

Secretary's Report for 1978

In the Society's fifteenth year the membership remained around 500 and the indoor and field meetings were well attended.

There had been sixteen meetings during the year, four day excursions, one weekend, one week excursion and an afternoon meeting held at the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth, Nottingham. The indoor meetings consisted of four lectures, a joint meeting with the Matlock Field Club, a Presidential Address, an Annual Dinner and the Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture.

Fifty members attended the Annual General Meeting in March. The election of officers took place and the serving President, Treasurer and Editor were proposed from the chair. Mrs. Morrow had resigned as Secretary of the Society having been associated with Council from the Society's founding in 1964, and its Secretary for the last eight years. Nominated by Council as Secretary, I and the other officers were duly elected to serve for 1978. Mrs. Morrow was most warmly thanked for all her untiring work for the Society, and I too would like to record my thanks. I was very grateful for all the help she willingly gave in my first year of office. One ordinary member of Council was due to retire and I had to be replaced, so that two new Members of Council were elected to fill these places. A vote of thanks was proposed to the retiring Council member, Mr. H. Key. Professor Lord Energlyn would be retiring in the following August, and in appreciation of his services to the Society, it was proposed that he be made an Honorary Member, to which the assembled members were in full agreement.

The meeting had run very smoothly with no other business, and was followed by a lecture given by a member of the Society, Mr. P.I. Manning from the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth. He talked of the geology and his experiences in Ethiopia. After his lecture he mentioned that cores had been taken from the area of the new Keyworth Headquarters and which might prove of interest. A date a month hence was arranged for these to be viewed by any member wishing to visit Keyworth.

In the middle of March, Dr. G.R. Coope of the University of Birmingham lectured on 'a beetle's eye view of the last glaciation', his talk being enthusiastically received by the large audience present.

The last indoor meeting of the season, held in April was given by Dr. F.M. Taylor, who gave a lively talk on Precambrian Fossils. The recent re-examination of rocks at one time thought to be unfossiliferous, had shown evidence of life; some of the evidence tending to stretch the imagination a little.

The following afternoon, Sunday, was spent at the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth, where about thirty members gathered after accepting their kind invitation, and were given a most warm welcome. Drilling methods, the cores demonstrating the Mercia Mudstones were shown and a talk on the work of the Industrial Mineral Assessment Unit given.

The weekend excursion in May was based at Ludlow, and as usual proved a great success. The leader, Mr. W.J. Norton, Curator of the Ludlow Museum, met the large group of members at the Museum Lecture Room for an introductory talk on the geology of the Ludlow Anticline area, which the party then visited. The following day Wenlock Edge, Morville 'fish' locality, quarries at Creton and Titterston Clee Hill were visited before the party regretfully returned home.

The excursion in June to the Fen Area was very well supported, being led by Mr. D.N. Robinson the University Resident Tutor at Alford, Lincolnshire. He had promised

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no hammer work, but demonstrated the features of Heath and Fen. Included, too, was an escorted walk around Baston Fen Nature Reserve, and finishing at Boatmere Haven, where reclamation work is continuing.

Mr. T. Charsley of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Leeds, led the party to the Ashbourne Area in July. He had recently been mapping the area for his department and was able to show the results of some of his work to the enthusiastic members.

The week's excursion took place towards the end of July, and the party was based at Stirling University, a very beautiful setting. Mr. S.K. Munro of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Edinburgh, had very kindly organised the leaders of each day's excursion for us. All but one, Mr. N.E. Butcher, were from his department in Edinburgh. Mr. Butcher from the Open University in Scotland, took us on an exhaustive tour of the Stirling area. The geology, and scenery, were also enjoyed in the Loch Tay area, Gargunnoch Burn Section, Balmaha in torrential rain, and a sunny day examining the downbent section of the Tay Nappe at the Highland Border. We do appreciate the help given by Mr. Munro, Dr. C.G. Smith, Mr. M.A.E. Browne, Mr. W. Henderson and Dr. D.J. Fettes, all of Edinburgh, and Mr. N.E. Butcher. They gave their time most willingly and the Society are very grateful for their efforts.

The Quaternary Geology of the Coventry area was the subject of the September excursion. Professor F.W. Shotton of the University of Birmingham had kindly agreed to lead members, and a most interesting day was spent amongst more recent deposits.

The season ended with an excursion to Luton in October. Dr. A. Ludford met the party, who on this occasion travelled in cars. The day was spent examining the Lower and Middle Cretaceous of the area.

The first indoor meeting took place in November and Dr. W.J. Wadsworth, University of Manchester, lectured to a large audience on volcanoes. He discussed their various behaviour patterns and ways in which man can utilise their energy and material.

In December Dr. B.J. Taylor of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Keyworth, talked of some aspects of Mesozoic geology of eastern Alexander Island, Antarctica, illustrating his lecture with slides taken whilst working with the British Survey. He talked of many puzzling features of the landscape which he, and his audience, found fascinating.

1979 started with the joint meeting with the Matlock Field Club at Tawney House, Matlock. Mr. P.F. Jones of Derby Lonsdale College of Higher Education, spoke of 100,000 years of mud and slush, and the changing views on the landscape evolution in Derbyshire. The subject was most appropriate to the conditions - a cold spell with snow and a rapid thaw that day, had made it a very wet and muddy journey. But in spite of this and a petrol shortage, about forty people, half of them Society members, attended the meeting.

An evening for members to show slides of the weeks spent in Ayr and Stirling was arranged for the middle of January. Blizzard conditions kept all but ten hardy members from attending, nevertheless enough slides had been brought to make it a worthwhile evening.

The Fourteenth Annual Dinner in February was held at a different venue. The Post House at Sandiacre was chosen, and as usual it was a very successful social occasion.

The Presidential Address took place in February to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Society. The President, Dr. W.A. Cummins, giving his third and last Address, allowed the members to listen in on his thoughts on the mechanism of how Mountain Chains could rise and fall, and demonstrated his theory with slides and diagrams.

1978 was a most successful year with interesting meetings and field excursions. We were grateful to our leaders, Mr. W.J. Norton, Mr. D.N. Robinson, Mr. T. Charsley, Prof. F.W. Shotton and Dr. A. Ludford, and to our speakers, Mr. P.I. Manning, Dr. G.R. Coope, Dr. F.M. Taylor, Dr. W.J. Wadsworth, Dr. B.J. Taylor, Mr. P.F. Jones and our President.

There were eleven monthly circulars sent out during the year giving notice of meetings and Society affairs. The postage continued to increase and the Society is grateful to those members who willingly deliver by hand circulars in their own vicinity.

The membership of the Society remained steady and was as follows:

Honorary	Ordinary	Joint	Junior	Institutional	Total
3	253	106	14	114	490

There had been two issues of the Mercian Geologist published during 1978/79. Volume 6, Number 4 in April 1978, and owing to the resignation of typists at the University, Volume 7, Number 1 was not published until January 1979.

The Society Exhibit, which displays and publicises the Society, had been to the Conference of the Association of Teachers of Geology, held in Derby.

The Society again wished to express its appreciation and was deeply grateful to Professor Lord Energlyn and the University of Nottingham, for allowing us the excellent facilities for meetings and activities.

In conclusion, may I thank everyone for their patience and understanding in my first year of office.

W.M. Wright