



EDITORIAL.

This issue contains news of the various committee changes arranged at the Annual General Meeting in March, and of the rise in subscriptions for 1982, which is parallel with the rise in the cost of postage and room hire.

During the Summer many members take on other activities on behalf of the society. These include the guided walks which are run jointly by the society and the Countryside Commission, and led by various members of the society. The walks are friendly, non technical jaunts, and additional members support would be highly valued by the leaders. Indeed, why not lead a walk yourself?

In addition Alan Cutler has organised a "Fossils Are Fun" programme for children. Details of the event and the guided walks are given later in the Newsletter.

Those members who have been asking about Margaret Oliver's M.Sc. research will be pleased to know that, space permitting, her summary will appear in the next issue.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

June 8th. Meeting before field trip, led by Mr. Walker.

June 14th. Field trip to the Cotswolds. Leader, Mr. Walker. Meet at Coaley Peak picnic site at noon. SO 792 011. To visit the Middle Jurassic, at Rodborough Common, Selsley Common, Sandford's Knoll, and Frocester Hill, all of which are near Stroud. Correlation of land form, flora and fauna with geology.

July 29th. A Monday evening field trip led by Alan Cutler at 8 p.m. from the Allied Centre. A leisurely walk around Wordsley exposures of the Western Boundary Fault.

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Meetings are held at the Allied Centre, Green Man Entry, Tower Street, Dudley. Please park well behind the Malt Shovel Pub car park. Indoor meetings will commence promptly at 8.00 p.m. with coffee and biscuits from 7.15. Field meetings will commence from outside the Allied Centre. Non-members welcome.

The Society does not provide personal accident cover for members or visitors on field trips. You are strongly urged to take out your own personal accident insurance to the level which you feel appropriate. Schools and other bodies attending field trips should arrange their own insurance as a matter of course.

*Chairman*  
A. Cutler B.Sc., M.CAM.,  
Dip.M., M.Inst.M.

*Vice Chairman*  
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F.I.E.E., M.I. Mech.E.

*Conservation Secretary*  
C. Mitchell T.ENG. (CEI),  
F.S.C.E.T., F.S.S.

*Field Secretary*  
T. J. O'Mara B.A.

Programme.

July 12th. Visit to Chatterly Whitfield Mining Museum and the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Meet in the Mining Museum car park at 10.45 am. The colliery is about 2 miles from Tunstall on the A 527 to Biddulph and Congleton. The pottery museum will be visited in the afternoon. Those needing transport are asked to contact Anne Harrison on 021-454-6416.

Sept.14th. Lecture.

Oct.11th. Joint meeting with Shropshire Geological Society.

Nov.7th. A coach has been booked from Dudley Museum at 9.30 am. to the Geological Museum in London. Anyone wishing to visit the various museums or to use the transport for any other reason is asked to contact Anne Harrison, so that she can obtain some idea of the numbers involved. Return cost, adults £3, children 12-18 £2, younger ones free.

Dec.7th. Lecture by Professor Hawkes. Geology of Antarctica.

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Geological Guided Walks - run jointly by BCGS and the Countryside Commission.

Doulton's Claypit - meet at Mushroom Green Chain Shop, Saltwells, Netherton.  
July 5th, Aug.2, Sep.6.

Cotwall End - meet in car park at Cotwall End Nature Centre, Sedgley, SO 914930  
June 14, July 12, Aug.9, Sep.13.

Wrens Nest - meet by King Arthur public house at corner of Priory Rd. and Birmingham New Rd. SO 943922.

June 21, July 19, Aug.16, Sep.20.

All meetings at 3 pm. on Sundays.  
Charges, adults 50 pence  
children 20 pence.

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February 23rd 1981.

Black Country Mining Geology.

Talk by Mr. Basil Poole.

Those members who failed to brave the snow and cold missed a rare treat on this evening, for indeed it was a treat to hear a skilfully arranged mixture of humorous but true anecdotes and statements of Black Country mining geology from Mr. Poole's lifetime experience.

