Bristol. Some 500,000 BO have been produced to date. Total reserves are estimated in the range 1 to 3 M BO equivalent. Minor production of oil and gas from the Wingfield Flags is also occurring, with some of the gas being used for electrical generation on site and the remainder flared. A 3D seismic survey was acquired in 2012 and has been reprocessed subsequently. The plan is to also produce from the Penistone Flags reservoir using a well from the same pad, and export the gas to the local grid, in the near future.

The participants express grateful thanks to Egdon Resources for hosting the visit, Mark Abbott and his colleagues for their informative presentations and Tim Colman, for arranging and coordinating the visit.

Tim Pharaoh

VALE

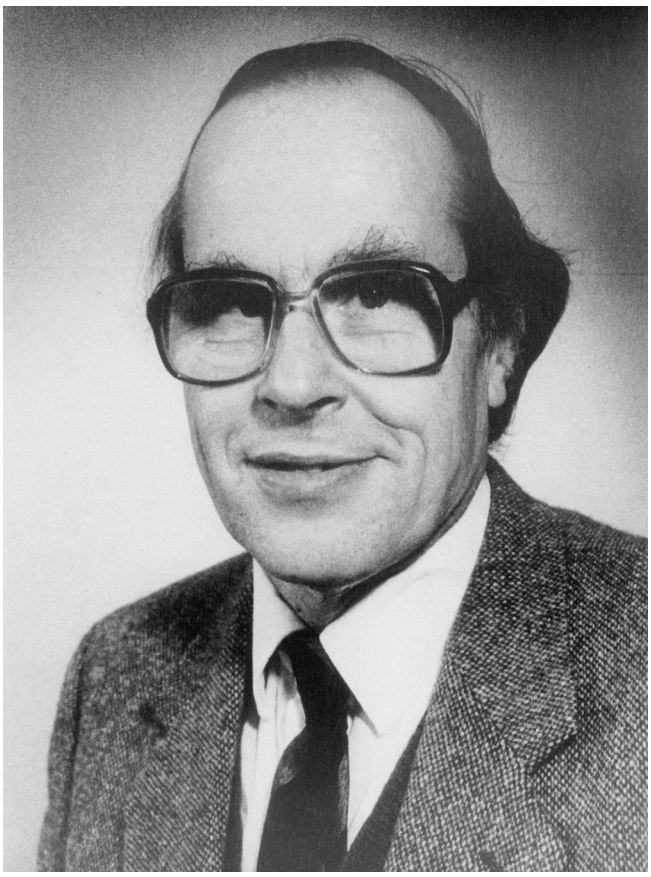
Frank Mervyn Taylor: one of the founding members of the East Midlands Geological Society, 12 Aug 1929–3 July 2023

Not only was Frank Taylor one of the leading lights in setting up the East Midlands Geological Society (EMGS) 60 years ago, but he was instrumental in the continuing success of the Society for a very large part of its history.

A Lancashire lad, Frank was born on the Glorious Twelfth in the Old Trafford area of Manchester, 30 minutes later than his twin sister. He also had an elder brother.

After Junior school Frank attended Manchester High School during the Second World War and following his school years his National Service was in the Army prior to going to Sheffield University in 1950 to read geology. On completing his degree he was accepted by the university for a research degree on Carboniferous Rugose corals. Before completing his PhD, awarded in 1957, he applied for an assistant lectureship at the University of Nottingham. On the day of the interview there was a raging blizzard and very typically of Frank he manoeuvred his motor bike across his beloved Peak District to arrive in Nottingham in time for his interview, which of course was successful.

Frank remained at the University of Nottingham for the whole of his career and was promoted to lecturer grade A before his retirement in 1994. He was fully involved with a large lecturing load, mainly in palaeontology but also stratigraphy. Additionally, he conducted many practical classes, tutorials, and day and longer field trips in an area of his work he enjoyed the most, particularly in inclement weather, often a wonderful test of student resolve. He was also the supervisor of postgraduate palaeontological research students. In all of these teaching activities



Frank Mervyn Taylor. This portrait appeared as the frontispiece to his important 'Lexicon of New Red Sandstone Stratigraphy', which formed volume 11, nos. 1 & 2, of the Mercian Geologist for January 1988.

he was helpful and kind in so many different ways. In his departmental work he always had the burden of a massive administrative load.

With this very heavy full-time responsibility it is somewhat surprising that Frank agreed to teach a number of non-vocational geology evening courses for the university Adult Education Department. Typically, Frank was quite willing to travel to remote locations in Derbyshire. But after many years of taking evening classes he called it a day following a class session in Bakewell when on his return journey home his favourite Rover parked itself astride a drystone wall during a winter snowstorm. In these classes he found a groundswell of great interest in the subject at a time when all-embracing theories such as Plate Tectonics were exciting the imagination of the general public. Frank, Bill Sarjeant and others recognised the continuing need for the students in these classes and others to continue their enjoyment of geology in all its aspects and facets. The Lord Energlyn, Head of Department at this time, and the University of Nottingham as a whole gave their full blessing and support for the formation of the EMGS, and now in 2024 we are celebrating its 60 years of very successful existence.

Frank put his heart and soul into the Society. He gave the first public lecture and led the very first field trip, if we discount the Peak District Mines Historical

Society invitation to join them on a trip to Dudley Canal and tunnels and workings in the Wenlock Limestone. He initially held the post of Research Advisor to the Society (1964–1974). From 1967 to 1970 he was Secretary, which embraced a vast array of activities including being the person to develop research projects, organising the collation and distribution of the journal, with the help of an excellent team of helpers, and many other tasks. He was relieved of some of these duties to a certain extent on his election as President (1970–1973). In its early days a few prominent geologists including Professors The Lord Energlyn, Swinnerton and Wills were elected Honorary Members of EMGS. In 1983 Frank was one of the last to be awarded such an accolade before it was discontinued. He continued his tremendous contribution to the society until his last few years.

Frank published well over fifty papers. Included in this impressive array were a large number in the *Mercian Geologist*, a chapter on Permian and Triassic formations in Sylvester-Bradley and Ford's *Geology of the East Midlands* and, more particularly, his important work, 'A lexicon of New Red Sandstone stratigraphy' (*Mercian Geologist*, Jan 1988).

Frank met his wife Mavis when they both studied at Sheffield. They married at St Cyprian's Church, Frecheville, Sheffield in 1955, before moving to the Nottingham area on his appointment to the University. Frank was devoted to his family of four daughters and later his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He doted on them, although there was a degree of strictness and his word was final, very much the same as with his university students. But with all he had their wellbeing at heart.

Frank quite surprisingly found time for many other activities. He had a huge stamp collection of over thirty thousand stamps, meticulously catalogued, he was an extremely capable handyman, particularly with electrics, a very keen gardener with a well-established vineyard from which he bottled wines of a very high quality. It is thus unsurprising that he and Mavis, a teacher of French, spent many happy times touring the wine regions across the Channel. Frank's expertise in wines culminated in him becoming a wine judge of national status.

Frank's love of geology never wavered and even when relying on a very robust motorised wheel chair his field activities continued in his typically determined fashion. Two grandchildren live in Kent and he revelled in his recent field activities there, both around the coast and inland. In my imagination I have a wonderful vision of a 90-plus-year-old stretching his wheelchair to the limit ascending the Chalk scarp.

A full and long life well spent leaving a great legacy for those who follow him.

Ian Sutton