

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1983

The 20th year of the Society was again successful with the activities being well supported on most occasions. There were 7 indoor, 4 day excursions, 1 week-end, 1 Joint meeting and 1 evening visit, making 14 in all for 1983.

The Annual General Meeting on 12 March, held in the Lecture Hall, Department of Geology, Nottingham, was attended by the 5 Officers on the Council and 46 members. The meeting went very smoothly and was enlivened by the Editor's Saga of Vol 9 No 1 which had a history of unfortunate occurrences. The new technology caused more problems than it solved at this early stage of its use, but he was able to produce the Journal at the meeting holding it aloft in triumph. The Treasurer had, as usual, kept the Society well in the black and was congratulated for his efforts by the President. Three new Council Members were elected in addition to those eligible for re-election. The new Editor, Dr I.D. Bryant, smoothly took over the reins from Dr. M.F. Taylor. The President gave a special Vote of Thanks to Dr. Taylor for his 10 years as Editor, who in appreciation of all the work he had done for the Society, was presented with a cut-glass decanter, and as a further tribute, Council made him an Honorary Member of the Society.

Following this meeting Dr. A.C. Waltham gave a lecture on "Limestone and other Rocks in the Far East". He talked of his visit to Java the previous summer where he had been asked to investigate the possible tapping of water resources in the limestone area which covers a large part of the Country. During the wet season there are no problems, but as the available supply dries up, longer and longer distances have to be walked to obtain water for both cattle and people. It is always there and as Dr. Waltham illustrated with his slides, the villagers put themselves in great danger as they try to obtain it from caves at depth. The team were able to pinpoint several locations where the supply could be tapped reasonably easily with simple pumps. He finished his lecture with slides taken of a journey up-river in China, and one saw the reason for Chinese paintings of mountains being pinnacled—that is the shape of them!

The April meeting took place on the 23rd, the subject being, "Basalt: the World's most abundant volcanic rocks", given by Dr. K.G. Cox. About 65 members were assembled in the Lecture Hall to hear him describe how, in former times, vast amounts of lava were produced which formed extensive plateaus, in sharp contrast to any known extrusions of the present day.

An evening visit was arranged for Wednesday, 18th May to the Institute of Geological Sciences (now the British Geological Survey), Keyworth. The Assistant Director, Mr. W. Evans, welcomed about 30 members to what proved to be a very tight schedule of looking briefly at 6 Departments in 2 hours. Several staff had kindly remained to demonstrate their work, but, as usual, there was nothing like enough time to listen to the enthusiasts.

The first excursion of the summer on 11 June visited Corby and was led by Dr. J.D. Hudson. Weldon Stone Quarry in Upper Lincolnshire Limestone is now uneconomic as no sufficiently large slabs are left but the cutting, carving and turning workshops, were seen, a fireplace being in production. At Kirby Hall, partly ruined but with sections being renovated, the stone quarried at Weldon had been used to great effect with some spectacular carving. After lunch the party moved to Cowthick Quarry with its exposures of the Middle Jurassic overlain by Boulder Clay. This is due for infilling by domestic refuse starting in May 1985.

On the 3 July Dr. F.M. Taylor arranged a traverse of Nottinghamshire, starting at Holwell Nature Reserve. The various fossil strata with very fragile ammonites were visible in the Lower Jurassic of the Marlstone Ironstone. Two of the original adits had been barred to prevent illegal entry but allowing the resident bat population easy access. Also beautiful Bee Orchids and Common Blue Butterflies were much in evidence. Next on the list was Barnstone where the Lias was found to have been buried by rubbish so nothing was visible. A gypsum quarry south of Newark was visited after lunch with the foreman escorting the party to the various levels and qualities of gypsum. South again to Gunthorpe Weir for its bands of gypsum in the bank, and the low state of the river had uncovered good examples of salt pseudomorphs. The traverse continued to Colwick and Nottingham Castle for the Lower Pebble Bed Formations and finally the Lenton Abbey Formation was cruised past at the University Hospital.

Mr. P.F. Jones led the excursion to the Quaternary of Derbyshire on 4 September, his theme being "Legacy of the Ice Age in Derbyshire". The coach met up with those travelling by car at Bakewell including Dr. Cynthia Burek. Both she and Mr Jones gave a short talk at the Information Bureau lecture room outlining the day's activities. Shining Bank Quarry commonly produces erratics from the Lake District and North Scotland, the till being freshly exposed as the overburden is stripped away. As the coach travelled Southwards the leaders gave a running commentary on the landscape. The stream at Breadsall exposed slumping which previously had been mistaken for folding, and a new housing estate's trenches revealed the levels of sands, gravels and clays. Finally the wide valley of the Dove, Trent and Derwent at Church Wilne with a friendly farmer allowing the party access across his land to examine the gravels, the rock types indicating a probable source from the NNW.

