

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1980

The seventeenth year of the Society maintained a steady membership of around 500, although each year some were lost through resignation and a few from their membership lapsing, the new members tended to make up the loss. The varied programme of meetings and excursions during the year had their enthusiastic following and as usual we were fortunate in obtaining speakers and leaders who made each occasion so worthwhile.

There were thirteen meetings in all, eight indoor and five field excursions, consisting of four day trips and one week-end.

The Annual General Meeting on 1st March was attended by 54 members, and ran very smoothly with no problems. It was followed by a Collectors' Meeting and the ever popular 'Bring and Buy' stall, which on this occasion made a handsome profit of £38.50. Our thanks to Mr. J. H. Sykes for donating this to the Society, and for his hard work in running the stall and in preparation of the specimens. Members' exhibits were set up in the Swinnerton Laboratory and made those who had not contributed feel a little guilty at the effort put in to make such a fine display.

The names and titles of exhibits are as follows:

Earth Sciences on Stamps	P. I. Manning
Some Precious Stones—or just Quartz	N. Leiter
Mineral Collection	Mrs. D. M. Morrow
Middle Triassic Bonebed. Vertebrate Fauna from Germany	J. H. Sykes
The Outer Hebrides	Mrs. M. Beaumont and Miss E. Ramsell
Pseudomorphs	Mr. & Mrs. T. F. Bridges
Fossils from the Lower Cretaceous, Lincs	D. Penney
Pebbles from Beaches	J. Cantrill
Random Gleanings	G. S. Robson
The Mercian Geologist Vol. 1-6, Vol. 7 No. 1-3	Dr. F. M. Taylor
Computer Addressograph	Dr. F. M. Taylor
Orthid Brachiopods	C. Champion
<i>Ovum Problematica</i> (Ezra)	Natural History Museum Wollaton Hall
Manufacture of thin sections for the Department of Geology	J. Travis

The Joint Meeting with the Matlock Field Club was held on Saturday 15th March at a changed venue, the Department of Geology, University of Nottingham. Previously the meeting had always taken place in January but in the hope of encountering more clement weather, it had been decided to try a March date. The audience of about 40, largely Society members, listened to Dr. R. G. Thurrell talk on Minerals and the Countryside, a subject very relevant to the Trent Valley and Derbyshire.

The April meeting took place on the 12th and had a close relationship with the previous talk. Mr. J. A. M. Barnett spoke on the Geology of the North East Leicestershire Prospect or better known as the Belvoir Coalfield. The 70 members attending gave Mr. Barnett a hard time with their searching questions. He had also mounted an exhibition of 19th century mining in the Swinnerton Laboratory.

The first excursion of 1980 to the Wrekin area of Shropshire on 18th May was led by Dr. P. H. Bridges. He had most kindly stepped in at short notice and gave the 40 members attending a most interesting day's geology examining rocks of the late Precambrian and early Palaeozoic. He had, as on a previous occasion, prepared polished specimens and photographs of the rocks in thin section, which were much appreciated.

The 15th June saw 50 members joined by several Leicestershire Literary and Philosophical Society members accompany Dr. T. D. Ford along the disused railway from Monsal Head to Millers Dale, an excursion which had been undertaken in October 1972, and enjoyed as much by those attending on that previous occasion as by the new members.

Another repeat excursion occurred on 13th July to Charnwood. Again one of our members gallantly stepped in at short notice owing to the ill-health of the original leader. Mr. Moffatt not only talked of the geology of this classic area, but also its history, flora and fauna.

On 14th September 34 members on the coach with various cars following made a traverse of the East Midlands Coalfield in North Derbyshire. Mr. J. H. Rippon, a member of the Society, led the group from Cutthorpe, Chesterfield, using Cresswell Crags Visitors' Centre as a lunch stop, to Whitwell Works Quarry, and finally, to a National Coal Board borehole. The drilling operation being completed, the party picked over, and came away with, some interesting pieces of core.

The 1980 week-end excursion was spent in the Lake District from 3-5th October and was led by Dr. G. C. Brown. Three Guest Houses were used for the 30 people attending, Stonegarth, Glendale and Foye House in Keswick. An introductory talk was given by the leader on Friday evening at Stonegarth. Saturday was spent on the Eycott Hill lavas, Mungrisedale (Skiddaw Slates) and examining their relationship to the Carrock Fell Gabbros and Skiddaw Granite, along the River Caldew, finishing at Threlkeld granite quarry. On Sunday the party met at the south end of Bassenthwaite Lake for the outcrop of Barf Slates; thence to the dolerite-slates contact at Friars Crag; lunch and stream exposures at Grange Village; Borrowdale Volcanics at Grange Fell and finally to the Ennerdale granophyre outcrop. A successful week-end even though the President was locked out of the Guest House on one night, and the leader on both. The Proprietor seemed to imply that 'all decent men be abed by 11 pm!'.

