

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 65 December 2003

www.micromounters.org.uk

Chairman	Roy Starkey	15 Warwick Avenue, Fringe Green, Bromsgrove, Worcs., B60 2AH
Secretary	Shirley Adrian	An Feóran North Connell Argyll PA37 1RD
Membership Secretary	Pearl Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH
Treasurer	Alan Edwards	Thistledown, Common Road, Brunstead, Norwich, Norfolk NR12 9ES

CONTENTS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting		2
22nd BMS Symposium - 2003	Roy Starkey	8
Round the Tables in 2003	David Roe	14
2003 Micromineral Competition	Austin Lockwood	15
Insurance and Risk Assessments	Austin Lockwood	16
BMS Occasional Papers	David Green and John Pearce	17
Micromounters.org.uk - We are on the Web		18
Correction to Newsletter 64	John Betterton	18
Ruggles Mine, New Hampshire, USA	Peter Hay	19
A New Venture North of the Border	Shirley Adrian	20
Dr J B Nelson	Shirley Adrian	21
Around the Groups		21
Caldbeck Commons Minerals Working Group	Roy Starkey	22
Falling Membership - What can we do about it?	Austin Lockwood	23
Membership News		24
Crisis Appeal for Printing Facilities	Mike Dannatt	24

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY
at LEICESTER UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2003.**

The Chairman Roy Starkey opened the meeting at 10.05a.m. There were 55 members present. Secretary - Shirley Adrian.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Pearl Freeman, Kevin Johns, John Nowak, Dick Smith, Malcolm Southwood, Bill and Muriel Swindell *et al.*

2. Minutes of the A.G.M. of 22nd September 2002.

The Minutes had been circulated in the Newsletter. Neil Hubbard proposed that they be accepted. This was seconded by Peter Hay and agreed by the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Mike Leppington referred to the accounts which he had prepared after the death of Sidney Freeman. This meant that he had been unable to act as Auditor, and Mary Starkey had undertaken this.

Doug Morgan said that he had been hoping for someone to take over as Curator of the reference Collection and he was delighted that Max Wirth had been able to take over again in June.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Roy Starkey explained that following the loss of Sid Freeman, Alan Edwards had volunteered to act as Treasurer, Mike had helped sort out the accounts and Mary had audited them.

Alan Edwards reported that the Society's funds stood at some £6,646 only £48 less than last year. £125 of the expenditure was actually in respect of the previous year. This was for the colour photos in Newsletter 61 and explains the increase of £134 on Newsletter costs. A donation of £50 had been made to the Wanlockhead Museum appeal towards the purchase of a collection of gold nuggets.

There was a deficit on the 2002 Symposium, which Alan explained in some detail.

The Society's finances remain extremely healthy and the funds are well in excess of any current requirements.

Austin Lockwood was asked to comment on insurance arrangements. He reported that the Society had cover with Zurich on the GA policy. The policy gives third party, member to member and personal accident cover. This was dependent on being paid-up affiliates of the GA and following "good practice", with risk assessments.

Roy said that if a group of BMS members wished to have a Field Trip they should register it with the Secretary to make it an official event. The Russell Society had generic risk assessment forms which we can adapt for our purposes.

Roy said that the Committee felt that we could use our reserves to top up the Symposium expenditure with £200 to £300/year. There was general assent to this.

Austin Lockwood proposed that the Accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Vicki Packard and agreed by the meeting.

5. Membership Secretary's Report.

Pearl Freeman had written that there were 194 memberships, of which 24 were family memberships, giving a total of 218. There had been several deaths during the year.

Roy said that there was a possible issue of recruitment of younger members.

6. Chairman's Report.

Roy reminded us that last year we celebrated our 21st Symposium and had planned to produce a special commemorative booklet. The material and illustrations were collated, but unfortunately we ran into all sorts of problems with the duplication process, and in the end the project had to be abandoned. However, it is hoped to make the material available via the BMS Website, and Martin Gale may be able to provide a limited number of hard copy printouts on request. Roy thanked Martin for the huge amount of time and effort that he had put into the project.

Roy recorded the deaths since the last Symposium of George Ryback, Kemp Meikle, and, more recently, our Treasurer Sidney Freeman, and also Peter Braithwaite's wife Beryl and Mike Leppington's partner. On behalf of the Society he recorded deepest sympathy to family and friends.

Nancy Rothwell had kindly provided information concerning the Mike Rothwell Symposium held at the School of Chemistry, University of Bristol, on April 1st and 2nd this year. The event was established to honour Mike's memory, and included a prize to the best student at the end of year 4.

Once again, as a consequence of notes provided to Quintin Wight, the Society enjoyed excellent global publicity in "Rocks and Minerals" magazine.

The Chairman expressed his personal thanks to all the people who help to make the BMS special—the various Local Groups and their organisers, the members of the Committee and other Society Officers who work quietly in the background, and gave special thanks to the Symposium team—Kevin Johns, Martin Stolworthy and Richard Belson, aided by Martin Gale, Andy Castleton, Andy Coster and Bob Cheetham.

Last year Doug Morgan advised us of his desire to stand down from the post of Curator. Roy said he was delighted to confirm that Max Wirth had once again agreed to take on the role and to welcome Max back to Leicester after a break of several years thanks to transport provided by Don Blake.

After discussion at the AGM last year it was agreed that the BMS should launch a Website, and Andy Banthorpe, Mike Dannatt and Roy set this up. The Reference Collection Catalogue was now available on-line, together with the facility to have a "Virtual Field Trip" featuring minerals and locations around the UK. The Chairman asked everyone to make an effort and let Andy have news items and photos of minerals or Field Trips for the site. The Website could also be used to complement and supplement the Newsletter and Occasional Papers.

Perhaps the most significant event of the year was the Salford Conference, hosted by English Nature, the Geological Society and the Russell Society. Roy had posted his personal notes on the Website immediately after the meeting and contributed them to Newsletter 64. The formal proceedings had been published and make clear that the climate is changing with regard to mineral collecting. Roy said it was important not only that we all played our part in the debate, to ensure that our voice would be heard, but also that we did nothing that might adversely affect the future of amateur mineralogy and mineral collecting.

The Chairman drew attention to the 20th Annual Meeting of the Association Francaise de Micromineralogie due to take place in Grande-Synthe near Dunquerque on October 4th and 5th. The organisers had extended a warm invitation to any UK enthusiast interested in attending. He hoped some S-E based members would be able to represent the BMS.

Roy also said that it would be good for the Society to elect a new energetic Chairman to inject new blood into the Society and drive it forward for the future, as he felt unable to devote sufficient time to the task. Any member interested in discussing the Chairman's role is welcome to contact Roy informally.

Finally Roy recorded our thanks to the University of Leicester and the Geology Department for the tremendous support they have given us over the years.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Newsletter Editor.