The Week-end Field Excursion visited the Durham area from 16–18 September and was led by Sir Kingsley Dunham. Thirty one members stayed at St. Mary's College University of Durham. The Saturday morning was spent in Durham itself with Sir Kingsley explaining both the geology and the history of the Castle and the Cathedral. Finchale Priory was visited after lunch with again a fascinating account of its geology and history. Sunday was spent in visiting the Northern Pennine Orefield. A cloudburst at the end of the afternoon at High Force prevented anyone from leaving their cars, and unfortunately, we were unable to express their thanks to Sir Kingsley. After 50 years of leading excursions this would be his last and all agreed he had been a 'super' leader.

On the 2 October Dr. R.J.O. Hamblin took a party of 25 to the Lickey Hills, south of Birmingham. Taking a pleasant walk through the Park to Kendal End Farm and a not so pleasant wade through the 'wet' farmyard, the extremely weathered Barnt Green Volcanic Series of probable Precambrian age exposure was seen, a few worm burrows being found in specimens. The 'dirty' Lickey Quartzite with its tight folding at the Reservoir Road Quarry contrasted with the much paler and more recognisable Quartzite at Rubery, which here is overlain unconformably by Rubery Sandstone. The last location of the day was Wildmoor Sandstone Quarry where the sandstone with its very red and even sized grains was used as a moulding sand.

The Joint Meeting with the Matlock Field Club was held on 8th October at Wirksworth Town Hall and Coleshill Quarry. Mr. I.A. Thomas spoke in the morning about the proposed National Stone Centre at Wirksworth. Industries usually have a 'shop-front' at which information is readily available and it was the intention to provide this facility for the Stone Industry. After lunch the Coleshill Quarry, north of the town, was visited and the general layout envisaged was demonstrated. The geology and ecology were to be preserved, a Visitors' Centre including educational facilities built, and a 'Show Case' for those interested in the use of stone. The Wirksworth Library had mounted an exhibition with an artist's impression of the final layout.

The early November meeting took place on Bonfire Night, much to some members', with young children, disgust. Dr. M.P. Coward gave a pictorial look at the Kohistan-Karakorum area of North Pakistan, firstly by a diagram demonstrating the pattern of events which has led to this vast range of mountains being created. As plate movement continues earlier folds and thrusts tighten causing rapid uplift and earthquake activity. His slides showed the hair-raising 'roads' which snake along the mountain sides, and none in a stable condition especially after infrequent heavy rain.

The 2nd meeting in November was held on the 19th, when Dr. Peigi Wallace prepared the assembled members for the wine to follow. "The Geology of Wine" always proves a most popular subject, and starting at the base with the Precambrian Port, Dr. Wallace worked up the succession through the Devonian Rhine and Moselle wines, the Jurassic Burgundies, Cretaceous/Tertiary Champagnes and finally the Quaternary Bordeaux. She obviously enjoyed geologising in Europe especially in close proximity to a vinyard. Around 75 people sampled the selection of 6 wines and accompanying food which was kindly provided by Miss E.M. Colthorpe, Mrs. M. Middleton, Miss F.E. Calladine and Mrs. D. Marriott.

The last meeting of 1983 was held on 10 December, Dr. I.A. Hill giving a lecture on the "Origin of the Cape Verde Islands—a hot spot in the sun?" Just north west of the Equator in Africa, these mostly barren islands were considered ideal for studying "hot spots" and the origin of oceanic islands. Dr. Hill eventually hoped to return to study this problem further.

In the New Year a different day and venue was chosen for Dr. J.H.McD. Whitaker's talk on "Sandstones I have known" to enable members in Leicester to attend more easily, and was held in the Bennett Building of Leicester University on Thursday 19th January. Dinner for the speaker was arranged by the President at the University prior to the meeting, the meal and company being excellent. Dr. Whitaker discussed the varying environments in which sandstones are laid down and the differences which interested him. His travels world wide had taken him to Japan and his slides showed unforgettable structures which could be described as man-sized salt pots, 2 m. in diameter at the base, to which he could offer no definite answer as to their origin. Finally he spoke of the deeply buried sandstones which could be oil or gas bearing reservoirs.

The last meeting of the Society year as always was the Presidential Address on 11th February when Dr. Ford spoke of the "Paradoxes of the Colorado Plateau". The President, Mrs. Ford and several Council Members enjoyed dinner at the Savoy Hotel Steak Bar prior to the meeting at Nottingham University. He had warned he would be showing numerous slides, but disaster struck as the projector bulb blew, and no spares were to hand in the Department. Luckily Dr. Sutton took one from his own projector for the evening. The puzzling features of his address gave the assembled full Lecture Hall much to think about.