The early part of the talk concerned the area now occupied by the Black Country Museum, formerly known as the Congree. It was near here that the first Newcomen engine was constructed about 1712. We heard something of the conflicting theories as to its location, and Mr. Poole tested these against his extensive knowledge of the geology of the area.

We then learned of old mining leases of that area back in the 1600's. Even in those days the leases stipulated measures to control spontaneous combustion and flooding, as well as requiring periodical delivery of two fat capons or ~~two~~ hogsheads of good claret!

Then came reminiscences of articles served at Baggeridge Colliery, tales of how to get into a cinema at half price, of a loaded tub that went down a 600 yard shaft and of why the union representative needed an urgent bath after the shaft inspection, of what a miner Sam Cook wore when on the night shift (Her'll miss 'em when 'er gets up!) and how the disinfectant in the new pithead baths caused the offices to be temporarily abandoned due to an infestation of fleas.

Some of Mr. Poole's own unusual experiences followed, from his time at Baggeridge and subsequently with Messrs. Johnson, Poole and Bloomer.

One statutory quarterly survey resulted in the discovery of the removal of a barrier rib between two mines, causing many difficulties.

Much of the Sports Centre off Birmingham Rd. Dudley is over partially flooded limestone workings. A "crownings-in" in the 1950's resulted in the drilling of a borehole into the workings. This was completed on a frosty day and while waiting for his mate to fetch the tea, driller crouched over the warm air emitted by the hole. He became unconscious in the foul air, and was taken to hospital just in time.

The tale of the Backward Borough Engineer who failed to secure the lowering of a specially constructed boat some 90 feet down a 29 inch diameter hole was faithfully told and reference made to two of the underground visits using inflatable boats. There were in fact many such visits and each had its humorous side, the Backward Bureaucrat and Basil Poole having an equal number of immersions!

Discussion ensued on various topics including spontaneous combustion, the Dudley enterprise zone, and the Russells Hall hospital.

D.W. otherwise  
"Backward Bureaucrat"

March 16th.

Annual General Meeting and  
Film Night.

After the sherry reception, the meeting commenced with the Chairman's annual report. Alan Cutler reviewed the past year's events, and the satisfactory maintenance of membership numbers despite the recession. The programme of guided walks was a particular success, both

for society funds and for the numbers attending. Conservation activities during the year were more in response to needs than as an organised programme, and concerned especially the exposures on the walkway at West Bromwich, and sites at Aldridge and Hurst Hill. A working party cleared the Lye exposure near Hayes Lane. The move to the Allied Centre for meetings gives us a much better room and some capacity for storage. It had to occur when the library was unavailable, but the change of night has caused problems to some members, which it is hoped will be temporary.

Subscriptions for 1982 have been raised because of the postage and room hire costs being higher.

Individual Member	- £5
Family Members	- £7
Students	- £2.50
Associate	- £10

#### Election of Officers

This year Colin Mitchell, Dave Reynolds and Tim O'Mara resigned, and the officers are now:-

Chairman	- Alan Cutler
Vice-chairman	- Peter Oliver
Treasurer	- Maitland Woods.
Hon. Sec.	- Paul Shilston
Programme Sec.	- Anne Harrison
Committee members	- John Easter Michael Coles Nigel Bradley.

At the end of the formal part of the meeting, Colin Mitchell proposed a clearly heartfelt vote of thanks to Alan Cutler for all his work for the society, and it was equally enthusiastically seconded from all round the room. Alan must have realised that he is appreciated.

The rest of the meeting included three films on oil, its origin and trapping, production and products, oil strike evaluation, and Scottish offshore oil.

April 12th.1981.