Mike Dannatt thanked those who had sent contributions. He said the last number was a combination of two issues and would have been very thin without the obituaries it contained. He badly needed more material. He does not want to rely on extracts from other societies' publications.

Mike reported that he would be retiring from work in October but was hoping to be able to continue the present printing arrangements for the Newsletter.

7.2. Archivist.

Alan Edwards said that sending photocopies of the relevant pages from Goldschmidt was working well. The volumes were at the Symposium and David Green had the copy of Rashleigh. Having sent a donation towards the publication costs of Alec Livingstone's "Minerals of Scotland" the Society had been given a copy of the book.

7.3 Branch Co-ordinators.

Austin Lockwood said he was pleased to report on the continued success of the South East Branch and to thank Peter Wallace for looking after the branch finances and for reporting on specimens brought to the quarterly meetings. Although the meeting room at the Ringway Community Centre was larger and more comfortable than before there had been a falling off in attendance. Those who use the room earlier in the day were not altogether co-operative about vacating it on time and security was also a matter of concern. Many members were finding it difficult to get to the meetings, particularly if no longer able to drive. Younger active members were needed. In February some members of the two local Rockwatch groups were invited along with their parents. The afternoon was very successful and it has been agreed that it should be an annual event.

The Branch is proposing to mount a display at the GA Annual Reunion in conjunction with the Ravensbourne Geological Society and the South East Branch of the Russell Society with the theme "Flint and its uses by man". Austin thanked Norfolk members for sending beach material. He also thanked those who attended early to help set up the tables and those who helped with the teas and coffees.

Mick Wolfe said that the Northern Branch also suffered from diminishing membership, with people moving or losing interest. The Norfolk "mob" kept things going. The new premises were very nice, costing £20 for 3 hours, which was fairly expensive for a small group. The next meeting would be in November.

Martin Stolworthy said that the Norfolk Branch met on the 3rd Thursday of every month for £7 a night. Between 4 and 8 members attended with their 'scopes and cameras, and in between they travel anywhere!

Harry Critchley reported that the Warrington group also met on the 3rd Thursday of the month—free. They were soldiering on as before.

In the absence of Dick Smith (on holiday in Andalucia) Roy reported that the Midlands Branch had held a meeting in January, theme "Central Wales", a planned meeting on Zeolites had been cancelled due to a clash with other events, and in November Frank Ince and Doug Morgan will be leading a workshop on optical properties. During August Peter Todhunter had organised and led a weekend trip to the Lake District, visiting the Blencathra area and Shap Pink Quarry. The next meeting will be held on Sunday November 9th at St.Ninian's Church Hall - details on the BMS Website.

Chris Jewson said that the "Overseas Branch" met in the Public Rooms in Liskeard. Eight members meet and others would be very welcome. It was hoped to have a Field Trip next June.

7.4 Symposium Organisers.

Martin Stolworthy recorded his thanks to the University and the Stoneycroft Hotel. He had provisionally booked the hotel for September 18/19 2004. The University were not yet able to confirm the dates.

The Auction had taken £561, raising £280.50 for Society funds. He thanked those who had brought material for the Auction, and Trevor Bridges and John Pearce for their help.

The Raffle had made £113 and thanks were due to Andy Coster and Bob Cheetham.

He thanked Martin Gale for the hard work he had put into the Symposium Booklet, having spent 8 days on producing the colour pages.

Offers were needed for talks or workshops next year. Tsumeb was a possible subject.

7.5 Curator

Max Wirth remarked that he had understood Doug to want someone younger to take over! The catalogue was available on the BMS Website and could be downloaded. He recommended non-

owners of computers to visit their local public library to go online. If all else failed hard copies would be available! Otherwise it was business as usual.

7.6 Occasional Papers.

John Pearce said that Oneta and Alan had produced a really professional Paper on British Zeolites. This was the first paper on minerals. Zeolites Worldwide was in the pipeline, Naming of Minerals was close to being ready, Radioactivity was “floating”, and Cleaning of Minerals was one we ought to have. Aiming to produce one Paper a year, we were on target.

8. Founder’s Cup.

The Chairman read the following nomination for the Founder's Cup 2003 - "Each year the BMS honours a member who is judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Society, Micromounting or Mineralogy in general. It falls to the Chairman to try and disguise the identity of the recipient each year, whilst briefly reprising his or her achievements, and each year it seems to get more difficult!

This year's nominee has a long association with the BMS, and has been a past speaker at the Symposium. A collector of minerals for nearly 25 years, and a micromounter since 1981 she has a particular interest in the minerals of Northern England, Wales and Cornwall, specialising in secondary lead and copper minerals.

In the early days of the BMS she could often be heard to remark that she and a companion had been out "rocking" somewhere or other, with one particularly successful trip being made to Tynagh Mine in Ireland.

On one memorable occasion, I was with a Russell Society Field Meeting at Bardon Hill Quarry in Leicestershire, shortly after it had become public knowledge that Mary and I were about to become parents for the first time. "That'll slow you down a bit" was the cheery comment from this stalwart of active collecting. (She was right).

She has worked tirelessly in the field of amateur publications in the mineral world, having been heavily involved with the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals since its inception as "Rockbottom" back in 1986. Following her retirement from teaching in 1989 she has been able to spend more time in her role as administrator to Rockbottom Publications, and despite heart bypass surgery a couple of years ago handles all subscriptions, retail, foreign and show sales, foreign agents, distribution and accounting.

The Founder's Cup for 2003 goes to Jean Spence."

9. Election of Officers.

The Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary were willing to serve for another year. Alan Edwards had volunteered to act as Treasurer.

Martin Stolworthy proposed that Alan be elected. This was seconded by Martin Gale and carried unanimously.

The serving Officers were unanimously re-elected “en bloc”.

It was proposed by Alan Edwards and seconded by Trevor Bridges that Mike Leppington be re-appointed as Auditor, and this was agreed.

10. Any Other Business.

Roy Starkey said that there would be a BMS stand at the Bakewell Rock Exchange. Help from any other members present would be appreciated.

Doug Morgan warned of the dangers of losing data recorded electronically, due to viruses, breakdown of equipment, etc. Roy agreed that multiple backups were necessary. Index cards would continue to be used for the Reference Collection.

Website. (See elsewhere in this report.) Roy drew members' attention to the facility to post information very quickly and easily onto the Website, and asked that people should consider submitting material and pictures for the "Virtual Field Trips " page. **Mike Leppington** suggested that some of the Classic British Micro Localities notes from early Newsletter material could go on the website. **Peter Braithwaite** said he had some material on Millclose Mine which might be suitable. It was also suggested that next year a short session might be run using an Internet link at the University to demonstrate the Website and other useful resources on the Web.