So the year of indoor meetings and field excursions ended with its usual excellence. Our thanks and appreciation to the President, Dr. Whitaker and Dr. Hill both of Leicester University, Dr. Wallace of Imperial College, London, Dr. Coward of Leeds University, Mr. Thomas of Derbyshire County Council at Matlock, Dr. Hamblin of British Geological Survey at Keyworth, Sir Kinglsey Dunham, FRS Emeritus Professor of Geology, Mr. Jones of Derby College of Higher Education, Dr. Taylor of Nottingham University, Dr. Hudson of Leicester University, Mr. Evans and Dr. Read of BGS Keyworth, Dr. Cox of Oxford University, Dr. Waltham of the Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham and Dr. Burek. They have all, in their differing ways, given the Society a stimulating year's meetings both indoors and in the field.

Eleven circulars had been produced with the Society's activities and any items of geological interest to members being published. Please remember that notices may be inserted (not too long) by contacting the Secretary. The network of members who deliver by hand still functions extremely well, but there is always room for others to help should they be able. We certainly appreciate the service they render both for the circular and the Mercian Geologist.

The Society Exhibit, having been renovated and updated most successfully by Mr. M.F. Stanley, started on its rounds again. It was first delivered to the British Geological Survey at Keyworth, then to the Science Library at Nottingham University and ended at Leicester University. Members are reminded that the Exhibit is available for display by contacting the Secretary.

Sadly the deaths of 6 members occurred during the year, Mr. Bentley from Derbyshire, Dr. Warwick from Birmingham. Mr. Lodge had just completed the sampling at Headstone Cutting at Monsal Head, he had also been one of the hand deliverers in the Radcliffe-on-Trent area as well as a collator of the Mercian Geologist. Dr. Peter Manning at Keyworth had been a Council Member recently and had always been most helpful with advice and suggestions. Mr. Eric Marriott was the Society's Treasurer for 6 years from 1973-1978, and had nursed the Secretary through her first year in office in 1978, and finally perhaps the most tragic was the sudden death of 18 year old David Richardson who had just begun as a student at Nottingham University.

Nottingham Leisure Services had asked the Society to lead geological walks in the City and County. Dr. I.D. Sutton and Mrs. J. Rigby had led both the City Centre Walk and River Trent features. Each had been very well attended and it became obvious that other guides should be trained to take over, especially the City Centre Walks. Any member who feels they would enjoy this challenge, should contact the Secretary to join the small team of those who lead these walks.

Council decided that we should invest in buying 50 Elsevier's Mineral and Rock Tables, the price being much reduced if bought in bulk, and I am pleased to report that these all sold very quickly at £4 per copy.

There had been 5 Council Meetings in 1983 at which all the previous items had been discussed, and meetings, both indoor and field, were arranged. Members are respectfully reminded that ideas for activities or any suggestions are always welcome, and will be considered as long as they are practical. These should be sent to the Secretary to arrive not later than 3 weeks before the next Council Meeting which is always notified in the circular.

Society Membership was as follows

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional
3	236	120	2	114

a total of 475, a slight drop on 1982.

The Mercian Geologist had been published twice, in December and March 1984 just in the Society 1983 year. Dr. I.D. Bryant had taken over from Dr. F.M. Taylor inheriting most of Vol. 9 No. 2 from him. The collating this time being done by the University Press, although to satisfy the collating addicts, reprints still needed their expert touch. The Distribution Team led by Mr. J.H. Sykes performed their task efficiently and smoothly, but still under the eagle eye of Dr. Taylor.

The facilities the Society are allowed to use by Professor P.E. Baker and the University of Nottingham are very much appreciated. The Journal for its distribution needs space, and this has been readily available, as is the Lecture Hall and the Swinerton Laboratory for our lectures and social functions. We sincerely thank them for this privilege.

Lastly, may I thank you all for your help and advice during 1983, and I am most grateful to Council Members, speakers and leaders for their willingness and support to make this the Society's 20th successful year.

W. Madge Wright

OMISSION

The Secretary wishes to apologise to Mr. John Keen for the omission, from her report (*Mercian Geologist*, vol. 10, no. 1, p. 69) of his exhibit at the Collectors' Meeting in March 1982. He had kindly brought along and displayed Ichthyosaur Bones found in the Kimmeridge at South Ferriby, Lincolnshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5th November, 1985

Dear Sir,

I found David Quirk's paper on the mineralogy and paragenesis of Speedwell Mine (*Mercian Geologist* Vol. 10, No. 1 1985) most interesting. He is, however, incorrect in thinking that the wulfenite from Whirlpool Rising is the first positively identified from the South Pennine Orefield.

In 1978 I found in situ in the opencast above Ball Eye Quarry, Cromford, three small crystals of wulfenite in association with anglesite and native sulphur. In 1980, numerous small plates and octahedral crystals were found on calcite from the dumps of the Isolation Mine near Ashbourne. The former occurrence is recorded in the *Journal of the Russell Society*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1983.

To the best of my knowledge, the Isolation Mine occurrence has not been published.

Yours faithfully,

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