

THE RECORD

Like my predecessor Alan Filmer I would like to use this report to address the various aspects of the Society's work and also acknowledge at least some of the individuals who have given up a great deal of their time for us all.

The Society has now celebrated its 40th anniversary and, I suspect, this last twelve months have been one of its busiest. At the beginning of 2003, membership stood at about 377, and I now understand this to be around 366.

The Society has changed the way it does some of its business and I apologise to anyone who initially might not have received all or part of any correspondence or publication. The Society has placed increasing emphasis on the internet and we are grateful for the work of Rob Townsend on the Society's website. Alan Filmer, who has retained his dealings with new members, advises that most of the new member enquiries come via the website, and other enquiries include those from students on particular geological problems, orders for publications and even where someone might find employment as a professional geologist.

I am grateful to Andy Howard, Tony Waltham, Ian Sutton and whoever else I might have forwarded such enquiries onto; and to Alan Filmer for dealing with most enquiries for purchases of publications, including copies of the *Mercian Geologist*.

The *East Midlands Field Guide* is now in circulation and has received excellent reviews. However, it was noted in one as being expensive, but then the copy reviewed was issued by the GA - who initially charged significantly more. Council decided to act independently on price, advising itself of the Society's objectives. The Society's publications continue with the forthcoming *Building Stones and Geological Walks of Nottingham* and the *Sandstone Caves of Nottingham* continues to sell well.

Field Meetings 2003

Special problems this year concerned the funding of transport and the feasibility of actually getting a bus or coach to some particular venues.

June was a busy month with a day trip to the Bradley Fen Brick Pit near Peterborough, led by Neil Turner, and evening trips to both the Ashover area with Colin Bagshaw and the quarry at Dorket Head with Andy Howard.

July provided a day in the Lincolnshire Wolds with John Aram, and also the season's weekend excursion to Shropshire with Ian Sutton.

Last but not least, September took us to see the ever-popular building stones of churches in Derbyshire and Leicestershire with Albert Horton.

Indoor Meetings 2003-4

These started with the 'Geology of New Zealand' by Dr Ian Sutton, straight after the 2003 AGM, followed by the 'Geological map of southern Britain' with Dr John Cope in the April.

Prior to our own new field season opening, we shared a lecture at Derby University by Dr Trevor Ford on the 'Geology of Speedwell Mine and Cavern' in May, and then continued in the autumn with the 'Early Cretaceous: from Lincolnshire to Argentina' with Professor Peter Rawson and 'Geology in the city' with Professor Martin Culshaw.

Prior to the Christmas Buffet, we heard from Professor Hugh Torrens on 'William Smith and the search for raw materials', followed by the January lecture from Professor John Mather on the 'Geology of bottled water'.

In February the Society helped celebrate its 40th anniversary with a talk by the President entitled 'The East Midlands - a geocentric view' followed by the Annual Dinner.

As many as 65 members and guests at a time attended these talks; such numbers not only impressed the speakers but also proved the popularity of the Society.

We are very grateful to all our speakers and to both Ian Sutton and Beris Cox for organising the Field Meetings and Indoor Meetings respectively.

Council

Sue Miles kindly took over publication of the Circular which had previously been the work of the Secretary. But in taking over this role there was no way I could do all that Alan Filmer had done before. I am also grateful to Alan and Sue for the way they have supported me and, indeed, to all of Council. Members are encouraged to receive their copies of the Circular by e-mail wherever possible; and I am sure you will agree they continue to become even easier to follow.

Those of you who are able to visit the Society's website will see there is now also a Latest News page on which we can place early items. Recent examples were a job advert for a geologist and news of the refurbishment of the Wollaton Hall Museum Geological Section. Council, Secretary and the WebMaster, Rob Townsend, will endeavour to ensure that the website continues to uphold the Society's charitable objectives; members' comments on its content are always welcome.

Council met formally on six occasions and have this year nominated three members for Honorary Membership; these are Ron Firman, Trevor Ford and Neil Aitkenhead, who therefore join Frank Taylor, Madge Wright, Jack Fryer and Dorothy Morrow. I am stepping down after one year as your Secretary and Janet Slatter, already on Council, has kindly offered to stand in my place.

John Wolff, Secretary 2004