Caldbeck Fells. Trevor Bridges said that during the past year only Mike Leppington had obtained permission to collect on the Fells. He himself had had his application turned down. Peter Davies had retired and Trevor and David Green were lobbying Hannah Townley of English Nature in the hope of introducing a new system. David said the LDNPA realise that there is a problem and he thought things would become easier. Mike Leppington said that some people had been acting irresponsibly and this reflects on those who apply. Roy said the next meeting was scheduled for 21st November.

UKJournal. Mick Wolfe reported that the Index for numbers 11-20 was posted on the Rockbottom Website. Jean Spence has some Journals for sale.

Jamie Nelson recorded his appreciation of the workshop on identifying minerals with a polarising microscope. He said the importance of correct identification could not be over-emphasised, and quoted the following:

Prayer of those mineralogists who still use the polarising microscope to identify minerals:

*I'm grateful, Lord, for SEM and EDX,
For Ramanscopes and XRD,
But may a technique ne'er be found
That will dispense with me.*

The meeting closed at 11.06a.m.

22ND BRITISH MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM – 2003

Roy Starkey

Once again it was a characteristically bright and sunny morning as delegates swung into the car park outside the Department of Geology in Leicester. It was hard to believe that it had been twelve months since the same faces had ferried the same microscopes, specimens etc up those stairs and into the laboratory - yes, some of those specimens turn up every year !

After a welcome cup of coffee, delegates settled down in the lecture theatre to hear Chairman Roy Starkey welcome them to the 22nd British Micromount Symposium.

Good Morning! A special welcome to new visitors to the Symposium , and to "old timers" returning for the first time in a while, especially Max Wirth - Welcome Max!

Roy started by saying that whilst it was not normal for him to advertise products, he had recently purchased the Anquet Maps - CD set of 1:50,000 sheets for the northern half of the UK and thought it to be excellent value at about £100. See www.Anquet.co.uk This digital mapping product can be linked to Garmin or Magellan GPS systems.

He had also recently come across the Mineralogical Society of America website - www.minsocam.org/MSA/IMA - where free pdf downloads of IMA publications such as, The Definition of a Mineral; Recommended nomenclature for zeolite minerals; The discreditation of mineral species, and others could be obtained.

The North Pennines had recently attained European Geopark Status - initially for 3 years. Whilst this is undoubtedly a positive step, it could have profound effects for the future of geological field work and mineral collecting, and we will need to watch developments closely.

The latest Mineralogical Society Bulletin has a very interesting account of a dinner held to mark Bob Howie's 80th Birthday, and over 50 year's service to the Mineralogical Society. Bob began his long association with Mineralogical Abstracts inadvertently through a complaint he lodged with the Editors in 1956 that a paper he had submitted to the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh had not been abstracted. The editors then roped him in as a contributor, and since then he has written over 50,000 abstracts. So - beware of criticising the Newsletter Editor!

Roy also had news of Malcolm Southwood - now happily settled into Australia with his family, and looking forward to moving into a new larger property, with a rock room, a rock cellar, and five garages - big enough even for Dick Belson!

Bob Reekie had telephoned from Scotland to say that he would be unable to attend due to an injured ankle, but that he had better news on funding for the Wanlockhead Museum, and that they had secured a grant to purchase the gold collection mentioned at last year's Symposium. The Museum would be building a new gallery and vault to house the gold and more valuable mineral specimens.

There was news too of an auction, including some mineralogical items from the collection of Sir Arthur Pendarves Vivian - formerly of Meneage, Cornwall. The auction was scheduled to take place on Thursday 25th September in Penzance, but Chris Jewson advised that there was apparently a chance that it would not go ahead due to a dispute over title to the goods.

Roy also drew Members' attention to a new North England Fluorite CD ROM - featured on a poster on the notice board. A special deal had been negotiated for BMS Members - see elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Rounding off his introduction, Roy summarised this year's Symposium as a truly varied programme - North American Native Copper, with David Hardman, Radioactive Minerals with Richard Braithwaite, and a full blown Optical Mineralogy workshop with messrs Hoppe, Blake and Wirth.

As ever the pace will be frantic the time too short, and you won't be able to see and do it all - but there's always next year ...

The first speaker was David Hardman, talking on Michigan Copper Country. David has made several trips to the area, most recently last year when the Centenary of the Seaman Mineralogical Museum was being celebrated. The Keeweenaw Peninsula runs out into Lake Superior, roughly 100 miles by 20 miles, with a copper bearing zone some 3 to 4 miles wide running in a strip N-S. The Seaman Mineralogical Museum is situated about half way up the Peninsula at Houghton. Copper has been worked since pre-historic times, and a particularly large boulder of native copper - the Ontonagan Boulder was discovered in 1819, and later moved to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The first serious mining started in the 1840's, and the largest piece of copper found underground weighed about 400-500 Tons. The copper masses were typically of such large dimensions that they had to be cut up to bring them to surface. Over 14,595 million lbs weight of copper had been recovered from the region, with the last mine closing in 1995. It is still possible to collect micros and occasionally larger specimens, and David had a super photo of a lovely Dan Behnke micro of a cuprite crystal perched on a native copper wire. Copper inclusions in calcite crystals are highly prized, and sometimes "Copper Skulls" are found, where a pebble has fallen out of mineralised conglomerate. David provided an interesting hand-out listing information about the area, and went on to tell us about the "Keeweenaw Week". This was a fantastic personalised itinerary of field trips, visits, lectures, social receptions, mineral show and a benefit auction. The field trips are very well organised - even arranging for the tips to be bull-dozed prior to the collecting week! David finished off by describing a 17 Ton slab of native copper which had been recovered by the US Army from 30 feet of water in Lake Superior during 2001 - it is 19 feet in length. An even bigger slab weighing about 34 Tons has been found at a locality on the Peninsula and awaits attention.

