



# THE BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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HON. SECRETARY	Mrs. E. BAKEWELL
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NEWSLETTER NO. 1 AUGUST 1975

## Introduction

This is the first of an intended regular series of Newsletters to be produced for the members of the Black Country Geological Society.

It is hoped that the Newsletter will provide a convenient medium for the dissemination of information about the Society's activities in a lively and informal manner. It may also be particularly useful for keeping those members who are not able to attend every meeting in touch with the Society.

This is also a convenient point to invite you all to forward any suitable material for publication in a future issue. Notes and news will be particularly welcomed as will details of new exposures. We shall also be pleased to receive "Letters to the Editor" on any relevant subject, particularly if they are brief and to the point.

Finally, we would like to point out that future issues of the Newsletter will only be sent to paid-up members of the Society.

## Inaugural Lecture

Professor F.W. Shotton will speak on 'The Ice Age in the Midlands' on Thursday 25th September at 7.30 p.m., Dudley Museum, St. James Road.

The Society is honoured that such an eminent geologist and academic will give the inaugural lecture. Please give your support.

Tea and biscuits at 7.00 p.m.

## Other Meetings

August 31st: Field Meeting - Geology of the Black Country Part 2 - Dudley Museum at 10.00 a.m. Bring a packed lunch.

October 19th: Field Meeting - Geology of the Forest of Dean. Leader, Dr. Peter Oliver - Dudley Museum 9.15 a.m. Bring a packed lunch.

November 20th: Dr. P. Toghill will speak on the subject of 'Geology and Conservation' - Dudley Museum, 7.30 p.m. Tea and biscuits at 7.00 p.m.

## Inaugural Meeting - 3rd July 1975

The B.C.G.S. officially came into being at the inaugural meeting held in Dudley Museum on the 3rd July. The meeting was attended by about 25 people, the majority of whom became members immediately. Most of those present were former Extra-Mural Geologists but we were also delighted to see many new faces.

Dr. Oliver, a former tutor to many of us, was first to speak and gave a lucid account of the history of geological courses in the area and the events leading up to the formation of the Society. He also stressed the importance of conservation and the important role that the Society could play. Mr. Cutler then followed Dr. Oliver by reiterating the importance of conservation and also the desirability of recording data of new and/or temporary exposures. He also expanded in some detail the proposals for the Society's other activities, including lectures and field-trips. After a short open discussion period the draft constitution was read and with the additions of two extra articles was approved by the meeting and was formally adopted by the Society. Copies of the constitution may be

inspected on application to either the Chairman or the Hon. Secretary. Following the constitution the officers as listed at the top of this Newsletter were elected with the addition of Mr. D. Bedson, Mrs. M. Oliver and Mr. T. Bond as committee members. All in all it was a most successful evening.

#### Field Meeting - Sunday, 27th July

#### Introduction to Black Country Geology - Part I - Cambrian to Middle Coal Measures

Leaders: Mr. A. Cutler and Dr. P. G. Oliver

This was the first of two field meetings organised by the Society with the object of providing a basic introduction to the geology of the Black Country. A stratigraphical approach has been adopted and this trip dealt with the oldest rocks of the district, i.e. the Lower Palaeozoic.

The main party assembled at Dudley Museum on a fine summer morning and moved off in a convoy of cars. The first stop was Walton Hill, near Clent, where at the summit Mr. Cutler gave a preamble to the geology of the area, indicating at the same time major landmarks and topographical features.

The next locality visited was the Cambrian/Silurian (Upper Llandoverly) unconformity, at the old 'bus terminal at Rubery which Dr. Oliver described.

Lunch was taken at the Hollybush pub, at Hollies Hill after which the party moved to Castle Hill at Dudley where Dr. Oliver described the Wenlock limestone which is well exposed in the old workings.

The final locality of the day was Netherton. Mr. Cutler described the canal and tramway sections. Finally Dr. Oliver gave an account of Coal measure sedimentation in Doultons Clay Pit (Saltwells) in which the Middle Coal Measures are well exposed.

#### Halesowen Section

A temporary section of Halesowen Beds (Upper Coal Measures) has been exposed in Halesowen. The locality on the Birmingham Road in front of the Grammar School has already been visited by a few members. Initial investigation has revealed the presence of sandstones and siltstones with calcareous bands

and ironstones. Cross bedding is well developed with, consequently, variable dips.

The exposure will be visited again for a more detailed survey.

The Society would like to hear from anyone who knows the locality of temporary exposures, or who would be interested in assisting in the recording of these.

#### Other Societies

We are receiving information on a regular basis from the 'Friends of the Black Country Museum Mining Group'

The Group hopes to have a stand at Kidderminster General Hospital Fayre on 30th August. They also intend to undertake a survey of Dudley Castle Hill. Anyone requiring further information should contact George Price, 99 Salisbury Road, Smethwick Warley.

There may be other Societies wishing to know of our activities and vice-versa. Perhaps members with any information would pass this on.

#### Booklist

M & E. Handbook - Geology (Potter & Robinson)	£1.50
Introduction to Geology (Read & Watson)	£2.95
Principals of Physical Geology (Holmes)	£5.95
Elements of Physical Geology (Holmes) shorter version of above	£1.85
British Regional Geology - Central	£0.40
British Palaeozoic Fossils	£0.75
British Mesozoic Fossils	£0.60

#### Geological Survey Maps:

153	Wolverhampton	
154	Lichfield	
167	Dudley	
168	Birmingham	£0.50 each.

All published by Institute of Geological Sciences.

Penguin Dictionary of Geology	£0.75
1/50,00 O/S Map 139 (Birmingham)	

#### Editor

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