



Editorial: Geology Today:

This is the title of a new magazine, the first issue of which has just been published. It is intended to cater for a wide range of interests, and to interpret a variety of topics for non-specialists.

It will include regular features on fossils, minerals, conservation and museums, and also will have excursion guides and news items. It is published every two months by Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., Osney Rd., Oxford, OX2 0EL at £12. per year including postage. Although originally I did not intend to pay yet another subscription, I thoroughly enjoyed the attractive 32 pages, and have sent in my subscription. You are all welcome to see my copy, and I think it is just the style to appeal to many of our members.

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Forthcoming Meetings:

Monday 11th February:

"Planetary Geology" - talk by Dr. R. Maddison of Keele University.

Monday 18th March:

Annual General Meeting followed by the film "The Grand Canyon".

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Meetings are held at The Saracen's Head, Stone Street, Dudley.

Indoor meetings commence at 8 p.m.

Those who would like lifts for field meetings, please contact Nigel Bradley.

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

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

*Vice Chairman*  
P. G. Oliver B.Sc., Ph.D.,  
F.G.S.

*Hon. Treasurer*  
M. J. Woods B.Sc., M.Sc.,  
M.I.Geol., F.G.S.

*Hon. Secretary*  
P. D. Shilston M.A., C.Eng.,  
F.I.E.E., M.I. Mech.E.

*Field Secretary*  
N.G. Bradley

Programme 1985:

Sunday April 21st: Field trip to Church Stretton, Shropshire. Leader Andrew Jenkinson.

Monday May 13th: Informal meeting and talk on "The Himalayas" by Neil Howard.

Sunday May 19th: Field trip to North Staffordshire. Leader Don Steward.

June (date to be announced): Field trip to Northamptonshire. Leader Dr. John Hudson.

Monday June 17th: Evening field trip to Wrens Nest, Dudley. Leader Paul Shilston.

Friday June 28th (change of date) "Conversazione" to mark the Society's tenth anniversary. Dudley Museum.

July 5th/7th (Friday/Sunday): Weekend field trip to the Lake District, in conjunction with Birmingham University Extramural Dept. Leader Dr. Frank Moseley. Details to be announced.

Monday July 15th: Evening field trip to Ketley Quarry, Kingswinford. Leader Alan Cutler.

Monday September 16th: Talk by Professor Hawkes of Aston University "Geology of the Midlands".

Sept. 19/21st (Thurs./Sat.) Sixth meeting of Geological Societies of the British Isles, at Birmingham University. Lectures, displays, field trips. Details later.

Sunday October 6th: Joint field trip with the Shropshire Geological Society to Cotwall End, Dudley. Leader Alan Cutler.

Monday November 11th: "Geology and Soils". Talk by Dr. Margaret Oliver.

Friday December 6th: A.G.M. of Geological Curators' Group, hosts the B.C.G.S. Dudley Town Hall.

Monday December 9th: "The eye of Faith in Geology". Talk by Dr. R. Bradshaw of Bristol University.

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Field Meeting in the Leintwardine Area - jointly with the Shropshire Geological Society Sept. 23rd, 1984. Leader Rue Smith.

The area around Leintwardine shows Silurian formations in a transitional stage from deep water conditions in the west to shallower shelf seas in the east. The main feature of interest is the existence of a number of submarine channels, running in a WSW direction.

Seven channels have been identified, each about one km. wide, running in parallel directions about 1 km. apart. They were cut and later filled in during Silurian times, under conditions thought to be similar to those at present off south western California. These channels deepen towards the WSW and in the Leintwardine area they appear as submarine canyon heads. Rue Smith has made a special study of these features and took the party to several localities to see features associated with three of the channels, The Weaver, Church Hill and Tatteridge. The first locality was past Whitton Farm along a track running eastwards from Leintwardine. This went up the succession through the Middle Elton formation, a shaly siltstone with many graptolites, to the Upper Elton formation. The track passed along the southern edge of the Weaver Channel and indicated the country rock through which the channel was cut.

Moving slightly south to Church Hill, we came to the line of the Church Hill channel. Here the channel was cut into Middle Elton strata, being filled in later in lower Leintwardine times.

Several features of the submarine canyon could be seen including slumping effects and scour marks. Lunch was taken at Leintwardine and

then the party visited a site SW of Church Hill, on the southern limit of the Church Hill channel. Again we saw the Middle Elton Beds as the parent rock, with the channel fill of Lower Leintwardine. Of special interest was a boulder of Aymestry Limestone which had clearly slumped into the Upper Bringewood Beds of the channel side. Finally we visited a quarry at Brandon Hill, in the line of the Tatteridge submarine channel about 2km. from its head. This exposure showed finely laminated calcareous siltstones, and there were indications of currents flowing south west along the channel towards the deeper water. There was also some evidence of slow turbidite deposits. The visit was an interesting one, to a classic geological area, and our thanks are due both to Rue Smith and to our hosts, The Shropshire Geological Society.

Paul Shilston:

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The Balmy Shores and Icy Wastes of the Precambrian:  
October 15th, 1984. Lecture by Dr. Ian Fairchild.