Professor Dick Braithwaite was next to take the floor, and entertained delegates with a gently scientific canter through the world of radioactivity and atomic structure. In his characteristically amusing style, Dick simplified the subject matter, and explained that $\text{Danger} = \text{Risk} \times \text{Time of Exposure}$, and that although radioactivity needed to be treated with respect, international safety levels were set so as to be "on the safe side", and that we should not go "overboard with fear". He briefly explored the paradox, that although long exposure to radiation may lead to increased risk of some cancers, radiation is also used to treat other cancers. In short, a greater understanding of the problems and hazards is required, and it is not a simple issue. Dick went on to describe how matter is built up from electrons, protons, neutrons, atoms and so on, dipping into subjects such as atomic weight, isotopes and atomic number along the way. Unstable nuclei lose particles until they reach a stable state, often an isotope of lead. For example the radioactive element uranium 235 decays via 14 reactions to form lead. The half-life of a radioactive material - typically ranging from 4500 million years for Uranium 238, down to 1600 years for Radium 226. It is often difficult for people to relate to "a million" as a meaningful measure of time, but this might be put into perspective with a "long" human lifetime, about 870,000 hours. Minerals containing uranium and thorium are the main sources of radioactivity in collections. After briefly discussing the

issues surrounding enrichment and leaching of secondary minerals, Dick wandered off into an interesting detour, sharing some family history involving a naval battle near the Cape Verde Islands, an ancestor who was Chief Engineer at the Langban mines in Sweden, and steam engines - if you want to know more, ask Dick! Finally we were treated to a photo gallery of various radioactive minerals, and a simple summary of basic safety steps to be taken when dealing with radioactive minerals. The key points to remember are basic hygiene - avoid skin contact, do not get fragments under finger nails or ingest/inhale particles. Store radioactive minerals separately from your main collection - preferably in sealed boxes or containers, and open these only in a well-ventilated area to reduce the risk of inhaling radon.

After lunch delegates had a choice of participating in a workshop on Identifying Minerals with the Polarising Microscope - led by Max Wirth, Nigel Hoppe and Don Blake, or settling down for the annual "Mass Swap" in the lab area.

Nigel, Max and Don had clearly put a good deal of thought into what they were going to demonstrate and teach, and about 10 members participated in the workshop. We were shown how to prepare a grain slide sample, how to mount it and then worked our way through determining refractive index, cleavage, fracture, pleochroism, extinction, optical sign, birefringence etc. Once characteristics had been determined the results could be entered into Don Blake's Access Database package and a list of "possibles" generated. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of Don's excellent CD ROM can contact him directly via - stars@donblake.freemove.co.uk

Meanwhile, back in the lab thousands of micros were in disarray as delegates worked their way, at times frantically, through the piles of trays looking for exciting new finds, or bargains.

By the end of the afternoon it seemed like we had all been there for ever, and people were pleased to move into the Lecture Theatre for a comfortable seat and to enjoy the Annual Specimen Auction - this year presided over by Trevor Bridges as auctioneer. We seemed to have a generally better quality of entry this year, and several lots were keenly contested. As ever the entertainment value lay in members of the audience pushing up the price, with the attendant risk that they might end up actually having to buy the specimen if the competing bidder failed to bid again!

Noteworthy lots included Lot 8, a nice crystallised siderite from Force Crag Mine (£20); Lot 11, an old miner's oil lamp (£55); a super baryte from Sidmouth (£25); a fine fluorite and siderite from Rampgill Mine (£37); stolzite-wulfenite from Poddy Gill, Cumbria (£43); and a particularly fine smoky quartz on feldspar collected recently from Arran (£60).

There was an entertaining moment whilst bidding for a Franklin, New Jersey specimen, when, with bidding at £3, Jean Terry suddenly seemed to wake up and bid 50 - but in fact apparently meant "£3-50", not "£50" ! A complete run of the Russell Society Journal went for £30.

With the days formal events drawing to a close, delegates made their way out of the building and headed off to the Stonecroft Hotel for dinner and socialising. The team at the Hotel did a great job and we enjoyed an excellent meal, followed by a light-hearted presentation by Richard de Nul, featuring the Norfolk Gang doing silly things. (Watch out - there will be other victims next year since I saw Richard on the prowl with digital camera in hand on Sunday).

Finally Ken Luff subjected (sorry, I mean entertained) delegates to the now traditional quiz, with chocolates going to the winning team. The idea here is to try and work out which particular angle the quiz master's twisted mind is coming at you from - for example "find the odd one out" from a string of mineral names, might be the colour, the fact that all except one starts with a particular

letter, or some quirk of chemical composition! Anyway, it does give the quiz master the upper hand in case of disputes, and as the saying goes "the judges decision is final"! Thanks again Ken.

As members gradually drifted away to bed, a small hard core stayed up talking and drinking into the early hours.

Breakfast was the usual competitive event, whereby the dining room has insufficient capacity to cope with everyone in the hotel at once, and since they are all hell bent on getting a parking spot at the university, this does make for some sport! Anyway, all in good humour of course, we finally made our way back to the University and the swapping and chatting picked up where it had left off the previous evening. Indeed, sometimes it seems that conversations pick up from where they left off the previous year!

At 10.00am we all gathered in the Lecture Theatre for the Annual General Meeting, and the necessary business was rattled through in about an hour. Given that we had managed to gain some time against the schedule we carried straight on to hear Austin Lockwood announce the results of the Micromineral Competition. In Third place was Peter Fitzgerald's mixite, second was a synchisite-Ce from Tom Cotterell, and in First Place a splendid native silver wire from Fowey Consols collected by Rob Selley - well done Rob!

There had been insufficient entries for the Micromount Competition, so sadly Peter Braithwaite had to announce that it had been decided to abandon it for this year. Peter also advised the meeting that he had decided to retire from judging and that the Society would need to find a new judge for future years. Roy thanked Peter for all his hard work and humour of the years.

Finally, David Roe gave us the usual run down of "What's on the Tables" - reported in full elsewhere in this newsletter.

Roy Starkey had arranged to take a Group photo of delegates at 11.45am, and everyone gathered outside and the photo was duly taken, Then a further half-dozen members wandered out and we had to do it all over again! If anyone would like an electronic copy of the photo please email Roy and he will send a copy by return.

The weekend was rounded off with a final chance to chat and to swap, or a chance to see a superb slide show by Ulrich Wagner, before members drifted away gradually to make the journey home.

Please do write in and tell us what you think about the Symposium format and content. It is your Symposium - we can do almost anything. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's event a great success, especially the organising team from Norfolk – they do a great job, and their regular helpers and behind the scenes team too. See you all again next year we hope. In particular, if you would like to help with organising next year's Symposium, please contact either one of the Organisers, or Roy Starkey.



Trevor Bridges in action as Auctioneer



Lots for the Auction (the miners oil lamp made £55)



Settling our dues after the Auction



David Green and Jamie get down to some serious discussion



Max Wirth demonstrating how to make a mineral grain slide



Optical microscopy workshop with Frank Ince, Alan Edwards and Max Wirth.



Shirley Adrian, Pam Parlanti et.al. in the swap session



Alan and Sue Edwards with Jean Terry



Group Photo (take 2)



Roy Starkey presents the Micromineral Trophy to Rob Selley



Jean Spence receives the Founders Cup from Roy Starkey



David Roe tries to find out what's on Andy and Melissa Banthorpe's table



Dinner at the Stonecroft Hotel



The Quiz in full swing - he cannot be serious



Peter Braithwaite, Frank Ince, Max Wirth and Neil Hubbard

ROUND THE TABLES IN 2003

David Roe

Over the last few years I have wandered around the symposium poking micromounters with my winking out specimens stick and I always felt that one of the key points for inclusion in my subsequent words of wisdom should be a specimen's memorability. What follows is the proof - written up from the interpretation of scratch marks on crumpled scraps of paper - but I can see them twinkling in front of me now - or is it the whisky?

