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Number 18

Humberside Geologist is the peer-reviewed journal of the Hull Geological Society (founded in 1888).

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<https://www.hullgeolsoc.co.uk/index.htm>

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***Humberside Geologist* number 18**

A History of the Hull Geological Society 1985 to 2025 by Mike Horne

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Chapter 1.

Introduction.

I joined the Hull Geological Society in 1979 and was elected to the Committee in 1983 as the “young member”. I became the Vice President for a year, but was really the trainee Secretary and I took on that role in March 1985. With the role came the archives and the editorship of the *Humberside Geologist* journal. The archives fascinated me and through them I came to know some of the characters from the past and the history behind the study of local geology. I have compiled and published a history of the first 100 years of the Society and given talks about prominent past members, such as J W Stather and Thomas Sheppard (he really was a character!).

Now I have been the Secretary of the Society for 40 years and until very recently was still the “young member” on the Committee. A recent health scare forced me to re-evaluate my research and I decided to publish a number of incomplete works. So I think that my 40th anniversary is an appropriate time to reflect upon the past, document the changes we have been through and celebrate the Society’s achievements.

In these chapters and appendices I have tried to be objective. The various themes in our history interact, but I have tried to contain them within chapters. Adding links to other Society archives is an advantage in publishing this work online. I hope you enjoy reading it and I hope that it and the associated archives will be an interesting resource in the future. Any mistakes and omissions are all my own. I thank the editorial team of *Humberside Geologist* for agreeing to publish this volume of the journal and for their active editing of the text.

Note – It is not really clear where the Society’s year starts and ends. The financial year ends at the end of February. The Annual General Meeting is held in March when the new Officers and Committee are elected to be in office for the following 12 months. Until recently the start of the Winter Programme in October marked the beginning of the year for subscriptions. In the appendices to this history the financial and funding information is based on the financial year beginning on 1st March, but the extracts from the archives are based on a calendar year. The main Committee meeting is held either in January or December, so there might be two in one year and none in the next.

Mike Horne, May 2025.

Abbreviations used:

AGM - Annual General Meeting of the HGS held in March
BGS - British Geological Survey

CLL – Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Hull
ERYCC - East Riding of Yorkshire County Council
EYRIGSGp - East Yorkshire RIGS Group
GA - Geologists' Association
HERM – Hull and East Riding Museum (High Street, Hull)
HGS - Hull Geological Society
KLS - Kingston Lapidary Society
RIGS - Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site
SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest
UKRIGS - the national umbrella organisation for RIGS Groups; now called GeoConservation UK
YGM - Yorkshire Geology Month
YGS - Yorkshire Geological Society
YWT - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Chapter 2.

Organisation.

The Hull Geological Society was founded in 1888. It became a registered Educational Charity in 1963. The organisation is in the hands of Officers and Committee members who are elected annually. There is usually one main Committee meeting per year in December or January to plan the Annual General Meeting and Programmes for the year. The Secretary is charged with enacting the Committee's wishes. The Treasurer deals with the finances, receiving the annual subscriptions and preparing the accounts for the Annual General Meeting. The President or Vice-President chairs the meetings when available and may formally represent the Society on occasions.

The Committee alone nominates the President for the forthcoming year and Presidents may serve for up to three years. The Committee usually nominates people for the other roles but any member can also make nominations. The Rules specify that there should be a new Committee member each year. Although the Rules state that there should be five Committee members, some people are co-opted because we never ask anyone to resign. Representatives of Hull Museum, Hull University and the Harker Geological Society are or were invited to Committee meetings. The Committee has the power to co-opt Officers between AGMs if posts fall vacant; this happened recently following the death of our Treasurer Rod Towse.

The Committee used to meet in the home of the Secretary or President, but now the meetings are hosted by the University of Hull. From time to time during the year further short Committee meetings may be held if the Officers request further guidance from the Committee. These might be after an evening lecture, during the lunch break of a field meeting or more recently by e-mail or video conferencing.

The four main Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) are considered by the Charity Commission to be the Trustees of the Society. The Secretary acts as the editor-in-chief of the Society's peer-reviewed journal, *Humberside Geologist* and oversees the editing by a team of volunteers. Over the years some new named roles have been added to the Committee as required: these are the Website Editor, Publicity Office, Librarian, RIGS Officer, Membership Secretary and Archivist. Occasionally there has been an Assistant Treasurer, who is effectively the Treasurer-elect for a year to learn the role and enable a smooth transfer of the accounts.

The Rules of the Society were rewritten in 1963 with the help of a lawyer and approved by the Charity Committee. They set out the objectives for the Society which cannot be changed. Some of the rules were changed in 2016 to reflect current financial practice. The Society has also introduced some policies and procedures over the years, either because an incident indicated that a decision was needed or to reflect good practice established by other similar organisations. The Society is not a company and has no employees, however the Committee has adopted good practices that might not be legal requirements.

We have not experienced any accidents at our events but in 1999 the Society adopted a Safety Policy which has been amended from time to time. The Society requests that event organisers complete a risk assessment, especially for field meetings. To make this easier for event leaders a series of pro-forma risk assessments were produced by Mike Horne and David Hill in 2016 to cover a variety of standard meetings. A Data Protection Policy was introduced in 1998 following a perceived incident of stalking by a member and to comply with the law (which might not actually apply to an amateur society). A later Procedure outlines how the Society stores, shares and uses the personal data of members. This had to be amended slightly during the COVID pandemic to allow for the release of personal data to the emergency services.

Other short *ad hoc* decisions have been made over the years, which have become policies, or codified custom and practice. These include our non-approval of the sale of specimens at our public events for personal gain and stipulating that young geologists may not be allowed to attend some field trips and should always be accompanied by a responsible adult (after we lost a teenager on the beach once).

In 2008 the Society was given a large number of books and journals by the Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull. Stuart Jones became the HGS Librarian and converted a room at his home to become the Library. These books were not regarded as an asset in the Society's accounts. Stuart was paid an honorarium and expenses towards the cost of heating and insurance. Paul Richards catalogued them, producing a searchable cross referenced catalogue on CDROM (Richards 2003). The Society received other books from members, Wyke 6th Form College and some bequests, from John Neale, Ron Harrison and Derek Gobbett for example. However few members actually borrowed the books. When Stuart became ill and needed the space again the books were offered to members and various organisations such as Hull Museums and Hull University. In the end they were

donated to the new Natural History Museum in Sheffield, who collected them in 2024.

Chapter 3.

HGS funding from 1984-2025.

There have been five main sources of funds for the Hull Geological Society over the years. These are membership subscriptions, interest on savings and dividends, sales, donations and reclaiming gift aid.

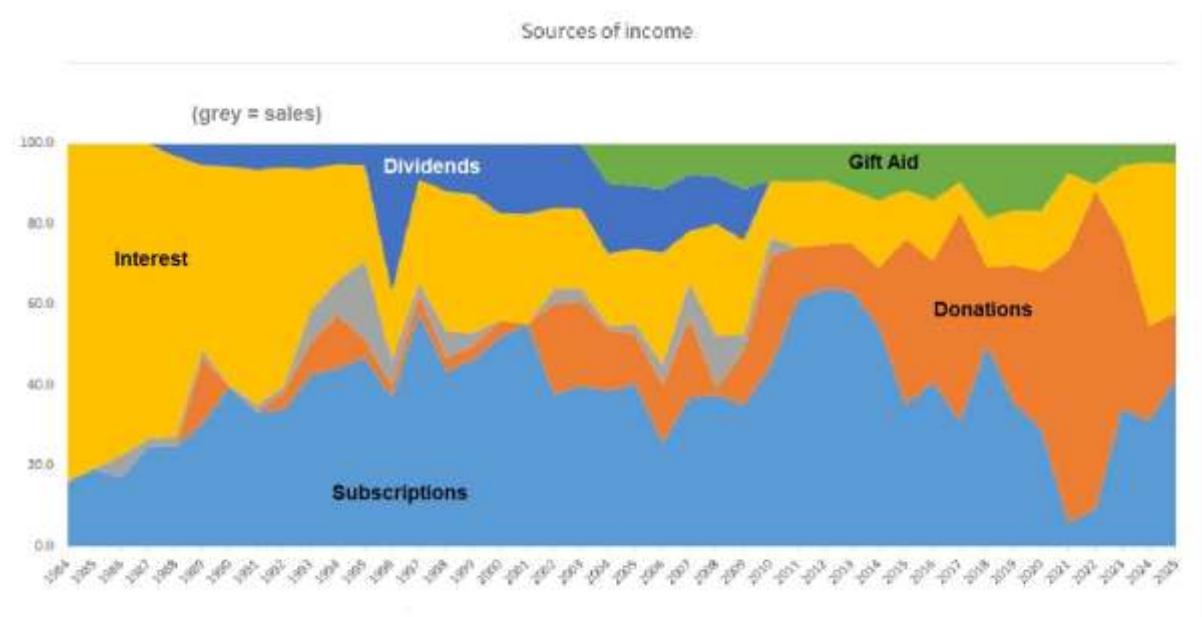


Figure 1 - Sources of funding for the Hull Geological Society by percentage

(Key – green is Gift Aid, dark blue is Share Dividends, yellow is Interest on Savings, grey is Sales, orange is Donations and pale blue is Membership Subscriptions. The source is the HGS Treasurer's Annual Reports.)

The Society's financial year ends on the last day of February. The Treasurer presents a financial report to the Annual General Meeting in March and submits the relevant parts to the Charity Commission. Annual subscriptions were due on 30th September and that roughly coincided with the start of the Winter Programme of lectures which was posted to members by the Secretary. This was changed in 2017 to a calendar year to fall in line with other similar clubs and existing members were given three months' free membership, though the request for the subs continued to be sent in October by post. More recently communication with members has become more flexible, as increasing numbers opted to receive correspondence by e-mail, thus reducing the need to print and post our formal programmes. From 2021 the

Treasurer has encouraged members to pay by bank transfer rather than with a cheque or cash.



Figure 2 - Hull Geological Society annual subscription rates for ordinary members in Pounds Sterling.

The annual subscription rates have increased slowly over the years from £1.50 in 1984 to £10 in 2025. Originally there were different rates for ordinary (individual) members (£2 in 1986 and £8 in 2024), family members (£2.50 in 1986 and £10 in 2024), retired members (£1 in 1986 and £6 in 2024) and students (£1 in 1986 and £3 in 2024). Other rates were introduced as required. It was agreed that institutional members such as local museums and colleges should pay the same rate as family membership. A discount was offered to students paying for two or three years in advance. Subscriptions were waived for existing members during the Covid pandemic lockdowns of 2020 and 2021. In 2025 all the different rates were rationalised to £10, though if this causes financial hardship to any keen members the fee is negotiable.

The Society is very fortunate to have been left a legacy by C F B Shillito in 1951. In fact it was a demand for the income tax on the interest on this fund that led to the dormant Society reforming in 1961 and requesting charitable status. These funds have continued to grow because there has always been a surplus of income over expenditure for the last 40 years. The interest on the savings has meant that the Society has been able to keep the subscription rates relatively low.

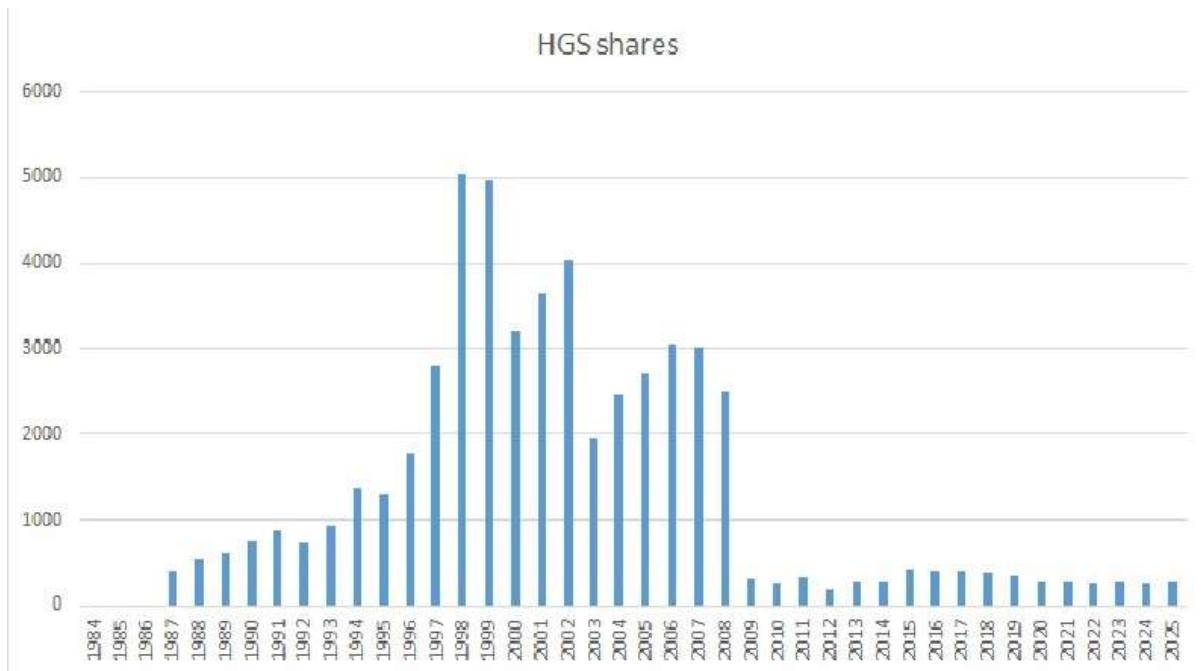


Figure 3 - The value of the HGS holding of TSB (later Lloyds) shares in Pounds Sterling.

On the advice of the Treasurer in 1987 the Society bought some shares in the Trustee Savings Bank when it demutualised. These shares cost £500 and were paid for in two instalments. They provided the Society with dividends for a number of years though the share value fluctuated. The TSB merged with Lloyds Bank and the shares became Lloyds Bank shares. Their value dropped substantially in 2008 with the global banking crash and dividends ceased. In 2024 following the death of the Treasurer Rod Towse it was agreed that the shares be sold, as they were in the name of a previous Treasurer. They were eventually sold for £269 after the deduction of fees. Over the 26 years the Society held the shares they lost £241 in value but we did receive £2505 in total dividends for the first 19 years [source – HGS Treasurer's Annual Reports].

Sales have not been a major source of income for the Society as we only have our publication *Humberside Geologist* to sell and since the Society decided to make a digital version freely available on the World Wide Web these sales have dropped off. In recent times many members don't even collect their free printed copy of the journal. There are also resales of items that are included under this heading which are not really a source of profit: on occasions the Society has made a bulk purchase of books and geological equipment to resell to members at cost price. Occasionally the Society has sold books and specimens donated by members, though in some years the funds raised may have been classed as donations in the accounts.

Over the years the Society has received a few sizeable donations from members notably Patrick Boylan, Jack Doyle and Anna Kirk-Smith. Some members have sponsored events: Paul Richards paid the mini-bus hire fee for a long distance field meeting in 2000 and Mike Horne paid the speaker's fee for a public lecture in 2016 to celebrate his birthday. The Society also received sponsorship from Singleton Birch

Lime Products towards the cost of printing *Humberside Geologist* numbers 13 and 14.

At some public events such as Roadshows the Society has asked for donations from those attending – in particular at the “Finds Desk”. Also included as donations are the proceeds of the sale of second hand books that have been donated to the Society and the “lucky dip” specimens donated by members. Members were encouraged to make a donation towards the postage costs of printed copies of *Down to Earth* (the magazine edited and published by Chris Darmon of Geosupplies in Sheffield) when they collected them at meetings. The Society started to ask members if they wish to make a donation in addition to their annual subscription from 2002. In the pandemic years of 2021 and 2022 several members made donations to the Society when the annual subscriptions had been suspended.

In 2004 the Society entered an ink cartridge recycling scheme to raise funds and encouraged members to participate. This was not so successful because the cheque from the company to the HGS bounced because the recycling company had declared themselves bankrupt!

In 2001 the Society started to reclaim the income tax on some members' subscriptions and donations to the Society if they have made a Gift Aid declaration. This has not been claimed from HMRC every year, but it can be done retrospectively.

In 1992 the Society received a grant from the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association to pay half of the construction costs of a shelter to protect the exposure at Rifle Butts SSSI from weathering. This money was kept separate from the Society's general funds and Donald Beveridge invested it in a building society until it was needed. Interest rates at that time were quite high and the account accrued some interest, which remained after the shelter had been constructed and paid for. This became the HGS Conservation Fund. In 1996 the Building Society informed the HGS that the account had to be held by an individual so it was transferred to the Secretary. In 1997 the HGS received some shares when the building society demutualised and these were held personally by the Treasurer. The shares were offered to the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association but they said the HGS could keep them. In 1998 it was agreed that the shares should be sold and a new Conservation Fund should be created with three Committee members of the Society as the Trustees. The Charity Commission told the Society that the Conservation Fund, although it was consistent with the aims of the HGS, should not have different Trustees so this was changed in 1999. We were made aware that as a charity the Society should not have a separate fund which appeared to have different aims, so the Conservation Fund was incorporated into the general funds in 2005, but ‘ring fenced’ for geoconservation at Rifle Butts and in the East Riding. In 2017 the funds of the East Yorkshire RIGS Group were added to the Conservation Fund when it merged with the Hull Geological Society. Any costs incurred for geoconservation in the area are taken from this virtual fund (including minor maintenance at Rifle Butts) and its value is increased annually in proportion to the interest received on our total investments. [I thank HGS Treasurer Graham Evans for helping with this chapter.]

Chapter 4. Membership.

Membership of the Society from 1984 to 2025

Membership of the Society has always been open to all, regardless of qualifications or experience. In 1984 applicants had to be nominated and seconded at a general meeting to be elected to membership, so they had to have met two members of the Society previously to achieve that. This is still technically true but the application form now states "please arrange for me to be elected" and the nominating and seconding by the Officers is assumed. New applicants are added to the mailing lists before they are elected. Then as now non-members are welcome to attend the meetings of the Society free of charge, though donations are not refused.

The Society does have historical membership records and based on these some trends can be seen.

