
CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS AT THE AGM 2008

Victoria Griffiths

This last year has, in my opinion, been a very successful year for the Society. Our many successes include a healthy membership, a healthy balance sheet and a varied and interesting programme of lectures and events.

Roger Southgate has kept a keen eye on the accounts for 2007 and Well, I don't want to steal his thunder so I will let him fill you in himself in the Treasurer's report.

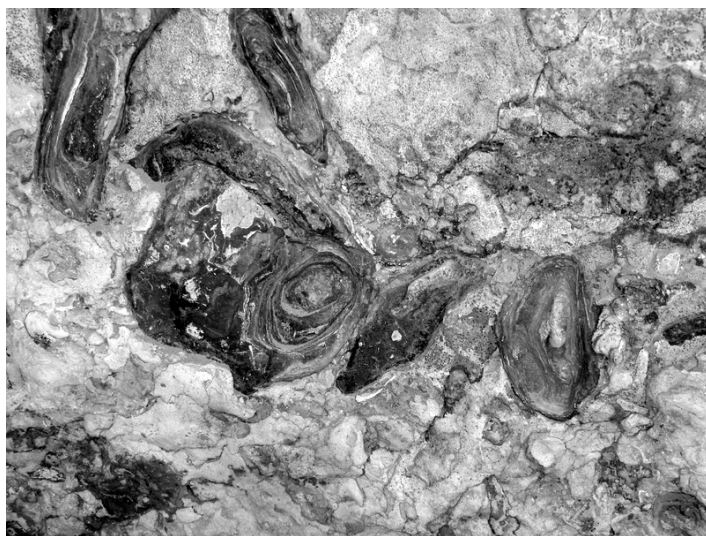
The membership has remained fairly constant with a grand total of 83 members. Visitor numbers have also remained strong at 111 visitors to the lectures last year. Roger Lawley has done a marvellous job in promoting all the lectures and other events which have made the Society so busy over the past year.

Last year's programme covered a wide variety of topics from Glaciers to Noctilucent clouds that were literally out of this world. The attendance at the lectures is very high and many lecturers have been impressed by the size of the audience. The field trips, though not always well attended, have also been very good over the last year. I am hoping that some people will be writing articles for the Journal about them.

Speaking of the journal, Elizabeth, as usual, has done a superb job. Thank you for all the effort you have put in to producing this important part of the Society. I always enjoy reading the Journal when it comes out in September. Thank you to everyone who contributed articles and pictures. Next year's journal will be edited by Linda Drummond-Harris. I know that she will be asking for articles soon, so get writing!

Looking forward to next year's events, Iain Brown has produced an excellent programme for this year. In particular I am looking forward to next month's joint lecture with the GA given by Prof. James Jackson, 'Know your Faults'. Iain has even managed to book Prof Simon Conway Morris for 2009 to give a lecture as part of the Darwin centenary celebrations.

This is my final year as Chairman and as a member of the committee. I would like to thank all the members of the committee, past and present, for all their support over the last 5 years. I am sure that the next Chairman and Committee will take the Society onwards and upwards to a successful future.



SNUFF BOXES



Burton Cliff at Burton Bradstock, Dorset where the Bridport Sands are succeeded by Inferior Oolite, the lower part of which contains the Red Bed.

Photographs: L Drummond-Harris

This is part of a fallen block of the Snuff Box horizon of the Red Bed, perhaps the most well-known stratum of the Inferior Oolite at Burton Cliff. This bluish, "ironshot oolite", only 8 cm thick, is easily recognised by the large, brown, limonitic concretions, known as "snuff boxes". The snuff boxes seem to be formed of algal stromatolitic (microbial) laminations of unusual ferruginous type centred around bivalve shells and other nuclei.