

## Secretary's Report 1970-71

In February 1970 the Society entered into its seventh year with six new members of Council and three new officers. It was fitting that Dr. Taylor, who had been so identified with the Society from its birth, and had devoted so much of his time and his energies to its furtherance, should be honoured by his election to Presidentship. In his former office of Secretary, Dr. Taylor so efficiently organised the affairs of the Society that his successor had merely to keep the wheels turning. And with gratitude it may be said that while the changeover was taking place he gave unfailing and unstinting help in every conceivable way. Dr. Sarjeant, after six years devoted work creating and establishing the Mercian Geologist, handed over his office of Editor to Dr. Cummins. Both Dr. Taylor and Dr. Sarjeant have left an indelible impression on the Society, and influenced its formative years in a manner only possible in early infancy. The Treasurer, Mr. P.H. Speed was re-elected to office to nurse the Society's finances for a further period.

At the Sixth Annual General Meeting some minor constitutional changes were made, the most notable, the postponement of the date of the A.G.M. to March, so that the Society's Auditor would have more time to prepare his statement. After the business was finished, the retiring President, Mr. R.E. Elliott gave his third Presidential Address entitled "Simulation of a Productive Coal Measure Sequence", an able and scholarly paper which was published in Vol.3. no.4. of the Mercian Geologist, and which rounded off and concluded his previous addresses.

During the year five lectures have been arranged, five field excursions, a Collectors' Evening, and a Geological Film Show to follow the 1971 A.G.M. The Collectors' Evening was held in March, and once again the Swinerton Laboratory was filled with exhibits. It was gratifying that so many of our new Members brought their collections for display or for identification, and one appreciated the enthusiasm of Mr. D.A. Nash, who found he could not be present and sent his exhibit by post. The evening was characterised by eager interest and discussion and some Members were present until 10 o'clock. The number of exhibits was greater than ever before, and over 80 people attended the meeting.

A list of exhibits follows:

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| 1. Dept. of Geology,<br>University of Nottingham. | <i>a.</i> Collection of Fossils.<br><i>b.</i> Arthropods from the Coal Measures.   |
| 2. W.A.S. Sarjeant:                               | Fossil Vertebrate Footprints.  |
| 3. B.M. Logan:                                    | Stages in processing a sample.   |
| 4. F.M. Taylor:                                   | Lower Carboniferous Limestone Fossils from Derbyshire.   |
| 5. S. Elliott:                                    | Mineral Collection.  |
| 6. E. Taylor:                                     | <i>a.</i> Isle of Man Rock Specimens.<br><i>b.</i> Stone Cannon Ball and 18th Century Clay pipe found in the old town ditch. |
| 7. P. Hanford:                                    | <i>a.</i> Lincolnshire Erratics.<br><i>b.</i> Rock Specimens from Yorkshire.   |
| 8. M. & P. Nutting:                               | Mineral Collection.  |
| 9. R.L. Bright:                                   | Fossil Collection.   |
| 10. R.W. Morrell:                                 | <i>a.</i> Ichthyosaur remains.<br><i>b.</i> Jurassic and Cretaceous Fossils.   |
| 11. E. Ramsell:                                   | Rocks from the Lake District and Pembrokeshire.  |
| 12. J.C. MacDonald:                               | <i>a.</i> Limestone Formations from Majorca.<br><i>b.</i> Calcite from Breedon.  |
| 13. R.W. Hewitt:                                  | Problematica. Minerals and Fossils.  |