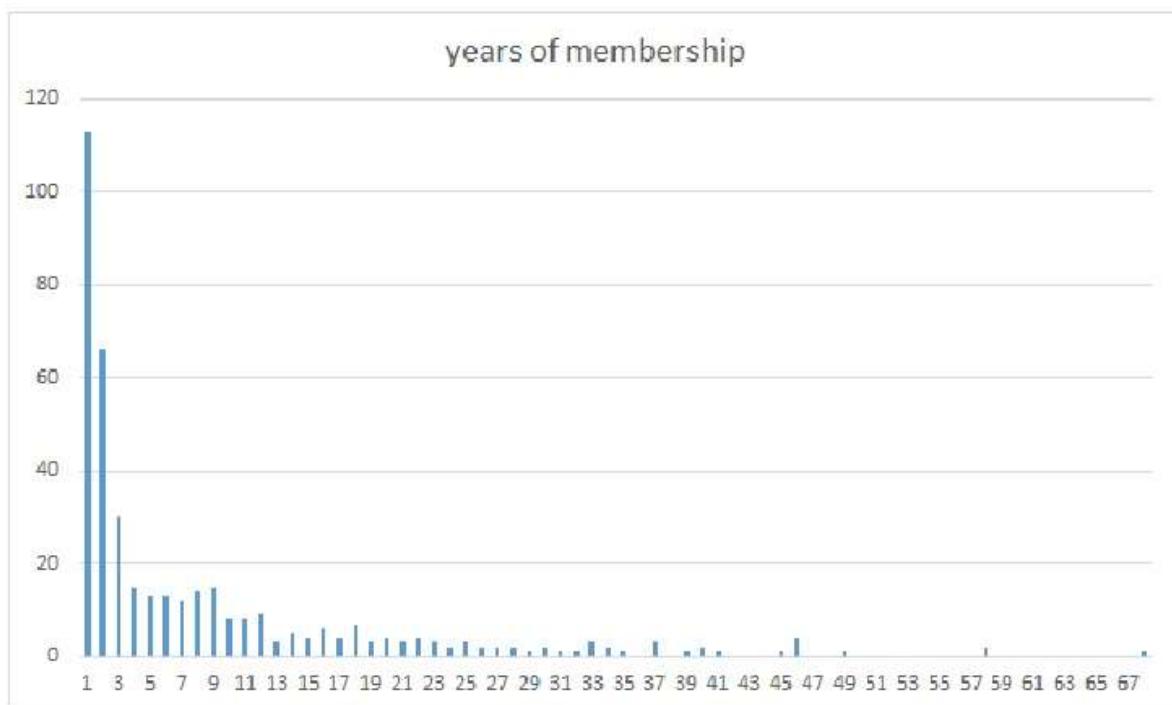


Figure 4 - Length of membership in the HGS covering 1984 to 2025

Analysis of the number of years members remain in the Society shows that 28% of members joining only pay one year's subscription before leaving. A small proportion of those never even paid their first annual subscription after being elected; for this reason new applicants are now required to pay their first subscription in advance. 45% of members have left after two years. In reality most of these are removed from the mailing lists because they are in arrears, rather than them having resigned. Reminding lapsed members to pay their subscriptions generates a considerable amount of work for the Treasurer and Secretary each year.

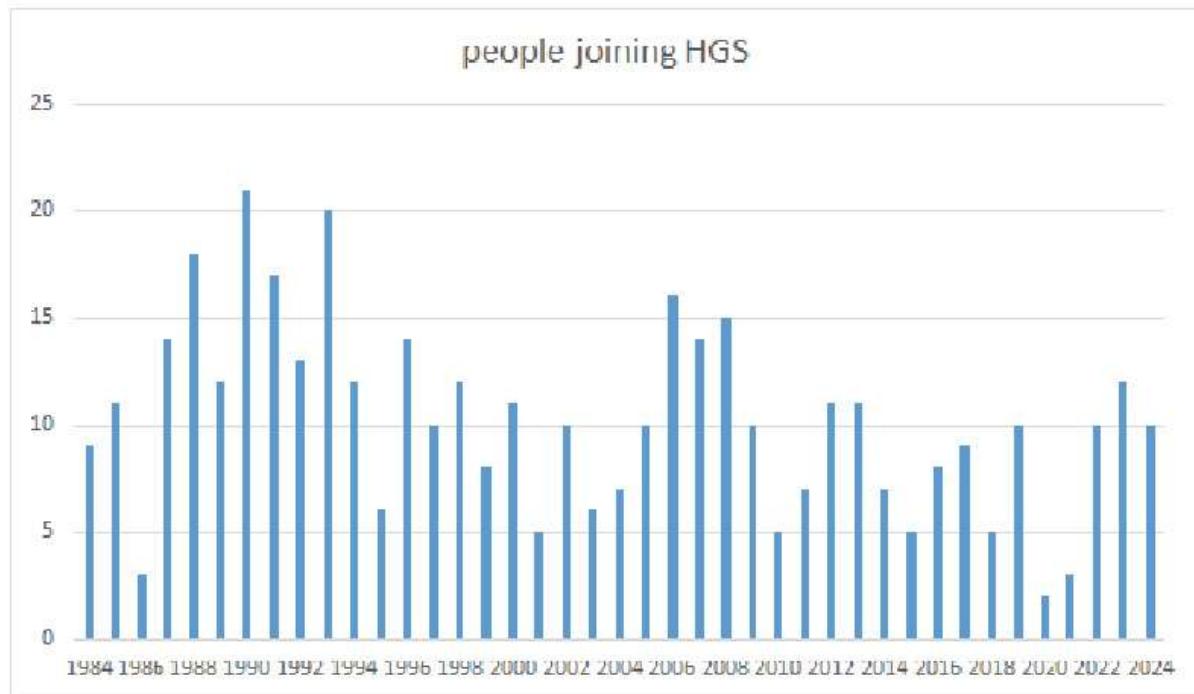


Figure 5 – Number of members joining the HGS each year.

The number of members joining per year can be skewed slightly by the time of year that we elect them and occasionally by a local teacher encouraging students to join the Society.

	Male	Female
1963	71%	29%
1984	65%	35%
1992	71%	29%
2001	76%	24%
2011	65%	35%
2025	64%	36%

Table 1 – gender of HGS members

The information from membership lists indicates that there have always been more men than women members within the Society, but there does not seem to be a trend to be observed.

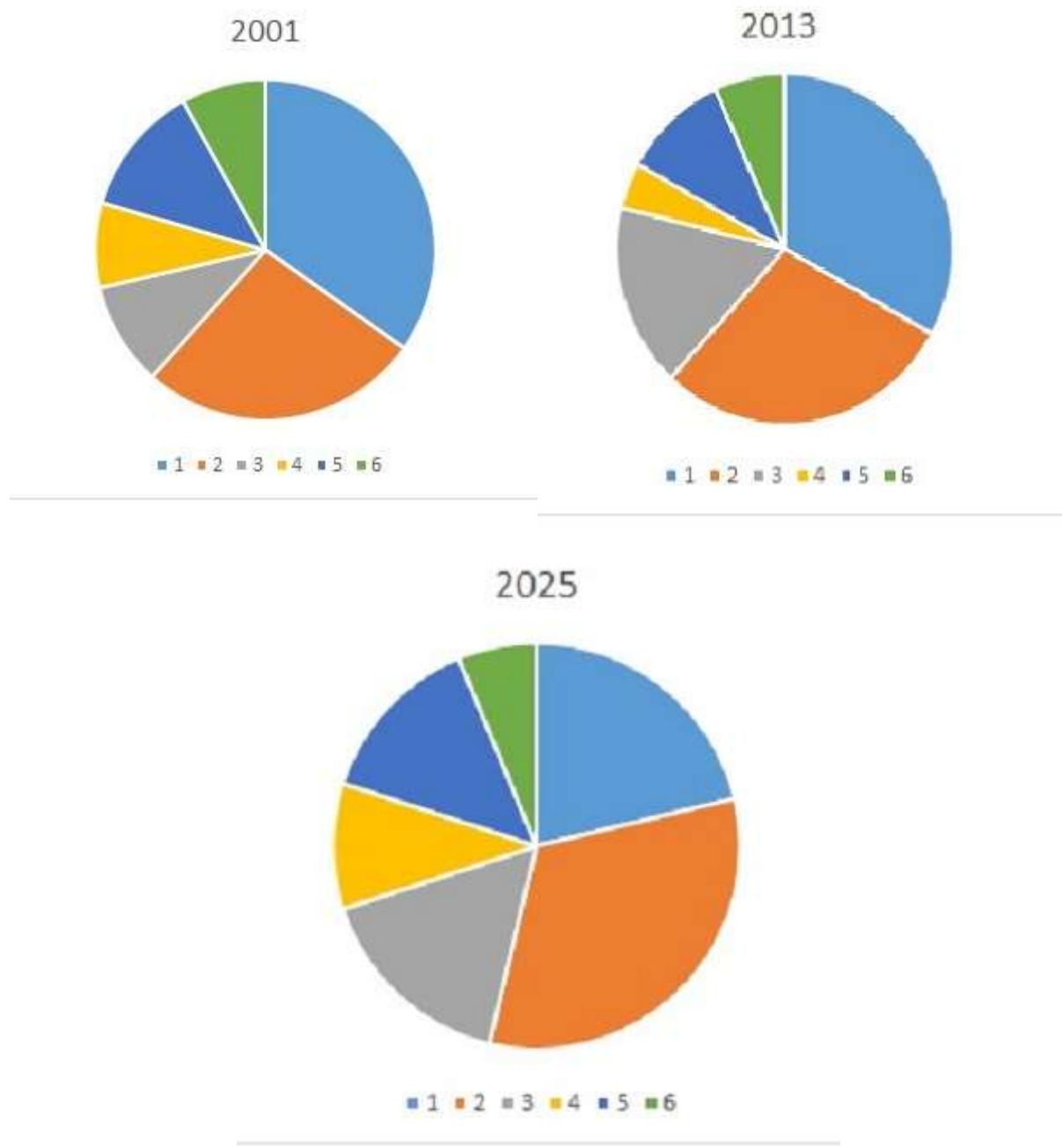


Figure 6 - Geographical distribution of HGS members.

Key: clockwise - pale blue is Hull postcode, orange is other HU postcodes, grey is YO postcodes, yellow is other Yorkshire postcodes, dark blue is Lincolnshire and green is other areas.

It can be seen from membership address records that there is a trend towards a wider geographic catchment area. Does this reflect a general population trend in the area? Is the increase in a wider distribution from 2013 to 2025 due to increased access to the Society's activities via the internet and the more recent use of Zoom for some of the HGS lectures?

We don't have any historical data about the age or qualifications of our members. For the purposes of this history a questionnaire was sent to members and the results show that the majority of the membership in 2025 is over 60 in age and well qualified (see Appendix 9).

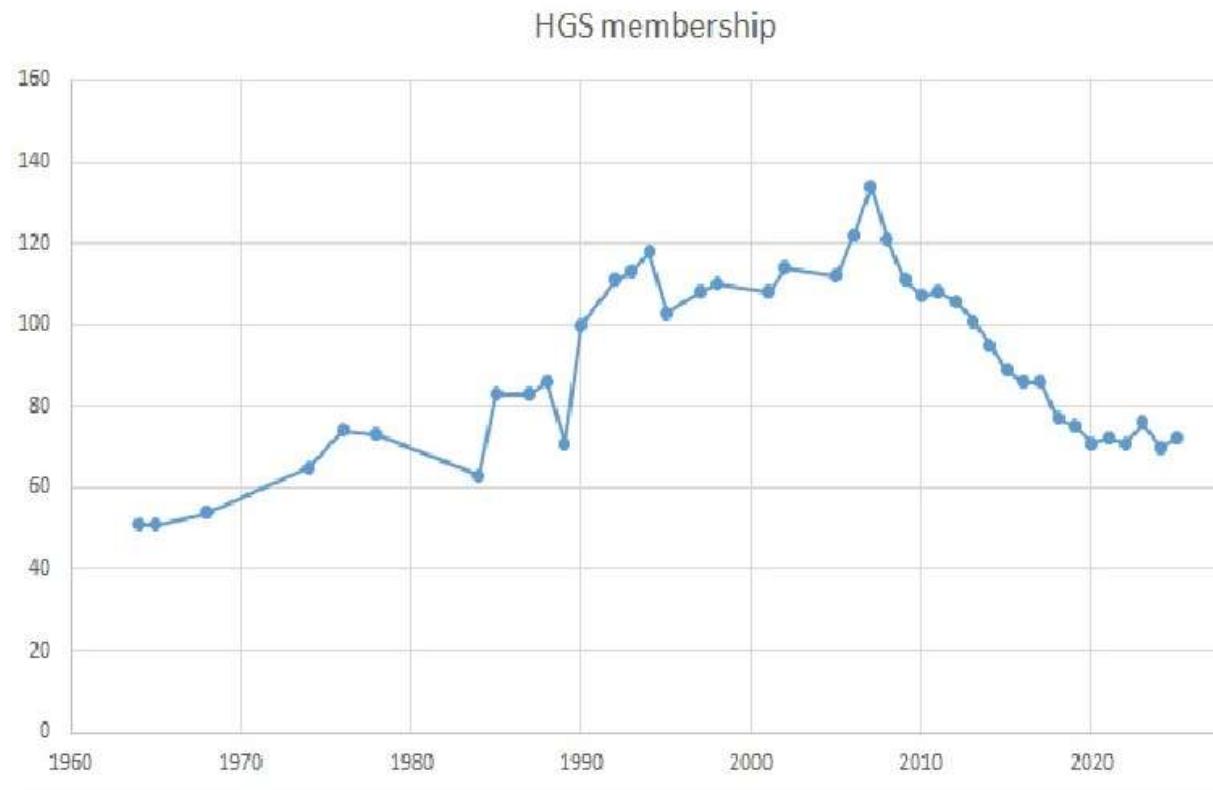


Figure 7 - Total number of HGS members each year.

The total number of members in the Society has changed over the past 40 years. Is there a correlation between the peak membership of the Society and Sheila Rogers, Lynden Emery and Mike Horne teaching adult education classes for the University of Hull until the closure of the Centre for LifeLong Learning in 2013? There seems to a definite decline in total membership over the last 10 years or so, but is this something in common with other scientific clubs? Here is the graph of the total membership of the Yorkshire Geological Society for the same time period, for comparison, which shows a decline in numbers starting in the early 1980s [source YGS annual reports published in the *Proceedings*.].

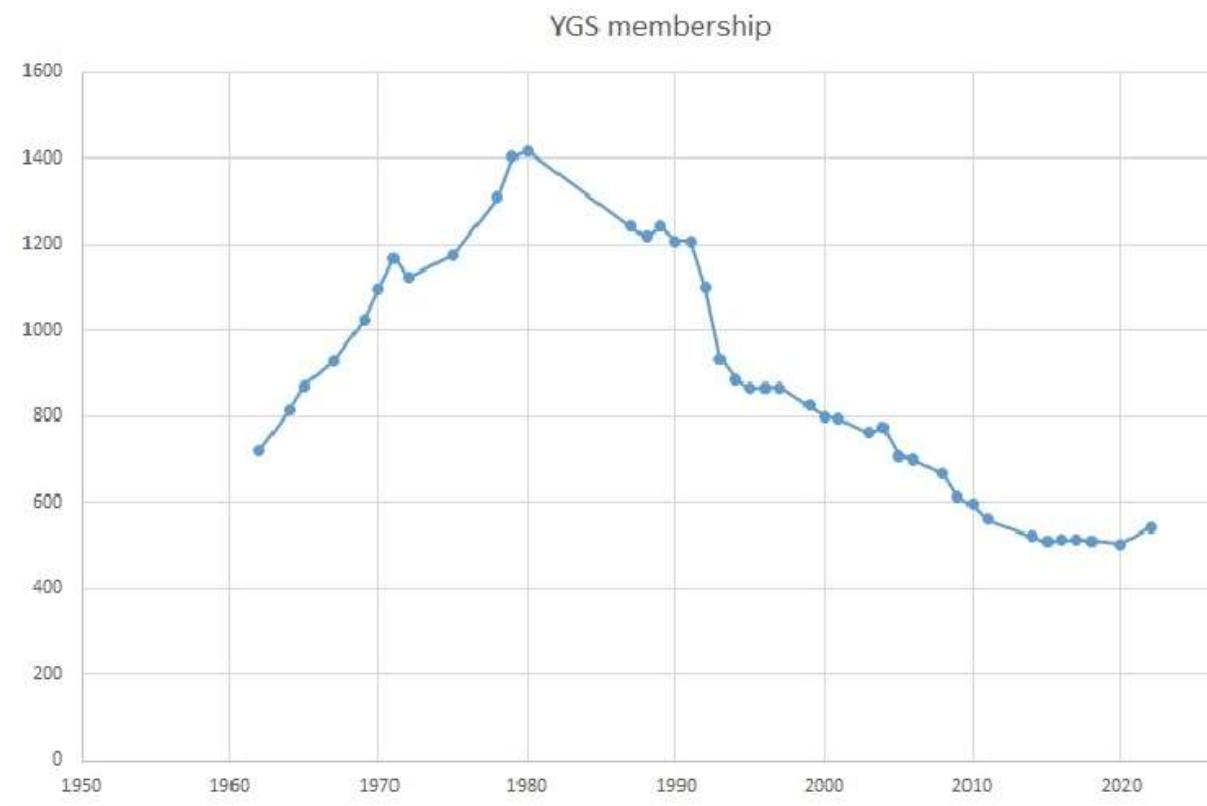


Figure 8 - Total number of YGS members each year.

For the purposes of this history an informal survey of the membership was sent to about 70 members by e-mail (see Appendix no. 9 and this showed that members initially mostly joined the Society to keep up to date with the science generally and to study local geology. In particular most are interested in Quaternary geology and palaeontology; this is reflected by the popularity of field meetings to the Holderness coast and the topics of our research projects. This survey also showed that they most valued participating in fieldwork and socialising.

The Society also has elected some Honorary Life Members: these are defined as “any person who has rendered signal service to the Society, or who is distinguished for the pursuit of the objects of the Society” [quote from the HGS Rules]. Several members of the University staff in the old (pre-1988) Geology Department who were either Head of Department or taught night classes were elected as Honorary Members. Some long standing Officers have also been elected as Honorary Members. Patrick Boylan was elected as an Honorary Member in 1967 when he left Hull for a new job and always said that he thought it was a mistake to award the honorary status to someone so young; he did however make some generous donations to the Society over the years. Two past-Presidents (who are no longer members) did request honorary membership because they could not afford to pay the retired rate of subscription on their teacher’s pension. [Personal note – when the author was elected as an Honorary Member in 1993, his family were elected as members and continue to pay the annual subscription, because he thought that he could not remind members to pay their subscriptions if he was not contributing.]

