THE RECORD

Our individual membership in this anniversary year now stands at 202 together with 48 joint members and 29 institutional members and we welcome the new members who have joined the Society during the year.

Indoor Meetings

Following the Annual General Meeting in March 2013, Andrew Naylor uncovered for us The Hidden Histories of Mineral Oil Exploration in the East Midlands.

It the April meeting, a solution to The Problems of Chirotherium and the Triassic Environment was presented by Geoff Tresise.

The programme of winter lectures began in October with The Geology and Palaeontology of the Black Country in the late Silurian Period, reviewed by Graham Worton.

In November the spectacular scenery of the Arctic was on display during The Geology of Svalbard and Jan Mayen, presented by James Creswell.

The December meeting on the very topical subject of Landslides in 2012-2013, presented by Helen Reeves, was followed by the traditional Christmas Buffet.

In January 2014, Nick Riley offered a geologist's view of the controversial subject of shale gas and its extraction by hydraulic fracturing ("fracking" in oil-drillers' slang) of the reservoir rock.

The inaugural meeting of the Society took place on 1st February 1964. So the celebration of the Society's fiftieth anniversary began with this year's Foundation Lecture and Anniversary Dinner. The speaker for this special occasion was Professor Iain Stewart and his subject *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* addressed the challenge of communicating geoscience to the general public, a subject close to the hearts of the 55 people who attended that first meeting of the Society.

Field Excursions

Deltaic sand formation and sequences in the Coal Measures formed the focus of Albert Benghiat's visit to The Roaches in May.

On a June evening, David Bate took us through three billion years of time to view the specimens and stonework along the route of the new Geology Walk constructed at BGS Keyworth.

In July the local geology in the Ticknall area, with its resulting industrial heritage of quarries, mines, limekilns and tramways, was viewed in a visit led by Keith Ambrose.

Also in July, Albert Horton continued his tours of the geology apparent in building stones in local churches, this time from Wilford to Willoughby on the Wolds.

A visit to Monsal Dale in August, led by Peter Gutteridge, gave the opportunity to inspect exposures now visible due to the recent refurbishment of tunnels along the Monsal Trail.

The river valleys of the Lincolnshire Wolds were the destination of an excursion in September.

A weekend in Weardale and Teesdale at the end of August led by Ian Sutton focused on the Carboniferous succession and the area's extensive mining history.

Council

Council met on six occasions during the year to discuss matters for the Society's benefit and where possible to contribute to wider geological issues.

As a result of the bequest received from the late Beryl Whittaker a bursary of £250 has been awarded to a student from Derby University.

Two grants have been made this year to organisations who share the Society's objectives. One of £500 was given to the Nottingham Historical and Archaeological Society to support their excavations of the sandstone caves of Nottingham, in particular for materials with which they constructed a timber bridge to maintain access to the Willoughby House caves. The second grant, also of £500, was to Geoconservation Staffs towards their reprint of the Hamps and Manifold Valley Geotrail leaflet.

After last year's success, the Mercian Geologist was again available for collection at the first indoor meeting. Due to the continuing efforts of David Bate, we hope to have the majority of back issues of Mercian Geologist on the site by the end of this anniversary year.

The Society logo has been updated to provide a clearer image in both colour and monochrome black. A press release that reviews the history of the Society has been prepared and distributed, and further copies are available for anybody who can publicise this landmark year in the Society's calender.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have given freely of their time, expertise and energy during the past fifty years, thereby enabling the Society to flourish to the present and hopefully to continue into the future. Our thanks go to Richard Hamblin and all his speakers for the Indoor Programme, to Ian Sutton and all his excursion leaders for the Field Programme, to Sue Miles for editing the Circular (which now goes to most members via email), and to Rob Townsend for managing the Society's website.

We also thank Gerry Slavin for his many years of valuable contributions in his role on the Editorial Board of the Mercian Geologist. He has now had to retire from that position, and we welcome Duncan Short as the new Board member to replace him.

Janet Slatter, Secretary

THE RECORD 1964

The following is a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the Society, fifty years ago.

Record of the Inaugural Meeting of the East Midlands Geological Society, February 1st 1964.