14. W.A. Cummins:                   a. Flute Casts in Sedimentary Rocks.  
  b. Dalradian Structures.
15. D.A. Nash:                        Problematica. A Secondary Deposit found in a  
  Derbyshire lead mine tip.
16. J.E. Metcalfe:                   a. Minerals, Rocks and Fossils from Ghana  
  and Greece.  
  b. A collection of Early Geological Text Books.
17. M. & D. Beaumont:               a. Contents of Mesozoic Seas.  
  b. Easy and hard ways to collect Minerals  
  and Fossils.  
  c. Original Geological Poems. (M.B.)
18. E. Colthorpe:                    A Quarternary Mammalian Tooth.
19. F.J. Beasley:                    a. Derived Fossils from the Bunter Pebble  
  Beds of Staffordshire.  
  b. Examples of *Reticuloceras gracile* in  
  Limestone.
20. T.R. Cooper & A.M. Critchley:    Joint Collection of Fossils and Minerals.
21. P. Spencer:                       Geological Hazards in Brick Making.
22. G. & J.M. Jago:                   Mineral Collection, Fossil Collection, and  
  some polished pebbles.
23. C. Champion:                    Cretaceous Fossils from England and France.
24. J.G. Fletcher:                    Mineral Collection from Cornwall and East  
  Midlands.
25. R. Gratton:                       a. Rock Specimens from Gairloch. N.W.  
  Scotland.  
  b. Fossils from Derbyshire and Torquay.
26. R.E. Elliott:                     a. Marbles.  
  b. Sedimentary Structures.  
  c. Fossils.
27. D.M. Morrow:                    Original Hand-coloured Survey Maps. 1850.
28. A.E.G. Allsop:                     Rock and Mineral Specimens from Norway  
  and Derbyshire.
29. J.S. Cargill, H.G. Fryer, J.H. Sykes:   The Barnstone Project: Rhaetian Palaeontology  
  and Lithology. Rocks, Minerals and Fossils  
  found at Barnstone.

The final meeting of the Winter Session took place in April. Mr. E. Skipsey, a member of the N.C.B. and a newly elected member of Council gave a most interesting account of the application of Geology and the role of the geologist in industry. In many ways Mr. Skipsey's lecture was related to the Presidential Addresses given by his colleague, Mr. R.E. Elliott, and he was called upon to answer many questions at the end of his talk.

The 1970 excursion programme was well diversified, and the first weekend meeting was held in the Lincolnshire Wolds on May 2nd and 3rd. For the first time a weekend excursion involved only two days, and the experiment proved successful. The Leader, Mr. D.N. Robinson, W.E.A. Organiser for South Lindsey, and a longstanding Member of the Society, met the party in Horncastle on Saturday morning. One need not be reminded of the very cold and inclement weather throughout April, nor will one marvel that the party met their coach wearing thick warm weatherproof gear. The delight was all the greater that the weekend proved sunny, warm and dry, and Members marvelled to find themselves sunburning with open necked shirts and rolled-up sleeves. It was a splendid excursion with an indafatigable leader, and we will not soon forget the spectacular topographical features which we saw.

In June an excursion was held in the Wye Valley, Derbyshire, and we were privileged to be led by such an eminent specialist as Professor F.W. Cope of Keele University. June excursions are always well attended, but this occasion was outstanding, for 72 people were counted in the disused railway cutting in Millers Dale, the first party to visit there. Once again we were favoured by a beautiful day.

Not so large a party, but an equally enthusiastic one of 48 Members attended the excursion to Northamptonshire in July, which was led by Mr. P.A. Pittham, a former student of Nottingham University. The party were well rewarded in their search for fossils, and were fortunate in having such an expert to guide them.

There were two leaders for the excursion to Alderley Edge in September, Dr. G. Warrington, who dealt with the mineralization of the area, and Mr. D.B. Thompson, who described the sediments. The excursion was full of interest, and the old mines provided excellent mineral specimens for the 45 Members who were present. It was a surprise to many of us to find an area of such beauty so near to Manchester.

The excursion programme ended magnificently with a second weekend meeting, this time in the London Basin. The weekend was again planned for two days only, and we wondered at ourselves as we saw the sun rise on the M1 Motorway shortly after 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. Transport was short on this occasion, and we were very much indebted to Mr. H.G. Fryer, who arranged the hire of a minibus, and drove it with heroic and unshakable calm from Newark to Nottingham, through the centre of London, on to Herne Bay, and back next day to Sheppey, through London again, and home to Nottingham and Newark. Other private cars joined the meeting, and the President brought his family in a vast caravan. The Leader, Mr. Adrian Rundle, a research student at Nottingham University, who has already made many contributions to the affairs of the Society, is an acknowledged expert on certain Tertiary deposits. His enthusiasm infected the party so completely that it was late afternoon before it was torn from Abbey Wood, darkness fell before it left the beach at Herne Bay, the tide alone removed it from the beach at Sheppey next day, and it was with the utmost reluctance that it withdrew from the Charlton sand pit to encounter the journey home. Seldom have we so forgotten ourselves in our Geology, and we are grateful to Mr. Rundle for the great pains he took to initiate us into this new territory.

The first indoor meeting of the Winter was held in November, when Dr. C.G. Adams of the British Museum (Natural History) described his researches on Foraminifera, in a most diverting and informative lecture.

