THE RECORD

The level of membership of the Society is being maintained and we extend a warm welcome to any members who have joined the Society this year.

Indoor Meetings 2006-7

This year's indoor meetings have once again satisfied the breadth of interest within the membership

March saw two meetings one concerned with the Jurassic Coast presented by Professor Vincent May and the other, the annual joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society taking a look at recent work on the Quaternary in Eastern England.

April's lecture, given by Dr. David Shilston, told of the impact of landslides on life and property and how they might be predicted.

The beginning of the winter programme began with the work of the recently formed National Ice Age Network explained by its local project officer Dr. Mark Stephens. This was followed in November with a tour of the geology of the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains, in Texas and New Mexico given by Dr. Tony Dickson

The annual buffet was preceded in December by David Bate talking about Henry de la Beche's contribution to the early years of the Geological Survey. It was overseas again in January, this time to the United Arab Emirates with Richard Ellison who uncovered some of the geological treasures that have come to light during recent geological mapping there.

The President's Lecture was very well supported and was given by Professor Richard Fortey who spoke about the evolution and environment of trilobites. This meeting was followed by the Annual Dinner.

Once again we are grateful to Beris Cox for organizing such an interesting programme of speakers.

Field Meetings 2006

The season of field meetings began in May with Geo-botany and Lower Jurassic Geology at Launde and Tilton. led by Clive Jones.

In June, led by Eric Robinson, members enjoyed an evening tour of the ever changing face of Derby as seen through its building stones.

Also in June, Gerry Shaw led a visit to Dale Abbey to examine the remains of this historic site, the nearby Triassic sandstone exposures, and remains of iron and coal extraction in the area.

On into July, a day visit to Castleton led by Gerry Slavin took in Cavedale and Dirtlow Rake with an unexpected diversion to visit the site of excavations at the Titan Shaft, together with an explanation given by one of the people involved.

In September a group visited Melton Ross Quarry to see the chalk quarry, its fossils and processing plant.

A very popular visit to Chatsworth House was made in September. This was an opportunity to view the large mineral collection not on public display. It was hosted by members of the Russell Society who have been involved in collating the collection. On the same occasion Ian Thomas took groups around the house to view how stone and minerals had been used both in the construction of the house itself and in some of its fine contents.

The programme of Field Trips was as usual organised by Ian Sutton to whom we give our thanks. We are also grateful to all the field trip leaders for the hard work they put into both the preparation and on the day.

Council

Council met formally on six occasions during the year.

This year has finally seen the publication of a *Guide to the Building Stones of Leicester*. The *East Midlands Field Guide* has continued to sell well and is currently being re-printed. The Society's book *Sandstone Caves of Nottingham* will soon go out of print, and a third edition is in preparation.

A donation was given to Derby Kids Camp, an organization that arranges holidays for underprivileged children, so that they could visit the Stone Centre.

Recent changes in planning regulations have placed a duty on planning authorities to take Geodiversity into account. With this in mind Council has begun to make contact with appropriate bodies with the view to making a contribution to this process.

Some sample Rock Boxes are being trialled in schools at the moment. We thank those members who have passed on specimens for this project and ask that all members continue to bear the project in mind when they visit appropriate localities.

We are grateful to Mrs Sue Miles for keeping members up to date with the Society's activities together with information about other relevant events and organisations. Unsurprisingly as most of our new members come via the website the membership is increasingly taking the circular via e-mail.

The web site has been updated and extended and now has links to other useful sites. It continues to bring us new members and inform the public about the Society's work. We are grateful for the work Rob Townsend puts into maintaining and developing it.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those not especially named in my report without whose hard work there would be no Society.

Janet Slatter
Secretary