1. Following the meeting on January 4th, 1964, at the University of Nottingham, which was chaired by Dr Taylor, and supported by various individuals representing a number of Associations, who are named by Dr Taylor in his Report on The Proceedings of that afternoon, who were, or might be, interested in the furtherance of the study of Geology, the meeting convened by common consent for February 1st at 3pm duly took place, at the University of Nottingham Extra-Mural Department Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

2. Dr Taylor presided, and was supported by Dr Sarjeant, Miss Brindley acting as Meeting Secretary. In his opening remarks, he presented to the gathering the aims and objects of a proposed Geological Society, then for the benefit of those in the audience, who were not present at the informal meeting mentioned above, Dr Sarjeant read Dr Taylor's report on those proceedings, to a number of fifty-five people who were present of the approximate one hundred who had been in contact with the sponsors.

3. At this point, the Chairman opened the meeting for general discussion, and from then on, questions and answers ensued which made it apparent that there was indeed a nucleus of keen interest in the area, which most likely could be maintained and expanded.

4. Items coming under discussion, were: affiliation to the Geologists' Association, which was rejected; affiliation to existing local organizations, which was also deemed not to be beneficial; excursions, lectures, and other events of an educational value; librarial facilities; functional representation with other societies of a like nature, in work connected with the preservation of geological exposures *in situ* in conjunction with the nature reserves and National Trust, commercial and industrial enterprises and individuals, etc, etc.

Lively discussion was carried on, until it was apparent to the *Platform* that there was just cause for putting to the Audience that a Society could be supported by the *Area*, and a request was made for the events to be carried to a normal conclusion and Dr Taylor then proposed 'As from that time a Society should be formed.' This resolution was seconded by Mr Morrell, and all present assented in the usual manner, by a show of hands, to be in favour of this motion.

5. Dr Taylor then declared that a Society had been formed.

6. He then went on to define the geographical area known as the East Midlands, and a unanimous decision was carried in favour of the Society being named 'The East Midlands Geological Society'.

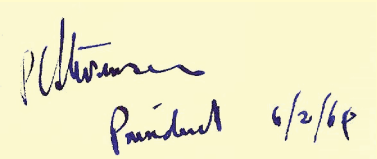
7. These proceedings were followed by a request from Dr Taylor for the formation of a Council or Committee of Members to conduct the affairs of the Society. Dr Sarjeant proposed the formation of a Committee, and he was seconded by Mr Stevenson. Then followed the Election of a Committee of Members, who were voted for, the results being checked by volunteer scrutineers from those present. Accordingly the Committee was declared elected (Mr P.C. Stevenson, Mr E. Taylor, Mr R.W. Morrell, Miss F.I. Brindley, Mr P.H. Hanford, Mr P.H. Speed, Dr T.D. Ford, Mr R.E. Elliot, Dr F.M. Taylor, Mr R.J.A. Travis, Mr D.J. Salt, Dr W.A.S. Sarjeant)

8. Discussion followed on the question of Membership Fee, which was proposed by Dr Sarjeant at £1.1.0d. and carried; an amendment that it should be £1.10.0d. being rejected. A further amendment of 10/- was rejected. A humorous interjection came from the audience, in the form of a request that annual fee paying should not be in January, and to the appreciation of all concerned, it was arranged for February 1st of each succeeding year.

9. Subsequently Mr Taylor was elected as Treasurer. Miss Brindley was proposed as Secretary, this office she declined to accept, as being one of the movers in wishing the creation of a Society and was of the opinion a more democratic method would be to have a volunteer, eventually Mr Morrel1 was proposed and seconded.

10. Fee taking then followed, and a number of 28 people joined by paying the announced sum of £1.1.0d. Application Forms were also completed for the joining of the Society. A proposal for a Society journal was accepted.

11.Arrangements were then made for the adjournment, at the conclusion of the meeting, for a meeting by the Committee Members, in order that they might select a date when they could meet to formulate the Constitution of the Society, and February 20th, at 8.00pm at the Technical College was arranged.

12. March 7th at 7.30pm. was selected for the First Ordinary Meeting of the Geological Society, and with closing remarks from Dr Taylor, to the effect that the affairs of the day has been satisfactorily concluded, the meeting came to an end.

The record was signed by P C Stevenson, President, on 6/2/64.