Dr. Fairchild gave a lecture to the Society on his research into the late Precambrian Ice Age. His journey took us first to the tillites of Garvellachs, a small island to the south of Mull. He showed slides of the orange tillite with a matrix of dolomite. An overlying conglomerate had its upper bedding plane fissured, perhaps representing patterned ground, and fine laminated sediments occurred which might represent varves. Between tills were cross bedded dolomite sediments. The Islay limestone of similar age showed stromatolites, usually associated today with warm water, and oolites which form in actively evaporating environments. In Spitzbergen the Late Precambrian rocks are undeformed and un-

metamorphosed and hopefully easier to interpret. They appear to show two tillites. Dr. Fairchild interpreted the glacial rocks as forming in an environment of major glaciers, outwash plains and off-shore floating ice. He identified tillite and dolomite layers. Oolitic dolomites provide evidence of warm water. Holes in them are filled by secondary dolomites, and are a result of shrinkage and organic decay when exposed. Stromatolites also appear. Some dolomites show cracks perhaps as a result of frost action in a deteriorating climate. Thus Dr. Fairchild emphasised the generally warm conditions of Late Precambrian times as represented by oolites, and the relatively rapid climatic deterioration represented by the tillites. He finished his lecture with slides demonstrating the practical difficulties of the expedition to Spitzbergen. The Society is most grateful to Dr. Fairchild for his lucid exposition of late Precambrian geology and for sharing his enthusiasm with us.

Kate Ashcroft:

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Dudley Limestone Workings. Progress Report Four:

The last two months or so have seen little to report by way of physical progress on works associated with the Dudley limestone workings. Nevertheless the paper work for design, contract administration and technical reports for the various projects has continued unabated. It is disappointing that the very considerable amount of work associated with the trial infilling at the Dudley Sports Centre has meant that the Local Authority has still not been able formally to let a contract. It is hoped that the problems will be sorted out during January and a start made on site early in March. During January and February the Council will receive a number of reports on the drill hole and associated investigations carried

out during the first half of 1984 and these will be available for inspection in the normal way. It is expected that these reports will confirm or amend the previous thinking regarding the location and condition of various workings, possibly amend the boundaries of the consideration zones and make recommendations for further stages of work.

During the next three months a number of applications will be submitted for derelict land grants in line with the Strategy for Action report, and consideration will be given to further submissions as a result of last year's investigations.

In addition to Dudley's programme of works it is anticipated that the West Midland Passenger Transport Executive will be treating a part of the area of Castlefields Mine lying to the south of Birmingham Road between the existing busgarage and the railway line, in order that the bus garage can be extended. This work may well be carried out during the next six months.

Alan J.R. Evans:

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Saltwells Nature Reserve:

The Countess of Dudley's appeal against the County Council's refusal of planning permission for opencast mining has been withdrawn, so the Public Enquiry will not now take place.

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Geological Holidays and Courses:

1. Geology tour of Iceland. 14 days. Depart 8th Aug. £647. Twickenham Travel Ltd., 84 Hampton Rd., Twickenham, Middlesex. TW2 5QS.
2. Geology of Malvern Hills. 15th/18th Feb. Dr. P. Selden, Dept. of Extramural Studies

Manchester University M13 9PL. £ 6 inclusive of travel and accommodation, but non-residents accepted.

3. Isle of Arran: 30th March/6th April. Details from Dr. Selden as above.
4. Mines of the Peak: 22nd/24th Feb. £49. Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, S20 2WB.
5. National Association of Mining History Organisations: Conference. 31st May/2nd June. Peak District Mining Museum Matlock Bath, Derbyshire. Apply for details with S.A.E. Lectures on mining history, visits to mines and smelting sites.
6. University of Bristol. Dept. of Extramural Studies, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1HR. West and North Norway. 29th July/17th August. B84904SJ. Apply for details.

Australia 3-4 weeks. June/July, 1986. £2,000. Apply for details.

South Cornwall. Lizard. Igneous rocks and Mineralisation. 17th/20th March. £65. inc. bed and breakfast, and travel from Bristol. B849605J.

Geophysics. 23rd/24th Feb. £10. Lectures and practical. B84 H19 SJ.

7. Special Interest Holidays: Mike Jones, 308 Springfield Road, Stonygate, Leicester LE2 3BA.

Spanish Sierra Nevada,  
Pyrenees,  
Moroccan High Atlas,  
Algerian Sahara.

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Welcome to New Members:

Sheila Anning and Family, Stourbridge.

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Committee date

Wednesday 13th March, Park Inn Sedgley.

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Book Catalogues:

A 75-page catalogue has been received from E. H. Brill, of Leiden, Netherlands, on biology and geology.

Leaflet on a new reference book "Seabed Mechanics". From Graham Trotman Ltd.

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BLACK COUNTRY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ACM

Notice is hereby given that the tenth Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 18th March 1985 at 8pm at the Saracens Head, Stone Street, Dudley.

AGENDA.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th February 1984.
3. Statement of accounts and Treasurer's report.
4. Chairman's annual report.
5. Election of officers and committee.
  - (a) Chairman
  - (b) Vice-chairman
  - (c) Hon. Secretary
  - (d) Hon. Treasurer
  - (e) Conservation Secretary.
  - (f) Field Secretary.
  - (g) Three committee members.
  - (h) Hon. Auditor.
6. Any other business.

The retiring officers and committee are :

Chairman	A. Cutler	
Vice-chairman	Dr. P.G. Oliver.	
Hon. Secretary	P.D. Shilston.	
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. A. Harrison.	
Conservation Secretary	R.H. Prigg.	
Field Secretary	N.G. Bradley.	
Committee Members	J. Easter	Mrs. H. Logan
	S. Hughes	P. Knight

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 1985

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due, and should be paid to the Hon. Mrs. A. Harrison Treasurer:  
15 Duncombe Grove,  
Harborne, Birmingham B16.

Subscriptions can also be paid at any meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS :

Individual membership	£6 per annum.
Family membership	£8 per annum.
Student membership	£2.50 per annum.
Associate/group membership	£15 per annum.

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