

EAST MIDLANDS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1984/85

This was the Society's 21st year with, as usual, a variety of subjects for the Indoor Meetings and locations for the Field Excursions. These consisted of 7 indoor, 4 field days, 2 week-end, 1 week and a Joint day with the Matlock Field Club, with the leaders and speakers providing their services freely.

After the Annual General Meeting in March, a Collectors' Meeting was held and was master-minded by the late Jim Sykes who sadly died only a few weeks later. The April Meeting was on Portuguese Trilobites given by Dr. M. Romano of Sheffield University. On a Thursday evening in May Professor Wayne Ahr from Texas talked on Uniformitarian Sedimentology—he was spending a few months at Leicester University.

A week-end in the Ingleton area in May was led by Paul Smith, aided by Ian Bryant, both at that time at Nottingham University. The President, Dr. T.D. Ford, ably led the Isle of Man week-end at the end of May. The June Excursion to Nuneaton was with Dr. M.J. le Bas of Leicester University. As far as numbers were concerned, the most successful excursion, was in celebration of the Society's 20 years. This was a repeat of one made in its 1st year to Dudley, with a barge trip on the Canal in the morning and a leisurely stroll around the Black Country Museum in the afternoon, the pace being dictated by the very hot weather which ended up as a thunderstorm just as we were to leave for Nottingham again.

The Eastern Lake District was the venue for the week's excursion with Dr. A.J. Wadge spending the whole week with the group and later assisted by Dr. M. Nutt both from the British Geological Survey at Keyworth. Unfortunately one of the members broke her ankle on the second day and spent the next few weeks in hospital, but I am pleased to report she has now completely recovered.

September's Excursion, to the Charnwood Area was led by Dr. R.A. Old of British Geological Survey at Keyworth, and at the end of September a small coach party visited Chatterley Whitfield Mining Museum and afterwards in complete contrast, the very modern City Museum and Art Gallery at Hanley where members listened to a talk on the work of the Curators by Mr. I. Steward.

The Joint Meeting with the Matlock Field Club was again a full day, Wendy Emmett, a Nature Conservancy Council Warden, talking on the Water Resources and Drainage Systems of Lathkil Dale and in the afternoon leading a visit to the area.

The indoor meeting in November was a very descriptive talk on Decorative Stone, Rock as a Status Symbol given by Mr. R. Roberts of the Geological Museum in London, and for the December meeting we travelled the Solar System with Dr. R.W. Jotham of the Adult Education Department, Nottingham, the following wine and buffet reflecting the journey through space. There were no promises for a follow-up excursion!

In January Professor Worsley of Nottingham University spoke of Ice Age Cheshire before Glaciation comparing this with his work in the High Arctic and the final meeting was the Presidential Address on the Evolution of Castleton Caves. So ended the year with its very varied programme. All indoor meetings except one had had full lecture halls but the day excursions were not nearly as well patronised. To encourage members to attend during the summer season, Council had decided to keep the coach fares to £3.00 or below during the 1985 period.

This previous point was one of the problems discussed during the 5 Council Meetings held in 1984, as were the Society's affairs, arranging the programme and any ideas put forward by members. These are always welcome and should be sent to the Secretary.

Eleven circulars had been produced reminding everyone of the forthcoming programme. The Society is most grateful to those members who every year willingly hand deliver them to those within their area, as they also do the Mercian Geologist, thus saving us at least £12 per circular and considerably more on the Journal.

The Society Exhibit, which publicises our publications and activities, had spent time in the Chesterfield Tourist Board, exhibited at the Association of Teacher's of Geology Conference at Leicester University, then to Arnold Library, Nottingham and finished up at Derbyshire College of Higher Education.

In 1984 members had been asked to sign Deed of Covenant forms to enable the Society to recover money they had paid in Income Tax to which around 25 had responded. These forms are available from the Secretary on request.

The Society Archives, consisting of masters for the Journal, which had been held by the late Jim Sykes (another debt we owed to him), were now housed with the Treasurer who had kindly taken over the responsibility for them.

In 1984 the Society purchased various sets of books which were then sold to members at a reduced rate where possible. Geological Howlers which was a second buy did not sell as well as before, but the Geologists' Association Guides sold very well indeed at only 50p per guide.

Again a slight drop in membership with a total of 471:-

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional
3	235	122	4	107

Dr. R.J. Firman had taken over as Editor in September but had encountered problems all the way. Volume 9 No. 4 was ready before Christmas, but with typists doing Exam Papers and trouble in actually getting it printed with numerous errors when it was, the Journal with a December date was not available until March 1985. He wished to thank Dr. F.M. Taylor for still organizing the sale and delivery of the Mercian Geologist to both members and Exchange Libraries.

Again our thanks to Professor P.E. Baker and the University of Nottingham for readily allowing the Society the use of the Department of Geology for our activities, and my thanks to everyone, especially Council, Speakers and Leaders for making the job of Secretary such a pleasure, with all your support 1984 has been another successful year.

W. Madge Wright