As always it was a slow start - finding someone with anything at all to show "left at home, germinating in the tomato box, the virtual collection" - all the usual excuses at last gave way to the exuberant enthusiasm of Norfolk. It is exciting times in Norfolk as the number of new mineral sites in the county doubled this year - a veritable basklenovite bonanza - from the parking site at UAE and a secret location on a footpath somewhere in Thetford Forest. The mathematicians amongst us have calculated that if this rate of increase continues then by 2013 Norfolk will have 4095 mineral locations - which will silence the mockers. I continue with the theme of obscure B's yielding Graham Bell's basnasite from Pakistan - where one could take one's pick of lanthanum, cerium or, for the free spirits, yttrium. Shuiskite proved not to be from the raw fish menu served up by Rick Turner/David Hardman but a cooked broccoli coloured chromium silicate from the Urals. Mike Leppington did a double handed trick attempting to entice me with his electronic listing of Caldbeck Fells minerals (£2 while stocks last) while waving a zinco-libethenite which has taken 100 years to be recognised - I know how it feels.

By now the obscurities were rolling in - the only advantage of chronic dandruff is the opportunity to liberally use selenium sulphide - never did I think I would be shown selenium crystals - these mineral black beauties shown by Peter Harrison were a treat. Doomed by the curse of the anatase, I expect to be sent into frenzies of despair at a BMS symposium but it was particularly galling to see Roy Starkey's chance find of anatase crystals trapped infinitely in quartz. And where were they found? In the mist somewhere near Crib Goch - a place I always thought that one would be terminally challenged if one was not precisely sure of one's location in the mist. Nick Peters had returned to an old anatase haunt at Hendre Quarry and came away with quantities of sizable double-terminated quartz while Chris Jewson continues his self-appointed campaign to reduce all of Cornwall's chlorite to 1/2 x 1/2 inch cubes and showed some gorgeous anatase and cassiterite from Wheal Charlotte.

By now we were beginning to perspire with envy - particularly as Peter Hay showed how dead sites come back to life - with some cracking cassiterite and blue tourmaline from Poldice. This was trumped by Alan Horton who produced an astonishing sphene(?) on quartz from the same location. Not content - Alan also had some delicious pink fluorspars from Wheal Remfry. Luckily at this point my parochial interest in Duchy minerals was distracted by Jean Terry's gemmy green fluorites and, if one held one's breath, beryls appeared like the gentle breaking of the dawn over the veldt from whence they came - somewhere in Namibia. It is rare that I am overcome by a desperate longing after another man's minerals but I thought Trevor Bridge's display of fluorites on quartz from Coalclough, showing the incredible variety of crystallisation modes, was almost too painfully fabulous to look at. They need a loving home in Ugborough Devon. I will pay transport costs. My mind reeling with this intoxication was not eased by Rob Selley who delivered a few more stunners from Cornwall. From West Wheal Basset he had a crystal group of ... who knows ... because it is a visual triumph of a Halley's Comet spread across the cavity.

But Gary Davies provided the final emotion - for what is worse than to live for 15 years less than 30 minutes drive from Brixham blissfully ignorant that it is a millerite location - sorry *was* a millerite location. We Devonians are not proud - we need you to tell us where our locations are!

2003 MICROMINERAL COMPETITION

Austin Lockwood

This popular event, now in its ninth year, was again held during the Annual Symposium at Leicester University. Judges were appointed from four branches of the Society and thanks are due to Vicki Packard, Harry Critchley, Mick Wolfe and Andy Coster who kindly gave up their time to examine and award points for each of the 18 specimens entered for the Competition.

As members may recall, judging is based on a maximum of 50 points awarded by each judge for features such as perfection of crystals, overall cleanliness, rarity of species and dramatic appeal. Part of my job as Competition Administrator, apart from organising the event, is to check the marking and to work out the average points awarded by the four judges

As a judge, you have an opportunity to carefully examine each specimen, without too much distraction. The general view of the judges was that this years entries were, perhaps, not quite up to the standard that we have achieved in the past, only a few entries scoring really high marks for rarity of species and dramatic appeal. These two features, of course, do not necessarily go together.

The winner this year was Robin Selley with a fine specimen of *silver wire* from Fowey Consols, Cornwall collected in 2001 which scored an average of 43 points Members will recall that Robin previously won the Competition in 2001.

Last years winner, Tom Cotterell, took second place with an attractive specimen comprising a *rosette of synchysite-(Ce) with inky-blue anatase, white albite and murky green chlorite* collected in 2001 from the Oak eley Slate Quarry, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd for which the judges awarded an average of 42 points.

Peter FitzGerald came third in the Competition with his specimen of *mixite* collected in 1997 from Penberthy Croft, St. Hilary, Cornwall which received an average of 41.25 points.

There were four other specimens entered in the Competition which all scored over 40 points.

Following the announcement of the results on the Sunday morning Roy Starkey kindly presented Robin with the Maurice Grigg Micromineral Trophy to display at his home until next year, together with a small trophy for him to keep, to mark his success in this year's competition.

It is encouraging to see the Micromineral Competition so well supported again and I would like to thank all those who entered specimens for this. I will remind you all in good time about next year's Competition and perhaps, when you are sorting through your finds, you will put aside something special for this.

I have suggested to Robin that the original cardboard box in which the beautiful Maurice Grigg Trophy is transported should, after almost ten years use, be replaced with a suitable wooden, purpose made, carrying box. I am sure the Society could find the funds to pay for this.

INSURANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Austin Lockwood

With effect from the 31 July 2003 the Society has been insured with the Zurich Municipal Insurance Company through the Geologists' Association new Affiliated and Local Groups insurance scheme under Policy number XAO-122015-4493. The cover provided includes Public Liability with a limit of indemnity of £5million, extended to include "member to member" and also Personal Accident and Assault.

The "member to member" extension means that the Public Liability element of the Policy shall be interpreted as if it had been issued to each individual member of the Society, provided that such individuals shall observe and be bound by the Policy terms, conditions and exclusions so far as they can apply and are not entitled to indemnity from any other source.

The Personal Accident and Assault cover is limited to £500,000 for any one person and £2 million for any one incident. Under the scheme members cover is limited to a capital sum of £10,000 and a weekly sum of £50.

It is important to note that the insurance will only cover properly organised national and branch field trips, displays and similar activities. It will not cover you as a private individual. Branches intending to undertake such activities must advise Shirley Adrian beforehand. Any incident or accident occurring during the activity, which may result in a claim being made under the insurance policy, must be advised to Shirley as quickly as possible.