Field trip to the Malvern Hills. Leader Mr.S.McNicol of Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

A large group met at the car park near the foot of Hereford Beacon, a klippe thrust over Silurian rocks. The Malverns, which run in a north-south direction, are complex, hard ancient, metamorphosed rocks which possibly started as a basic lava flow. Half way up the beacon Mr.McNicol stopped to demonstrate soil erosion, and possibly also to give the less fit a welcome break. From British Camp we were able to look east over the New Red Sandstone of the Midlands plain to the passage beds of the Rheatic in the middle distance. The Cotswolds formed an even skyline, and the reservoir near the base of the Beacon lay in the Precambrian Warren House group.

To the west in the more hilly foreground, a line of trees in the Wenlock Shale showed the strike direction. In the centre of the view to the west a fault could be seen, and towards the north-east a flatter area marked the bed of a Pleistocene lake. Further east of this could be seen the Wenlock Limestone and Aymestry Sandstone ridge, beyond which lay the Old Red Sandstone deposits.

A less strenuous walk took us to a crag of late Precambrian shattered pillow lavas. These were not very distinguishable but some chilled margins could be picked out.

We departed for the nearby Duke of York for lunch, where those not wishing to take advantage of the liquid fare picnicked at the side of a field full of daffodils and bluebells.

At Hollybush Quarry (758372) shattered and sheared Malvernian rocks rose on the left for some 200 feet, and on the right we walked almost down the line of

the fault which gave way to Hollybush sandstone. This was laid down under marine conditions and was only poorly fossiliferous. Where the sandstone was faulted against the Malvernian, there was good evidence of slickensiding on a 45 degree slope, where the glauconitic content of the rock had become haematitic. Intruded into the Malvernian at the end of the quarry were some pale pink granitic veins.

In a day of much leaping in and out of cars our next stop was Gullet Quarry (762381) where we saw steeply dipping Silurian deposits. Mr.McNicol scrambled up the face to point out the unconformable junction of the Precambrian Malvernian and the Mayhill sandstone, which was represented by large granitic boulders and smaller pebbles forming the basal conglomerate. This rapidly changed to the Silurian deposits indicating the progressive deepening of the ancient seabed. The deposits consisted of sandstone, shale and calcareous bands. Brachiopods and crinoid segments were found, but the specimens were poor. Flute casts indicated an easterly current direction.

We next chased Mr.McNicol to the A.A.box exposure (721385). Here nodular beds dipped steeply to the east, being part of the western limb of the Eastnor syncline. A small tree root forced its way down a bedding plane, ably demonstrating floral aid in the destruction of rocks.

The fifth stop was at County Quarry (717384) where beds of limestone dipped 3 degrees to the west exposing a long face of Lower Ludlow beds overlying Wenlock Limestone, at the crest of the Ledbury anticline. No unusual fossils were found but solitary corals were very evident on the spoil heaps. As we walked back through the endless mud, it was pointed out that the Dog's Mercury and wild Clematis are indicative of limestone country.

At Knapp Lane Quarry (714386) the poorly fossiliferous rocks dipped steeply to the west, with well developed easterly inclined joint planes in the Upper Ludlow mudstones and Aymestry limestone.

A short walk took us to a field which marked the end of the succession of rocks which we had been studying, and where once more we could see back over the New Red Sandstone to the east. With the trip now officially over, thanks were given to Mr. McNicol for a very interesting and enjoyable excursion, but for those wishing to look at two more quarries, the day was not over yet!

At Gardeners Quarry (769439) the Malvernian was cut by a gouge filled fault, and a thrust was plainly visible.

South Tollgate Quarry (769439) was the last call, and here the almost syenitic granite was cut by a thrust at 30 degrees, which probably occurred in the Hercynian. Where the one foot or so of mylonite was exposed, it was green and rotted. Further round the quarry the pink granitic rock was cut by a dolerite dyke of up to two feet across. It had been too small to bake the surrounding rocks, and this too was rotted at the surface.

Thanks were again extended to our enthusiastic leader for an informative and active day.

