Society Proceedings, 1993

I. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993
(Adopted at the Annual General Meeting, York, 4th December, 1993)

1.1. General Secretary’s Report

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting was held in York on Saturday, 5th December, 1992. Reports from the various officers of the Society were read and adopted. The meeting then elected Dr P. R. Ineson to Honorary Membership of the Society. Mr J. Hartley and Professor L. R. Moore, both of whom had served and supported the Society over very many years. Mr Hartley responded with a short speech of appreciation and the President read a letter of thanks from Professor Moore who, unfortunately, had been prevented by ill-health from attending.

The President presented the John Phillips Medal to Mr M. Mitchell, University of Leeds, who expressed his gratitude to the Society in a short speech. Mr A. Pickup, University of Durham, then received the Moore Medal.

The new Council and Officers were elected to serve for 1993. The incoming President, Dr P. R. Ineson, then invited Past President, Mr Brian Young, to give his second Presidential Address entitled ‘Mineralisation in N.W. England: the Central Lake District’.

At the Annual Dinner, held by tradition in the Merchant Taylors’ Hall, Past President, Mr Brian Young, proposed the toast to the Guests to which the Society’s principal guest, Dr Eric Robinson, President of the Geologists’ Association, responded. He, in turn, proposed the health of the Society to which the new President, Dr Ineson, replied.

Publications. This year, for the first time, the Society will receive a separate report on its publications from Dr Millward, Secretary to the Publications Committee. However, members will have learnt from Circular No. 443, that the publication of the Society’s Proceedings will be transferred to the Geological Society Publishing House with effect from Volume 50, Part 1. The Officers and Council of the Society are convinced that this change will be of great benefit to the Society in many ways and on their behalf wish to express the Society’s gratitude to the Editors, Dr Millward and Mr Burgess, for all the work they have put into the negotiations which have successfully brought about this change.

Council. The following were elected to Council in December 1992:

OFFICERS

President P. R. Ineson, D.Sc.
Vice-Presidents B. Young, B.Sc.
M. A. Whyte, Ph.D.
General Secretary A. C. Benfield, B.Sc.
Programme Secretary P. B. Wignall, Ph.D.
General Treasurer M. G. Allderidge, MA.
Editors-Proceedings I. C. Burgess, B.Sc.
D. Millward, Ph.D.
Editor-Circular P. Kabrña
Librarian W. J. Varker, Ph.D.

Secretary to the Conservation Committee D. A. Blythe, Ph.D.

OTHER MEMBERS

J. P. L. Dearlove, M.Sc. J. G. Rees, Ph.D.
L. H. Emery, M.Sc. P. W. Scott, Ph.D.
J. H. Powell, Ph.D. B. R. Turner, Ph.D.

Membership. At the end of November, the membership of the Society comprised 712 Ordinary and Honorary Members, 40 Associate Members, 20 Student Members, 158 Institutional Members and 4 Patrons, a total membership of 934. These figures reveal, I am afraid, significant decreases from those recorded for last year. That the membership would fall this year was to be anticipated, as the Society was of course obliged to raise its subscription rates at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, the extent of the decrease is sufficiently great to warrant serious concern. Compared with 1992, total membership has fallen by 166, that is by 15%. The number of Ordinary members has dropped by 118 (14%), Institutional Members by 27 (15%) and most disappointing of all, Student Members by a third to only 20. It is to be hoped that the new rules for Student Membership, which will apply for 1994 and will open it to full-time students of any age, will help swell this particular category.

At its last two meetings, Council has discussed various aspects of the topic of membership and has mandated the incoming Council to set up a sub-committee to consider all aspects of this important topic, including the recruitment of new members, as a matter of urgency. In the meantime, may I again urge all members to do what they can to increase our numbers. The strength and breadth of the Society’s programme for 1994 and the sustained quality of our Proceedings, should attract new members, but they will only join in sufficient numbers through the efforts of every individual member.

Acknowledgements. On behalf of Council, I would first like to thank the members of the Society for their continued support of our meetings, both indoors and outdoors. We always welcome comments on the Programme and suggestions for future meetings.