It has been suggested that the Society should try to fill the gap left by the closures of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Hull and the ending of geology courses in schools and colleges (Speed 2021); however that is beyond the remit, funding and capabilities of our charity. The 2021 survey also showed that members' top two priorities for improving the Society were attracting new younger members and encouraging student membership.

The Society continues to be open to all regardless of qualifications or experience; everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Chapter 5.

Hull Geological Society meetings.

In the early 1980s the Society held three sorts of meetings – monthly guest lectures in the Winter, monthly field meetings in the Summer and a Members' Evening once every other year. The lectures in the Winter Programme were held in the lecture theatre of the Geology Department, which occupied the ground floor of what is now called the Cohen Building at the University of Hull. Although there was no room hire fee for the meetings the Society usually bought a text book to be donated to the Departmental Library to show its appreciation. The guest speakers were often friends of the University lecturers or contacts from the Yorkshire Geological Society. Usually Hull University staff were invited to present talks in December and January when winter weather might have made long distance travel difficult for a guest speaker. At the biennial Members' Evenings our membership had the opportunity to present a short talk on topics that interested them or display specimens. The Annual General Meeting was held in March, and still is. The new Officers and Committee are elected and the Secretary and Treasurer present their annual reports before a Presidential Address or a lecture by a guest speaker.

The Summer Programme of field meetings ran from April to September. Local members would meet at Cottingham Green and share lifts to the field localities to reduce the number of vehicles driven, bridge tolls and parking fees. Later the University of Hull was the local meeting place and very recently lift sharing using an App on the mobile 'phone has been introduced. The field trips were led by a variety of Society members, some of whom had an expertise in topics, such as Lynden Emery on the Speeton Clay, Ken Fenton on Jurassic plants and the Quaternary, Ron Harrison on glacial erratics and Felix Witham on the marine Middle Jurassic and the Chalk. Occasionally the field excursions were led by guest leaders. A few field meetings were postponed at short notice for reasons beyond our control, notably our visits to Boulby Potash Mine due to working issues and boats trips at Flamborough due to rough seas. With only a few exceptions that I can think of, we really try to not cancel a meeting once it has been advertised.

[There are lists of most of our meetings over the last 40 years in Appendices 5 to 8 of this volume published on the HGS website.]

Over the years more variety has been added to our events and they have become less formal and more home grown. Sometimes these changes were brought about by circumstances beyond our control, such as the Covid lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, others have just happened gradually.

Although the number of field meetings per year has increased the number of field trip leaders seems to have declined. In an attempt to remedy this a workshop was held in 2008 to pass on the simple but necessary skills and it later formed the topic for a Club Night (Horne 2020 and Speed *et al.* 2019).

For a few years, with the increasing cost of fuel, the Society hired a minibus and the members attending shared the cost. The minibuses were originally hired from local colleges who were not using them at the weekend and were driven by the HGS members who taught at those colleges. Some of these trips were to museums to view their geological collections, such as Leicester Museum and the National Stone Centre in Derbyshire. Whilst most of the field trips were led by a member of the Society with specialist knowledge, some experimental 'do it yourself' trips were tried by simply using a published field guide.

We have tried some weekend field trips to study the geology of other areas, but these have not been very well attended. There was a weekend in Norfolk in 1994 hosted by the Geological Society of Norfolk which was attended by eight members. Other attempts to organise longer distance field trips involving accommodation have not been so successful. However, we have hosted weekend field meetings for other Societies such as the Geological Society of Norfolk, GA, YGS, and Hertfordshire Geological Society, when our local experts Felix Whitham, Lynden Emery and Mike Horne have demonstrated East Yorkshire Geology. You can read more about the joint meetings we have hosted in Chapter 8 of this volume.

Some field trips are now aimed at the public rather than being just for members. Some of these have been urban geology walks (started by Ron Harrison) and other walks in Cemeteries to study the stones used in the monuments (started by Jim Darmody). Some field trips are scenic walks to study how geology affects our landscape, such as Donald Beveridge's walks in the Kiplingcotes area, Derek Gobbett's walk in the Thixendale area and Martin Longshaw's Wold Newton Walks in Lincolnshire. Others have been walks and 'fossil fossicks' on the beach. Some of those have been very well attended: over 100 people attended one beach walk and one cemetery walk which was more than we could really cope with.

Our adoption of Rifle Butts SSSI in 1987 led to regular conservation visits to the site to clear away any loose scree and vegetation in the spring so that summer visitors could experience the geological exposure at its best. The Society introduced a barbecue to that meeting to enhance the social side of volunteering. There had been a few social events after field meetings before (e.g. Newbald in 1990 and Beverley in 1992).

Roadshows have become regular events in the Society's calendar and have been held in the Hull and East Riding Museum, the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Minster, Trinity Square, Hornsea Museum, RSPB Bempton, Flamborough Village Hall and a hall in Driffield. Our first Roadshow was in 1995 at the Hull and East Riding Museum in High Street. The one at Hornsea Museum was started in 2008 and occurs on the same day each year (August Bank Holiday Saturday) and attracts regular visitors. At the Roadshows members display specimens from their collections and offer advice to the visiting members of the public. There is usually a "Finds Desk" where "experts" from the Society attempt to identify specimens that visitors have brought with them and offer advice about conservation and storage. We refuse to give valuations.

Donations for this service have helped to pay the cost of hiring the venue.

Sometimes we have to give the bad news that the "meteorite" which had potential high sales value is really a piece of industrial slag. We have occasionally sold second hand geology books that have been donated to the Society at our larger Roadshows to raise funds for the Society, particularly at Flamborough Village Hall. A "lucky dip" was introduced allowing young people to buy mystery geological specimens donated by members for a nominal fee. Other geological clubs have been invited to have displays at some of the Roadshows: Kingston Lapidary Society, Yorkshire Geological Society and the Dinostar private museum from Hull's Humber Street. Sometimes members display geology related materials, such as handmade jewellery by Patty McAlpin. We do not allow the sale of geological specimens for personal profit. At the Flamborough Village Hall Roadshows, Stuart Jones' sister Bronwen Turton provided catering for visitors and volunteers. The Roadshows are fun and a good way to pass on our enthusiasm to the public. Unfortunately when we have to pay for room hire we rarely cover the cost through donations and sales.

Occasionally we recruit a new member or two; if we ran them solely with the aim of recruitment they would be considered unsuccessful.

The Society supported and funded the setting up of Yorkshire Geology Month in 2005 and 2006 and has contributed at least one event every year since. The aim of YGM is to hold geological events for the public in the month of May, taking geology to the public rather than expecting them to visit the geology. So events like public lectures on popular topics, Roadshows, beach and urban walks are perfect, but visits to remote deserted mines, high cliffs or working quarries are not.

Mike Horne taught a cycle of evening classes at the University of Hull including a "Fossils under the Microscope" course. One year the students asked what they could do to take their micropalaeontological interest further and that is how the Microscopy Evenings began. These ran from 2004 to 2016 with the occasional whole day workshop for beginners. At these meetings members would study and share samples that they had collected and processed. When the Centre For Lifelong Learning (formerly Adult Education) closed at the University of Hull in 2013 it created a gap in the students' routine. The Society started to hold Club Nights which were intended to be a geological equivalent of a 'book group' with the members deciding on the monthly theme. Mike Horne acts as the facilitator, but from the outset made it clear that he was not being a tutor. These are informal evenings where members do what would be considered "practical work" in a formal geology course – examine,

identify and chat about hand specimens or occasionally maps, books or photographs. A later variation on the Club Night is the Quiz Night in December where participants bring five questions or specimens for the other members to answer or identify. Some festive food and drink may also be consumed at these December meetings!

The Society has held some conference type events to mark anniversaries in its history with an afternoon of lectures and displays followed by a formal dinner and sometimes associated with themed field meetings (e.g. 1988 and 2013). Sometimes there have been formal dinners in recognition of a member or informal dinners. The Society organised annual afternoon lecture meetings for the YGS at Hull University from 1996 to 2016 when the reformed Geology Department took over that role (see chapter 8 for more details of these).

The lockdowns during the Covid Pandemic of 2020 and 2021 forced the Society to stop holding indoor meetings. In order to provide activities for members we started to hold virtual meetings by video conferencing software. Some of these early lectures were very successful attracting significant numbers of non-members. We have continued to hold these meetings because they enable members who live further away from Hull to contribute talks to the Society, such as John Connor in California, and to attend meetings that they would not normally travel for.

During the Covid Pandemic we also started to use a members' only social media site to hold Virtual Club Nights where members can upload photographs on the selected topic and comment on them. There is also a public facing social media site to promote our public events such as Roadshows and geology walks.

At the time of writing, the Society runs a blended programme of meetings – actual and virtual Club Nights, actual and virtual lectures, urban and scenic walks, traditional field meetings, geoconservation visits to Rifle Butts SSI with a barbecue, Quiz nights, photo sharing on Facebook, &c.

Chapter 6.

Research Projects.

Members of the HGS have undertaken research from the very beginning and published papers in the Society's journals. This has largely been individual research rather than by groups, apart from the original East Riding Boulder Committee from 1893 to 1909. The approaching centenary seemed like a good opportunity for members of the Society to collectively do some practical geology and create a lasting legacy.

[Note – detailed reports of the research projects, including fieldwork reports, published results and bibliographies, are available on the HGS Website]

Centenary Chalk Project.

In 1984 the Committee accepted Felix Whitham's proposal to log the stratigraphy of the Chalk in Yorkshire and create a new collection of Chalk fossils. Felix had already done some fieldwork and published some stratigraphic logs in *Humberside Geologist*. There had been an earlier project in 1970 to collect Chalk fossils for Hull Museums to replace the ones lost during the destruction of the Museum in Albion Street in World War II, but there are no detailed records of this project or whether it was successful.

Fieldwork began in the summer of 1984 and progressed rapidly with a core team of eleven members visiting the quarries and measuring the thickness of the beds of chalk, marl and flint (Whitham 1987). By matching the patterns of the bedding we were able to link up a complete sequence from the quarries. The Flamborough Formation was logged on the coastal cliffs. Following a suggestion from Professor Malcolm Hart of the University of Plymouth, Mike Horne registered as a postgraduate student at the University in order to enhance the project by using the facilities to study the microfossils and geochemistry of the marl bands. By 1987 there had been enough research done to produce a conference poster at the Earth Science Teachers Association conference in Cottingham. Conference posters of the complete stratigraphy (apart from some minor gaps) were ready for the Centenary meeting along with a display of specimens collected. Felix Whitham went on to write two papers based on the Project's research which were published in the *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*. When he presented a talk to a meeting of the YGS at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth the YGS President congratulated Felix for producing work of the type that professionals no longer have time to undertake.

East Riding Boulder Committee.

Many geologists start their interest in the subject by picking up pebbles on beaches and the variety of pebbles to be seen on the beaches of Holderness continues to fascinate many. The East Riding Boulder Committee was revived as an informal 'citizen science' project. The name is a little misleading because it reuses the name used for the original research in the 1890s and 1900s yet it is not really a committee in any sense of the word and the recording is not restricted to 'boulders' (clasts over the size of 256mm) because it includes pebbles and small pebbles. Members have been encouraged to record the glacial erratics they find on the beaches and in the cliffs of East Yorkshire. There have been some Boulder Committee excursions to the coast and some quarries specifically for this purpose. Reports have been compiled and published in *Humberside Geologist* ever since. Mike Horne attempted to analyse the distribution pattern of the erratics that were recorded and presented the results at a joint meeting with the YGS in 2004 (Horne 2021).

Flamborough Quaternary Research Project.

During one of the fieldwork days for a Centre for Lifelong Learning course at South Landing, Flamborough, Ian Heppenstall asked Hull University tutor Mike Horne about the Quaternary sequence. Half way through his explanation Mike realised that it was

very different from the well-known story of the buried cliff at Sewerby dated to the last interglacial, and he suggested that it would be worthy of further research. The Hull Geological Society agreed to support the project (and any future ones) as long as all members were invited to participate and that it did not incur any costs to the Society. Fieldwork began in June 2004 with the deposits being logged, photographed and sampled. The research was always hampered by the lack of complete exposures due to persistent vegetated slumped areas. For many subsequent years there were three annual visits to South Landing, Danes Dyke and Sewerby to see if there were any changes to the exposures; the bays to the north of Flamborough Head were also investigated. Although we could establish the sequence of the deposits, establishing dates for the events was beyond our capabilities and Professor Mark Bateman of Sheffield University helped us by using the Optically Stimulated Luminescence technique on some key samples to establish their age (Bateman *et al.* 2015). We never actually finished writing the report of this research, perhaps because we were hoping that those pesky grassy slumps would be washed away in a storm next year! Sadly most of the key contributors to the project have passed away in recent years: Derek Gobbett, Ian Heppenstall, Rod Towse and Stuart Jones. Two others are no longer able to participate in fieldwork: Paul Richards and Rodger Connell. However the fieldwork data and draft reports are now available on the Society website. Ian Heppenstall was awarded the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal for his contributions to the research team in 2015.

Bisat Research Project.

When the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Hull University closed in 2013 Graham Kings and some other alumni asked if there was a way of continuing their geological studies through a research project. Mike Horne suggested that recording the exposures of the boulder clay cliffs of the Holderness coast would be a good topic for a long-term research project. William Sawny Bisat FRS had recorded the exposures in the 1930s measuring the distances by dead reckoning and his diagrammatic cross sections were published posthumously (Catt & Madgett 1981). As there has been considerable erosion at an average rate of two metres per year a modern comparison would be interesting and might reveal significant differences. Because of the persistent erosion over a period of years clean exposures would become available, apart from areas where the coast is protected as the cliffs stabilise and become vegetated. Thus the Bisat Project was born and started with a number of meetings to discuss methods. One significant issue was whether to measure the exposures from the top down or bottom up: as the cliffs are slowly being eroded the exact height of the cliffs above Ordnance Datum is not known and height of the sandy beach can vary from day to day. Fieldwork began in March 2014 with a visit to Skipsea Whithow Mere. Subsequently a core group of researchers met fortnightly on weekdays when the tide was right. They decided to photograph the cliffs in the mornings so that they would always have similar light conditions. By September 2019, after over 50 field excursions, Graham Kings had taken over 1500 photographs of the exposures (Haughey 2020). Graham Kings was awarded the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal in 2021 for his contributions to the Bisat Project. Mark Bateman of Sheffield University helped the project by using Optically

Stimulated Luminescence technology to obtain a date for a block of Basement Till the group collected from Eastington beach (Bateman *et al.* 2025). This indicates that the Basement Till dates to the last glaciation rather than an older one.

Skipsea Withow Mere.

Members of the Society have visited and logged this coastal exposure of a freshwater lake deposits on a few occasions. The first time was as a fieldwork project for Mike Horne's University of Hull geology adult education class. The site has been recorded on four occasions and the data published on the Society's website. Stuart Jones made an auger with extensions so that we could bore down into the deep peat sediments in the centre of the exposure to log it. Stuart's knowledge of different types of wood from his boat building days helped to identify the tree trunks and branches in the upper parts of the peat deposits (Marsters 2011). Visits to this site are doubly pleasurable due to its proximity to Mr Moo's Ice Cream Parlour!

'Rescue Geology' Projects:

Archaeologists undertake short excavations which are called "rescue archaeology" when they have a quick opportunity to excavate and record a temporary site. The Hull Geological Society has on occasions been able to record the geology of ephemeral exposures that are being developed. Here are some examples of our "rescue geology" and others can be found on the Society's website.

Hessle 'Buried Cliff'.

The first such example that I remember was in May 1983 when Kenneth Fenton arranged to record the temporary exposure of 'Buried Cliff' at Hessle railway station before it was removed to make way for a new road. Ken logged and photographed it and returned a few more times to collect specimens (Fenton 1984). Unfortunately we did not measure the stratigraphy of the Chalk in the cliff.

The Market Weighton By-pass.

Lynden Emery heard about some rescue archaeology on the new road descending Arras Hill to the Market Weighton By-pass. Local archaeologists had visited the site looking for the 'Roman Road' marked on maps, but did not find it. Lynden arranged for members of the HGS to visit the site to record the geology in 1990. The stratigraphy was recorded and published in *Humberside Geologist* (Emery *et al.* 1995) and the fossil specimens collected were donated to Hull Museums so that they were in the public domain.

Rifle Butts SSSI foundations.

When the Hull Geological Society became involved in the conservation of this site near Goodmanham and particularly when we were designing the shelter (see Chapter 9) members decided that we needed to research the geology. The exposure was logged and this information was used for a visitors leaflet (Horne & Dutton 1992) and for the new information notice board. Any fossils found during the regular removal of any scree were donated to Hull Museums so that they were in the public

domain. Any large pieces of rock were left under the hawthorn hedge as a future resource for geologists. When the foundations were dug for the shelter a dustbin-full of the material from the floor was retained; samples were offered to researchers at the time and the remainder was donated to Hull Museums as a resource for researchers in the future wishing to work on the Liassic rocks from the floor of the site without the need to excavate new pits and risk contaminating the site (Mitchell 1996). Fossils found on the “rescue geology” visit to the Market Weighton By-Pass helped us to date the Jurassic beds below the unconformity.

Sands Top Quarry at North Newbald.

This quarry in the Cave Oolite has been a favourite site for members of the HGS to visit in the past. Felix Whitham collected there for many years and published a faunal list (Whitham 1984) and Mike Horne studied the palaeoecology (Horne & Whitham 1988). When applications were made by the owners to change the use of the site or to fill it with waste the East Yorkshire RIGS Group made some representations to the planning authorities to try to conserve part of the site. Members of the Society visited the site on a couple of occasions in 2003 to record the stratigraphy and found that the top of the Cave Oolite was displaying karst-like solution features which were recorded and sampled.

The North Cave Wetlands.

Gravels are being extracted in the Vale of York in the North Cave area and the resulting pits flooded to various depths to form a wetland nature reserve that has been donated to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The on-going extraction of gravels at Dryham Lane near North Cave has provided members of the HGS access to record the geology. Our first visit was in the winter of 2003 and there have been subsequent visits as the gravel extraction has progressed to the west. Our researches there found nothing that disagrees with the Geological Survey’s ‘Solid’ map but we did find some interesting specimens in the chalk gravels, such as a bored *Porosphaera* found by Rodger Connell.

Quarry at Knapton.

Derek Gobbett obtained permission for members of the Society to visit a former quarry on the northern edge of the Wolds that was being filled in order to record the stratigraphy and take samples. Paul Hildreth made a detailed record of the Black Band exposed there. Derek and Mike Horne recorded the rest of the Chalk stratigraphy and examined exposures of clay beneath the Chalk which we assumed to be Speeton Clay.

