journey ran northwards up the eastern side of the Pennines, and the return journey southwards down the western side. Coach excursions such as this are welcomed by members unwilling to commit themselves to a day's walking.

The July excursion to the Nuneaton area was led by Dr. W. A. Cummins, also from Nottingham University. The emphasis was laid on Cambrian sediments and ample time was allowed for a detailed study of these.

In September an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting was called. During the previous eighteen months, Council had held communication with the Charity Commissioners on the question of charity status for the Society. At last an agreement had been reached that charity status would be accorded when certain amendments had been made to the wording of the Society's Constitution. Council decided that the amendments were acceptable and called a meeting to obtain the approval of the Society. On 20th, September 1975 this approval was given and from that date the Society was recognised as a charitable institution. All the lengthy negotiations were carried out by Mr. R. C. Gratton, to whom the Society is extremely grateful.

Next day, Mr. D. N. Robinson, M. Sc., Resident Tutor, Nottingham University Department of Adult Education, met the coach at Tattershall, Lincs., and conducted a large party on a tour of the Fen area of Lincolnshire, culminating in a visit to Gibraltar Point. After hearing an account of the development of this most interesting strip of coast, members examined shingle deposits until it was time to leave for the return journey which was made through the undulating country north of the Fen. Most of the party found time to call into the new Visitors' Centre, which had much to offer.

The October excursion to Crich and Kilburn was led by Dr. D. V. Frost and Mr. G. J. O. Smart, both of the Institute of Geological Sciences. The imagination was captured at the first exposure, when the party was introduced to "Morley Muck", a material which did not belie its name but which was rich in well-preserved fossils. Later in the day there was a pleasant visit to Crich Hill.

The first indoor meeting was held in November when Professor C. Downie of the Department of Geology, University of Sheffield, lectured on "The use of Plankton in Stratigraphical Studies". There was a large audience present who received the lecture with great interest.

Early in December, Dr. M. A. Khan, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Leicester University, gave an excellent lecture on the subject of Magnetism and Geology. Again there was a large audience and a deal of discussion.

In January, a meeting was held in Matlock jointly with the Matlock Field Club. The speaker, Dr. F. M. Taylor, took as his title "Fossils of Derbyshire excluding Corals - well, almost!", and dealt energetically with them to the delight of his enormous audience.

The eleventh Annual Dinner was held in February in the Wollaton Park Golf Clubhouse, where a large party enjoyed a pleasant evening arranged by Dr. R. B. Elliott.

The President gave his third Presidential Address in February. He took for his subject Sediments of the Kingston Brook Catchment, and gave an interesting description of the investigations carried out on sediments derived from varied soils.

There was great attendance at both lectures and excursions, and the Society is very grateful to the speakers, Mr. Ford, Professor Downie, Dr. Khan, Dr. Taylor, and to the President for an excellent session of lectures, to Dr. Waltham, Dr. Broadhurst, Dr. Cummins, Mr. Robinson, Dr. Frost and Mr. Smart for their splendid excursions, and to Dr. Taylor for his geological tour.

Eleven circulars were sent out in 1975, although during that time postage costs almost doubled and became a considerable drain on the Society's resources. It is a very great help that so many members are willing to distribute circulars and journals by hand, a very much appreciated service.

Membership remained reassuringly steady and there was a regular inflow of new members to offset the loss through removal from the area. The state of membership at the end of the year was as follows:

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional	Total
2	257	120	20	107	506

Editorial affairs flourished during 1975 and the Editor succeeded in publishing Volume 5, No.3 in September and Volume 5, No.4 in December. At the Annual General Meeting he acknowledged the support which he received from the Society in his work, from manuscript readers, proof readers and from his efficient band of collators who reduced his costs by some £60 per issue.

Acknowledgement must also be given to Miss Susan and Miss Marian Taylor who kindly typed members' addresses for computerisation. The adhesive labels so produced greatly reduced time and labour in despatching circulars and journals, and earned the gratitude of both Secretary and Editor.

A valuable addition to the Society's resources was made during the year in the portable display unit designed and produced by Mr. M. F. Stanley, and intended for exhibition in libraries, museums and other public places throughout the East Midlands. The Society appreciates this means of publicising its activities. Mr. Stanley has kindly taken charge of its movements.

It remains only now to record the gratitude of the Society to Professor Lord Energlyn, our very good friend, and to the University body who provide us with our spiritual home.

D. M. Morrow,
Secretary.