

# **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

## **for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2010**

My report this year will be divided into the good news and the bad news.

First the good news:

Thanks largely to the efforts of our very efficient membership secretary, we have a total membership of 81 people. The Society is 40 years old this year and this is close to the record number of members.

Our programme for 2009 was extremely successful with lectures covering a wide range of topics. A notable highlight was the talk by Professor Simon Conway-Morris 'After Darwin: Where is Evolution going?' which attracted a record number of visitors. Most of our field trips were very successful but we were disappointed that we had to cancel our weekend in Bideford because of lack of support.

Once again, we produced a very professional and interesting Journal - many thanks to our Journal Editor who has served on the committee for many years and was co-opted last year for one year as Journal Editor. She also helps our field trip officer with the organisation of field trips.

As you will see, later in this meeting, we are losing our treasurer, secretary and publicity officer at this AGM. I am sure you would all wish me to thank them very much indeed for all they have done for this Society. I should also like to thank all the committee members

for their hard work throughout the year. Finally, a special thank you to our refreshments lady, who regularly provides our tea and coffee and another special thank you to the BRLSI, especially to Bob Draper and his team, for having the room set up and ready for us and for sorting out our last minute problems.

And now the bad news:

Unless we can attract some more members to join the committee and to become officers in that committee, the Society will not be able to continue beyond this time next year. From this evening we shall not have a treasurer or a programme secretary and we cannot continue without these two posts being filled. The programme is complete until the end of the year and our treasurer is leaving us in a very good financial state with plans for the future. However, you all know that we cannot continue without a treasurer.

Last year, I spoke about plans for the future, but at the moment I cannot see a clear future for the Society.

**Elizabeth Devon,  
Chairman 2010**

### **Afterthought – June 2010**

Thanks to a very kind volunteer, we now have a treasurer for the Society, so our future does not look quite so bleak. However, we still need some more members to join the committee and to take responsibilities. We think we can organise a programme for 2011 but beyond that - - ? We now have record membership numbers at over 90. The Society is flourishing but all the work is being done by just a few and we must not allow that to continue. New ideas and input are vital ingredients to our continued success.

PLEASE consider giving us some help so that what has been achieved is not lost. Jobs can be shared or even specified for 'only a year' or whatever.

I end the plea with a quote from one of our current committee members: "I can assure you that, if you join the committee, not only will the Society benefit but that your learning and enjoyment of geology will also."

E. D.

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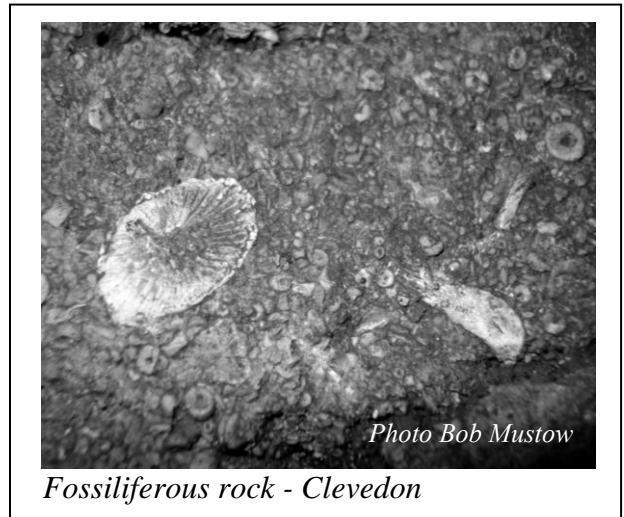
**THE CUILLIN  
COMPLEX (GLEN  
BRITTLE and CORRIE  
LAGAN)  
MAY 2009  
*Mellissa Freeman***

This was part of Open University field trip to Skye in May 2009 led by Dr. Charlie Bendall and Dr. Bill Perkins of Aberystwyth University.



*Photo 1: Charlie and Bob setting the pace*

*Photo: Mellissa Freeman*



*Fossiliferous rock - Clevedon*

The Black Cuillin forms the highest ground on Skye found on the mountainous Cuillin Ridge. With its precipitous drops and ragged Peaks it was formed as a result of the emplacement of the main Cuillin centre.

The day involved a hike up into Corrie Lagan; an ascent of about 600 m – distance of about 5-6 km. On leaving the road (grid ref NG 410 207) we began our climb. Our first stop was to look at the bed of the burn (a stream for those of us who don't speak Scottish...), at some greenish-grey extrusive basalts (*Photo 2*).



*Photo 2: Basalt in river bed.*

*Photo: Lorraine Field*