All Branch Co-ordinators have been issued with a copy of the insurance documents which includes a 'To whom it may concern' letter from the Geologists' Association. This can be copied and sent to the site owner, or other authority, should proof of insurance be required.

All organisations need to have a formal Health and Safety Policy and to give advice to their members on Health and Safety matters, particularly those relevant to the activities arranged by the organisation. In recent months the Russell Society has made significant progress in this regard and it would seem logical for the BMS to adopt a similarly worded Health & Safety Policy and to undertake the necessary Risk Assessment procedures. Those members of the BMS proposing to lead field trips, or similar activities, can obtain copies of the Russell Society's Risk Assessment booklet and form from me. The Field Leaders' Indemnity form can also be adapted for our use.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain permission to visit working quarries and, since the managers responsibilities extend to the Health and Safety of all visitors to the site, they are often reluctant to give consent for a visit particularly if this is going to put their company to additional expense. Managers, or their authorised deputies, will now often accompany a visiting group. If, however, you are given permission to collect unaccompanied it is important that you, and the members of your group, strictly observe any instructions given by the manager or any of his staff. Arriving at the site with appropriate personal protective equipment (p.p.e), hard hat, high visibility vest and stout footwear (preferably steel toe-capped) is always a good start. Organisations that

behave in a responsible manner and adopt good practice with regard to Health and Safety matters are more likely to receive permission to visit the site again. Those that don't, can find themselves banned, which does none of us any good.

BMS OCCASIONAL PAPERS
David Green and John Pearce

The 15 papers, which have now been produced, are detailed below:

1. An Introduction to Micromounts	Roy Starkey	£1.00
2. Determining the Optical Properties of Minerals	Max Wirth	£1.50
3. Minerals are Chemicals	John Pearce	£1.50
4. Paper Chromatography	Max Wirth	£1.00
5. Using the Mineralogical Literature	Roy Starkey	£3.00
6. Stereomicroscopes	Mike Edwards	£2.00
7. Photography of Minerals through the Microscope	Elsie Hansford	£1.00
8. A Guide to Micromounting: Part 1, Collecting	Peter Braithwaite	£1.50
9. A Guide to Micromounting: Part 2, Micromounting	Peter Braithwaite	£1.50
10. A Guide to Micromounting: Part 3, Cataloguing	Peter Braithwaite	£1.50
11. Chemical Testing of Mineral Grains	David Green	£2.00
12. A Select and Personal Bibliography from the Mineralogical Magazine	Roy Starkey	£2.00
13. Minerals are Chemicals Part 2: The Periodic Table	John Pearce & Austin Woodbridge	£3.00
14. The Formation of Secondary Minerals	David Alderton	£1.50
15. Zeolites of the British Isles	Oneta Wilson, Alan Dyer & Hassan Enamy	£3.00

(All papers are available from John Pearce, 7 Condor Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9QB. Please add 75p P & P for orders up to 3 papers and make cheques payable to "BMS".)

Paper 15 was launched at this year's Symposium and almost 40 copies were sold over the weekend.

BMS OCCASIONAL PAPER NO.15
ZEOLITES OF THE BRITISH ISLES

by Oneta Wilson, Alan Dyer and Hassan Enamy

Zeolites have a special fascination for collectors due to the ready availability of specimens with a wide variety of habits and forms from many different localities. They are of interest to scientists for their unusual chemical and physical properties. This paper is aimed at amateur mineralogists and describes and catalogues the species known from the British Isles.

Not only is this an excellent paper, but it breaks new ground by focusing directly on a group of minerals rather than on topics and techniques related to minerals and we hope that other papers will follow which also relate directly to groups of minerals.

Looking to future BMS Occasional Papers, we have four in preparation:

The Naming of Minerals
Zeolites: Worldwide
Tourmaline
Radioactivity and Radioactive Minerals

We are also looking to resurrect the *Lead Minerals in the British Isles* paper, that was started some years ago but never finished, while in the longer term we are still looking for an author/authors to prepare a paper on *The Cleaning of Minerals*.

We are exploring the possibility of offering a service to bind members' papers into one volume when we have completed 20 papers. Binding is not cheap, perhaps £25 - £30, but it will make a superb publication on your bookshelf!

MICROMOUNTERS.ORG.UK - WE ARE ON THE WEB!

The BMS Website is now well established, what we need now is a regular input of news, ideas and photos from you, the membership. We want the BMS website to be informative and useful – our emphasis will be on content and reasonable download times, rather than jazzy graphics and animations.

If you have ideas or things you would like to see, please get in touch with either Andy, Mike or myself – we'll be pleased to help.

There is a "classifieds" page where members can post "Wants" and "For sale" items. We are looking for contributions to start developing the "Virtual Field Trips" page, and any Mineral News items will also be welcome.

The 21st Anniversary booklet content will be on-line by the time you read this Newsletter - why not take a look ?

CORRECTION TO NEWSLETTER 64 **John Betterton**

In the additions section for the BMS reference collection there is a muddle in the location data for specimens number 2300 to 2305. The correct location should read:

Edgumbe Park Clinker Dump, Edgumbe Park, Crowthorne, Berkshire. The NGR is ok.

RUGGLES MINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA.

Peter Hay

In Newsletter No.40, there appeared an article by Roy Starkey about the Ruggles Mine in New Hampshire, U S A. He invited any member venturing to that far-off place to record what he or she found, so here goes. Roy was unable after a lapse of 7 years to find the leaflet he mentioned, but, as my daughter is at University in New Jersey, not a million miles from New Hampshire (and only an hour's drive from Franklin - but that's another story), we decided to combine a visit to her with some mineral collecting.

Good fortune began in the office of the car hire company. where an excellent road atlas of the USA actually indicated the Ruggles Mine as a place of interest. As we made our way northwards from the Franklin area we found copies of the Ruggles leaflet at several stops, so the trail was getting warm. It was difficult to find out exactly when the site would be open, but we fancied that a Sunday would be our best chance so we headed for Grafton, the nearest town. Along the road to Grafton we saw a sign inviting us to visit Ruggles, and eventually a direction sign in the town itself. Grafton is in the wooded White Mountains of New Hampshire and the mine is at the top of Isinglass Mountain, reached by an easily passable road.

Isinglass is another name for mica and that is what the mine produced for many years. The mine is a local tourist attraction and we saw many family parties carrying hired hammers and collecting bags. The entrance is through a short adit - you could drive a coach through it - into an opencut about 100ft. high and nearly as wide. Off it are several cave-like openings which could take a double decker bus but which did not extend far enough to need a torch. Small pieces of mica are everywhere. Some of the walls of the opencut glisten with it and the children collect it with enthusiasm. In a small display at the office/shop/cafe there were examples of the uranium minerals which are said " to be prized by collectors the world over" and these were what I was hoping to find. Sitting around were a few adults who seemed to know, by the way they were breaking rock, what they were looking for; but conversations with them indicated that they were just tourists like everyone else, so there was no hope of getting any useful site information from them.