H.L.

May 18th. 1981. Members' Night  
Trilobites from the Ddolhir  
Beds of the Corwen area, North Wales.

Short talk by Geoff. Thompson.

Reference was made to the general outcrop of the Ddolhir beds (Upper Ashgillian) which range in thickness from about 600 feet at Glyn Ceiriog to 2000 feet at Corwen. The rock comprises fine sandy mudstones which

contain a varied assemblage of fossils, for in addition to the trilobites, brachiopods, corals, gastropods, bryozoa, cystoids and crinoids also occur.

Research on the trilobite fauna commenced in the 1870's when Thomas Ruddy spent 10 years collecting from numerous fossil outcrops. The majority of these have now disappeared with the extension of Cynwyd forest, both south and west of Corwen. Although Ruddy collected many beautifully preserved specimens, he was extremely vague as to where they had come from. This hampered future research by Wills and Smith in the 1920's and later by Prof. Harry Whittington in the 1960's.

I was fortunate enough in 1976 to discover a locality within the horizon where Ruddy had obtained most of his material, and over the last six years have collected in excess of 1500 complete trilobites, representing 22 different species, some of which are new to Wales. A sample of the material was brought to the meeting for members to examine.

Research has commenced on the fauna and I am working in conjunction with Dr. David Price at the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University. The results of the work will be published over the next few years in such publications as the Geological Magazine and Palaeontology. G.T.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Mark Walters	- Aldridge.
Mr. & Mrs. K.J. Coleman	- Bridgenorth.
Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Brown	- Wolverhampton.
Michael Coles	- Gornal.
Margaret Evans.	- Shrewsbury.
Roy Prigg.	- Moseley, Birmingham.

New Exhibition at the  
Geological Museum, London

There is a new permanent exhibition at the Geological Museum in South Kensington. "British Fossils" explains what fossils are and how to collect and interpret them, and displays a large number of British examples. The central feature is a collection of specimens, while diagrams, photographs slide shows and models are provided as aids to understanding the fossils.

The exhibition is in two contrasted parts. The first is introductory in content and light in treatment; it can be read through as a single story. The second part consists of displays arranged in stratigraphic order, and comprises 31 separate displays.

The choice of 1500 fossils for the exhibition has concentrated on typical forms which the collector might encounter. It includes zone fossils where possible, and ensures that specimens are from a wide range of localities and rock units.

National Scheme for Geological  
Site Documentation.

The report for the first two years of this scheme shows that nearly 14,000 records are held by 36 centres, and that some recording centres have been able to obtain grants from the Manpower Services Commission.

Summer Events in Dudley:-

Fossils Are Fun.

Friday August 7th at the Art Gallery, St. James Road, Dudley.

"Explore the life and times of fossils with Alan Cutler, with the aid of specimens, making models, films and geological games."

For ages 8 - 14 years.

University of Leicester.

Snowdonia Geology and Scenery.

At Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, July 5-11.1981. Geology with some natural history. £91. Apply to Miss E. Sunderland, Vaughan College, St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE 14LB.

University of Oxford.

The Evolving Earth.

At the Residential Centre for External Studies, Rewley House, 3, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA, .Apply Secretary. Res. £75 Non-res. £45. July 25-Aug.1. Earth history, plate tectonics, comparison with other planets.

British Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
University of York. Sep.1-4.

Interdisciplinary nature of geology, geophysics and earth resources, mass extinctions. Details from Dr. Halstead, Dept. of Geology, Reading University, RG 6 2AB.

BCGS. Committee dates:- 8 pm.

General: June 22. Sep.7. Nov.9.  
Conservation: July 13. Sep.28.  
Nov. 2.