Basement Till exposures at Bridlington.

The Basement Till has fascinated members of the Society for a very long time and exposures at Bridlington and Sewerby are rare. G W Lamplugh had seen and recorded exposures in the 1880s and John Catt had seen some in the 1960s. Patrick Boylan had recorded an exposure near Bridlington sea walls in May 1964, and his diagram and samples are in the Lewis Penny Collection at the University of Hull. In 2018 Rodger Connell found a temporary exposure at Bridlington when the pebble

beach had been washed away and members of the HGS visited the site to collect samples in February 2019. Fred Nixon of the Harker Geological Society also visited the site to record the exposed Basement Till that contained 'rafts' of Bridlington Crag and planned to publish the results in *Humberside Geologist*.

[note – I thank Rodger Connell and Graham Kings for providing extra information for this Chapter]

Chapter 7.

Hull Geological Society publications.

The Hull Geological Society has a long history of publishing. Thomas Sheppard edited our *Transactions* from 1893 to 1935. The Society was a joint-publisher of *East Yorkshire Field Studies* from 1968 to 1973. A new journal was started in 1975 called *Humberside Geologist*, this was edited by the Secretary Kenneth Fenton and produced using a duplicator at a local school.

The print quality of *Humberside Geologist* number 4 was improved in 1984 by using a typewriter with a carbon ribbon and a photocopier, this also allowed for the reproduction of clearer line drawings. Over the years the HGS was able to improve their capabilities as technologies became cheaper. From number 5 onwards the Society made use of the Print Room (later renamed the Central Print Unit) at the University who would print for the Society at quiet times of the academic year at little more than cost price. This allowed us to introduce half-tone photographs as printed pages within the photocopied journal. Later we were able to include colour photographs when fast full colour photocopying became available for our relatively short print runs of 150 copies. Automatic collating and stapling meant that we no longer had to collate and bind the journal ourselves.

The printed *Humberside Geologist* was free for members to collect from meetings or they could pay the cost of postage. It was also available for sale to non-members and still is, although sales have never been very many and the number of members collecting their free copies has declined. The stock of Number 14, which was stored in basement office at Hull University, was lost in the Hull floods of 2007. However, we were able to replace them with a reprint using a grant we received from the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council in 2008.

With the advent of the World Wide Web the Society was able to publish to a wider audience. We decided to make our journal available free of charge on-line, unlike many other Societies in the UK, because we were not reliant on sales for funding the Society. We may have gained some out of town members who appreciated our altruism. Nigel Whittington with the help of the Computer Centre at the University of Hull scanned some past numbers in 1999 using an early Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program. Later Mike Horne scanned previous journals using OCR and after proof reading he has published some of them on our website.

The Society adopted Nigel Whittington's website as its own official website in 1999. Nigel Whittington was elected as the first editor of the HGS website from 2000 until 2007. He wrote web pages about local geology as well as uploading *Humberside Geologist*. The Secretary kept the list of forthcoming meetings up to date. Eventually the advertising on the site from the free hosting became too intrusive and annoying so the Society agreed to pay for a new site. David Baker from Withernsea became the second Website Editor until 2014. He added a Fossil Identification Page that he had written as an assessed piece of work for his University Foundation Award at the Centre of Lifelong Learning at the University of Hull. In 2014 the Committee noticed that the website was not being updated, possibly giving the impression to the viewer that the Society was no longer active. The Society started a new website and Mike Horne became the third Website Editor. The Society was able to purchase the original domain name when it became available a year later. Mike previously had his own website where he published original notes from his geology Adult Education classes and with the consent of the Committee he transferred these to the HGS website and in 2022 he added several pieces of unfinished research when he had major health issues.

Advancing technologies have made publishing more affordable and the Society is able to reach a wider audience. At one time the Society offered the opportunity for authors to submit different versions of the same article: a concise one with line drawings and high contrast half tone photographs for the print version, a longer one with colour photographs and additional data in appendices for a CD-ROM version and a long version with low quality digital images for the website, when the internet was slower and less hosting space was available.

Two special editions of *Humberside Geologist* were produced on CD-ROM that included sound recordings of talks. Ann Emery had recorded the lectures at the Centenary Meeting in 1988 onto cassette tape, these were transferred to CD for Special Publication Number 2. Special Publication Number 1 was a record of the "Footsteps of Lamplugh" meeting held in 2005. The interactive catalogue of the HGS Library compiled by Paul Richards was published on CD-ROM in 2003.

Before we used internet abstracts of meetings, obituaries and "Notes and Comments" would have appeared in the printed version of the journal. From 2005 onwards these have been published on the "news" pages of the website and then in the archives section of the website. In effect the *Humberside Geologist* section of the website is now only used for peer reviewed 'scientific papers'. Articles for number 15 were published on line up to 2015 though we do not have the actual date for the first uploading of each article.

Society news was posted to members with the Programmes and the AGM Agenda. In 1999 the Secretary started to send a newsletter to members by e-mail. A news page was added to the website to include more information about the meetings such as abstracts of lectures and public announcements. This news was then transferred to archive pages as a permanent record of past meetings.

The Society also embraced the use of social media. The Facebook public page was started in 2011 now has over 400 followers. There were over 1400 views in August

2025 by people over the age of 25, with 60% living in Hull, about 17% in the rest of the East Riding and 92% living in the UK [Statistics from the Facebook site management page on 24th August 2025]. A Facebook members' only Club Page was started in March 2020 as a way of allowing members to communicate when we were not allowed to meet because of the Covid Pandemic. Membership is for current members of the HGS, those in arrears are warned that they will be removed from the private group. Any member can post images, suggestions and comments, and 28 HGS members use it at present.

The Society has never really raised much funds from the sale of its publications so the early decision to publish on-line was common sense and reinforced our commitment to our charitable aims. However, there have been examples of breach of copyright. We are really happy for non-members to read and use our publications free of charge, but on occasions some have gone too far. The first instance we noticed was in 2006 when a fossil dealer plagiarised an article from *Humberside Geologist*, but he apologised when we contacted him and he made a donation to the Society. We noticed subsequent examples such as an individual in the USA who copied David Baker's fossil identification pages from our website and was selling it, and another person copied a substantial amount of text from an article by Paul Hildreth and included it in an advert for a book he was selling. Images from our website appeared in online teaching materials of several UK schools without attribution. A formal copyright statement was introduced in 2006 to clarify our commitment to free distribution but stating that we objected to the unauthorised commercial use of our intellectual property. Later in 2006 a copyright fee was introduced and the Committee agreed to "name and shame" on the website anyone who infringed the copyright and refused to pay the fee. A statement was added in 2020 to include the redistribution of our material from our Social Media and online lecture meetings. However, there seems little we can do to prevent the recent advent of Artificial Intelligence which is plagiarising our website and journal.

Chapter 8.

Collaborations.

The Hull Geological Society has had and continues to have links to and collaborate with other societies and educational establishments.

Hull Museums.

The link to Hull Museums dates back to Thomas Sheppard becoming the first Curator of Hull Museum (Horne 2007 *Local Heroes*). In the 1980s there were two geologists at the Museum: Mike Boyd as Assistant Keeper of Natural History and Mick Stanley as Principal Keeper. The Society participated in joint Roadshows at the Hull and East Riding Museum and Ferens Art Gallery. The Society donated its archives to the Museum for safe keeping in 1990 and Lynden Emery donated his collection of Speeton Clay fossils to the HERM. From 1992 to 2000 Mick Stanley

represented the Museum on our Committee and then Matt Stephens was their representative until 2005. The HGS held an annual public lecture at the Ferens Art Gallery from 1998 to 2002 and then one in 2007.

When Heather Rayfield was creating the new permanent display in the Hull and East Riding Museum in 1997 she consulted the Society about the content and we offered advice about the local geology. We also organised some field meetings to help her collect specimens for the exhibition. That display still contains some specimens on loan from the Felix Whitham Collection; the rest of Felix's collection was donated to the British Geological Survey in Keyworth when he died in 2009.

Hull University Geology Department.

The Geology Department at Hull University has been a good friend to the Society ever since it opened in 1948. It started to host Society meetings in the 1960s and the Society continues to hold most of its indoor meetings there, even though the University has ceased to teach a Geology degree twice. Staff and students are welcome to attend our meetings. Staff and post-graduate students at the University have given lectures to the Society or organised practical demonstrations for us. They have hosted longer meetings for the Society such as day schools, our Centenary Meeting in 1988, our 125th Anniversary meeting, the Chalk Symposium in 2015 and our joint meetings with the YGS and GA. Members of the Society have led field excursions for conferences organised by the University and for the University Science Club. A group of Society members catalogued the Lewis Penny Collection in 2012 and this has been published on the Society's website (Horne 2024).

George de Boer was the Society's Secretary, Vice President, President and Librarian in the 1950s and early 1960s. Lewis Penny was Vice President from 1965 to 1967 and John Neale frequently attended HGS field meetings. Several members of the University Staff have been Honorary Members of the Society over the years: Ansell Dunham, George de Boer, John Neale, Lewis Penny, Mark Piasecki and Michael House. There has been a Representative of the Department on our Committee since 1992 offering help and advice: Dick Middleton, Mike Rogerson and Dave Bond. Four members of the HGS are Honorary Fellows at the University Mike Horne, Peter Rawson, Rodger Connell and Sonja Boehmer-Christensen (three of them sharing an office in the attic of the Cohen Building).

Hull University Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL).

The link with Adult Education teaching at the University has long been mutually beneficial. In fact some present and former members remember that they were introduced to Geology by Mark Piasecki's classes and through him became members of the Society. Some present members of the Society achieved a University Foundation Award from the University's CLL night classes (see appendix 9). Society members Lynden Emery, Sheila Rogers, Tony Benfield, Richard Myerscough and Mike Horne taught night classes for the University in Hull, Scarborough and York. A significant number of their students joined the Society and a number of HGS members regularly attended CLL classes until it finally closed in 2013. Some of our research projects originated in the CLL fieldwork classes.

Hull University Brynmor Jones Library.

The HGS had its own Library which was originally housed in the Museum in Albion Street, then the Central Library and then the Geography Department at the University. Eventually it was donated to the University of Hull's Brynmor Jones Library, along with its publication exchanges with the Smithsonian Institute and the United States Geological Survey. We sent copies of *Humberside Geologist* to the USGS via the library as part of that exchange. Members of the HGS were entitled to a reader's ticket for the Library free of charge and the Secretary would periodically send copies of the HGS membership list to the Library for that purpose. In 2002 the Librarian decided to remove a significant proportion of the geology books to make space. The Geology Department had closed in 1988 and very few of the books were being borrowed (though they might have been read within the Library). Through the auspices of Huw Griffiths, a lecturer in the Geography Department, the Society identified books of local interest and recommended that they be kept. The Deputy Librarian disagreed but because we had previously donated our library to the University we were given first choice of the books heading for disposal. Stuart Jones volunteered to house the books in a spare room in his home in Berkeley Street, Hull. The post of HGS Librarian was recreated and an honorarium was paid to Stuart as a contribution to heating and insurance costs. (The story of the new HGS Library is continued in Chapter 2 of this volume).

Geologists' Association.

When Eric Robinson of University College London was President of the Geologists' Association in 1992 he aimed to visit regional geological societies including the HGS. Felix Whitham and Mike Horne of the HGS became friends with Eric and the GA Executive Secretary Sarah Stafford. Felix and Mike both became personal members of the GA, attending the GA Annual Reunion at University College London in 1992. The GA started to become the unofficial umbrella organisation for amateur geological societies in the UK, already having some regional branches. The HGS affiliated to the GA in 1991 and later took advantage of their group public liability insurance. The GA's Earth Alert II conference was held in Scarborough in 2002 and the GA asked the HGS to act as hosts at the Icebreaker event at the Sealife Centre in Scalby. Although this was not practical it prompted the HGS to create Yorkshire Geology Month in 2005. The HGS hosted a weekend field meeting for the GA in 2007. The GA held its Annual Conference in Hull in 2022 with the University hosting the meeting and HGS leading field trips.

Yorkshire Geology Month (YGM).

Although there had been some pan-Yorkshire geology events in the past (a geology weekend in York in October 1991 and Yorkshire Geology Week in 1996 for example), Mike Horne proposed an annual Yorkshire Geology Month for 2005 following the GA's Earth Alert Conference in Scarborough. The HGS agreed to fund it with a budget of £20 and the aim was to run free events for the public in the month of May. Mike wrote to regional museums, geological clubs and some quarrying

companies asking them to host or organise events. The first planning meeting was held at the Yorkshire Museum in York in June 2004. It was important that the events took place where people lived rather than expect the public to travel to quarries and remote locations for a traditional geological field trip. For the first year in 2005 there were 41 events including urban walks, coastal walks, exhibitions and lectures. These were attended by over 870 people. The Yorkshire Museum hosted a meeting for all the event organisers after the first YGM in July 2005. During the second YGM in 2006 the following year 37 events were held and about 300 people attended or visited the seven events organised by the HGS.

The North East Yorkshire Geology Trust took over the running of YGM for a few years before the Yorkshire Geological Society became the umbrella organisation for YGM. The HGS has run at least one YGM event per year ever since; though one was only attended by two members due to social distancing restrictions during the Covid pandemic in 2020; Mike Horne as Leader and Anne Horne as the public!

Yorkshire Geological Society (YGS)

There was always a close relationship with the Yorkshire Geological Society, with HGS attending the YGS meetings when they were held at the University and the YGS AGM in York which was held at the College of York St. John. Their AGM was followed by an Annual Dinner which was held at the Merchant Venturers' Hall and well over a dozen HGS members regularly attended the dinner taking up one of the long dining tables, the HGS contingent often being coordinated by Felix Whitham. For a while Mavis May was the organiser of the Dinner for the YGS and Felix Whitham helped her arrange the seating plan.

Over the years several HGS members have had active roles within the YGS. Sheila Rogers acted as the Membership Secretary. Tony Benfield and Paul Hildreth have both been the General Secretary of the YGS. Mike Allderidge, Tony Benfield and Pete Rawson are Honorary Members. Several HGS members have been the President of the YGS: John Neale (1981-2), Ansell Dunham (1989-90), Pete Rawson (2003-4), Patrick Boylan (2012-4) and Paul Hildreth (2018-20). David Hill has been a member of the YGS Council (their committee) since 2011. Some HGS members have been awarded medals by the YGS: Michael House in 1985, John Neale in 1986, Simon Mitchell in 1989, Felix Whitham in 1993, Pete Rawson in 1994, John Catt in 2004 and Mike Horne in 2022 [source - YGS website accessed 8 Feb 2025]. Felix Whitham, John Neale, John Catt and Richard Myerscough contributed chapters to the *Yorkshire Rocks and Landscape* field guide published by the YGS in 1994.

Following the closure of the Geology Department at the University of Hull in 1988 the HGS helped with the role of organising an annual joint meeting with the YGS in Hull usually in October or November. The Geography Department paid for the room booking and porter, the YGS paid the speakers expenses, and the HGS provided the refreshments and geological displays. Usually the President of the YGS would chair the first half of the meeting and the President of the HGS would chair the second half. For a number of years Janet Binns (mother of HGS member Gordon Binns) and family organised the catering and baked cakes especially for the meeting. The new

Geology Department at the University resumed the arranging of the YGS meetings in Hull in 2015.

Over the years members of the HGS have contributed talks and significant exhibitions to these joint meetings. Here is a list of some of the meetings we have organised or made major contributions to –

1996 – “Recent Research in Eastern Yorkshire” with talks by Felix Whitham and Mike Horne about the Chalk.

2000 – “Caves and Karst” with a talk by Richard Myerscough and displays by Chris Blackhurst, David Hill, Felix Whitham, Gordon Binns, Mike Horne, Nigel Whittington, Paul Hildreth and Terry Rockett.

2001 – “Pleistocene World” as a tribute to Lewis Penny introduced by John Neale and with contributions from John Catt, Stephen Whitaker, Stuart Jones and the East Riding Boulder Committee.

2003 – “Michael House Memorial Meeting” with an introductory talk by John Neale, a display of Devonian goniatites by David Hill and a display about current research into the Karst features at Sands Top Quarry, Newbald, by members of the HGS.

2004 – “Glacial Landforms” with displays by Mike Horne of the distribution of glacial erratics in Holderness, Stuart Jones of glacial erratics and Stephen Whittaker of erratics, bones and shell found at Keyingham Gravel Pits.

2005 - “Open Questions in East Yorkshire Geology” trying to answer the questions posed by George W Lamplugh to the HGS in 1898. Pete Rawson spoke about the Speeton Clay, John Catt about the Quaternary and Mike Horne about the contributions by local amateur geologists.

2006 - “Papers in Palaeontology - a tribute to John Neale” with talks by Pete Rawson and Jack Doyle, preceded by a microfossils workshop in the morning led by Mike Horne, Patti McAlpin and Stuart Jones.

2007 - “Local Quaternary Heroes” included talks by Patrick Boylan on W S Bisat and Mike Horne on Tom Sheppard, J W Stather and the East Riding Boulder Committee. There was a field trip on the Sunday to Sewerby and Dimlington led by John Catt.

2008 - “Geology South of the Humber, Down Lincolnshire Way” which was organised at short notice by Paul Hildreth because the plans for the original topic fell through. Speakers from the HGS were Barrie Heaton, Terry Rockett and Paul Hildreth.

2009 - “The Last Glacial Maximum” with Ian Heppenstall speaking about the Quaternary deposits at Danes Dyke and South Landing. Stephen Whitaker displayed bones and fossils from the Kelsey Hill and Keyingham gravel deposits.

2012 – “Sedimentology – Process and Products” with talks and a field trip from Mike Horne, Rodger Connell and Stuart Jones and displays by Ron Harrison and the Flamborough Quaternary Research Group.

2014 - "Regarding Dynamic Process" a Geology and Art Symposium at Hull College organised by Anna Kirk-Smith, who also chaired some of the meeting. HGS members Patrick Boylan and Mike Horne contributed lectures and the HGS sponsored some of the prizes for the art exhibition. That summer the HGS also collaborated with a number of local artists creating an exhibition in a gallery in Humber Street and a booklet and website called "On the Endless Here".

2015 – A weekend long Chalk Symposium at Hull University aimed to bring together chalk specialists to discuss problems with the biostratigraphy in the UK. The YGS paid a Hull University undergraduate to organise the meeting. HGS members John Green, Mike Horne, Paul Hildreth and Rodger Connell contributed lectures, displays and field meetings to the symposium.

