

widely-acknowledged authority on Fen conservation issues, being Secretary of the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation and having made numerous TV appearances. David has been an EMGS member since 1965 and served on Council from 1974-77, many members will have fond memories of several excellent field excursions to the Lincolnshire Wolds and Fens led by David in the 1970's and 80's. He continues to be a highly active supporter of field research and teaching in Lincolnshire, playing a central role in the setting up of both the field study centre at Gibraltar Point and the Lincolnshire Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) Group.

The Society extends its warmest congratulations to both Trevor and David. Everyone will agree that their awards are in well-deserved recognition of their services to geology, and of their contributions to broadening the appreciation of the earth sciences by the wider community.

New Director at BGS

Dr David Falvey has been appointed as the next Director of the British Geological Survey. Dr Falvey, 51, has been Director of the international Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) at the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) in Washington DC, USA, since 1994.

Dr Falvey was born in Sydney, Australia. After gaining a PhD in Marine Geophysics from the University of New South Wales, he worked as an exploration geophysicist for Shell from 1972 to 1974. He then returned to academia as a Senior Lecturer in Geophysics at the University of Sydney from 1974 to 1982, where he organised the first

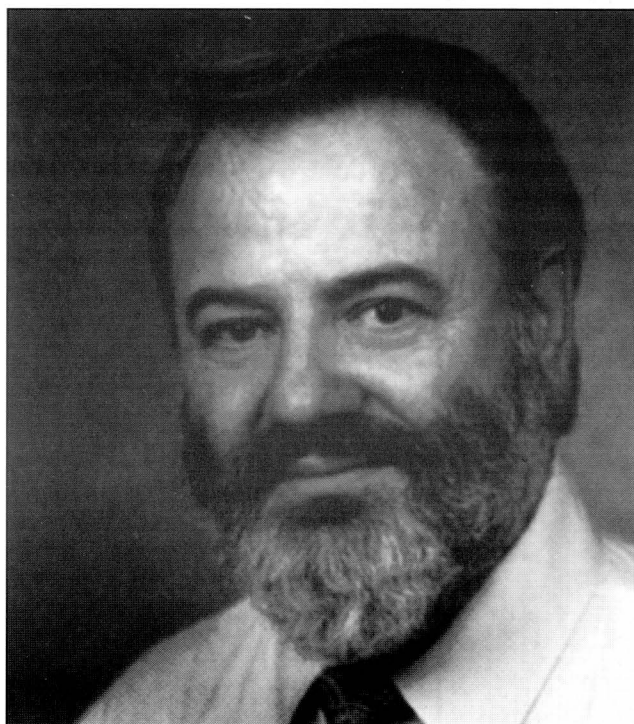
MERCIAN NEWS

OBE's for EMGS members

Two of our longest serving members, Trevor Ford and David Robinson, have been awarded OBEs in the 1997 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

From his earlier years exploring the innermost parts of Speedwell Cavern, Trevor Ford has emerged as the primary authority on the geology, mineralogy and karst geomorphology of the Peak District. However, his services to geology extend well beyond his research. He was a founder member of the EMGS in 1964, serving for several terms on Council including President in 1982-85, and continues to be a prolific supplier of engaging articles and papers for *Mercian Geologist*. He has also played a leading role for many years in both the Peak District Mines and Historical Society and the British Cave Research Association, including the thankless task of editing journals for both these bodies. Throw in his years of service at Leicester University, research on Charnian fossils, primary geological mapping in the Grand Canyon and his massive knowledge of all aspects of geology, and we have in Trevor a true credit to the science of geology.

The geological community will be familiar with David Robinson's expertise on the Quaternary of Lincolnshire and Humberside, but he is also a



systematic programme of palaeomagnetic research in the Pacific Islands, focusing on the tectonic evolution of the south-west Pacific.

Like the present Director of BGS, Dr Peter Cook, Dr Falvey has held senior management positions at the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO). In 1989 he became an Associate Director of AGSO and Head of the Petroleum and Marine Geosciences Group. Since taking up his current post in Washington, Dr Falvey has worked to broaden the membership of the Ocean Drilling Program, and has promoted the Program's achievements to a wider scientific and public audience.

'I am pleased and excited to be taking up the highly prestigious position of Director of the British Geological Survey', says Dr Falvey. 'I look forward to the challenge of leading the Survey as it moves into the 21st century. My priorities include the preparation of digital, three-dimensional geoscientific data models and the development of relevant applications, aimed at providing solutions for the needs of government, industry and the community. I will continue to support strongly the Survey's core programme and its contract programmes, both at home and abroad'.

Dr Peter Cook retires at the end of 1997, after which Dr Falvey will take up the post of Director in January 1998.

Nottingham hosts major international groundwater conference

In September 1997, Nottingham was the venue for the 27th Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, which focussed on the search for solutions to the growing resource management and engineering problems associated with groundwater in the urban environment. Most of the earth's freshwater reserves lie underground, and groundwater provides the drinking water for more than 1500 million urban dwellers around the world. Usage is growing rapidly in the expanding cities of some developing countries, where excessive pumping not only threatens the future security of the resources but also causes serious ground subsidence problems. Conversely, in many longer established cities, for example Nottingham and London, rising groundwater levels are a problem due to a decline in water abstraction. Additionally, most urban solid wastes and large volumes of urban wastewater are disposed of either on or in the ground, posing a serious threat to groundwater quality.

The Congress was attended by over 400 of the world's foremost experts on groundwater, from 40 countries, and was held at the impressive facilities of the East Midlands Conference Centre on the Nottingham University campus. Nottingham was an appropriate choice of venue, given the importance of groundwater as a major component of its water supply. The Congress included a detailed case study modelling the impact of Nottingham on the quantity

and quality of its underlying groundwater, together with field excursions to demonstrate the local geology and environment.

Papers presented at the Congress will be published in two volumes in early 1998.

It's never too late to learn . . .

The University of Derby is offering a new access route for mature students wishing to study geology in higher education. The Geology Department, in conjunction with the University's Centre for Access and Lifelong Learning, has designed new courses to introduce geological concepts and practical skills to students with little or no background in science. Four new study modules are available, which can be taken on an individual basis or as part of a full-time Access or Foundation programme. These are: From Crystals to Continents; Investigating the Earth; Geological Time; Interpreting the Geological Record.

These modules are not only suitable for students wishing eventually to progress to a degree course in geology, but also for those who enjoy outdoor pursuits and simply want to learn more about the ground beneath their feet. Further details may be obtained from Mrs Barbara Marsh, School of Environmental and Applied Sciences, University of Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby DE22 1GB.

BGS Nottingham and Grantham maps now available

Running out of ideas for unusual Christmas presents? Then drop in to the British Geological Survey shop at Keyworth, which stocks a broad range of earth science maps, books and guides catering for all ages and levels of knowledge, plus attractive gemstones, souvenirs, field equipment and (not forgetting!) model dinosaurs.

While you're there, why not treat yourself to the new, 1997 editions of the BGS 1:50,000 scale maps of Nottingham (sheet 126) and Grantham (sheet 127). Both maps are based on new, state-of-the-art detailed geological surveys, and incorporate the latest geological information and stratigraphical nomenclature. They are available as flat or folded copies, both good value at £9.95.

The Sandstone Caves of Nottingham

A completely revised and expanded 56pp edition of Tony Waltham's *Sandstone Caves of Nottingham* with full colour cover, 28 photographs and 22 two-colour maps is available to society members at a reduced rate of £3.00 plus £0.65 p&p from Judith Rigby, 233 Mansfield Road, Redhill, Nottingham NG5 8LS.