Beyond the main opencut there was another short adit leading to a smaller opencut which gave onto a flat dump area with a view over the valley below. I wondered if the dump might be a more productive place to search in the 80 degree plus heat of the morning, but it seemed to be almost entirely composed of poor quality rose-tinted quartz.. However, in the trees on a stump I found 8 books of mica about the size of my hand, left there in the past by who knows who. They were carefully wrapped for transport.

The leaflet gives a list of about 50 minerals found at Ruggles including beryl which was mined commercially. Most of the minerals named are coloured but colour which was different from the pale buff sandstone of the country rock I could not find. Indeed the only thing I did find apart from mica was dendritic uraninite on feldspar. Promising green stains turned out to be lichen. Although it was a little disappointing from a mineral collecting point of view, our visit to Ruggles gave our visit to the country parts of New England a focus and was well worth the effort.

A NEW VENTURE NORTH OF THE BORDER.

Shirley Adrian

Those of us who have moved to Scotland from more densely populated areas find ourselves bereft of mineral company. I consulted my membership list and found that there were 7 members living in Scotland, and at the request of 2 of these arranged a meeting. Brian Jackson kindly offered us the use of a room and microscopes at the National Museum in Edinburgh, and to swell the numbers I wrote to Russell Society as well as BMS members.

On September 28th we braved the narrow streets in the centre of Edinburgh, with its no right turns, no left turns, and apparently useful roads which turned out to be bridges over the road we were on. “Never again” said the chauffeur, depositing Beryl Taylor and me at the rear entrance and nervously driving away to find solace in a B&Q Warehouse.

We were issued with security tags and escorted through the unlit galleries to the Geology lab, a central hall with side rooms with a variety of microscopes, one linked to a TV screen.

Max had selected 35 Scottish specimens for us to look at. Neil Hubbard brought a fine collection including Levyne from Oisgill Bay, Skye; Wulfenite collected underground from the Susanna vein, Leadhills; and Phosgenite from Lossiemouth. Philip Taylor brought some finds from a recent trip to Glen Buchat—micro-tourmalines in matrix, graphic granite, and reddish-brown drusy quartz on agate. Beryl brought her finds from Carsaig Bay, Mull, and went home with a photo of her unusual lead (?) micro-spheres. I took a quartz and galena hand specimen, said to be Scottish, in the hope of tracking down a possible location. Brian took me down to the stored collection, but we were unable to match the quartzite matrix.

Gordon Todd brought some recently collected fine specimens of smoky quartz on feldspar from Arran, some large slightly coated smoky quartz crystals from the Cairngorms, and an “unknown” on Epidote from Loch Carnan, South Uist. Brian tested this with Infra-red Spectroscopy. It gave a reading very similar to that of Chrysocolla, but showed manganese substituting for copper.

Dr. Alec Livingstone brought some of his superb mineral paintings, including some which are featured in his book “The Minerals of Scotland” and spoke briefly about how he came to take up painting as a relaxing hobby.

During the afternoon Bob Reekie dropped in for a chat. Conspicuous by their absence were the Edinburgh member who had suggested the meeting, and the two friends he had told me to expect.

The afternoon passed quickly and around 4 o’clock we started to disperse—one to Aberdeen, two to beyond Glasgow, one to the borders, one back to England via Killin, one to Oban, and one on a six and a half hour journey to Wester Ross. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the experience and said they would like to meet again.

We were most grateful to Brian Jackson for hosting the meeting, and for all the help he gave us. He was “on the go” all the time, but seemed unfazed by the thought of doing it all again at a later date.

DR J B NELSON
Shirley Adrian

Members may not know very much about Dr. J.B. Nelson - Jamie to us - of Nelson Gemmological Instruments. His research as a physicist, x-ray crystallographer, and later as a microscopist required him to invent, design, build, and occasionally sell, a wide variety of laboratory tools and apparatus. Many devices were developed as necessary modifications to existing costly equipment, but were designed to stand alone. They aimed at improving on and substituting for more expensive instruments, able to meet a new analytical need.

One of his particular interests concerns the identification of mineral or liquid inclusions in gemstones, using a Raman Scattering Microscope (RSM), of great importance in determining a gemstone's provenance. An extensive Raman spectral database is required for this and Jamie spent 7 years producing a reliable file of over 1100 species, using his personal collection of minerals and gemstones.

He and his wife Doris founded McCrone Scientific Ltd., London. In June 2001 Jamie was the recipient of the August Kohler Award at "Inter/Micro 2001" in Chicago where he presented papers and ran a short course on microscopy of gemstones.

On 16th May 2002 the Nelsons celebrated their Diamond Wedding, and received congratulations from the Queen

AROUND THE GROUPS

Group secretaries and organisers are reminded that any details aof forthcoming events can be published in the newsletter. Please provide contact details for visiting members.

DEVON AND CORNWALL GROUP

Meetings in 2004 will be held at the Liskeard Town Hall, 3 West Street, Liskeard, Cornwall from 1:00pm on the following Saturdays:

13th March - 5th June - 11th September - 27th November

A charge of £1.00 per member is made and this includes Tea and biscuits. Visitors will be most welcome (with or without microscopes). Free parking 100yards from the venue. Contact Chris Jewson for more details on 01872 560687.

SOUTH EAST BRANCH

Meetings in 2004 have been arranged for the following Sundays:

8th February - 16th May - 8th August - 14th November

Contact Austin Lockwood for more details on 0208 650 5566

CALDBECK COMMONS - MINERALS WORKING GROUP - 21ST NOVEMBER

Roy Starkey

There were 15 participants including three from LDNPA, two from BGS, three from English Nature, as well as a representative from Cumbria RIGS, Manchester Museum, and amateur representatives including myself.

John Hodgson welcomed the attendees to the meeting on behalf of the LDNPA and briefly summarised the history of the Minerals Policy. The scheme had been introduced about 4 years ago because of a number of worries about damage to the landscape, mineralogical resource, and commercial collecting (including the use of explosives). It was also decided to try to assess whether permit applications had true research value. From an archaeological standpoint the scheme had been successful in reducing the impact on some of the important mining remains, but the planned archaeological assessment of the area has stalled and only one major season of work had been completed (covering the Roughtongill complex). The MOLES Group are currently undertaking work in the Silver Gill area, and important results have come to light on early mining.

There will be a new National Park Plan next year, and amateur mineral collecting is seen as a problem area by the Authority who would like to see more scope for it, hence today's discussion.