For other collaborations with other societies see Chapter 5 – Meetings. Also, there are abstracts and reports of most of the joint meetings with the YGS, GA and Hertfordshire Geological Society in the Archives section of the Society's website.

[I thank David Hill and Rodger Connell for their contributions to this Chapter.]

Chapter 9.

Conservation.

Rifle Butts SSSI.

Rifle Butts near Goodmanham is a small geological site (Horne and Dutton 1992 revised 2021) that was designated as a SSSI in 1952. Rifle Butts was a man-made site and never was a quarry (Horne 2020). It was in fact the site of the targets for a rifle range firing along the valley from up to 800 yards to the west. In 1964 the YGS and the geological community raised the funds for its purchase and the Yorkshire Naturalists Trust took on the ownership. In 1987 a larger exposure at the site was created by the Nature Conservancy Council and that December the HGS took on the task of caring for the exposure and began visiting the site twice a year, in the early spring and late autumn. They soon found that frost was damaging the exposure and decided that the regular removal of the loose material was too destructive. They tried to prevent this by covering it in straw for the winter months without much success. In 1993 members of the HGS designed, raised the funds for and commissioned the building of a shelter to keep the exposure dry to stop the winter frost damage. Members of the society also designed an information board and had it installed under the shelter to protect it from rain and weathering. The Cottingham Watch Group regularly maintained the nature reserve part of the site, treating it as a meadow by mowing it in the spring and autumn. The gateway to the site was kept locked and the HGS was a designated keyholder with permission to loan the key to *bona fide* geologists and societies.

At some stage [ca 2012] the YWT received a grant from the National Lottery for the nature reserve part of the site [I don't know what this was for] and this stipulated that there should be open public access to the site in the future. The HGS noticed that this led to an increase in general vandalism at the exposure and more worryingly hammering and collecting by rogue geologists. This, along with concerns about rabbits burrowing into the upper part of the bank just under the rear footings of the roof, led to the covering of the exposure with wire netting by contractors, which had to be re-fitted by members of the HGS in 2014.

Although there is a partnership agreement for the site between the HGS and the YWT, the YWT has not always informed, discussed or consulted the HGS about changes to the site. In 2003 the hawthorn hedge that protected the exposure from driving rain from the south and hid it from view from the road was chopped down. During the repainting of the structure by contractors the noticeboard was moved so that it is no longer protected from the elements by the shelter. Sheep were being grazed in the nature reserve and the exposure was fenced off to keep the sheep out, but this makes access for work parties difficult. Goats grazing in the nature reserve got onto the top of the shelter (M Howard *pers. comm.* 2025).

In the autumn or winter of 2023 a panel blew off the roof and the warden closed the site to the public. The HGS found out about this by accident in February 2024. Since then the HGS has been told on three occasions that the YWT warden is seeking quotations for the repair and will then apply for a grant for the cost of the repair in 2026.

Site Documentation Scheme.

The HGS collaborated with Hull Museums in the setting up of the local data centre for the National Scheme for Geological Site Documentation. The Society donated the funding to buy a filing cabinet for the Museum to store the site records in 1987. Mick Stanley was a key mover in the establishing of the National Scheme. The aim of the project was to record all geological exposures including historic ones.

RIGS Group.

The East Yorkshire RIGS Group was formed in 1992. Its purpose was to designate and monitor Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites in the region. The sites could be designated for their scientific research value, educational value, scenic value or their importance in the history of the geological sciences

Membership of the Group was open to any individual or organisation with an interest in geoconservation. Several organisations were represented at Group meetings including the Hull Geological Society, Hull Museums, Kingston Lapidary Society, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Hull University and Hull Natural History Society. Initially meetings were held at the offices at Monument Buildings which are part of the Ferens Art Gallery.

The staff of Hull Museums had leading roles in the Group: Mick Stanley was the Chair and Matt Stephens the Secretary. When Mick left the Museum Mike Horne became the Chair in 1999 and when Matt left Barrie Heaton became the Secretary.

The Group managed without funds for quite a while; later Tony Hibbert was the Treasurer, being succeeded by Stuart Jones. Mike resigned as Chair and was replaced by David Hill in 2013.

The area covered by the RIGS Group is not the present East Riding of Yorkshire County Council boundary, but the more natural Watsonian Vice-County of East Yorkshire (Number 61), which coincided with the designated collecting area of Hull Museums. The area is bounded by the Humber to the South, the coast to the east, the middle of the Vale of Pickering to the north and the middle of the vale of York to the west. This later caused some problems when a new RIGS group was set up in Ryedale which used the present day political boundaries meaning that some sites are covered by two RIGS groups!

A small number of formerly nationally important sites had lost their SSSI status and were obvious candidates for RIGS status. Other sites were rapidly identified and designated. Four sites on the original list were removed because the owners already had permission to fill the quarries. Twelve Quaternary sites were added in 2000 with the help of John Catt. There was an effort to try to conserve as complete a stratigraphic succession of the Yorkshire Chalk as possible. Of the sites, one is Triassic, three are Jurassic, 21 are for Chalk stratigraphy and 24 are Quaternary, plus four for their geomorphology, four for structural geology, one historical and one as an educational resource. The County Council accepted their conservation status and included them in its future planning. The RIGS Group is consulted about any planning applications that may affect the sites by the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council.

Eight buildings in Hull were added for their educational value in 2001 and are informally known as HUGS (Hull Urban Geological Sites). Hull City Council has difficulties in recognising and monitoring these sites because the RIGS conservation status is not statutory. Of those sites, one has been demolished, one is closed to the public and one has had the geologically interesting cladding removed. Two areas within Hull's Western Cemetery were added in 2004 for the variety of memorial stones.

Over the years the input from other representatives and groups declined and effectively the East Yorkshire RIGS Group activists were all members of the Hull Geological Society just wearing a different hat (or hard hat) so to speak. In 2016 the Secretary Barrie Heaton was finding the responsibility for the Group difficult and there were concerns for the continued existence of the Group. The advice from national UKRIGS body was that it would be best if the responsibility for the sites remained locally rather than nationally. At an Extraordinary General Meetings on 8th December 2016 the Group was dissolved and at the AGM of the HGS in March 2017 the Society took on responsibility for the sites &c. The Chair of the Group David Hill was elected as the RIGS Officer of the HGS and the Group's funds were added to the Conservation Fund of the HGS.

Geovalue Project.

Members of the Society collaborated with Professor Peter Scott from the University of Exeter in 2007 to visit some of the important sites in East Yorkshire. The project's aims were to document a variety of sites and rank them for their importance (Scott *et al.* 2007). The EYRIGSGp received some funding for this research and their report on the Humber Bridge Country Park was published in the handbook.

The Lewis Penny Collection at the University.

Geoconservation does not just concentrate on protecting geological sites it also involves care of specimens and documentation. A group of HGS members, including Mike Horne, Rodger Connell and Stuart Jones, visited the Geology Department on a couple of weekends in 2010 to clean the specimens in the Lewis Penny Collection and catalogue them. Lewis Penny and his research students collected the specimens from sites in Holderness. This catalogue has been published on the HGS website and Mike Horne has attempted to enhance the importance of the University's collections by adding a new Type Erratic Collection featuring specimens from the Holderness coast.

Chapter 10.

Mike Horne's memories of some Hull Geological Society meetings.

I think that the first Hull Geological Society meeting I attended was a field trip to Melton Bottoms Quarry led by Felix Whitham when I was an undergraduate student. It was a joint meeting with the Harker Geological Society (for Hull University students) and it was very muddy in the clay pit!

It was a couple of years after graduating that I joined the Hull Geological Society and started attending meetings. Some of these stand out in my memory.

There was one indoor meeting when there was a lecture about 'Tunnelling in Ancient Rome' where the lecturer showed a lot of black and white projector slides of tunnels under ancient Rome. The guest speaker got to the end of the 80 slide carousel and there was almost a collective sigh of relief from the audience, followed by a groan when he asked for the "next carousel please"! The Secretary Ken Fenton gave a vote of thanks to the speaker in which he said it was the best HGS lecture he had attended all Winter; he was being honest because in reality he had missed the other five due to work commitments teaching a biology night class!

I remember a field trip to the Holderness Coast using public transport one autumn. There were just two of us, myself and Ken Fenton, who led the trip. We travelled by train to Bridlington Station and walked down the coast to Hornsea. Ken was an excellent communicator and passed on his knowledge of the Quaternary geology. At the time there was a nudist beach at Fraisthorpe and there were some nudists

huddled under the cliff slowly turning blue; we chose not to disturb them. At Hornsea we went for a pint in a pub before catching the bus back to Hull.

Another field trip was to Hawske Bottoms. There is a very steep cliff there and the route down is a zig-zag path better suited to mountain goats. Not many people or geologists go there. Ken Fenton found a superb Ichthyosaur skull in a large block on the beach, it was too good to leave for the sea to erode away. Lynden Emery had brought a large frame rucksack, so we lashed the specimen to the frame of the rucksack and pushed him back up the cliff. Later I arranged for the specimen to be trimmed using the large rock saw at the University. I do wonder what became of the specimen and assume that it is now a treasured possession of Ken's family.

My first indoor meeting as Secretary to the Society will always stick in my mind [10th October 1985]. It was more than a bit hectic. Sheila Rogers was the President and had given Vice President Ken Fenton a lift to the University, but she could not stay for the meeting herself. I set out a display of rocks from my holiday in Jersey. I also set up some polarising microscopes for Roy Thackeray, who had been making thin sections of the Exeter Volcanics, but he did not actually show up. I dropped my box of projector slides and had to hurriedly rearrange them (in the correct order, upside down and back to front of course) before I gave a talk. I ducked out of reading the minutes by asking Ken to read them for me (as a dyslexic I have never been a fan of reading aloud). After the meeting, as I packed away the microscopes, I noticed through the window some blue flashing lights outside. Next morning I learnt that Ken had passed away in his sleep. He had been having heart problems and had refused to get into the ambulance that had been called for him.

One amazing meeting was the Rock and Fossil Roadshow that we held in the Ferens Art Gallery. I just love the venue and liked the way that we were displaying the natural art of crystals and fossils amongst the paintings and statues in such a grand setting. More recently we have held annual Roadshows at Hornsea Museum which were frequently organised by Stuart Jones. That is a really friendly venue and our Roadshow is right on the main street, so Saturday shoppers stop to have a look and some then bring specimens along for identification in the afternoon. Displays of specimens by Jack and Brenda Almond and Stuart became a regular feature of the Roadshows. Stuart's sister Bronwen and her husband Chris provided catering for the Roadshows at Flamborough Village Hall and kindly donated any profits to Society funds. Experienced members of the HGS act as "experts" on the "Finds Desk" offering to identify specimens that visitors bring in.

Then there was the time that we invited Eric Robinson from the Geologists' Association in London to speak at an open meeting in the Grammar School Museum in Hull on a weekday lunchtime. There were not many people in the audience and so, even though he had never really visited Hull before, Eric decided not to give his prepared lecture but to go for an urban geology walk instead. After about an hour there were about two dozen afternoon shoppers following him around looking at the shop fronts and buildings. When the impromptu walk ended they were all able to identify Ancaster Stone because of its 'streaky bacon' texture.

Some of the longer meetings we have held stand out as impressive achievements by our society of amateur scientists such as the Centenary Meeting in 1988 and the 125th Anniversary, when all the speakers were members of the Society. Ted Wright correcting Willy at the Centenary Meeting during his lecture from the back of the lecture theatre by shouting out “I think you’ve got that wrong brother” was a special moment.

We did have one successful weekend field trip. I had made friends with John Barry and Paul Whittlesea in Norfolk and they arranged for the Geological Society of Norfolk to host a weekend field meeting for the HGS. I hired a car for the week and my family stayed in a cottage at Kelling with Felix Whitham. Felix insisted on bringing his pressure cooker with him. David Hill parked his camper van on the drive and ran a cable through the kitchen window for electricity. Judith Bryce stayed with her partner in Norwich. I learnt a lot that weekend and have liked the geology of north Norfolk ever since.

The Geology and Art projects in 2014 were fascinating. Previously London based poet Michael McKimm had collaborated with me, Stuart Jones and my night class students, writing poems about our fieldwork in his book *Fossil Sunshine* published in 2013. Four members of the Society collaborated with five local artists and Michael McKimm, leading to the publication of a booklet, a display in an art gallery in Humber Street and a conference at Hull College. Fine artist and HGS member Anna Kirk-Smith created works of art representing the four geologists for the display. I still have the decorated hard hat that she gave me afterwards. I still think that it would have been fascinating to have a field trip and workshop to compare and contrast how artists and geologists view and interpret the landscape, particularly on the coast. The Facebook page called “On the Endless Here” (Verdi *et al.* 2014) created for the event still exists and attracts new ‘likes’ from visitors.

From the outset of the Centenary Chalk Project, I was concerned about correlating the biostratigraphy of the Chalk of the Northern Province with the biozones used in the south. The zonal indicator fossils used in the north were established as northern equivalents of the southern zones although some are not easy to find and identify. Moreover, the zones have never been scientifically defined using a biostratigraphic event at the base rather than by lithostratigraphy (bad scientific practice). My hope was that we could properly define the zones and perhaps erect our own zonation based on local fossil species. We did not achieve this and Felix Whitham published the Project Group’s research without defining the biozones. With this in mind I proposed the holding of a joint Chalk Symposium with the YGS in 2015 to spend a weekend discussing this problem and jointly propose how to solve the biostratigraphy issue (Horne 2015). Whilst it was a pleasant meeting and was a great opportunity for the Chalk workers from the south and north to meet, regrettably the original aims of the meeting were not achieved.

I remember two field meetings because they were too popular. In both cases local newspapers had reacted to our press releases by writing feature articles. Over 200 people turned up to one of our public seaside walks at Mapleton, meaning that the leaders were late because there was very little parking in the village. Luckily there

were several experienced geologists from the Society present so rather than lead a walk we gave a generalised talk about the ice ages carrying glacial erratics to Holderness and then positioned ourselves about 100m apart along the beach individually and asked the members of the public to bring us specimens for identification. A 'Stones and Bones' walk in Hull's General Cemetery that I co-led with local historian Chris Ketchell attracted over a hundred interested members of the public. We had to split the party into two and led separate walks in a figure of eight shape, swapping the groups half way through. I remember asking some children to go ahead of me to find some interesting stones for me to talk about and that seemed to keep their interest. I did feel bad when I saw the trampled plants that we left in our wake.

I am so grateful to the members of the Society who willingly share their local expertise and enthusiasm for our Science. In particular I benefited from the help of Lynden Emery who introduced me to the Speeton Clay, Ken Fenton who shared his knowledge of the Middle Jurassic plants of the Yorkshire coast and the Quaternary of the Holderness coast, Felix Whitham with his attention to the details of Chalk lithostratigraphy, and Ron Harrison's enthusiasm for erratics and urban geology. It is a privilege to have been able to pass on their wisdom and understanding to a new generation of local geologists.

The Society's meetings have changed a bit from my early days as a member; for instance we now have PowerPoint rather than slide projectors and a blackboard. Following the Covid pandemic we now hold a "blended" programme that includes online meetings and social media which enable distant members to participate in our events from the comfort of their homes. John Connor's lectures to the Society from California over the last 4 years have been a really enjoyable addition to our Programmes. The HGS is still composed of a friendly bunch of enthusiastic people with a common interest in rocks, fossils and minerals. Long may it flourish!

Chapter 11.

Some Conclusions.

It has been a pleasure looking through the archives again to compile this history. It has made me quite nostalgic reading about the meetings and remembering members who are no longer with us. Thinking about it I don't remember there being any really bad meetings, apart from two or three when the field trip leader cancelled the event at short notice and we were not able to inform members or the guest speaker never showed up. On the whole though our members have always stepped up to fill any gaps that appeared in our Programmes at short notice.

The Society has flourished for 147 years and over the last forty years the number of activities has more than doubled from 12 meetings in 1985 to 40 events in 2024. There are some recurring themes that are evident with hindsight. Trying to defend our science, the Society wrote protest letters about cuts to museums, libraries and

universities, both local and national. We objected to the filling of significant quarries in the hope that the exposures would be available to future field geologists. We have shown a commitment to geoconservation by supporting the East Yorkshire RIGS Group and the active maintenance of Rifle Butts SSSI. We have tried to fill the gaps in adult education with our microscopy evenings and informal Club Nights. We have tried to popularise our science through Yorkshire Geology Month, Roadshows, public lectures and walks. I am always impressed by the talent and knowledge we have within the Society. We have done some good quality scientific research and published it in our journal and on our website. We have been lucky that we have been able to afford to do this through the generosity of the members and good book-keeping of our Treasurers. We are fortunate that the staff at the University and Museums continue to support and host our meetings. I say this at every Annual General Meeting and I mean it every time.

From a personal point of view it has been a pleasure to act as the Secretary of the HGS and be re-elected each year; I must have been doing something right. I have been very much aware of the need for our meetings to be as inclusive as possible; some members cannot travel to the University for our lectures, some do not use e-mail and social media, some have difficulties in participating in fieldwork and some may have other pressing alternatives on a particular day and time. We have always encouraged members to take part in the research projects, suggest ideas for meetings, volunteer to lead field trips and submit articles for publication. So, I hope that we continue to offer a varied and blended program in the future. At the end of the day though our events have to be convenient for our volunteers also.

It is the Society's volunteers of the past, present and future who are the true local geological heroes. Studying geology together and sharing our knowledge **is fun**, and may it continue to remain so!

Notes –

There are some sources of bias in this history. It is largely based on the minutes of meetings, so to an extent if it was not in the Minute Book it did not happen. As technology improved, passing news to members became easier and so the available archives have increased. This is also true for the move from a printed journal to the website being the main vehicle for publishing.

There is also the problem of memory and hindsight. We all remember our first experiences and changes to the routine, the everyday becomes a blur. I have tried to pick out events that changed the way the Society does things and highlight the geological activists. Recent events are fresher in the memory but I don't have yet know how significant they will become.

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Dedication – I dedicate this volume to Annie: without her help and support none of this would be possible.

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Appendix 1.

Notes from HGS archives and minutes 1984 to 1994.

1984

The year started with a talk and demonstration about microfossils by Martin Brasier and two of his students.

The Committee were concerned about the rise in the cost of living – they encouraged members to share lifts to field meetings. Members were encouraged to meet at Cottingham Green to leave some cars in the free car park and share lifts to the field meeting. The whole of the membership was consulted about the future of field meetings at a General Meeting. The Committee was also starting to make plans to celebrate the Centenary of the Society. At the end of the Agenda for the AGM it says “the Committee welcomes suggestions from members for future field meetings and lectures...”.

