## THE RECORD

Now embarked on its second 40 years, the Society has shown itself to be a flourishing organisation; membership now stands at 361, including 8 new members. Sadly the Society has been informed of the loss of three members namely Mr Bill Read, Mr Geoffrey Orme and Dr. Chris Salisbury.

The 2004 season of field meetings opened with an excursion to the Permo-Triassic of North Nottinghamshire led by Bob Toynton, its author in our East Midlands Guide. June saw evening visits to Stamford to study its building stones with Alan Dawn, and to the minerals of Ashover with Ian Sutton. The reef margins of Castleton were Gerry and Brenda Slavin's subject on a day trip in July. A weekend in the Yorkshire Dales with Tony Waltham was enjoyed in August, and the season finished with an excursion to the Charnwood quarries led by John Carney.

The programme of indoor lectures for 2004-5 started in March with the annual joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geol. Soc. at the BGS in Keyworth, when Geological Hazards and Disasters were covered in talks by Dr. Phil Allen and Dr. Nick Riley. In April, Dr. Clare Dudman threw light on the Life and Work of Alfred Wegener. As Chris Salisbury was unable to give his planned October lecture, Dr. Ian Sutton stepped in at short notice and spoke about the Volcanoes of the Inner Hebrides. The Building Stones of Northamptonshire were the subject of November's lecture by Dr. Diana Sutherland. Prior to the Christmas buffet, Dr. Tony Waltham shared with us his journey to the Afar Triangle in East Africa. In January, Ian Wall mixed geology and archaeology in his lecture on Ice Age art at Creswell Crags in January, and in his February Presidential Address Ian Thomas spoke of inspiring the young to be interested in geology.

Council met formally on six occasions to discuss a wide rage of topics aimed at improving benefits to the membership and promoting geology within the region. The East Midlands Field Guide has been a very successful publication; initial stocked have been sold and further supplies are being obtained to meet demand. Through collaboration with the Leicester Lit. & Phil. Society a guide to the building stones of Leicester will soon be published. A similar guide to the buildings of Nottingham is in this issue of the *Mercian*. Our journal marked the 40th anniversary of the Society, and continues to be sought after not only by members; the Secretary regularly receives requests for back numbers of the *Mercian Geologist*, for research purposes both in Britain and abroad.

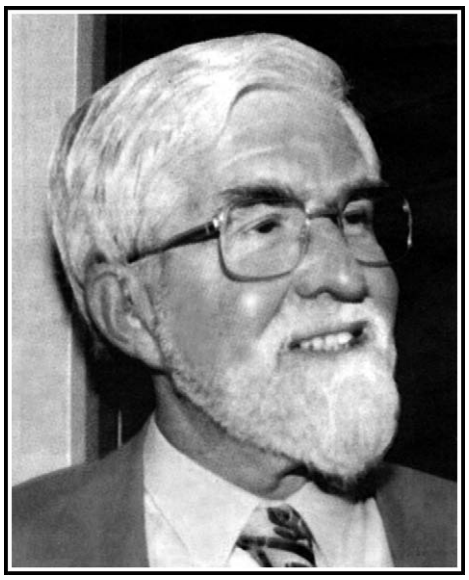
Once again, the Society's publicity stand was manned by members at a Creswell Crags special event weekend, and Alan Filmer conducted guided tours on both days. Council is always working to support geological projects, including this year the preservation of rock carvings in Nottingham's caves and also a publication on the local building stones (based upon Graham Lott's paper in the Mercian).

*Janet Slatter, Secretary*

## VALE

### Chris Salisbury 1929-2004

Chris was due to lecture to members of the Society in October 2004, but the event was postponed as he was unwell. Members were then saddened to hear of his death on November 27th, 2004.



A doctor and GP by profession, Chris was also a passionate amateur archaeologist. Retirement in 1992 allowed him extra time to pursue his interest in waterlogged wood found in the Trent Valley gravels. Taking every opportunity that arose to study the base of the gravels over a period 30 years, he found among other things, four medieval bridges, two Bronze Age log boats, a mill and many fish weirs. In the course of his researches, he became an expert on the geology of the base of the gravels and was able to add to the knowledge of the past meandering of the Trent. The waterlogged wood that he collected was used to set up the Tree Ring Dating Laboratory at the University of Nottingham. The Bronze Age log boat that he excavated was still carrying its cargo of Bromsgrove Sandstone for some construction project further downstream, and it revealed new information on the activities of the people of the time; the boat can now be seen in Derby Museum. (*Mercian*, v.14, p.104). Chris was responsible for the wonderful model of part of the Trent, showing the layout of the fish weirs he discovered, that was a centre piece of the now-closed Canal Museum in Nottingham. He was also an early promoter of the use of Nottingham's sandstone caves as a tourist site, and was involved in the current excavations under the Broad Marsh Centre.

Chris regularly attended Society indoor meetings, and members who talked to him will recall his amiable manner coupled with a scientific mind that enabled him often to ask perceptive questions of speakers, particularly if dating matters were discussed. He will be greatly missed, and the Society extends condolences to his widow, son and daughter.