In December, our meeting coincided with the Power Station dispute, and we prepared for the worst with candles, matches and torches. Professor J.E. Prentice of King's College, University of London spoke on the Carboniferous of South West England, and concluded his lecture with a dramatic introduction of "plate tectonics", of which, he assures us, we shall hear more.

Our January meeting was held in Matlock jointly with the Matlock Field Club, when Dr. A. Straw of the Dept. of Geography, University of Sheffield addressed an audience of over 100. His subject was the Geomorphology of Derbyshire, and he described surface deposits in relation to glacial and periglacial processes. His lecture was controversial and stimulating.

Late in January, we held our Sixth Annual Dinner in the Nottingham University Staff Club. Again it was a most enjoyable occasion, and after dinner we had the pleasure of viewing slides taken during our Summer excursions.

Before the dinner, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held. The President proposed on behalf of Council that the Annual subscription for Institutional Members should be increased to £3.00, beginning with the 1971 subscription; schools would be regarded as Ordinary Members for purposes of subscription. The meeting agreed that this was regrettable but made very necessary by rising costs, and the motion was carried.

The last meeting to report was held in February, when Dr. Taylor gave his first Presidential Address, marking the anniversary of the foundation of the Society. The title of

the address was "Coral Ecology, Past and Present, Uniformitarianism, Fact or Fantasy", and it was delivered in the vigorous manner we have come to expect from our President. The Presidential Address will be published in due course in the Mercian Geologist.

A notable event in our seventh year was an invitation to the Society to mount an exhibit in the Wollaton Hall Natural History Museum in July during the period of the Festival of Nottingham. Council decided that the organisers of the Barnstone "dig", Mr. J.H. Sykes, Mr. H.G. Fryer and Mr. J.C. Cargill should be asked to arrange a display illustrating their work and findings at Barnstone. They agreed to this, entering into the task with all the vigour they had displayed at Barnstone, and there resulted an excellent exhibit which engendered a deal of favourable comment and provided considerable publicity for the Society. Mr. Sykes, Mr. Fryer and Mr. Cargill are to be congratulated on their work, and we thank them for their time and trouble.

As a result of printing difficulties and delays, and to the disruption caused to the Editor's affairs by the fire in the Department of Geology last April, Vol.3 No.4 of the Journal was not published until September 1970. Collation took place under the direction of Dr. Taylor, and we are very grateful to the large body of collating staff who gave up their time to put the pages together.

Only 10 circulars were produced during the year, the last one in December 1970. The postal strike made it impossible to send out any communications in January and February. But in June 1970 the Secretariat faced a minor crisis, when Mrs. M. Owen announced her intention of retiring from her Duplicating Agency. For three and a half years Mrs. Owen had typed and duplicated impeccable circulars and notices for the Society, and had supplied secretarial materials at cost. Never once, no matter how busy she might be with her own work, did she fail to produce our circular on time. We are very grateful to her for the considerable contribution which she made to the running of the Society. While we made desperate efforts to obtain a long-carriage typewriter, our August circular, no.78 was produced in the office of the N.C.B. Opencast Executive through the kindness of Mr. B.G. Burdett. The September circular, no.79 was the result of a macabre operation performed by the President and Secretary. The stencil was cut in half, typed, and fastened together again before duplication by eradicating fluid, sellotape, stamp edging, patch upon patch. Happily, it was not necessary to repeat this performance, as a suitable typewriter was acquired before no.80 was due. We thank those Members who made efforts on our behalf.

Membership has continued to increase steadily during the year. 39 Ordinary Members have been elected, 8 Junior Members, 5 Institutional Members, and there have been 4 new Joint Memberships. 6 Ordinary Members have resigned, 1 Institutional Member and 1 Joint Member, and there are a small number of lapsed Memberships through non-payment of subscriptions.

The present state of Membership is as follows:

<u>Honorary</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	<u>Joint</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Total</u>
2	226	82	15	123	448

Six nominations were read out on January 22nd, 1971 and will be proposed for election after the names have been circulated.

Once again we must acknowledge our debt to Professor Lord Energlyn and the University of Nottingham for allowing the Society to make such free use of lecture rooms and laboratories that we have come to regard the Department of Geology as the Society's natural home.

I am very grateful for all the help which has been given to me this year, and I heartily thank our Members for their patience and co-operation, which have made it such a pleasure to hold the office of Secretary.

D.M. Morrow.