The Society records its grateful thanks to those members of Council who are retiring. Mr F. J. Gregory, Professor P. W. Scott, Dr B. R. Turner and Mr B. Young. Although relocation to the south of England has curtailed his attendance at Council, Mr Gregory has continued to serve as a member of the Conservation Committee. Despite his move to Cornwall, Professor Scott has maintained an active commitment to the Society and is currently organizing a Field Meeting to be held in South Devon over the 1994 May Day Weekend. Dr Turner has been a member of the Publications Committee and earlier this year led a very successful Field Meeting to Northern Ireland and Berwickshire. Mr Brian Young leaves Council after a second period of exemplary service to the Society, this time as President and then Vice-President. His thoughtful and efficient leadership, both in Council, at meetings and in the field, and his unfailing good humour, will be greatly missed.
The Society would also like to thank most warmly all those who have facilitated the smooth running of the Society during the past year. These include our meeting organizers, the many speakers, the leaders of Field Meetings, and, not least, those who have provided us with tea! We extend a special word of thanks to Mrs M. May, who assisted by Mrs S. Rogers and Dr F. Whitham, has organized the Annual Dinner this year. The Society acknowledges with gratitude the hospitality of the British Geological Survey Headquarters at Keyworth, of our host departments in the Universities of Durham, Leeds and Sheffield, and of Burnley Municipal College.

Finally, as this is the last report I shall present as General Secretary, I should like to express my personal thanks to members of the Society and the various Officers and members of Council with whom I have served, for all the support and co-operation I have received from them over the past four years. I should like to conclude by extending to my successor, Dr John Varker, every good wish for his period of office.

A. C. Benfield

1.3. Publications Committee Secretary’s Report

This is the first year that I have reported directly to the membership at the AGM, and I do so at a turning point for the Society. It has achieved a considerable reputation as its own publisher. The Proceedings have appeared continuously since 1871 and are recognized justly as a major journal of British geology. Also, there have been a number of acclaimed Occasional Publications.

As intimated in the General Secretary’s report last year, future volumes of the Proceedings will be published by the Geological Society Publishing House. This move is seen by Council to have many advantages:

- the Geological Society Publishing House has a professional and world-wide reputation for its geoscience publications. In addition to their own range of journals, they also publish Proceedings of the Geologists’ Association and the Scottish Journal of Geology;
- improved marketing and international circulation;
- professional management of the production side of the operation, thus saving time of the current Editorial team;
- abstraction of material by national and international databasing organizations;
- a price per page, facilitating the Society’s budgeting;

and all this for a cost for next year that is comparable with the current one.

To return to this year’s activities: two parts of the Proceedings, Volume 49, parts 3 and 4, have been published. These comprised 16 papers, including Dr A. A. Wilson’s second Presidential Address. I hope that members will have noted the considerable improvement in the printing of half-tone illustrations, brought about by the introduction of digital methods by our printers. Nine papers were submitted to the editors during the year.

Preparation is now under way for Volume 50, part 1. This milestone will be marked by a thematic set of papers reporting on some of the results of the geological investigations at Sellafield in west Cumbria to ascertain the suitability of the formations in the area as a potential repository for the long-term storage of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste. At the present these are the largest site investigations in Britain about which there is a most important environmental debate. It is particularly pleasing that the Society was able not only to convene the meeting, but to be able to be the first to publish a major set of articles describing the geological significance of the results.

I turn now to field guides. In conjunction with Ellenbank Press of Maryport, Dr Colin Scrutton and his team have completed writing of the Field guide to the geology and geomorphology of Yorkshire, and publication is expected in the Spring of 1994. Council has recently agreed to go ahead
with a further joint venture with Ellenbank Press. Dr Scrutton will lead a team to produce a second guide, entitled *Northumbria rocks and landscape* which it is hoped will be published in the Spring of 1995. Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to Dr Scrutton for his hard work in achieving the tight deadlines set for the Yorkshire Guide and wish him luck for the second venture. Watch the Circular for news of the publication—these guides are a must for all!

The Circular is a vital means of communication within the Society. Mr Paul Kabrna was elected to the new post of Circular Editor at last year’s AGM. He has continued to provide the membership with information about Society activities and has also included a number of new items, such as book reviews. The Publications Committee and Council recognize that there is a need to broaden the scope of the Circular and the Publications Committee will meet early in 1994 to review this. Suggestions on the future development of the Circular would be welcome, and should be sent to the Circular Editor by the end of January. The Circular is your means of communication; please help the Editor by providing ideas as well as short articles and other items of information for publication.