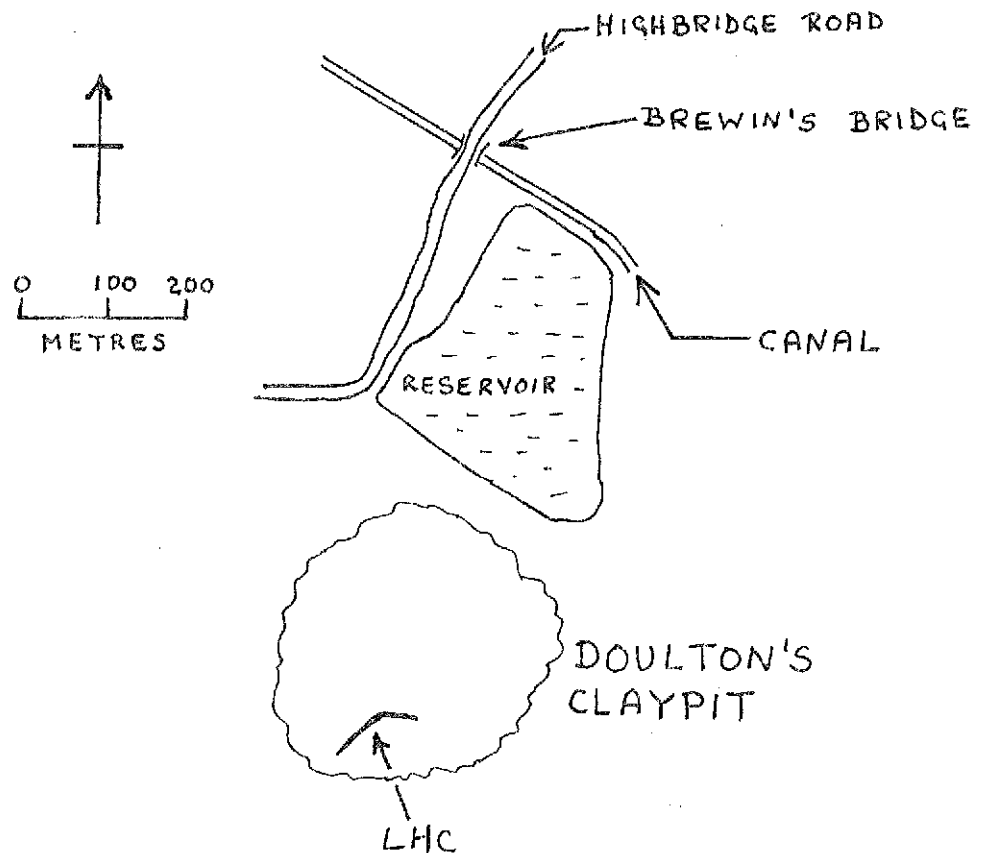
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LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES.

3. DOULTON'S CLAYPIT, Nr. NETHERTON.

Grid Ref: SO 936 872.

Location: Disused claypit off Highbridge Road, near Netherton.



DESCRIPTION. The site was once worked for fireclay and the overlying Thick Coal. The strata seen are mostly from the Middle Coal Measures and are sediments of shallow water or terrestrial origin; in this area there was very slow subsidence so that considerable thicknesses of shallow water deposits accumulated. For instance the Thick Coal, now worked out in this exposure, reaches some 35ft. in thickness.

There was some rhythmic sedimentation as conditions changed, giving rise to several coal seams (the lower Heathen Coal can be seen in this exposure) with a seatearth or ganister layer below, and mudstones then sandstones above the coal.

This exposure shows all the rocks typical of the Productive Coal Measures - coal, fireclay, ganister, ironstone, shale and sandstone.

The lower Heathen Coal can be seen near the top of a westerly-facing escarpment, marked LHC on the map.



June Newsletter Supplement.

1981

The  
Black  
Country  
Geological  
Society

1. Erratum

The correct date for the evening field trip is Monday 29th June. Meet at the Allied Centre at 7.30 p.m.

The starting point for this trip will be the White Swan Pub, Brierley Hill Road, Buckpool, Wordsley. Members wishing to go direct should assemble at 7.45 - 8.00 p.m.

