

PROFILE

MRS SUSAN MILES

There has been a tradition in the East Midlands Geological Society that from time to time it elects as President a member who is not a professional geologist. This is very appropriate in a Society which, since its formation in the 1960s, has been successful in providing activities of common interest to both professional and lay geologists. We therefore welcome Sue Miles, an amateur geologist, as our President with effect from March 1994.

Sue is a very much an East Midlands person, being born at Market Harborough in post-war Britain (Second War!). Her childhood and schooldays were spent in Leicestershire, firstly at the local school in Kibworth and then from 1957 at Kibworth Beauchamp Grammar School. When her father was appointed Head Master of Humphrey Perkins School at Barrow-on-Soar in 1960, Sue and her family moved to that village, a place with many geological connections. After a school career that included an O Level in Geology, she went to Leeds University where she graduated in Law in 1968. Having completed her Solicitor's Finals exams in 1969, she returned to the East Midlands where she was articled to the Solicitors firm of Rich and Carr in Leicester and became a fully qualified Solicitor in 1971.

In 1971 Sue was married and moved to Nottingham to start work as a Solicitor with L. Bramley Lipman and Co., whose offices were then in Wheeler Gate. She became a partner in the firm in 1973, but left in 1975 when the first of her two sons, Richard, was born. Her younger son, James, was born in 1979.

During the period from 1975 to 1981 Sue's life had many facets. She joined forces with a friend to set up a successful business, making and selling hand-made patchwork clothes and dolls for young children, trading under the banner of "Mousetrap". While Sue looked after her two young boys and ran this business she was frequently called upon by her old firm of solicitors to cover for absences and vacations. In 1981 she returned to work part-time for Bramleys, which had moved to its current location in Oxford Street. As her boys became more independent she returned to work full-time, in 1987 becoming a partner once more and in 1990 being appointed as managing partner. Sue has worked in many areas of legal practice but now specialises in Court of Protection work, an area which suits her personality.

Sue's interest in geology began at school. Her first field trip with the school geography department to the Lake District in Easter 1963 really established this interest, which has progressively developed since then. Many members of the Society will know that she has no head for heights, and as that particular field trip involved climbing Helvellyn via Striding Edge the impression left behind by the Borrowdale Volcanics must have been especially memorable. Studying for geography A Level allowed Sue to enjoy the geologically related aspects of that subject, and following her Law

training she once more turned to geology with enthusiasm, particularly encouraged by two people. Firstly, Sue's elder sister Lesley, a geography graduate and an active member of our Society, passed on her own enthusiasm for the subject. A little later, in the early 1980s, Sue was inspired like many others by the teaching of Philip Speed, whose University Extra-Mural class she attended. Since then Sue has become a serious student of geology, and with her considerable powers of observation her greatest enjoyment of the subject is in the field.



By 1983 Sue had become a very active member of the Society, was elected to the Council in 1987 and became Secretary in 1988 following Madge Wright's election as President. Sue served the Society as Secretary for six years in a typically meticulous way and Council has also greatly benefited from her professional advice on legal matters.

With such an active life it is surprising that Sue has much time for leisure pursuits. She combines her geology with a great love of walking and natural history in all aspects. Her more basic instincts can be recognized when she wields a tennis racquet or, in earlier days, a hockey stick. Today Sue lives in Cropwell Butler where she finds time to extend her interests to gardening, particularly favouring alpine plants.

Ian D. Sutton