

## MERCIAN NEWS

### Second best?

Quote from *Geology Today*, Sept./Oct. 1993, reporting on the newsletter of the Black Country Geological Society: "... what shines out from the BCGS *Newsletter* (now serving over 100 members six times a year) is that there is *no* geological society with a more enthusiastic and active membership". Those of us who have had any contact with the BCGS can attest to the impressively infectious enthusiasm of its members, but aren't we pretty impressive, too? For anybody stung into a response, there is no better way of demonstrating your commitment than by penning something for the *Mercian Geologist*. Anything of interest, from a paragraph of news or comment to a full-blown article will happily be considered by the editorial board!

### Guidance from a former President

Most members will know Trevor Ford, who has served several terms on Council and was EMGS President from 1982 to 1985. One of Trevor's favourite field areas has always been the Isle of Man, and he has recently put his experience of the island into print in the form of a Geologists' Association Field Guide. His hope is that this will help more geologists to discover the attractions of the Isle of Man, and to exploit its teaching qualities and research possibilities. The guide is comprehensive; there is a 52-page introduction to the geology, followed by eight itineraries with the following titles: Manx Group, Granites and Mines, Peel Sandstones, Carboniferous Limestone, Scarlett Volcanics, Tertiary Dykes, Quaternary of the Northwest Coast, Quaternary of the Northeast Coast. The text is fully supported by maps, cross-sections and field photographs. For anybody visiting the island, the guide is a must at £8.50 and is available from the Geologists' Association Office, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 9AG.

### Derby Environmental Week

*John Atkinson writes:* This biennial event took place in 1994, from Saturday May 21st to Friday May 27th, coinciding with National Environmental Week. The EMGS joined other local groups in staging the event. The Society's newly improved exhibit, accompanied by some excellent fossil specimens provided by John Marriott, was displayed at Elvaston Castle on the Sunday and attracted considerable attention and favourable comments from visitors. A programme organised by Peter Jones of Derby University and Nick Moyes of Derby Museum took place at the Museum on the Wednesday evening. Participants were treated to a lecture on the geomorphology of Derby, a demonstration of the recently constructed 'Geology Time Tunnel' and a guided (and unfortunately rather rainswept) walk round the city looking at building stones.

### Trevor Bridges awarded Russell Medal

It is a few years since Trevor Bridges lectured to the Society and entertained us with his amazing underground photography and tales of family excursions into some of the most inaccessible levels of the

Derbyshire lead mines. However, members who know him will not be surprised to hear that the Russell Society has recently presented him with their Russell Medal for 1993. The medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of topographic and specimen mineralogy, site documentation and conservation. Although he now lives closer to Weardale than to the Peak District and we don't see him so often, it is good to hear of one of the Society's enthusiastic amateur members receiving such an important award.

### Stone Trail of Stamford

Alan Dawn has recently produced an excellent guide to the building stone of Stamford. Stamford is sited on the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation, and stone has been quarried locally for hundreds of years and consequently used extensively in the town's buildings.

The guide takes the form of a trail designed to show the surprisingly large variety of stonework to be found within a fairly small area in the middle of Stamford. Barnack Rag, Clipsham Stone, Collyweston Slate, Wittering Pendle and many others are all there, together with stone from further afield brought into the town since the opening of the railway in the 1840s. Although written for the layman, the wealth of geological and historical detail in this guide should be of great interest to members. It is beautifully illustrated with the author's original line drawings.

The *Stone Trail* (Stamford Museum's Town Trail No. 6) can be obtained from the Museum, Broad Street, Stamford at a cost of 40p, or 75p including postage.

The guide was published with a grant from the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association. If any members are interested in producing a similar guide to their own area, they should contact Eric Robinson at the Geologists' Association, as it may well be possible to apply for financial assistance.

### New BGS surveys in the Loughborough area

The British Geological Survey has recently commenced work on a major multi-disciplinary resurvey of the Loughborough district (Geological Sheet 141). The survey will initially produce digital geological maps at the 1:10 000 scale, each accompanied by a technical report. These will be followed by a new 1:50 000 scale map and memoir.

Geologically, the district is a complex and interesting one. It contains part of Charnwood Forest, the Carboniferous Limestone inliers between Grace Dieu and Breedon, the Leicestershire/South Derbyshire Coalfield, and a full Triassic succession. In addition to geological mapping, there will be projects to study the subsurface borehole and geophysical data, the geochemistry and petrology of the Precambrian rocks, and the sedimentology and biostratigraphy of the Carboniferous and Triassic sequences.

### Sandstone Caves of Nottingham

*Judith Rigby writes:* Tony Waltham's *Sandstone Caves of Nottingham* continues to be available from me, at 233 Mansfield Road, Redhill, Nottingham NG5 8LS. 0602 267699.