Kenneth Fenton had arranged with the contractors to photograph and record the Buried Cliff at Hessle Station before it was removed to make way for the South Docks Road. Mike Horne showed the slides of the exposure to a Members’ Evening on Ken’s behalf, because he was teaching at Hull College that evening.

The Committee started to make plans for the Society’s Centenary and a research project was launched to record the stratigraphy of the Yorkshire Chalk, make a list of exposures in East Yorkshire and create a collection of typical Chalk fossils.

New members joining the Society in 1984 included Mrs J Medcalf and Don Bruce. Dr Hubert Watson, a long standing member, passed away in December. Anthea Robinson was the new member of the Committee.

1985

Mrs Coulter resigned from the Committee in February due to ill health. Roy Thackeray became the new member on the Committee in March but resigned in December. Ken Fenton became Vice President and Mike Horne replaced him in the role of Secretary. It was the intention of the Committee that Ken should be President in the Centenary year. The annual subscription was increased to £2 for 1986 for ordinary members, with a similar rise for other categories of membership.

Tim Schadla-Hall of Hull Museums gave a talk about Thomas Sheppard at the Members’ Evening. In October there was an extra lecture by Willy Wright on “A Century of Chalk Research” as his contribution to the Centenary Project.

Vice-President Ken Fenton chaired the Members’ Evening in October, but sadly passed away later that evening. A special Committee Meeting proposed to remember Ken through the creation of a series of ten memorial lectures on topics close to Ken’s interests, dedicating the publication of the Chalk research to Ken, including fossils from Ken’s collection at the Centenary display at the Town Docks Museum and the adoption of a geological conservation site with the help of the

Nature Conservancy Council. The post of Vice President was kept vacant until the 1986 AGM.

New members included Ian Alexander of Beverley, Dave Finer of Hedon, Alistair Lomax of Hull University, Mavis May of Newbald, Terry Rockett of Melton, Tom Scott of Beverley, Wilf Whitaker of Hull and Judith Bryce of Hull.

1986

The Committee were firming up plans for the Centenary Celebrations. There was to be a Dinner and a series of lectures related to important figures in our history – G W Lamplugh, Alfred Harker, Thomas Sheppard, C F B Shilito, the Wright brothers and Kenneth Fenton. There was also to be a display in the Town Docks Museum and the East Riding Boulder Committee was revived. The Committee agreed that the Society's Archives should be catalogued and be placed at Hull Museum for safe keeping.

The AGM agreed to the proposal to hold up to ten Kenneth Fenton Memorial Lectures and create a memorial fund to contribute towards the cost of establishing a local centre for the National Scheme for Geological Site documentation at Hull Museum. The AGM also agreed to the Treasurer's proposal to purchase shares in the recently demutualised Trustee Savings Bank and sell them later at the best price.

The Society received a bequest of journals and books from the family of the late Hubert Watson; these were stored at the home of Felix Whitham.

The November lecture was a bit special: Andy Eavis, a cave explorer from Hessle, showed slides of Chinese caves he had explored using 4 slide projectors in pairs with the audience wearing polaroid glasses to experience the views in 3D.

New members in 1986 included Archie Lee of York and John Barry of Cromer. Anthea Robinson resigned from the Committee in November because she was moving away from the area. Dave Finer was elected to be the new member of the Committee and Lynden Emery became the Vice-President.

1987

The first meeting of the year was a talk and demonstration of the use of computers in geology by Dick Middleton. Field meetings included a visit to Leicester Museum by minibus, where the Director, Patrick Boylan, showed us around the museum.

The Committee agreed that new members could be elected at quorate field meetings, rather than having to wait for the start of the Winter Programme. The Treasurer bought some shares in the demutualised Trustee Savings Bank.

The Committee was finalising plans for the Centenary Celebrations. There was to be a Centenary Symposium with lectures by members of the Society, displays and refreshments. This was to be followed by a Dinner costing an estimated £10 each with John Neale as After Dinner Speaker and the President of the YGS as a guest. The Society was also going to have a display at the Town Docks Museum from 30th April 1988 until 19th June; unfortunately this was later cancelled due to staff

shortages at the Museum. The Society sent its congratulations to the Yorkshire Geological Society for their 150th Anniversary.

A work party from the Centenary Project dug trenches in the scree at Middleton Chalk Pit so that the stratigraphy could be recorded. Planning permission had been granted to fill Sands Top Quarry at North Newbald and the Society requested the conservation of the Cave Oolite exposure north-east corner. Permission to fill Bessingby Chalk Pit near Bridlington had been refused. The exposure at Rifle Butts SSSI had been extended by the Manpower Service Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council had asked the Society to volunteer to keep the new exposure clean. Donald Beveridge and Felix Whitham attended a site meeting and in December the Society agreed to undertake two conservation visits per year.

New members included Stephen Potts of Willerby, Claire Heyes of Beverley, David Thrun of Hull, Anne Uglow of Cottingham and seven student members. Terry Rockett was the new member of the Committee. Lynden Emery became the President. Past-President Percy Gravett died in April. Honorary members Ted and Willy Wright received Honorary D.Sc. degrees from the University of Hull and some representatives of the Society were invited to the Winter degree graduation ceremony which was held in the Middleton Hall.

1988

Tony Gear, Lynden Emery and Jean Harrison formed a subcommittee to organise the Centenary Dinner which would cost £10 per person. The speakers at the Symposium were invited to the Dinner as guests of the Society, as was the President of the YGS. The Treasurer set aside £200 for the cost of the dinner for guests and printing.

In March, at the AGM, there was some bad news for the Society. Firstly, the planned exhibition about the Society's history and local geology at the Town Docks Museum was cancelled due to staffing problems. A smaller display took place at the Hull Central Library. The Geology Department at the University was to be closed after a nationwide review by the University Grants Committee and the staff transferred to other Universities. John Neale retired and a retirement dinner was held in July. The Society wrote letters to local MPs in the hope that the decision could be reversed.

The first conservation visit to Rifle Butts SSSI was held on 7th May.

The Society donated copies of *Humberside Geologist*, the Geological Survey map of Hull and Regional guides to the new Wyke and Wilberforce 6th Form Colleges in Hull. The sister of the late Hubert Watson donated some of his journals and books to the HGS, Felix Whitham stored these for the Society and they were later donated to Hull Museums.

Humberside Geologist number 6 was edited by a sub-committee of Mike Horne, Dave Finer, Felix Whitham and Lynden Emery. Mike Horne had also written the first draft of the history of the Society; Lynden Emery agreed to read extracts from it at the Centenary Symposium and it would be published as *Humberside Geologist* number 7. This was later republished online with added photographs. The annual

subscription fee for ordinary and family members was increased but the rate for students and unwaged members remained the same.

The Centenary Symposium was held on Saturday 4th June from midday to 6pm, with 5 lectures followed by the Dinner with John Neale as the After Dinner Speaker and the President of the YGS proposing a toast to “the Society”. The Summer Programme included three meetings that were “especially suitable for beginners”.

New members included Tony Benfield of Leeds, Geoffrey Andrews, Ray Eades, Aaron Cryan and Jim Darmody of Hull, and six student members. New members on the Committee were Judith Bryce and Donald Beveridge who became the Vice President. Mark Piasecki, Michael House and Ansell Dunham of the Geology Department were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Society at the Centenary Symposium.

1989

The Committee agreed that the Society’s archives should be transferred to Hull Museums, with agreed conditions.

The Secretary presented his annual report to the Annual General Meeting as a printed document for the first time. The Committee agreed that the printed Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports should be sent to members before the AGM with the agenda when possible in the future. Harry Thompson donated some books to the Society. Mavis May and Claire Heyes agreed to act as the Society’s Librarians; the books were stored at the homes of Lynden Emery and Felix Whitham. It is not clear that the Library was ever transferred or what became of these books.

A joint field meeting with the Leeds Geological Association was held at Speeton led by Lynden Emery.

In September the Society visited the Phoenix Project archaeological dig in Albion Street, the site of the original Hull Museum that had been destroyed by German bombing in June 1943. The Geologists’ Association offered affiliation to the HGS.

New members included Cyril Dutton of Weybridge, Glen Brown of Goole and three student members. Tom Scott resigned from the Society because he had moved to West Sussex. The new member on the Committee was Mavis May.

1990

Staff and students from the University were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting because they were holding the final Harker Geological Society Dinner at the Station Hotel to mark the final closure of the Geology Department.

The Committee asked the Secretary to write to local MPs and the Prime Minister to protest about redundancies at the Natural History Museum in London.

The Society contributed to the new Conservation Policy of the Nature Conservancy Council.

In May, Sheila Rogers led a field trip to the type section of the Eller Beck Formation near Goathland and an exposure of the Cleveland Dyke at Egton Bridge. The field meeting at North Newbald was followed by a barbecue in Mavis May's garden.

In July Lynden Emery arranged for members to visit the construction site of the Market Weighton By-Pass at Arras Hill to record the geology and collect fossils. A partial specimen of *Dactylioceras tennunicostatum* found just below the Red Chalk indicated an early Toarcian age for the clays. A report was published later in *Humberside Geologist* number 11.

Members were concerned about the rate of weathering at Rifle Butts SSSI and decided to only remove very loose material when cleaning the site in the future. The Secretary was asked to contact the Yorkshire Naturalists Trust and the NCC about the problem in October. The Society's archives had been donated to Hull Museums and the Curator, John Bradfield, thanked the Society.

New members 1990 included Mike Allderidge of Newbald, Mike Boyd of Hull Museums, Jack Hardisty of Hull University, David Hill of Hedon, Tony Parkes of Preston, Peter Scott of Beverley, Bob Head of Anlaby, Alice Drury of Cottingham, John Whittle of Kirkella, Gillian Hughes and Colin West and four student members from Bridlington. Honorary member Professor Versey died in the winter, he had joined the Society in 1932. The new member on the Committee was Jim Darmody.

1991

Hull Museums became the regional centre for the National Scheme for Geological Site Documentation.

There were site meetings at Rifle Butts SSSI with the warden Gordon Scaife, representatives of the NCC and Donald Beveridge representing the Society to discuss the conservation of the site. If the exposure could be kept dry, frost would not damage the chalk. Don Beveridge had proposed building a shelter over the exposure. Harry Thompson submitted a plan for the shelter and English Nature (the renamed NCC) was approached for the grant towards the cost. The estimated cost was £4000.

Scunthorpe Museum had established a RIGS Group for north Lincolnshire and the Society agreed to help. Members suggested sites to be added to the list.

The Society affiliated to the Geologists' Association and the Society agreed to help the newly formed Rockwatch (a national club for young geologists).

The Treasurer and Secretary were given authority to remove members in arrears with their subscription from the mailing list on behalf of the Committee.

The Society objected to the sale of the University of Hull Library's geology books to Leicester University. The plan did not go ahead, however The Library stated that they would not keep the geology books indefinitely if they were not being borrowed. Members of the Society only had reading rights but not borrowing rights.

Beverley Halstead died in a car crash the month after speaking at our AGM. A collection raised £25 to donate to a memorial fund.

Humberside Geologist number 8 was published, edited by Judith Bryce, Jim Darmody, Mike Horne and Felix Whitham, and included photographs of the Centenary Meeting. The Society purchased offprints of Felix Whitham's Chalk paper in the *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society* for sale to members. Felix presented his research as the Kenneth Fenton Memorial Lecture in December, remembering his early fieldwork experiences with Ken. The Society presented a book to Phil Fenton (Ken's widow) who attended the meeting.

The Society had a display at the three day GeoEvent at the Yorkshire Museum in October.

The new Committee member was Claire Heyes. Sheila Rogers and Donald Beveridge stood down from the Committee. New members included Judith Rockliff of Hessle, Paul Ensom of the Yorkshire Museum, Derek Glover of Rochdale, Mike Manderfield of York, Mick Stanley of Hull Museums, and Mr and Mrs Osborn of Pontefract. Glen Brown passed away from an asthma attack.

1992

The Committee discussed obtaining Liability insurance for field meetings.

A RIGS Group had been formed for East Yorkshire and Hull Museums were acting as convenors of the Group. About 40 sites were initially nominated for Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site status. Hull Museums also became the local record centre for the National Scheme for Site Documentation and members donated £70 in memory of Kenneth Fenton to buy a filing cabinet and record cards. Principal Keeper at Hull Museums Mick Stanley was the national co-ordinator of the site documentation scheme and chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Geological Society based in London.

Plans for the shelter at Rifle Butts SSSI were progressing: plans for the shelter had been submitted to the Council and grants sought. The Society asked Donald Beveridge to act on its behalf in matters concerning the conservation of the site. Planning permission was granted in November.

Following the closure of the Geology Department parts of the University's research collection were being dispersed: the Cretaceous and Quaternary specimens were retained for teaching, other specimens from East Yorkshire were donated to Hull Museums and the rest of the Research Collection was transferred to Oxford University.

A bibliography of East Yorkshire Geology was published as *Humberside Geologist* number 9. The Geologists' Association published a guide to the geology of the Yorkshire Coast with contributions by HGS members Pete Rawson and Felix Whitham. Thirty copies were sold to HGS members at a special discounted price.

Felix Whitham had received a prize from the Geological Society of London. Felix was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Hull and Felix thanked the Society for nominating him.

There was a temporary exhibition at Hull Museums called "Treasures of the Wolds" which included the Wold Newton Meteorite on loan from the Natural History Museum in London and a display of Chalk fossils.

Copies of the new magazine *Down to Earth* published by Chris Darmon of Geosupplies in Sheffield were distributed to members at meetings.

The Society bought a gift for Ann Emery in thanks for her auditing the accounts. The Charity Commission would require a copy of the accounts to be submitted annually in future.

New members included Chris Leach of Cottingham, Andrew Brewster of Lincoln, Ken Bailey of Cottingham, John Forster of Beverley, John Green of Tetney, Tony Waltham of Goole, Chris Cone and David Mounce. Doug Bridger passed away in September. David Hill was the new member on the Committee.

1993.

60 members and guests attended the Kenneth Fenton Memorial Lecture in January by John Pethick of Hull University. At that meeting members had the opportunity acquire thin sections and hard rock specimens that were being disposed of by the University for their own use.

A special Society Dinner was held in January in honour of Felix Whitham. The second of Felix's Chalk papers was published and the Society purchased offprints for sale to members.

The Curry Fund gave a grant of £3500 towards the cost of the erection of the shelter at Rifle Butts on condition that there was access to the locked site for geologists. The Yorkshire Wildlife trust agreed that the Society should be a key-holder and give permission for geological visitors by loaning the key. The Society opened a separate building society savings account for the grant money with Donald Beveridge as the Treasurer. The roof and rock filled gabions had been erected by October and a notice board had been designed that included artwork and text by Lynden Emery and Mike Horne.

Humberside Geologist number 10 was published. Mike Horne, Cyril Dutton, Terry Rockett, Stephen Potts and Felix Whitham donated towards the cost of the printing.

The University of Hull Library wished to charge HGS members for reading rights but after negotiations agreed that they could continue to use the library free of charge. Following the building work at the Geography Building at the University the entrances were to be kept locked in the evening; members of the Committee would take turns to admit members and guests to the building on lecture nights.

New members included Paul Toffolo of Cottingham, Joan Jackson of Cottingham, Trevor Sands of Grimsby, Simon Mitchell of Liverpool University, Roy Broadbent of Normanby, Barry Constantine of Skipsea, Isobel Trim of Scarborough, Geoff Nicholson of Leconfield, and Anne Horne. Mike Horne and Felix Whitham were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Society. Chris Leach was the new member on the Committee.

Appendix 2.

Notes from HGS archives and minutes 1994-2003.

1994

The Society organised the official re-opening of Rifle Butts SSSI on the morning of 19th March after the construction of the shelter. In the afternoon there was a joint meeting with the Yorkshire Geological Society at the Grammar School Museum, with lectures on geoconservation topics. There was a visit to Rifle Butts the week before to clean the exposure.

The retiring President Judith Bryce was leaving the area to take up a professorial role at the University of Bristol and was given leaving presents by members of the Society.

Beverley Borough Council had accepted the nominated RIGS sites and incorporated them into its Structure Plan. Hull museums purchased a filing cabinet to house the East Yorkshire RIGS records with funds donated by the Society.

It was agreed that the money remaining after paying for the construction of the Rifle Butts shelter should be kept for maintenance of the site and an account established with the Officers as signatories. £45 was donated to the YWT for the printing of an information leaflet about the site.

Mike Horne organised a Microscopy Evening at the University with the help of Jim Darmody and Dick Middleton. Festive refreshments were provided during the interval at the December meeting, when Lynden Emery showed videos of New Zealand geology.

New members were Pete Montgomery of Lisset, Julie Relf of Cottingham, Donald Hunt of Helmsley, Heather Rayfield of Hull Museums, Elaine Benton of Bridlington, John Toffolo, Miss M Frost of Withernsea and Alan and Pat Staniforth of Thornton Dale. Wilf Whitaker was the new member on the Committee.

1995

In January the Society agreed to pay for the annual postage for 50 copies of *Down to Earth* published by Geosupplies in Sheffield. This magazine was distributed free of charge to members at meeting, but members were asked to donate 20p towards the new postage charge when they collected their copy. After several years of trying to find a more economical Public Liability Insurance the Society obtained it through the umbrella policy of the Geologists' Association for affiliated societies.

The Committee decided that the Society should create some internet pages and also discussed asking members if they would like a long-distance weekend field trip to the Isle of Wight, Dorset or the Cotswolds.

The East Yorkshire RIGS Group agreed that four sites should be taken off the list because they had existing permissions for landfill and three of them were nearly full. Four joint HGS and EYRIGS Group field trips were included in the Summer

Programme to inspect some of the sites. Twenty six of the 37 original sites were visited and six new sites had been added to the list.

Lynden Emery stood down from the YGS Council. Mavis May had taken on the organising of the YGS Annual Dinner. Their December meeting was commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Wold Newton Meteorite.

New members were Paul Forster of Guisborough, Martin Chambers of Preston, Gordon Binns and family of Hull, Rob Widders of South Ferriby, Stephen Whitaker of Hull and Barrie Heaton of Little Weighton. Ken Bailey was the new member of the Committee.

1996

The HGS contributed to a Yorkshire Geology Week in July organised by the YGS, including a Roadshow. However, Hull Museums had introduced an admission fee so it was agreed that there would be free admission to the Roadshow in the Town Docks Museum.

