VALE

John Travis

John was a founder member of the East Midlands Geological Society. His personal geological investigations started when, as a schoolboy, he reduced his parents' coal stocks to dust in his search for fossils. His dual interests in caving and geology led him to the Notts Four Ways Club and then to the newly formed Derbyshire Caving Association.

Being a very competent caver and active mainly in the Peak District, John provided valuable suppport for Trevor Ford during preparation of the first edition of *Caves of Derbyshire*, driving hundreds of miles on a scooter to check locations and details of the caves.

He also joined the Peak District Mines Historical Society in 1963, where he met Harold Sarjeant, who put him in touch with his son Bill in the Geology Department at Nottingham University. That friendship led, later that year, to an invitation to a meeting to discuss the possible formation of a local geological society. From there the East Midlands Geological Society was born. John and his wife Josie were founder members in 1964.

John served on the Society's Council for two sessions of its early years and was the most regular attender at meetings and field trips. No field trip would have been complete without John's ageing Renault Espace rolling up.

He was first employed at Boots, but then moved to the University of Nottingham, where he worked in the Chemistry and Geology departments for 34 years until retirement. During all of this time, and accompanied by Josie, he pursued his personal field studies involving caves, fossils and minerals of the limestones of northern England. His hopes of increasing these investigations in retirement were dashed by a serious illness to Josie, which was eventually terminal.

In 2006 he became President of the EMGS and continued the work of his predecessor in making the Society more accessible to the general membership and encouraging younger people.

Presidents are required to give three Presidential addresses or to invite other people to do this. John chose the latter and we were treated to three star names who gave inspiring lectures and helped to raise the profile of the Society. These were Professor Monica Grady, Professor Richard Fortey and Professor Jane Francis.

In later years John was frequently accompanied on field excursion by Marion Bryce who, as a botanist, gave John a wider focus to his investigations of geology and landscapes as they explored the limestone areas of the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria. John died on 22nd February 2019, and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

EDITORIAL

A personal note, as this journal is the last to be produced by myself before I retire from the role of Editor, having now completed twenty issues of the *Mercian Geologist*. Despite the scary number of hours involved in front of the computer, I have enjoyed turning the numerous submitted manuscripts and miscellanea into the contents of each issue of the Society's journal.

I wish to thank all the authors who have provided the material that is the essence of our Society's journal, and also the many colleagues who have assisted with diligent and constructive reviews of various papers submitted over the years.

The Editorial Board is a rather grand title for the small and evolving group of Society members who have gathered for annual meetings to discuss each forthcoming issue. Those informal evening meetings have been both delightful and extremely helpful, and I thank all those who have been involved over the years: Keith Ambrose, David Bate, John Carney, Sue Cotton, Alan Filmer, Andy Howard, Tony Morris, Judy Rigby, Gerry Slavin and Judy Small. And a special thank you to John Carney, who has been on the Editorial Board for all twenty years and has produced all the *Geobrowser* pages, which have always been a favourite of the Editor and have been enjoyed by so many readers.

All issues of the *Mercian Geologist* have been produced in Nottingham, initially at Norman Printing, with invaluable guidance and generous assistance from Andrew Rigby. Subsequently, the printing moved to John Browns, where Doug Gray has been so very helpful over the last sixteen years. The printing process has evolved, as has the entire industry. The early days involved type-setting, paste-up and scanning of black-and-white maps and photographs, with so much work done in the printer's studio; this was followed by conventional lithographic printing, without the use of colour except on the cover. However, later issues have been prepared on the Editor's home computer, compiling layouts in *InDesign* to produce large, high-resolution, electronic files that go to the printer almost ready for the presses. This elimination of studio work has allowed the current full-colour production while actually reducing the print costs, and this has proved popular with both authors and readers.

Print technology continues to evolve, and digital printing can now match the quality of litho work, while being more economical on shorter print-runs. For this reason alone, the next issue of *Mercian Geologist* will emerge from a digital printer, and we thank John Browns for many years of support (though they continue to print the longer runs of the Society's other publications).

Finally, I wish every success to David Bate as the incoming Editor, and hope that he too can enjoy the *Mercian Geologist*.

Tony Waltham