Finally, it is my pleasure to thank all those who have helped with Society publications during the year: the authors, for submitting papers; the referees, for giving valuable time to maintain the high standards of the journal; the members of the Editorial Board for their hard work and constructive criticism. We are also indebted to Dr A. S. Howard of the BGS who has produced the indexes for the last four volumes of the Proceedings: at his own request he steps down from this task and in future this will be produced by the Geological Society Publishing House.

D. Millward

1.4. Honorary Librarian’s Report

Mr P. S. Valois, University Librarian, Edward Boyle Library, University of Leeds, has provided the Society with the following report:

‘Sales of the Society’s publications during the period December 1992 to November 1993 were as follows:

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<td>£159.25</td>
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**TOTAL** £691.60

From this figure the Library has deducted £230.53 as its one-third share, leaving £461.07 payable to the Society. A cheque for this amount will be sent to Mr Aldridge in December 1993.’

May I also add that the Geological Society of London has this year sold a further 23 copies of the book *The role of tectonics in Devonian and Carboniferous sedimentation in the British Isles*. This makes a total of 78 copies sold since the book was put into the hands of the Geological Society marketing system. There are, however, still 219 copies remaining unsold.

W. J. Varker

1.5. Conservation Committee Secretary’s Report

The Yorkshire Geological Society plays a supporting role in efforts to conserve the region’s geological heritage. This may take the form of protecting existing Sites of Special Scientific Interest, contributing to various Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) schemes or liaising with other societies.

During the last year, English Nature have indicated their desire to re-launch the West Yorkshire RIGS scheme and a preliminary meeting held on 20th October has already been described as ‘extremely constructive’. Another meeting has been arranged for 12th January 1994 and the Society hopes that the valuable work which has been undertaken by its members will continue in the future.

The Society welcomes the moves to create a South Yorkshire RIGS group and will be pleased to accept the services of any members who have a particular interest in this area.

The Society is also pleased to hear that its members are playing an active role in the North East RIGS groups covering Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland and that a number of sites have already been proposed.

It is important to note that whilst financial constraints obviously play a significant part in controlling the degree and extent of conservation, unless learned societies such as our own continue to play an active role, valued geological features will be lost through neglect.

Finally, on behalf of the Society I should like to thank all those who have contributed in the field of conservation over the last twelve months and hope that this will continue into the new year.

D. A. Blythe

2. MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

(York, 4th December, 1993)

2.1. Presentation of the Sorby Medal by the President to FELIX WHITHAM, DSc.

Dr Whitham, it gives me pleasure to present you with the Sorby Medal of the Yorkshire Geological Society. It is awarded as an acknowledgement of the distinguished contribution to the geological knowledge of Yorkshire or by a person associated with Yorkshire or the North of England by birth, training or locus of researches. The Council of the Society consider that you, an amateur geologist, fulfil both of the above criteria.

Your lifelong interest in palaeontology and with particular reference to the Chalk of Yorkshire, is witnessed by your scholastic papers in our Proceedings as well as your standing amongst fellow workers. The Chalk has a reputation for being a formation which does not yield its macro-palaeontology except to those with a ‘certain-eye’ and love of the strata. You certainly have that, as is witnessed by your extensive collections.

Your training and professional life, prior to your retirement was in the motor engineering industry. You have also been able to inspire and enthuse generations of people into the fascinations presented by, not only the strata around your home in the City of Hull, but in distant parts of the country.
May I, on behalf of the Society, wish you well during your retirement and long may your enthusiasm be extended to future generations.

2.2. Presentation of the Moore Medal by the President to RICHARD WILLIAM WALKLAND, BSc.

I am pleased to greet here today, at the Society's Annual General Meeting, Mr and Mrs Walkland, who have come from Scarborough in order to receive the Moore Medal on behalf of their son.

The recipient of this medal is the student who is judged to have produced the best final year undergraduate project or dissertation from the Universities and Colleges within the sphere of the Society in the north of England. Mr R. W. Walkland, of the School of the Environment, University of Sunderland, has certainly complied with the terms of the award. Unfortunately, due to the confidential nature of the data he used, the dissertation (A computer interpretation/analysis of data from the North Sea) cannot be available for inspection.

Mr Walkland is at present employed by RTZ in Spain, which precludes him receiving the award in person. No doubt the pride and pleasure which I perceive his parents have today in accepting the medal on his behalf, will be extended to Richard when he comes home for Christmas. He is a worthy recipient and the Society wishes him well in his future career.

