

Later in June, John Aram and Albert Horton led an excursion to the Vale of Pickering and the nearby coast.

In July, Dave Bridge and Graham Worton led a trip to several sites in the West Midlands, that included a canal boat trip.

In September, Ian Thomas guided members round the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth.

There was an excellent weekend trip in October to study the geology and minerals of the North Pennines, including a visit to the Killhope mining museum. Trevor Bridges was the leader, and he gave the 34 members a fascinating weekend.

Indoor meetings

At the March meeting following the AGM we heard Dr Tony Waltham describe the geology and culture along the route from Nepal to Mt Kailas, the sacred mountain of western Tibet, illustrated by wonderful slides.

The April meeting heard Prof. Randy Parish describe evidence for the uplift of the Tibetan Plateau and the causes of the Indian monsoon, and also the contribution of the uplift of North America's west coast mountains to the onset of the northern hemisphere glaciation.

The autumn meetings started in October, with Dr Duncan Friend talking about the enigmatic creatures of the Cambrian Burgess Shales in Canada, and describing how a palaeontologist unravels their secrets.

In November, about 100 members heard Prof Dianne Edwards describe "The Greening of Planet Earth". Many Society members have a wide interest in the natural world, and this cross-discipline lecture was well received.

Our December lecture was by Dr Alf Whittaker who gave a suitably popular talk on the role of alchemy and mysticism in Mozart's Magic Flute, followed by the traditional cheese-and-wine.

In January 2000, well over 100 members heard Dr Rob Butler reveal the complex history of the drying up of the Mediterranean during the Messinian (late in the Tertiary).

In February, the departing President gave his much-trailed address, that fully justified his well-known personal affection for the Quaternary geology of East Anglia.

Events

The Society was represented at Wollaton Hall for two Rockwatch events and two museum events, with the EMGS stand staffed by Les Hall, Ben Bentley and Jack Brown. The display has also been to the Shakespeare Street Adult Education Centre and to the Stone Centre at Wirksworth.

Alan Filmer, Secretary

THE RECORD

The Society has welcomed 21 new members, and membership now numbers 387.

Field meetings

In May, Alan Dawn gave a preview of the Cool Peterborough exhibition that features the Deeping Elephant, followed by an afternoon visit to a quarry in the Oxford Clay.

In early June, there was a most interesting visit in pouring rain to Ballidon Quarry, near Ashbourne, led by the quarry management.