



## **HERTFORDSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**43<sup>rd</sup> A.G.M. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT (see over)**

**TREASURERS'S REPORT**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Privacy policy and register of Personal details**

**HB**

**2018 Field Trips**

**Organiser**

## Secretary's report April 2017- March 2018

The Society moved from Verulamium to Oaklands College in the New Year. Another above inflation rise in the room hire from September 2017 meant staying at the museum just wasn't sustainable. It will cost us far less per meeting at Oaklands for a room of the same size, so the committee decided the society should give it a good try and see if it works.

Our year started with a fascinating talk by Dr Chris Duffin on geology and medicine followed by Dr Mark Woods explaining modelling the chalk subcrop in three dimensions. June saw Dr Phil Collins talking about Anatolian tales and July Prof. Robert Hall on dinosaur biodiversity gradients in deep time. Our summer event at College Lake, Pitstone included four related talks in the morning (Rodney Sims, Jill Evers & Haydon), followed by a walk around the lake led by Rodney in the afternoon. The second half of the year provided us with lectures on the recognition of the Wallace line (Prof. Robert Hall), seismic events (Dr Rebecca Bell), early land plants (Dr Paul Kenrick) and Mount Erebus (Dr Nial Peters). All of these have been of the highest standard giving us some fantastic insights into areas of geology we rarely get to hear about. On top of these, we rounded off the year with our trilobite talk from Prof. Richard Fortey FRS, probably regarded as the world leader in research into these long gone arthropods. Jonathon Turner was our first speaker at the new venue at Oaklands College in 2018, talking on radioactive waster management. Our year finished with looking at the inversion of the London Platform (Dr Richard Ghail).

Through 2017 we've had some fascinating field meetings, ranging from the Sedgwick museum, Cambridge (March), tracing the proposed route of HS2 (April), fossil collecting on the Isle of Sheppey (June) to our long weekend in September based in Worcestershire visiting Martley and the Malverns. The view from the Worcestershire Beacon was simply amazing, from the Clent Hills to the north to the Bristol Channel in the south. It was a classic way to see the geology of central England and Wales from a single location. Finally, I have to mention our Cambridgeshire field leader Simon Kelly bog snorkelling into the fen to prove that it was underlain by the Gault Clay (May).

The delayed working party meeting at Little Heath resulted in a very clean set of field sections for a little while at least. An article in the GA magazine and a very impressive poster at the Festival of Geology in November complemented by a poster about the finds on the Isle of Sheppey trip. We also raised some money for the society by selling a few piece of Puddingstone and offering secondhand books for a donation.

Two Committee Meetings were held, one in February to prepare for the AGM and one in the summer to compose our programme and discuss ongoing discussions about the venue.

Finally, 2017 was a memorable year as the Society awarded its first ever Honorary Membership. This was made, following a totally unanimous AGM vote, to Prof. John Catt who had done so much for the society. His leadership of the society was unsurpassed and represents such a consistent level of dedication, capped by the publication of his classic work "Hertfordshire, Geology & Landscape", which is recognised as one of the best publications of its kind. The Society congratulated John and thanked him for everything he'd done. Sadly John died nine months later in December and will be greatly missed.

# Treasurer's Report 2017

## Current position

The available balance in the HGS bank account + savings account at the end of 2017 was **£4187**. Despite a deficit of £249 in 2017, this is still much more than needed to support our normal activities so we could still easily budget say £2000 over the coming few years for special purposes such as conservation work, outreach etc.

Copies of the accounts will be handed out at the AGM.

## Some details

1. Membership fluctuates slightly from year to year, but was definitely down in 2017.
  - current membership 55
  - high point 74 in 2005
  - previous low point 61 in 2013

The slump in 2017 may have been partly because I failed to send out reminders (which I usually do before the AGM), but the steep increase in fees might also be a factor. There was a slight increase in joint/family subscriptions to 13.

2. Since the large increase in fees, membership subs now form almost 80% of income. Other miscellaneous income (book sales, visitors' fees) still added a useful 20%
3. The expected 2-phase rent increases at the Museum brought the 2017 room rent to £1050. Other expenses were roughly in line with previous years, so the room rent was the main cause of the £249 deficit. Rent at Oaklands in 2018 will be less than £600, leaving us with a moderate surplus.

M Selby 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018