Overall this meeting covered a lot of ground and there was a reasonably full and frank exchange of views. There is some measure of understanding from the English Nature and LDNPA standpoint that the collector community feels aggrieved. BGS continues to adopt a rather firm line on academic research grounds and this is unfortunate. The absence of anyone with geological knowledge within the staff of the LDNPA is a major weakness, and it is therefore very difficult for the Authority to know how they should react/respond to the (sometimes) conflicting information from their various advisors. The lack of funding for any form of study/report is likely to be a barrier to progress in the near future, although EN and LDNPA may meet again to discuss this topic.

The application procedure for next year will essentially be the same as for 2003, but tempered by a covering letter which will hopefully lend support to the intention to treat applications more sensitively, and with perhaps a lesser focus on "research" as a *prima facie* requirement.

The collecting fraternity has a potential opportunity to "put something back" into the scene by collaborating to assemble a reference/teaching collection - this is something that we could probably do with not too much trouble or expense if there was a willingness from many collectors to donate a few of their duplicate specimens. We might even be able to attract the support of some dealers.

Sadly, the application form will probably remain the same as for this year, but we should encourage individuals and groups to apply for permits, stating their true reasons for wanting to collect, without undue "spin". Only by processing a significant number of applications will the Working Group be able to assess how they should adapt the scheme for the future.

Meanwhile, the co-operation and restraint shown by collectors is to be applauded, and it is vital that we continue to demonstrate that the collecting fraternity is responsible. With continued dialogue and hard work, we may yet be able to achieve a more balanced regime for the future, on the one hand preserving an important resource, and on the other facilitating responsible recreational mineralogy.

FALLING MEMBERSHIP - WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Austin Lockwood

We are all getting older and there is nothing we can do about that. Like many Societies, the BMS is seeing a steady fall in membership numbers and members who, sadly, pass away are not being replaced. We are fortunate in having a loyal membership and we receive very few resignations when subscriptions are due for renewal. Members appear to be generally satisfied with the way the Society is run and we have a good attendance at the annual Symposium.

However, most branches are reporting falling attendance at local meetings which, appears to be, a direct result of our aging membership. Some, like the North-West, now have joint meetings with the Warrington Mineral & Lapidary Society, who share similar interests. Perhaps, linking up with other like minded societies is a solution, albeit a temporary one. Nearly every active member of the South-East branch of the BMS is also a member of the South-East branch of the Russell Society, so why go to the trouble of organising a separate programme for each? Costs can be considerably reduced by having joint meetings.

Some societies seem to be more successful than others. This can be partly attributed to having an enthusiastic committee, with the offices filled by members who want to do the job to the best of their ability, not because there was no one else prepared to take the work on.

All societies need to advertise their existence. If people don't know about you then they won't join. Mineral shows are probably the best place to recruit new members but you need some existing members to man a display stand, which is the best way to attract attention. Most organisers of mineral shows will let you have a table to advertise a mineral society free of charge. Leaflets, on their own, do not result in new members. In any case, I think you need to be a little selective on who joins, as there are some queer folk about.

Personally, I think the answer is through the children and, in particular through Rockwatch. The two Rockwatch groups in Bromley and South East London with which I am involved have proved to be very successful. We now have over 20 children plus their parents attending each of our fortnightly workshop sessions and events such as museum visits and field trips are nearly always oversubscribed. We have received funding through the Learning and Skills Council Family Learning Scheme, which has enabled us to buy 10 microscopes complete with light sources and carrying cases, and the Council of the British Crystallographic Association gave us over 50 copies of the booklet, 'Crystals', in recognition of the interest shown by the children in our workshop on 'Crystals - an aid to mineral identification'. Some of the children, and their parents, have been attending the meetings since the first group was established in September 2000 and, as a result of our work, there is now a greater interest in geology and Earth sciences in our area. Several of the children are now approaching the age of 16 and, with their parents, are already showing an interest in joining an adult society. It may be a long term solution but, with several of my colleagues, I happen to believe that if you want people to share your interest in rocks, fossils or minerals then you have to do something about it.

If you are interested in doing something, then approach your county Wildlife Trust to find out where your nearest Wildlife Watch group is based and offer to give them, and the children's parents, a talk on rocks or minerals. Ask them to bring along any rocks or minerals they would like identified, or to know more about. From my experience you will get a good attendance at the meeting and a great deal of interest being shown. Some of the parents may ask where they can learn more so you could have a prospective new member.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New members

Maria Justamond	49 Millbrook drive, Shawbury, Shropshire SY4 4PQ	01939 251474
Jimmy Miller	125 Crewe Road North, Edinburgh EH5 2PA	0131 539 6906
Joakim Persson	14 Netherton Road, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8EG	07952 950032

Changes of address, telephone or e-mail details:

Member	New or corrected details.
Mike Dannatt	The Laurels, Garden Court, Perry Street, Nr Chard, Somerset, TA20 2QG Tel: 01460 220624 E-mail remains: the.dannatts@care4free.net
Alan and Sue Edwards	Please revert to old e-mail address - sue.ames@tesco.net
Edward Foy	4 Kirtlington, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AZ Tel: 01908 605722

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mike Dannatt

The Laurels, Garden Court, Perry Street, Nr Chard, Somerset, TA20 2QG

Tel: 01460 220624

E-mail: the.dannatts@care4free.net

The deadline for articles for Newsletter 66 will be 1st February 2004. Please let me have contributions as soon as possible. Articles or reports on PC disc are welcome - preferably saved in RTF - rich text format. Articles sent by E-mail can either be "attached" or be part of the body of the E-mail message. Clearly *printed* documents are acceptable and can be scanned and read into the PC. Hand-written items should be as clear as possible please paying particular attention to the spelling of site and mineral names.

CRISIS APPEAL FOR PRINTING FACILITIES

For the past few years I have been able to arrange for the Newsletter to be printed, folded and stapled at cost by my employer. Now that I have retired, I have been able to arrange for a former colleague to print this one issue as a "private" printing job. I shall not be able to continue with this arrangement indefinitely and I must appeal to members to see if someone can come up with a similar arrangement. Technical details are as follows:

I prepare the newsletter as an MS Word document set in 12point Times New Roman font as A4 pages in multiples of 4. This is then printed on a laser printer and processed by a large copier which has a "booklet" facility. The machine reduces the images to A5, collates the pages in correct sequence, prints, folds and staples them. The net cost is 4½pence per double sided sheet - that is for four original A4 pages. As a booklet, no VAT is charged, so that the total cost for a 20 page issue is 22½pence per copy.

I would e-mail the final copy ready for printing subject to any final adjustments to suit the MS Windows drivers for the laser printer. 250 copies are required and mailed to Pearl Freeman for distribution.

Please contact me as a matter of urgency if you are able to offer or suggest a suitable service.