THE RECORD

Our membership now stands at 281, with an additional 32 institutional members, and we welcome the new members who have joined the Society during the year.

Indoor Meetings

As has become the custom, March saw the Annual General Meeting followed by a Members Evening. John Aram spoke of the varied geology that can be seen on the many Shetland Islands. John Jones described the geology, mineralogy and underground workings of the Golconda Mine and some of the artifacts left by miners from the 1915-1950 period. Gerry Slavin, Gerry Shaw and Brenda Slavin followed James Hutton's geological journeys in search of positive evidence to support his theory of *The System of the Earth*.

In April, Dr Haydon Bailey presented *The Forensic use of Micropalaeontology*, recounting its history and the part it played in providing evidence that led to the conviction of Ian Huntley in the Soham murder case.

In October, Howard Falcon-Long took us underground in America in search of the Carboniferous forested landscapes that have been preserved intact over huge areas.

At the November meeting we were invited to walk through time along the *Jurassic Coast* with Sam Scriven to view its geological record, see how the coast is interpreted and managed, and see the impact of its World Heritage status.

In December, Jan Zalasiewicz considered the thought-provoking subject of what the Earth would be like one hundred million years into the future and what evidence of the human race might be found there.

In January, Jonathan Lee gave us *Britain in the Freezer* with a long-term perspective of Quaternary Ice Ages including new evidence for the earlier glacial history of Britain compared to the record in other areas of northern Europe.

This year's Presidential Address in February was given by Tim Colman on the subject of *The Last 50 years of Mineral Exploration in Britain*, its problems and the change in focus in the search for different minerals during that time.

Field Meetings

The number of members participating in field meetings has again increased this year.

Our May visit was to a variety of locations in the Clitheroe area led by Neil Turner to study the origins of the Lower Carboniferous reef belt and the geological history of the area's fossils and rocks.

Our evening field trip to Bradford Dale, one of the lesser known valleys in the White Peak, in June, was led by Colin Bagshaw and Ian Sutton, as a walk to see limestone features together with examples of natural and industrial history.

As a follow up to his indoor lecture in 2008, Will Watts led a packed weekend visit in July, to the restored Rotunda museum (the subject of his talk), followed by a walk around William Smith's Scarborough and visits to locations along Yorkshire's *Dinosaur Coast* led by local geologists.

Another very popular visit to Chatsworth House was led by Ian Thomas and members of the Russell Society in October.

Keith Ambrose and John Carney led two visits to view Charnwood volcanic rocks over a weekend in September.

In October a guided underground visit to the Coal Mining Museum at Wakefield was led by Paul Guion

Council

There were five meetings of Council during the year. In continuing to support geodiversity, several members of Council have worked in the major monitoring survey that is currently underway into the condition, access and risk of RIGS in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. The Society's Trust Fund, held to promote and support geological projects within its area, has been reviewed up-dated. Work continues on transferring the Mercian archive into digital format to make it available to a wider audience.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those I have not specifically named in my report who give much of their time and energy in order to further the aims of the Society.

We are, as always, grateful to Richard Hamblin for organizing this year's successful programme of speakers, to Gerry Slavin for co-ordinating our Members' Evening, to Gerry Shaw and his helpers for providing the refreshments, Ian Sutton for again organizing the programme of Field Trips, to the field trip leaders who so willingly give us their time and expertise, to Sue Miles for editing the Society's Circular, and to Rob Townsend for continuing to maintain and develop the Society's website.

Janet Slatter, Secretary

Notes for authors

Guidance notes for authors intending to contribute to the ***Mercian Geologist*** may be seen on, and printed from, the Society website (www.emgs.org.uk). Paper copies may also be requested by mail or by telephone from the editor for anyone without web access. Contributions are welcome from both members of the Society and non-members.