2. Journal.

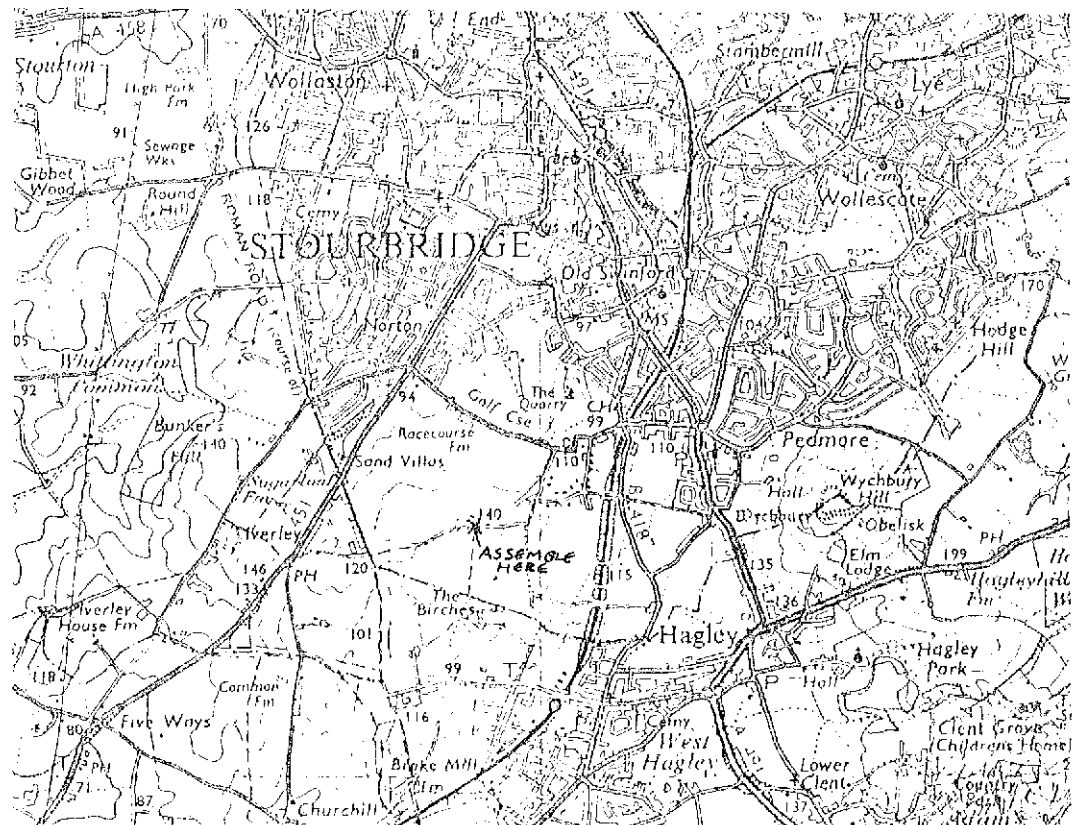
The Journal has now been published and will go on sale at meetings; price £1.50, or from the Hon. Secretary at 16, St. Nicholas Gardens, Kings Norton; price £1.92 to include postage.

3. Additional Meeting.

There has been much publicity recently about a new Severn-Trent Water Authority project to utilize the Triassic sandstones of the Stourbridge area as a vast underground reservoir.

An evening trip to the site, located near Ounty John Lane, Pedmore, has been arranged for Monday, ~~20~~<sup>27</sup>th July at 7.30 p.m. on site.

Any members with difficulties regarding transport should contact Anne Harrison.



- Chairman  
A. Cutler B.Sc., M.C.A.M.,  
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- Conservation Secretary  
C. Mitchell T. ENG. (CEI),  
F.S.C.E.T., F.S.S.
- Field Secretary  
T. J. O'Mara B.A.