Patrick Boylan delivered the last Kenneth Fenton Memorial Lecture at the AGM and Ken's widow Phil attended the meeting. The topic was "Human Remains as Sacred Objects". The joint meeting with the YGS in October about "Recent Research in Eastern Yorkshire" was very successful and the HGS presented Janet Binns with a small gift to show our appreciation for the catering she and her family had provided.

New members included Lorraine Graham of Cottingham, Jack Doyle of Hertfordshire, Keith Dawson of Anlaby, Arnold Webb of Hull, Ian Caldwell of Ferriby, Michael Goltz of Grimsby, Gordon Ostler of Hull and Ken Walker of Hull. Chris Blackhurst was the new member on the Committee, Chris had joined as a family member with Gordon Binns in 1995.

1997

The Member's Evening was held at the Grammar School Museum which was otherwise closed for the winter. The guest speaker could not attend the AGM so Felix Whitham and Mike Horne presented short talks. There was a field meeting on the North York Moors Railway led by Lynden Emery and the train was hauled by the famous Sir Nigel Gresley locomotive. A new geology display opened at the Hull and East Riding Museum and the HGS was invited to a preview evening by Heather Rayfield. HGS members had been consulted in the planning stage and Felix Whitham loaned some specimens. Although the display was intended to be there for ten years it still has not changed.

New members included Phil Wood of Market Rasen, Polly Kirk of Barton on Humber, Ray Lee of Leeds, Paul Taylor of London, Mary Gill of Hull and Karl Humphrey of Aldbrough. Ron Harrison and Mavis May stood down from the Committee and the new Committee member was Gordon Binns. The Secretary commented at the AGM that there was now an all male Committee and worried that geology should not be seen to be a "lad's hobby".

1998

Heather Rayfield who had created the Geology display at the Hull and East Riding Museum left and was replaced by Matt Stevens.

The Society adopted a Data Protection Policy although the HGS did not have to register under the new law.

The Society received some windfall shares from the demutualisation of the building society that our Rifle Butts investment, and a new Conservation Fund was created at the AGM. Later that year, the Charity Commission informed the Society that the Conservation Fund should not have separate trustees, so this was rectified at the following AGM.

The Society sent a delegate to the first UKRIGS national Annual Conference.

Eric Robinson had written to the HGS urging us to write an urban geology trail leaflet. Honorary member Ansell Dunham passed away, shortly after his retirement as a Professor at Leicester University. He had bequeathed some books to the Society and these were donated to Hull Museums.

New members included Sue Wardell of Hull, Paul Hildreth of Brigg, J Grant of Flamborough, Martin Longshaw of Grimsby, A F Clapham of Lincoln, Rosemary Langton of Hull, Frank Andrews of Middlesbrough and Nigel Whittington of Hull. Bob Head was the new member on the Committee and Ken Bailey resigned from the Committee.

1999

At the AGM it was agreed that Nigel Whittington's website should be adopted as the Society's official website and that he should be editor of our website. It was agreed that we should publish articles from *Humberside Geologist* on the website once they had been edited and Nigel asked the Computer Centre at the University to scan past numbers of the journal. *Humberside Geologist* number 12 was published with an editorial by David Hill. The AGM agreed that the Society should have a Safety Policy. The Secretary was asked to keep members up to date with Society news via e-mail.

New members elected to the Society included Stan Lumb of Bradford, Lawrence Sherrington of Glasshouses, Trish Hugill of Bridlington, John Coish of Kirkella and Matt Stevens of Hull Museums. Paul Hildreth was the new member of the Committee. Honorary member Mark Piasecki and Peter Graves died.

2000

The safety policy was drafted by David Hill and Mike Horne and approved at the AGM. It was also agreed that field trip leaders should complete a written risk assessment, Mike Stanley and Mike Horne designed the form. A standing sub-committee of editors was elected for the first time at the AGM.

Humberside Geologist number 13 was published with sponsorship from Singleton Birch, arranged by Paul Hildreth. Gordon Binns produced and sold a HGS Calendar and donated the profits to the Society.

A new RIGS Group was launched for the Ryedale and Scarborough area. The East Yorkshire RIGS Group was planning to designate some educational sites in Hull.

New members included Paul Richards of Hull, Stuart Jones of Hull, Ian Broadwell of Skirlaugh, Tony Hibbert of Cottingham and Yvette Grindley of Southampton. Nigel Whittington was the new member on the Committee as the first Website Editor. Mick Stanley, Bob Head and Jim Darmody resigned from the Committee. Honorary member Lewis Penny and Margaret de Boer (the wife of George de Boer) passed away.

2001

The Treasurer started to reclaim the tax paid by members on their subscriptions and donations as Gift Aid so there was no need to increase the subscription rates.

Gordon Binns produced some HGS Logo transfers for members to iron on to tee shirts and he also asked member to contribute images for his 2002 HGS calendar. Nigel Whittington and Ian Heppenstall represented the Society at meetings of the newly formed Humber Management Scheme Advisory Group.

Two memorial meetings were held: a lecture by Steve Temperley as a tribute to Mark Piasecki and joint meeting with the YGS on "the Pleistocene World" as a tribute to Lewis Penny.

The Society was becoming concerned about the stability of the exposure at Rifle Butts SSSI. The planned visit to inspect the site had to be postponed because the site was closed because of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the area. The foot and mouth outbreak also limited our summer field meetings and meant that an invitation to adopt the geological exposure at Kiplingcotes Nature Reserve was delayed.

New members included Mr & Mrs Astrop of Hull, Ian and Mary Heppenstall and William Cooper of Retford. Barrie Heaton was the new member on the Committee. Nigel Whittington was elected as the first Publicity Officer, previously that role had been undertaken by the Secretary. Honorary member Ted Wright and Cyril Dutton passed away. Lynden Emery retired from the Committee because he was moving to Somerset and Felix Whitham resigned as Treasurer and handed over the role to Barrie Heaton.

2002

In January 2002 the Brynmor Jones Library (BJL) at the University of Hull informed the Society that they planned to remove 80% of the geology books and offered to return any donated by the Society, including the Society's Library that had been transferred there if we could provide a list of the books within five weeks, which we could not do. Huw Griffiths represented the Geography Department on the Library Management Committee and agreed to liaise between the HGS and the Library. The BJL eventually agreed to donate any of the books removed to the Society and members of the Society visited the Library to select and collect the books that were then stored at the home of Stuart Jones. A library Sub-Committee was formed.

Stuart sorted the books into categories and Paul Richards created a catalogue. Sadly Huw Griffiths died shortly after this.

The postponed Rifle Butts site inspection took place in March and whilst it was agreed that there had been movement behind the exposed face, the shelter itself had not been affected. Stuart Jones volunteered to repaint the lower parts of the structure but the whole structure was repainted by the YWT. The visit to Kiplingcotes Nature Reserve produced some suggestions for the geoconservation, and at a later site meeting the YWT representative agreed to include active geoconservation and access for geologists into the site management plan.

Some members started a research project investigating the Quaternary deposits of Flamborough Head.

New members were Colin Clark of Hull, Angela Kelham of Market Rasen, Patricia Williamson of Bridlington, Derek Gobbett of Wetwang, Harold Tabiner of Hull and Mike Scrimshaw of Hull. Stuart Jones was the new member of the Committee and he was asked to act as the Society's Librarian.

2003

The catalogue of the HGS Library was produced as a CD-ROM by Paul Richards and the sub-committee had created rules for the loan of books to members and University staff and students. It was agreed that the books in the Library should not be insured but the Librarian could claim reasonable expenses from the Treasurer. The Brynmor Jones Library had cancelled the Society's long established publication exchange with the United States Geological Survey.

It was agreed that Research Groups could be established by members of the Society on condition that they did not incur any expenses but could apply for grants from the Society for specific purposes and that meetings were advertised and open to all members thus covered by the Public Liability Insurance. The Society was concerned that the hedge in front of the exposure at Rifle Butts had been removed as it protected the exposure from rain from the south and obscured it from view from the road.

The joint meeting with the YGS was a tribute to the late Michael House, with John Neale giving the introductory talk. Members recorded the exposure of palaeo-karst features in Sands Top Quarry at Newbald before the pit was filled by the owners and the early results were displayed at the Michael House tribute meeting. Members also carried out a geological survey of the North Cave Wetlands later in the year.

New members included Nicholas Townley of Newark, John Clark of Keelby, Tim Langdale-Smith of Market Rasen, Allen Parker of Bonby and Stuart Bingley of Grimsby. Lynden Emery was elected as an Honorary Member of the Society. The new member of the Committee was Paul Richards.

Appendix 3.

Notes from HGS archives and minutes 2004-2013.

2004

A Microscopy Section was formed and planned to meet monthly at the University. And the Society agreed at the AGM to support a Yorkshire Geology Month in May 2005 and at a later meeting the Society agreed to pay the organising expenses for the YGM up to the sum of £20. The aim of YGM was and still is to put on geological events for the public throughout Yorkshire.

Over the summer there was a landslip at Rifle Butts SSSI and an extra meeting was arranged so that a work party could remove the fallen material.

The Committee invited members to join them for a glass of wine and piece of cake at the end of the December meeting after Paul Hildreth had given a talk entitled "The Confessions of a Chalkoholic".

New members included Patty McAlpin, Kelly Wang, Tony Barker and Geoff Featherstone all from Hull, John Prescott of Immingham and Harry Hutchinson of Norton. Pete Rawson was elected as an honorary member. The new member on the Committee was Colin Clark. Richard Myerscough and Matt Stephens resigned from the Committee. Donald Beveridge died in March.

2005

The Brynmor Jones Library was disposing of more runs of geological journals, including many palaeontological ones.

Humberside Geologist number 14 was published and numbers 1 to 9 had been scanned and proof read for publication on the website.

Matt Stephens had left Hull Museums in 2004 and the role of Assistant Keeper of Natural History had been "deleted". The geological collection at the museum was now being managed by an archaeologist.

Yorkshire Geology Month was quite successful: it was supported by 65 groups and 41 events took place, 10 of which were organised by the Society and were attended by about 550 visitors. The HGS agreed to support Yorkshire Geology Month in 2006.

There was a research visit to record and sample the Speeton Shell Bed with the permission of Natural England arranged by Prof Alan Lord.

The joint meeting with the YGS was "Open Questions in East Yorkshire Geology" trying to answer the questions posed by G W Lamplugh 100 years earlier. The Secretary recorded the talks and these were issued with the abstracts &c. as *Humberside Geologist Special Publication* number 1 on CD-ROM

New members included Brian Kneller of Haxey, David Mulliner of Bridlington, David Forth of Hornsea, Nigel Hutchings of Molescroft and Lynda Yorke of Hull University. The new member on the Committee was Derek Gobbett. Mr A F Clapham of Lincoln and Matt Stephens, who had moved to Cleethorpes, resigned from the Society and

Hilary Dixon of Withernsea sent her best wishes to the Society because she had given up driving and could no longer attend meetings.

The Society was also sending representatives to some other groups – this year they were Derek Gobbett to the Ryedale Vernacular Building Stones Group, Barrie Heaton to the Humber Business Link Organisations and the East Yorkshire Natural Environment Trust Group and Ian Heppenstall and Nigel Whittington to the Humber Management Scheme Advisory Board.

2006.

Nigel Whittington had spotted a fossil dealer plagiarising an article from *Humberside Geologist* in an advert. When contacted the dealer apologised and sent a donation to the Society. As a result a copyright statement was added to our website to clarify what we considered to be fair use of our intellectual property.

East Yorkshire museums contacted the Society about the new museum, library and archives in Beverley to be called the Treasure House. The Society agreed to provide specimens for a regular temporary geological displays, develop its geological collection and help with public events. Seven members of the HGS helped Stefan Ramsden collect some large erratics for the display from Hornsea and Mappleton. Mike Horne was the scientific advisor for the permanent geological exhibit, working with local botanical artist Nikki Abramson and a designer. [The map they created is now in room 041 of the Cohen Building at the University, where the HGS holds its indoor meetings.]

Humberside Geologist number 14 was printed and it was also made available as a CD-ROM with additional material. It again was sponsored by Singleton Birch. Paul Richards and Mike Horne also produced a CD-ROM containing all back numbers. Lynden Emery had recorded the lectures from the Centenary meeting and these were also converted to a digital format and made available on CD-ROM as *Special Publication Number 2*.

The Society donated £25 from the Conservation Fund to the East Yorkshire RIGS Group towards the running costs following a request from its Treasurer Tony Hibbert. The Society co-operated with Prof Peter Scott of the Cambourne School of Mines on the “Geovalue Project” by visiting seven local sites and writing reports of them for the Geovalue handbook (Scott *et al.* 2007). Peter Scott gave a lecture to the Society and the East Yorkshire RIGS Group about the project on 18th May.

There were 58 events for Yorkshire Geology Month 2006, seven of which involved the HGS which had been attended by about 200 members and visitors.

The ink cartridge recycling company went out of business and the cheque they had sent the Society bounced.

The joint meeting with the YGS was dedicated to the late John Neale and the HGS organised a microfossils workshop for the Saturday morning. Patti Neale donated some of John Neale’s books to the HGS Library.

Barrie Heaton and Paul Hildreth recorded the geology of a pipeline trench that was being dug through the Yorkshire Wolds. Members of the Society helped the Friends of the Humber Bridge Country Park clean one of the faces of the former quarry and the Ranger added geoconservation to the site management plan.

New members included Keith Britton of Barnsley, John Catt of St Albans, Paul Hardy of Brough, Noel Rudsdale of Hull, Barbara and Dennis Haughey of Cottingham, David Baker of Withernsea, Brenda and Jack Almond of Leeds and Withernsea, and Peter Clisby of Cottingham. Pattie McAlpin was the new member on the Committee. Don Berry resigned from the Society.

2007

At the request of the Geological Society in London to celebrate their 200th Anniversary the joint meeting with the YGS was about 'Local Heroes' and we chose to concentrate on the Quaternary Geology of Yorkshire. The indoor meeting was followed by a field trip led by John Catt. Mike Horne handed over the organising of Yorkshire Geology Month to the North East Yorkshire Geology Trust.

It was agreed that the website should be moved from the free hosting to create a more professional advert free site. It was agreed that the website editor should have a budget to pay for the web hosting and domain name.

Half of the stock of the Society's publications got destroyed in the flooding of 25th June. GeoSupplies replaced the copies of *Down to Earth* free of charge and the Society received a grant from the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council to pay for the reprinting of *Humberside Geologist* no 15.

New members included Pam Hopkins of Beverley, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust RIGS Team, Tracy Marsters of Hull, Ros Perry of South Cave, Rod Towse of Beverley, Helen Kitson of Beverley, Ian and Nina Scott of Walkington and Stephen Lee of Hull. Nigel Whittington, Derek Gobbett and Felix Whitham retired from the Committee. The new member of the Committee was Geoff Featherstone. David Baker became the Website Editor and Chris Blackhurst the Publicity Officer.

2008

The Committee was discussing how to improve the Risk assessment forms and agreed to merge it with the one Mike Horne had used for the Yorkshire Geology Month. There was a workshop on planning and leading field trips; the outcomes were later published on our website.

There had been some vandalism at Rifle Butts by a geologist who had been digging along the line of the Unconformity.

The theme for the joint meeting with the YGS had to be changed eight weeks before the date from Petroleum Geology of the North Sea to the Geology of Lincolnshire and Paul Hildreth found four speakers at short notice. Mike Horne gave a talk about the February 2008 earthquake and June 2007 floods at the December meeting, when the original speaker cancelled.

New members included Mary Barton of Grantham, Rodger Connell of Driffield and Sonja Boehmer-Christenson of Hull. Tony Baker was the new member of the Committee and Stuart Jones became the President. The deaths of Tony Hibbert and Lynden Emery were noted.

2009

The geological boat trip from North Landing organised by Stuart Jones was postponed twice due to bad weather and rough seas before taking place in August.

Ann Emery attended the Lynden Emery memorial meeting which was introduced by Mike Horne and the main lecture was by Pete Rawson.

In October members signed a framed photograph of the contorted Chalk at Old Dor on Flamborough Head from our boat trip to be presented to Felix Whitham to mark his 90th birthday at a special dinner with the Officers planned for November. Sadly Felix had become unwell and passed away on 21st November and the HGS President presented the photograph to Felix's daughter Maggie Evans at the funeral. Mike Horne gave a short talk about Felix at the Members' Evening in December.

New members included Susan Kirkwood of Hull, Kathryn Turrell of Driffield, Philip Vixsebroxse of Walkington and Bethan Davies of Durham. Patty McAlpin resigned from the Committee and the new Committee member was Rod Towse. Dick Middleton resigned as the University Representative on the Committee and was replaced by Mike Rogerson.

2010

Mike Horne was liaising with the Treasure House over a protocol for temporary displays and an acquisitions policy that included categorising the significance of specimens. The Yorkshire Geological Society was organising Yorkshire Geology Month.

Significant amounts of the Red Chalk had been removed from Rifle Butts SSSI by a geologist ignoring the "no collecting" sign. At a later site meeting evidence of recent hammering was observed. It was suggested that putting netting over the exposure would stop the geo-vandalism. Other repair work was required to the shelter and that was reported to the owners. HGS members repainted the notice board stand.

Some members of the Society visited the Cohen Building to clean and catalogue the specimens in the Lewis Penny Collection.

A series of meetings were held as a tribute to the late Felix Whitham; these were a geology walk in the Kiplingcotes area, and field trips to Filey, South Landing and the Hildenley Quarries. Terry Rockett was helping the family with the collection which was mostly donated to the British Geological Survey in Keyworth. Some of Felix's duplicate fossils were sold at meetings and raised £280 for Alzheimer's research at the University of Hull Medical School. Felix's family wished to have a medal cast to be offered as a prize to members of the HGS.

The East Riding County Council introduced a 'marine no take zone' at Flamborough Head between Danes Dyke and Sewerby Steps, the Secretary received clarification

that it did not apply to geological specimens on the beach unless there was marine life attached (such as barnacles).

New members included Don Bruce of Beverley, Paul Thornton of Great Hatfield and David Campbell of Market Weighton. The new member on the Committee was Nina Scott. Chris Blackhurst retired as Publicity Officer and was replaced by Paul Richards, Barrie Heaton retired as Treasurer and was replaced by Ian Scott and Gordon Binns resigned from the Committee. Honorary member Willy Wright died in February; he and his brother Ted joined the HGS in the 1930s. Eric Chicken passed away; Eric joined the Society in 1968.