The Winter session started with an indoor meeting held on a Thursday evening 16th October. The Lecture Hall in the Department of Geology was completely filled, standing room only for latecomers, to hear Dr. T. D. Ford lecture on the Geology of the Grand Canyon, which he liberally illustrated with slides. A nostalgic reminder for all those members having visited the area 2 months previously.

On 8th November Dr. A. M. Evans talked of Fluid Inclusions and their use in Mineral Exploration, attended by about 40 members of the Society. He described his work which he hoped eventually would lead to an indication of workable quantities of minerals, such as copper, in granite masses.

The last meeting in 1980 on 29th November was preceded by an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting. The Treasurer proposed that, to take advantage of a considerably lower Auditor's fee, the Auditors appointed at the Annual General Meeting in March should be changed from that of Stephenson, Nutally & Co, to Edward Parsons. The meeting of about 40 members agreed unanimously. The lecture on the Geology of North East Ireland then followed and Mr. H. E. Wilson, a previous District Geologist of the area, gave members a fascinating look at the region.

The first meeting of 1981 took place on 17th January when Professor W. S. Pitcher talked of Andean Geology on Horseback. He described his encounters with the people of the area and tried to convey the vastness of this mountain desert.

The Foundation Lecture was given this year by Dr. Julia Hubbard on 7th February, who spoke on Enigmatic Coral Reefs, describing her work in many parts of the world, to a full Lecture Hall. Owing to my indisposition, the President's husband, Mr. Morrow, most kindly provided transport on this occasion.

So Dr. Hubbard's excellent lecture brought to an end the series of indoor and field meetings for 1980. Our thanks to the leaders: Dr. P. H. Bridges of the Division of Geology, Derby Lonsdale College of H. E., Dr. T. D. Ford of the Department of Geology, University of Leicester, Mr. W. S. Moffatt at Loughborough, Mr. J. H. Rippon of the National Coal Board and Dr. G. C. Brown of the Open University. Also to the speakers: Dr. R. G. Thurrell of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth, Nottingham, Mr. J. A. M. Barnett of the National Coal Board, Dr. T. D. Ford, Dr. A. M. Evans of the Department of Geology, University of Leicester, Mr. H. E. Wilson of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth, Professor W. S. Pitcher of the Department of Geology, University of Liverpool and Dr. Julia Hubbard, University of London, King's College. They readily gave their time to provide members with an informative and interesting programme for the year.

The circular was sent out every month except August when there were no meetings and for the first time appeared in colour as a quantity of paper had been available for purchase at a much reduced cost. It had publicised other Societies' activities and courses being held in different parts of the country, as well as being used

by several members to advertise 'things geological'. As the postage continues to rise, the Society is increasingly appreciative of those who hand deliver for this valuable service, both for circulars and of course, the Journal. Both the Editor and Secretary will always be pleased to hear of anyone able to help in this way.

Council had 6 meetings during the year, discussing the programme and trying to ensure that interesting lectures and excursions were arranged that would cater for all tastes. We hope we get it right, but we are always open to suggestions and prepared to try something new if the support is there. All the affairs of the Society are discussed at these meetings and any items for the agenda should be sent to the Secretary at least 3 weeks before the next Council Meeting, which is always notified in the circular.

The membership of the Society showed a slight increase compared with 1979 and was as follows:

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional	Total
2	262	120	4	119	507

The Mercian Geologist had been published twice, Vol. 7, No. 4 in April, and Vol. 8, No. 1 in November. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the help given by those collating, enveloping and distributing, is of great value in the production of the Journal. Without these willing members, it would cost nearly twice as much and every Journal is checked individually.

The Society Exhibit which travels around the East Midlands publicising our existence, toured the Branch Libraries in Nottinghamshire and we are grateful to the Library Services for their very great help in transporting the Exhibit between the locations.

The University of Nottingham and Professor P. E. Baker continue to allow the Society the use of the Department of Geology for our activities and functions, with these facilities at our disposal, we are able to maintain a high standard. We cannot too often express our sincere thanks both to the University and Professor Baker and I am sure they realise how grateful we are.

Finally, my own gratitude to all Members of Council and members of the Society, some coming to my rescue at very short notice, others willing to be persuaded to speak or be leaders, they all help to make the work of Secretary a little easier and certainly a most enjoyable task.

W. M. Wright