PROFILE

Brian Jones

Our new president, Brian, was born in the suburbs of Nottingham early in the Second World War, and was brought up largely by his mother, with his father serving in the army. Leaving school at the age of 15, he followed an engineering apprenticeship and studied for an ONC and HNC in mechanical engineering at Nottingham colleges, then spent several years in further studies of ancillary engineering subjects.

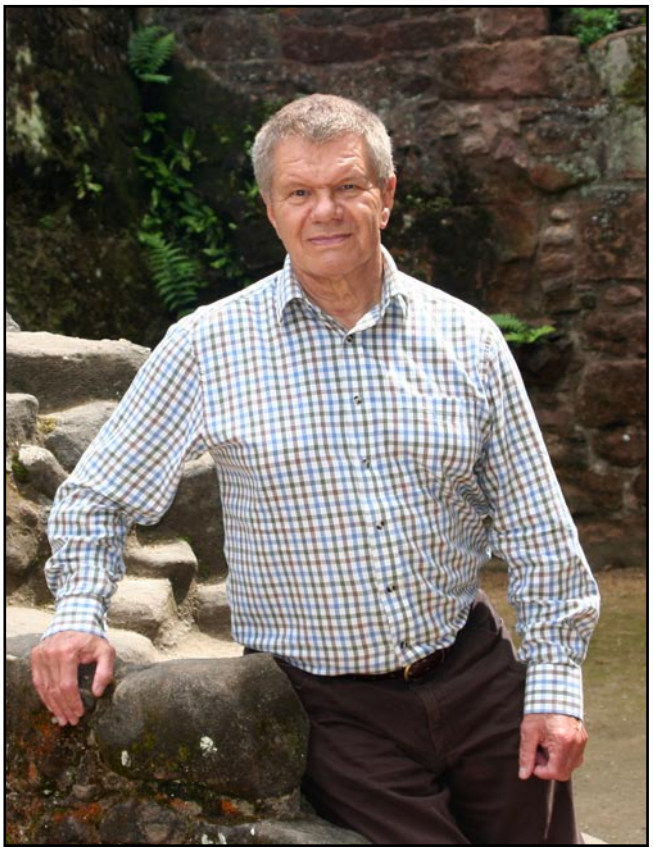
At this early stage he worked in mechanical engineering, but moved into structural steelwork engineering where his interests were more readily satisfied. Subsequently, he joined a Civil and Structural Engineering consultancy practice in Derby where he acquired experience and knowledge of other construction materials, including concrete, aluminium, masonry, and timber. Additionally work frequently involved geotechnical engineering, a subject closely allied to his later interest in geology.

In preparation for the entrance examinations of The Institution of Structural Engineers, he became involved for several years in the part-time teaching of mathematics and engineering subjects at colleges in both Nottingham and Derby.

On being elected to membership of the Institution of Structural Engineers (M.I.Struct.E.) and becoming a Chartered Structural Engineer (C.Eng), he made a career move into local government in the Structures Section of Nottingham City Engineers Department. In 1973 he was appointed to the post of Principal Structural Engineer at Derby Borough Council, and later he moved to Chesterfield Borough Council as Group Structural Engineer in the Technical Services Department. Although a smaller Authority, work was much involved with geotechnical and geological matters, dealing with the problems left by a largely defunct coal mining industry. This concerned not only the provision of structural design and advice to client departments within the Council, but also with the letting and managing of contracts for the opencast mining of former colliery sites with subsequent redevelopment.

In 1994 he was involved in the refurbishment of Tapton House, which was leased by George Stephenson when he came to Chesterfield in the 1830s to construct the North Midland Railway, and was his home until his death in 1848.

In 1997 Brian took early retirement from local government. Not wishing to give up entirely, he has continued working part time in various Civil



and Structural Engineering consultancy practices, and in the East Midlands Branch of The Institution of Structural Engineers.

From the mid 1970s, he attended adult education classes in Nottingham, developing his knowledge and interests, principally in geology, but also in a variety of other subjects such as natural history, vernacular architecture and, more recently, English literature and medieval history.

He was involved in the establishment of a WEA branch in Arnold, serving as Branch Chair for five years, before moving to the much larger Nottingham Branch and serving as Branch Chair for a similar period. It was as WEA representative on Centre Committee at the University of Nottingham's Adult Education Centre that his interest in adult education provision grew, and he occupied the post of Branch Treasurer for nine years, until Liberal Studies courses effectively ended at the University in 2008.

From the mid-1970s, he joined geology excursions both in Britain and abroad to the Western United States and Hawaii. These overseas trips were particularly inspiring and have been supplemented by holidays at home and abroad where investigation of the local geology has been a primary objective. Brian joined the EMGS soon after attending classes in around 1976, and ever since has been a frequent supporter at both indoor meetings and on field excursions.