THE RECORD

We welcome any members who have joined the Society within 2007. Regrettably, the level of membership of the Society seems to be falling slightly at the moment.

Indoor Meetings

The subjects discussed during this year's indoor meetings have been as diverse as ever. They began with a very successful members' evening that was held after the AGM in March. Under the chairmanship of Gerry Slavin, Vanessa Banks spoke on Derbyshire springs as a water supply, Alan Dawn on reptiles from the Oxford Clay, Alan Filmer on Big Bend National Park in Texas, Tony Morris on a geological visit to Hungary and Gerry Shaw on the geology of Orkney.

Also in March, as part of the Geological Society's Bicentennial Local Heroes initiative 'Engineering Geology through the Centuries', was the annual joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at the BGS at Keyworth.

April's lecture had a medical theme when Gerry Slavin related Geology to Disease

The winter programme began in October with 'The History of Scafell Caldera: a dramatisation' by Professor Peter Kokelaar.

In November Keith Ambrose gave us 'Geodiversity and Education in Leicestershire and Rutland'.

In December Dr Richard Hamblin took us away for 'Ultimate Quaternary - the geology of Hawaii', followed by a well-supported Cheese & Wine evening.

In January Dr Howard Falcon-Lang spoke on 'Sex, lies and fossil plants', which revealed the life of Mary Stopes and her major contribution to Earth Science.

During this year's Foundation Lecture in February Professor Monica Grady had us 'Looking for Life on Mars'.

Once again we are grateful to Beris Cox for organizing such a varied programme of speakers, all the more so because this has been her final year as Indoor Meeting Secretary. Her place will be taken by Richard Hamblin who has a hard act to follow.

Field Meetings

A day trip to see the new exposures in an extension to Ketton Quarry, led by Alan Dawn, was the first of the season's field meetings in May. Evening visits were made to the Hemlock Stone led by Gerry Shaw in June, and to the Manifold Valley led by Colin Bagshaw and Ian Sutton in July. Also in July was a visit led by Keith Ambrose to Cloud and Breedon Quarries.

In early September a weekend in East Anglia was led by Richard Hamblin. Later in the month saw a visit to Stanage Edge with Fred Broadhurst.

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.

The details of this summer's visits will be advertised in forthcoming circulars and on the website.

Council

Council met formally on six occasions during the year. Thanks are due to Mrs Sue Miles for producing the Circular that keeps members up to date with the Society's activities and provides information about other relevant events and organisations. New members continue to find out about us via the website, and now half the membership takes the circular via e-mail.

This year has seen the publication of the new colour edition of the ever-popular Sandstone Caves of Nottingham, and also a reprint of the successful East Midlands Field Guide. Gerry Shaw's leaflet 'Rock Around the Campus' highlighting the geology to be seen at Nottingham University has been well received, and the Society is looking to producing similar ones for other local sites - suggestions and/or help would be welcome.

Thank you to members who are passing on older editions of the Mercian Geologist that are no longer required; this has been very helpful.

Rock Boxes are now available for donation to Primary Schools, and we would like members to spread the word to any contacts they may have. We thank those members who have passed on specimens for this project, and ask that members continue to bear the project in mind when they visit appropriate localities.

The Society continues its interest in Geodiversity issues. Representatives of the Society this year visited Crich Quarry to discuss with the company geologist and site manager proposals to extend the quarry and how to preserve some of the old workings. A watching brief is kept at Dirtlow Rake and the Society is hoping to contribute to the East Midlands RIGS project.

The web site continues to bring us new members and geological enquiries, and informs 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 specifically named in my report whose hard work enables the Society to flourish.

Janet Slatter
Secretary