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# **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

## **for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2009**

In our constitution, the stated aim of this Society is to foster an interest in all aspects of Geology. Thus our lectures and field trips should be as diverse as possible. We also state that membership should be open to everyone who has an interest in the subject from the recreational fossil-hunter to the professional and academic.

Last year's programme certainly seems to have achieved these objectives. Our lectures covered an enormous range of topics from various vertebrates, aerial photography, to earthquakes, hydrogeology, glaciers and climate change. Our field trips, though not as well supported as our lectures, ranged from visits to Bristol and Oxford Museums, the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and the Malvern Hills.

By the end of 2008, our membership numbers were 77 with an average attendance of 41 at our eleven meetings and an average of 11 visitors. However, average attendance at the eight field meetings was only 9 with an average of 2 visitors.

And our vision for the future? You can see that we have maintained our very high quality, varied lecture programme and, in order to try to boost interest in our field trips, we have invited members of other local geological organisations to join us.

But, we have become rather static; I think it is time to try to implement some new initiatives; perhaps we can become more involved with Rockwatch, the club for young geologists, perhaps we could run some fun, hands-on geology sessions? Perhaps we can visit local schools or other local societies (history, wildlife, U3A) and enthuse about our local geology? Any ideas from anyone will be most welcome.

I should like to thank the members of the committee without whose hard work the Society would not be able to continue. Thank you to our secretary for the outstanding 2009 lecture programme, to our treasurer for steering a smooth course through troubled waters this year, our membership secretary who is relentlessly pursuing membership renewals and seeking new members, our field trip secretary for an interesting and, hopefully, well attended programme, our Journal editor for the magnificent 2008 publication and to our publicity officer who does much to promote the interests of the Society. Our constitution states that our committee should have three officers, a membership secretary and five other members. We are short of two members and would really appreciate any offers of assistance.

Finally, I should like to say a special thank you to our non-committee member, refreshments lady, who regularly provides our tea and coffee. Thanks also to the BRLSI, especially to Bob Draper, for having the room set up and ready for us and for sorting out our last minute problems.

**Elizabeth Devon,**  
**Chairman**

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## **WHY JOIN THE BATH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY?**

Your membership of the Society means that you can attend the following events on our programme free of charge:-

- Eleven lectures a year covering a variety of geological topics, presented by well-qualified speakers from university professors to research scientists to committed amateurs. Subjects are likely to include:-

- topics of local interest
- latest research work in the universities
- geological topics with

professional, industrial or commercial application.

- Four field trips, usually led by experts in the areas to be visited.

Both our lecture and field trip programmes are designed to appeal to a wide range of interests and we welcome both members with a geological background and those who are novices wishing to develop their interest.

Each year, you will receive a copy of our professionally produced Journal with articles, mostly from members, ranging from the serious to the light-hearted.

We also conserve a local geological SSSI and join in a rock, mineral and fossil event for children.

Our Society is affiliated to the national Geologists' Association and thus you are joining

the wider geological community with access to much material and interest.

The Society attracts people of similar interests and, as a result, many members have made long-term friendships within it.

Your subscription makes possible the continued existence of the Society. By supporting the Bath Geological Society, members also support the BRLSI, a distinguished and long-standing Institution in the City, which provides the room and facilities for our lecture programme.

When you join, you receive a welcome pack containing the programme, the latest Journal, a short history of the Society and a copy of our Constitution.

**So you see, there are plenty of reasons for you to join the Bath Geological Society!**

*Elizabeth Devon, Chairman, July 2009*

### **Have you seen the new poster from the British Geological Survey 'Climate change is nothing new'?**

Earth's climate has changed throughout the billions of years of our planet's geological history. Evidence for past climates - including the extreme conditions linked to mass extinctions - can be found in the rocks around us.

Many rock-forming environments are directly influenced by climate. This is the rationale for the new poster map. The map shows the rocks classified in a new way - according to the environment in which they formed.

Were your local rocks formed in a desert, or a tropical swamp, or a cold seabed? And what is the evidence that geologists use to tell this? The poster includes photographs of distinctive rocks showing evidence that ties them to modern environments. A timeline shows global temperatures and sea levels changing through

time and the positions of Britain and Ireland as they drifted northwards across the Earth.

The poster is free from BGS - [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

We hope that it will foster an understanding of the Earth's climate and geology as a dynamic system - a system which has changed in response to extreme events in the past, and which will continue to respond to future changes.