3. SOCIETY ACTIVITIES, 1993

3.1. Indoor Meetings

January 23rd: Durham: General Meeting
The Carboniferous geology of the Northumberland Trough
D. W. HOLLIDAY, R. A. CHADWICK, S. HOLLOWAY & A. G. HULBERT
The Northumberland Trough – a brief overview.
B. R. TURNER, P. C. YOUNGER & C. E. FORDHAM
Lithostratigraphy of the Fell Sandstone Group south-west of Berwick-upon-Tweed: implications for the regional development of the Fell Sandstone in the Northumberland Basin.
H. ARMSTRONG & M. A. PURNELL
Thermal maturation of the Lower Carboniferous strata of the Northumberland Trough from conodont colour alteration index (CAI) data.

February 13th: Sheffield: Public General Meeting
Exceptional preservation in fossils
D. MARTILL
Fidelity of exceptional fossils: a remarkable example from Brazil.
D. E. G. BRIGGS
Extraordinary fossils: how soft-tissues are preserved.

March 13th: Burnley: Public General Meeting
Caves
T. D. FORD
The evolution of the Castleton cave system, Derbyshire.
A. C. WALOTHAM
Engineering problems in cavernous limestone.
C. ROBERTS
Cave archaeology.

S. BOTTREL
D. J. LOWE
The origin of limestone caverns.

October 9th: Keyworth: General Meeting
(sponsored by UK NIREX Ltd)
Advances in west Cumbrian geology resulting from the NIREX investigations around Sellafield
D. W. HOLLIDAY
West Cumbria – a regional perspective.
U. McL. MICHE & R. A. BOWDEN
UK NIREX Ltd geological investigations at Sellafield.
D. J. EVANS, W. J. ROWLEY, R. A. CHADWICK, G. KIMBEL & D. MILLWARD
The internal structure of the Lake District Batholith from seismic reflection data and synthetic seismic modelling.
J. C. GUTMANIS & H. M. H. LEE
An overview of the geology of the Sellafield site.
M. G. NORTON
The structure of the East Irish Sea basin and west Cumbria.
D. MILLWARD, B. BEDDOE-STEPHENS, M. G. PETTERSON, I. T. WILLIAMSON & S. R. YOUNG
Caldera-related ignimbrite sequences within the lower Borrowdale Volcanic Group of the western Lake District.
W. J. BARCLAY, M. P. BOLAND, N. J. RILEY & G. E. STRONG
The Carboniferous rocks of the Sellafield district.
N. S. JONES & K. AMBROSE
Permo-Triassic basin margin sedimentation and evolution; an example from the Sellafield area, East Irish Sea basin.
R. A. CHADWICK, H. E. BAILIE & G. A. KIRBY
The post-Triassic structural evolution of NW England and adjacent parts of the Irish Sea.
G. P. EATON
Seismic sequence stratigraphy of the Quaternary deposits of the north-east Irish Sea.
G. S. KIMBELL
The application of potential field (gravity and magnetic) methods in the geological investigation of the Sellafield area.

November 6th: Leeds: General Meeting
Sequence stratigraphy: applications to basins in northern England
M. R. LEEDER
A critical view of the principles and practices of sequence stratigraphy, with special reference to continental sediments.
S. P. HESSELBO & D. N. PARKINSON
The Yorkshire Lias: a key section for the elucidation of early Jurassic sequence stratigraphy in NW Europe.
R. W. O'B. KNOX
Stratigraphic architecture of the Ravenscar Group (M. Jurassic) of NE England: a record of tectonic or tectono- eustatic control on paralic–marine transitions.
A. L. COE
Application of sequence stratigraphy to the Oxfordian of the Cleveland Basin.

December 4th: York: Annual General Meeting
Presidential Address
P. R. INSON
Pennine extractive industries (end of an era or just another downturn?).
3.2. Field Meetings

May 21st–23rd
Devonian and Carboniferous rocks of north-east England and south-east Scotland

June 26th
The Lias of Robin Hood’s Bay, North Yorkshire
Leader: R. W. O’B. Knox.

July 16th–18th
Caldera volcanics and related mineralisation in the Coniston area

September 11th
Joint Field Meeting with Craven & Pendle Geological Society
The upper Namurian and lower Coal Measures of Cliviger Valley