



17. R.O. Harris               Rocks, fossils and minerals
18. R.J. Hawkins           (a) Photographs of stone axes.  
                             (b) Skull of a "beaker man".
19. I.M.E. Horne            Various examples of crystals.
20. N. Leiter                Rock collection.
21. R. Meinerzhagen       Fossil collection.
22. J.C.G. Millar           File of geological localities.
23. R.W. Morrell           Collection of Mollusca.
24. R.W. Morrell &  
    P. Spencer             (a) Pliocene mollusca from Walton-on-Naze, Essex.  
                             (b) Minerals from Folkstone.
25. D.M. Morrow          Metamorphic rocks from Sinen Ghyll, Lake District.
26. E. Ramsell             Slides, maps, etc. of Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.
27. P. Spencer             Out of print geological survey memoirs.
28. F.M. Taylor            Brachiopod populations from three localities in the East Midlands.
29. The Editor             "Mercian Geologist" series.

A most successful adjunct to the meeting was the customary sale of rock, fossil and mineral specimens, held by Mr. J.H. Sykes. His profit on this occasion reached the sum of £26, which he donated to the Society's Trust Fund, thereby bringing his total contributions to £125.10. The Society very greatly appreciates this splendid effort on the part of Mr. Sykes.

We were privileged in April to have for our last indoor meeting of the season so eminent an authority as Professor R.F. Peel of the University of Bristol to speak on the subject of Saharan landscapes, and to give to his enormous audience such a masterly account of the geography of the arid regions of the earth.

The weekend excursion, held in May, was led by Dr. P.G. Baker of Derby College of Technology, and centred in the Cotswold Hills. Attention was focussed on Bajocian deposits and the Middle Jurassic marine transgression, and the party followed the succession during the two days.

Early in June, Dr. F. M. Taylor of Nottingham University led a large party to the Castleton area, and members spent a rewarding day which began at Windy Knoll and continued by Mam Tor and Treak Cliff to the rich goniatite locality at Cow Low Nick. It is always appreciated when a leader can dispense with the coach for the entire day.

The July excursion took place at the height of a heat wave, when Dr. R.B. Elliott of Nottingham University led a party of 52, under tropical conditions, to examine igneous rocks in Charnwood Forest. Certainly, never before had members encountered such fiercely hot intrusions, baking in the torrid sun, radiating heat and scarcely to be touched by hand, an unexpectedly graphic illustration of the extremely interesting rocks of Charnwood.

For the first time in the Society's history, a full week excursion was planned, to take place late in July, and based in Edinburgh. We were very much indebted to Mr. M.A.E. Browne of the Institute of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, a member of the Society, who most kindly arranged six daily excursions, and found leaders from amongst his colleagues of the I.G.S. and from the Grant Institute of Geology, University of Edinburgh. The Society party found excellent accommodation in the Pollock Halls of Residence, Edinburgh University, and enjoyed an unsurpassed succession of field meetings amongst the Bathgate Hills, the Pentland Hills, to the Arthur's Seat complex, to the Eastern Berwickshire coast, culminating in the classic locality at Siccar Point, to the oilshales of South Queensferry and the enormous opencast

Westfield Colliery, described to us as the largest coal-hole in Europe, and finally to the coast traverse in East Fife from Elie to Pittenween. The Society gives grateful thanks to Dr. E.N.K. Clarkson and Mr. P. Aspin of the Grant Institute of Geology, to Mr. S.K. Munro, Mr. D.C. Grieg, Mr. W. Tulloch, Dr. M. Armstrong, and Mr. I.H. Forsyth of the Institute of Geological Sciences in Edinburgh, and most of all to Mr. M.A.E. Browne who made the excursion possible.

In September, Mrs. M. Beaumont, B.A., led a coach excursion to the Huddersfield area, a day crowded with interest, for in between the many localities which were visited, a commentary was given through loud speakers as the coach travelled. After a most comprehensive survey of the geology of the area, Mrs. Beaumont added gilt to the gingerbread by bringing the entire party to her home for tea.

The final excursion of the season was led in October by Mr. P.H. Speed to examine the igneous rocks of the Wirksworth area. The outside party of 63 members spent a most interesting autumn day visiting igneous outcrops at Wirksworth, Ible, Grange Mill and Bonsal.

The first indoor meeting of the winter season took place in November, when Dr. E.N.K. Clarkson, who had led a party to the Pentland Hills in July, came down from Edinburgh University to speak to the Society about trilobites. His lively description of the body structure and sense organs of these remote creatures, and his interpretation from trace fossils of their feeding habits and behaviour, together with his superb slides, brought them vividly to life.

In December, Mr. M. Pennington-George, an official engaged in the Selby project of the National Coal Board, gave a most informative lecture, in which he described the exploitation of the new Selby coalfield, and the new approach to the old problem of winning the coal as economically as possible.

The joint meeting held annually in January with the Matlock Field Club took place in Tawney House, Matlock. The speaker was Mr. J. Bennington, Inspector of Mines and Quarries, and his subject was the Mines and Quarries Inspectorate. His story began at the time of the first Factory Act, and he described the evolution of the Inspectorate from the early days of concern for employees to the present time, concluding with an account of present day practices.

Also in January, a meeting was held in Derby College of Technology. On this occasion, Dr. N.F.C. Hudson of the College's Department of Earth Sciences described certain areas of the Dalradian rocks of north-east Scotland, and compared and contrasted their chemical content and physical attributes.

The twelfth Annual Dinner was held early in February in the University of Nottingham Staff Club. As always, this was an informal and most enjoyable event.

The Presidential Address customarily takes place at the beginning of February to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Society in February 1964. For his first Presidential Address, the President, Dr. W.A. Cummins asked the rhetorical question, "Is plate tectonics the only answer?", and, addressing a very full house - some of whom half hoped that he might supply another answer - finally endorsed the plate theory as the most satisfactory at the present time.

1976 was an outstanding year of excellent meetings and splendid attendance both at indoor meetings and in the field. We are deeply grateful to our leaders, Dr. P.G. Baker, Dr. F.M. Taylor, Dr. R.B. Elliott, Mrs. M. Beaumont, and Mr. P.H. Speed, and to our speakers, Professor R.F. Peel, Dr. E.N.K. Clarkson, Mr. M. Pennington-George, Mr. J. Bennington, Dr. N.F.C. Hudson and our President.

Eleven monthly circulars were sent out during the year to give notice of meetings and other information of Society affairs. Postage is an expensive item and some of our members do the Society a great service by kindly delivering circulars by hand to addresses near to their own.

Membership of the Society increased by 22 during 1976, and at the end of the year the state of membership was as follows:

<u>Honorary</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	<u>Joint</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Institutional</u>	<u>Total</u>
2	269	126	23	108	528

With the 'Mercian Geologist', things went well in 1976. The Editor successfully published Vol. 6, no. 1 in October, and had Vol. 6, no. 2 ready for publication by the end of the year. The Editor is always ready to acknowledge the help he receives in the publication of the journal, but the Society is well aware of the moving spirit behind the scenes and the devoted and conscientious work carried out by the Editor himself.

The portable display unit designed by Mr. M.F. Stanley to publicise the Society completed a successful tour of Lincolnshire museums and W.E.A. centres during the year and was also on view at the annual conference of the Association of Teachers of Geology. Mr. Stanley has kindly assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the unit and we are indebted to Mr. D.N. Robinson for the supervision of its travels in Lincolnshire.

Once again the Society gratefully acknowledges the part played by Professor Lord Energylyn and the University of Nottingham in affording such a splendid venue for its meetings and the facilities of the Department of Geology for its general use.

D. M. Morrow