2011

The Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Hull closed its library and geology books were made available at the joint meeting with the YGS in October which raised £68 in donations for the HGS funds.

New members included Janet Harrison of Driffield, Anna Kirk-Smith of Bridlington, Brian May of Watton and Robin and Diane Arundale of Driffield. Rodger Connell was the new member of the Committee. Sheila Rogers and Don Agerskow resigned from the Society. Local historian Chris Ketchell who collaborated with the Society on some Cemetery walks passed away in February. George de Boer passed away in July; George had joined the Society in 1945.

2012

Ian Scott, the Treasurer, moved to Nottinghamshire and Rod Towse agreed to be Assistant Treasurer to receive subscription payments at our meetings.

The Society contributed to a three day conference at the University on "Sedimentary Process and Product" by leading field trip on the Sunday to Barmston, South Landing and Danes Dyke.

The Secretary conveyed the Society's congratulations to the YGS for their 175th Anniversary at their Annual Dinner in Wakefield.

The Centre for Life Long Learning at the University of Hull closed at the end of July and the part-time tutors were made redundant. The Society started to plan the introduction of Club Nights to the Programme of meetings.

Plans were made for the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal. The Secretary sent a design for the 'tails' side based on Thomas Sheppard's 1938 medal to Maggie and Trevor Evans. The medal was to be awarded for new contribution to research or public understanding of local geology; it was not to be a long service award for Committee members.

New members included Carol Williamson of Bridlington, Kristian Saether of Hull, William Woodall of Louth, Graham Kings of Kirkella. John Whittle of Kirkella, and John Green of Grimsby. Ros Perry was the new member of the Committee.

2013

The first Club Night was held on 9th April and the theme was “ammonites”. The evenings were described in the Programme as “a sort of book group with geological specimens”. They were intended to be less formal the Members’ Evenings.

The netting at Rifle Butts had not been installed correctly to the specifications at Rifle Butts by the contractors and they had moved the site information notice board to a new position outside the shelter without permission, exposing it to the elements and damaging the scientific integrity of the floor of the SSSI. The Society brought this to the attention of the site owners.

Ken Dorning of the Sorby Natural History Society and YGS organised Yorkshire Geology Month and the HGS contributed three events.

The Society celebrated its 125th Anniversary on June 1st at the University, with nine lectures and 14 displays by Society members. The meetings was attended by 42 members and guests. Maggie Evans presented Stuart Jones with the first Felix Whitham Memorial Medal for his contributions to Roadshows. This was followed by a Dinner in Staff House organised by Rod Towse. Tony Benfield was the toastmaster at the Dinner which was attended by 32 members and guests.

New members included Brian Williams of Hull, Alan Mills of Hedon, Bryony Booth of Hull, John Upton of Hedon and Barry Barnes of Guisborough. Ron and Jean Harrison who joined the Society in 1967 were elected as Honorary Members. Ian Heppenstall was the new member of the Committee. Sue Wardell died on Christmas Eve, her partner later donated her books and collection to the Society, the books were added to the Library and the duplicates and specimens offered to members or sold at events raising £80 for funds.

Appendix 4.

Notes from HGS archives and minutes 2014-2025.

2014

Yorkshire Geology Month was organised by Paul Hildreth for the Yorkshire Geological Society and the Hull Geological Society contributed four events. David Hill became the HGS representative on the newly formed YGS geo-conservation sub-committee.

The annual main Committee meeting was held at the University rather than the Secretary’s house, this has continued in subsequent years.

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust had installed fencing at Rifle Butts SSSI so that they could graze sheep at the site and there was a second kissing gate now near the exposure but this impeded access to the geological exposure for HGS conservation work parties. Stuart Jones was asked to carry out alterations to the new gate and

fencing and buy materials to do remedial work on the netting that had been incorrectly installed the previous year, using money from the Conservation Fund. Members carried out the work on two Saturdays in April. The Society donated £130 from the Conservation Fund and members contributed 85 hours of voluntary labour to the repair work. A partnership agreement between the YWT and HGS was drawn up detailing their geoconservation responsibilities for the site.

There was a Geology and Art joint meeting with the YGS at Hull College organised by David Hill, Mike Horne and Anna Kirk-Smith, and the Society donated prizes for the photographic competition. Associated with the symposium, there was an art exhibition in the Studio Eleven art gallery in Humber Street based on a collaboration between four HGS members, a poet who had already collaborated with some members of the Society (Michael McKimm 2013) and five local artists, a publication entitled "On the Endless Here" (Kirk-Smith & Ray 2014) and a social media page featuring works inspired by the geology of Flamborough Head,

Mike Horne proposed that there should be a Chalk Symposium in 2015 to try to resolve problems with the biostratigraphy that he had identified in his HGS 125th Anniversary lecture; the Committee agreed to support this.

A new research group was formed (The Bisat Project) to record and photograph the cliffs of the Holderness coast from Spurn to Sewerby which could be compared with W S Bisat's paper (Catt & Madgett 1981) after some 60 years of coastal erosion. Graham Kings was (and still is) the project co-ordinator. The group held planning meetings and field trips throughout the year including a trip to BGS in Keyworth to view archive materials held there. Patrick Boylan presented a lecture about W S Bisat and his survey of the coast in the 1930s and 1950s.

Concerns were raised that the website was not being kept up to date – the list of meetings was still for 2012 and the list of Officers was from 2007, it was felt that viewers might think that the HGS was no longer functioning. The Website Editor had not been in contact with the Society for over a year. Ownership of the website was in the name of the Editor not the Society. Stuart Jones obtained a quotation for a professional redesign of the website. It was agreed that if the Website Editor had not provided the Society with the site password before the AGM we should create a new site.

Humberside Geologist number 15 was published. New members included Malcolm Fry of Gainsborough and Rob Gill of South Ormsby. Paul Richards resigned as Publicity Officer and Ian Scott stepped down as Treasurer. Rod Towse was elected as Treasurer and joint Publicity Officer and Mike Horne became the Website Editor. Anna Kirk-Smith was the new member of the Committee. Gordon Ostler passed away.

2015

The University of Hull launched a Special Degree in Geology recreating the Geology Department.

Someone in America had stolen David Baker's fossil identification webpages and was selling it on I-Tunes. Apple told the Society that they were not responsible for what vendors sell using their App and the vendor said he could not pay our copyright fee because he had just filed for bankruptcy. The Secretary told the Committee that he was making the copyright statement more prominent on the Society's new website and marking the published images with the HGS name.

The three day Chalk Symposium included contributions from Mike Horne, Paul Hildreth and John Green. 41 delegates attended the symposium including 19 from the HGS. Mike led a field trip to Flamborough on the Sunday.

New members included Andrew Jones of Flamborough, Angela Hodgeson of Beverley, Lewis Rose of Hornsea and John Chapman of Melbourne near York. Ian and Nina Scott stood down from the Committee. Jack and Brenda Almond were the new members of the Committee. Ian Heppenstall was the recipient of the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal for his contributions to the Flamborough Quaternary Research Group. Patty McAlpin resigned from the Society.

2016.

The Officers met to discuss the Society's rules which were thought to be out of date – for instance they mentioned the Ministry of Education and instructed the Treasurer to invest in shares that returned 4% per year. A rule change was agreed at the AGM to reflect current practice and allow for future changes to the Charities Act.

The Committee agreed that there should be a clear separation between the peer reviewed articles of *Humberside Geologist* and the rest of the website. They also agreed that Mike Horne could republish his adult education course notes on the website, along with incomplete observations and reports of the HGS research projects. The publishing of *Humberside Geologist* on CDROM was discontinued, but articles would be published on the website as soon as they had been approved by the editors.

The Secretary unsuccessfully applied for a grant from City of Culture 2017 to publish a booklet about the building stones and architecture of Hull.

The first Quiz Night was held in December as a variation on the Club Night. Members were asked to bring 5 specimens, images or questions to the meeting and there were some seasonal festive refreshments. Cheating was allowed and there were prizes.

New members included Susan Lee of Doncaster, Mick Oates of Barrow on Humber and Arthur Speed of Kirkella. Alan Mills was the new member of the Committee. The death of Derek Gobbet in November was noted.

2017

Ron Harrison donated his collection to the Society when he entered a care home and sold his house. The Society arranged for Ron's collection of bricks and tiles to be donated to Hornsea Museum and Stuart wrote a booklet about the collection.

Ron's books were added to the Society's Library and some of his geological collection was added to the Lewis Penny Collection at Hull University.

Generic Risk Assessments and other HGS policies had been added to the members' section of the website.

Due to falling attendance, the Committee agree to stop the Microscopy Evenings and the small cash fund from donations towards the running costs was donated to the HGS general funds.

The East Yorkshire RIGS Group disbanded in 2016 and the HGS agreed to a merger at the AGM. The EYRIGS Group funds were donated to the HGS Conservation Fund and the HGS affiliated to UKRIGS. The Chair of the Group, David Hill, became the HGS RIGS Officer.

Margaret Gobbett donated Derek's books to the HGS Library and gave permission for his unfinished works about local geology to be published on our website.

New members included Susannah Voke of Molescroft, Elayne and Peter Carpenter of Halsham, Alice Howard and family of Grimsby and Ian Caldwell of Beverley. Tracy Marsters was the new Committee member. Jack and Brenda Almond were the recipients of the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal for their displays at Roadshows. Kenneth Phipps resigned from the Society.

2018

The Data Protection and Safety Policies were updated at the AGM.

Paul Hildreth organised Yorkshire Geology Month and the Society contributed two events. There were Roadshows at Flamborough Village Hall and Hornsea Museum. The Society also contributed to the Yorkshire Fossil Festival held at Hull University.

New members included Cindy Elliot of Kilnsea, Graham Blackmore of Scarborough and Noel Barron of Hull. Mavis May was elected as an Honorary Member. Janet Robson was the new Committee member. The death of Ron Harrison was noted.

2019

There was a new temporary exposure of the Bridlington Crag and Basement Till near the harbour at Bridlington exposed after some storms in 2018. The Society visited the exposure. Fred Nixon of the Harker Geological Society planned to write a report about it for *Humberside Geologist* based on his undergraduate dissertation.

There were Roadshows at Flamborough Village Hall, Hornsea Museum and the Market House in Driffield.

At the December meeting there was a talk by Graham Kings and Rodger Connell about the progress with the Bisat Project. The research group had taken 1500 photographs of the Holderness cliffs and they told the meeting about the future plans for the project.

New members included Phil Entwistle of Beverley, Peter Crombie of Hedon, Andy Day of Cherry Burton, Graham Evans of Hull, Christine Turley of Preston and Ben

and Helen Alexander of Hull. Elayne Carpenter was the new member of the Committee. The Felix Whitham Memorial Medal was presented to Lewis Rose for his curating and displays at Hornsea Museum. The death of Ian Heppenstall was recorded.

2020

The UK went into lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid epidemic just after the AGM. Indoor meetings and Roadshows had to be cancelled. The University was shut down and teaching went online. Some field meetings took place with the number of people attendance being restricted and social distancing observed. In all eleven events were cancelled plus all in-person Club Nights between March and November. Three extra field meetings were added but attendance was restricted to six people. Members were encouraged to receive Society correspondence by e-mail. The Society introduced social media Club Nights for members to share images and comments. Video conferencing replaced in-person meetings for lectures and informal evenings. Committee business was conducted by e-mail and telephone. The Committee decided that the Society should wait until the University re-opened before arranging the Programme for the rest of the year and that annual subscriptions would be waived for 2020-2021. Key computer documents were shared by the Officers on a cloud, just in case they became seriously ill. New pro-forma risk assessments were written for meetings held during the pandemic and the Data Protection Policy was amended slightly to allow the sharing of personal data with the emergency services for contact tracing.

A series of geological "I spy" photo sharing meetings was started in April with the letter A and this continued through the alphabet to Z in September 2024, and a list of the images was also published on the website.

New members included Anne Oey of Hull and Owen Booker of Market Weighton. The new member of the Committee was Arthur Speed. Mike Rogerson resigned as the Hull University representative on the Committee and was replaced by Dave Bond.

2021

The Covid restrictions continued. The indoor lectures and Club Nights were cancelled from January to March. The Annual General Meeting was held by postal and e-mail ballot to elect the new Officers and Committee as specified in the HGS Rules. The Society authorised the Secretary to restart meetings once restrictions were lifted and Stuart Jones was given a budget for room hire for a Roadshow. As members were no longer collecting printed copies of *Humberside Geologist* the Secretary was authorised to reduce the stock held at his home. Ten new papers had been published on the *Humberside Geologist* website and past papers from the *Transactions of the Hull Geological Society* had also been added to the website, after scanning and proof reading by Mike Horne and Jan Silva.

As the restrictions eased the postponed New Year Picnic was held in August and Yorkshire Geology Month took place in October rather than the normal month of May. There was a member's only visit to the Dinostar museum in Humber Street.

In July the Secretary wished to stand down for a year, but no other Committee member volunteered to temporarily take over the role. The post of Membership Secretary was created and Peter Carpenter was co-opted into the role. The Committee agreed that subscriptions should be waived for 2021-2022, but donations were encouraged and the Treasurer said he preferred to receive them by bank transfer rather than cheques.

Arthur Speed sent a questionnaire to members in September to enquire about their wishes for the future direction of the Society after Covid and compiled the results for the Committee. A precis version was published on the website.

GeoSupplies were no longer offering a bulk mailing of the printed *Down to Earth* magazine and the HGS Committee agreed to subscribe to a digital version that would be forwarded to members who wished to receive it.

New members included Stefan Ramsden and Jan Silva. Peter Carpenter was the new Committee member. Rodger Connell resigned as Vice-President. The Felix Whitham Memorial Medal was awarded to Graham Kings, the convenor of the Bisat Research Group.

2022

Indoor lecture meetings restarted in February with a talk by Bryony Caswell of Hull University. Generally meetings at the University had to begin earlier in the evening because of changes to the access to the building outside normal working hours. The Committee did not wish to use a different venue.

David Hill sold back copies of *Humberside Geologist* at the Yorkshire Geology Day event at Caphouse Colliery and Mike Horne led a Cemetery walk for Yorkshire Geology Month.

The Society co-hosted the Geologists' Association Annual Conference at the University in September contributing talks, walks and displays.

Organising the winter meetings was difficult because the Secretary had been seriously ill since October 2021 and at times he had to self-isolate. The Winter Programme was suspended by the Committee until the Secretary had recovered. Ten meetings were held online from September until February 2023. John Connor was a regular contributor to the Zoom meetings from California.

New members included Jim Whittaker of Keyingham, Antony Walker of Nafferton, John Waring of the North East Geological Society and Keith Whittle of Hornsea. Stephen Holding, Owen Booker and Jan and Ted Robson resigned from the Society. Mary Howard was the new Committee member and Rodger Connell resigned from the Committee. The death of Mavis May was noted.

2023

Indoor meetings at the University resumed in February with a Club Night on Sedimentary Rocks. At the AGM the members stated that they preferred the indoor meeting to continue to be held at the University on a Thursday evening.

At the April meeting Paul Hildreth presented the Moore Medal of the Yorkshire Geological Society to Mike Horne for “services to the geology of the north of England”. Mike had been unable to attend the YGS AGM in December 2022 for the medal presentation because of ill health. Paul then presented a talk about “the Geology and Birds of Flamborough Head”.

The Gift Aid form used by the Society was updated and members were asked to complete the new form if they wished to continue to Gift Aid their subscriptions and donations.

Four 135th Anniversary events were held in August: an online talk about East Yorkshire Geology, field trips to Keyingham and Mappleton and a Club Night about memories of previous HGS meetings. Reports of these meetings were published on the website.

The Roadshow at Hornsea Museum was organised by Brenda and Jack Almond because Stuart Jones was ill. It was likely that the Society would have to remove the Society’s Library and other items from Stuart’s house if the room used for the library needed to be cleared. The Committee drew up contingency plans.

New members included Paul Thornton of Withernsea, Karen Philbin of Milton Keynes, Lorraine Behrens of Holmpton, Bente Louden of Preston in Lancashire, Jan and Ted Robson of Driffield and Rosie Barwell and family of Scunthorpe. The new member on the Committee was Graham Kings. The Felix Whitham Memorial Medal was awarded to Patrick Boylan for his research into Kirkdale Cave and the Quaternary of Yorkshire.

2024

In February we discovered that the gates to the geological exposure at Rifle Butts SSSI had been locked by the warden because a roof panel had been damaged by a winter storm before Christmas. It was later reopened after a safety inspection and the HGS was told that the warden was seeking quotations for the repair and a grant to pay for the repair.

Peter and Elayne Carpenter stood down from the Committee because they were going for an extended holiday in Australia. Rich Beck took on the role of Membership Secretary as the new Committee member.

Rod Towse wished to retire as Treasurer before the 2025 AGM after 10 years in the role and he was becoming ill with cancer. It was agreed at the April Club Night that if he needed to retire sooner another officer could take on the role until a new Treasurer was found. Rod resigned in May and Graham Evans was co-opted to be Treasurer until the following AGM. Rod died on 12th August.

Stuart Jones decided that he needed the space that the library was stored in and the Committee implemented the contingency plan. The books, journals and maps in the HGS library were first offered to members and eventually the remaining ones were donated to the Yorkshire Natural History Museum in Sheffield.

It was also agreed that the Society's holding of shares in the TSB be sold. The shares were still in the name of Ian Scott, a previous Treasurer, so he had to sell the shares and then donate the proceeds to the Society.

At the Committee meeting in December the subscription rate was raised to £10 for all categories of membership. The Website Editor was given permission to add extra security and protection to the website.

New members included Diane Morris of Ilkley, Shaun Tymon, Andrew Watson, Steven Harris and Paul Hancock of Hull, Lorraine Graham of Cottingham, Mike Scrimshaw of Hull and David Whipp of Goole. The death of Patrick Boylan in February was reported, he had joined the Society in 1956 and was elected as an honorary member in 1967.

2025

The sudden death of the President Stuart Jones in February came as a shock to members. The role of President was left vacant until the AGM. Chris Leach was elected as the new President and David Hill as the Vice-President. Lewis Rose agreed to organise the Roadshow at Hornsea Museum, but the booking for the Roadshow at Flamborough was cancelled. Mary Howard was awarded the Felix Whitham Memorial Medal for her work creating new displays for roadshows and exhibitions.

In February Mike Horne, Graham Kings and Mary Howard attended a site meeting at Rifle Butts SSSI with the warden where concerns were raised about the weathering of the exposure of stromatolites in the Red Chalk due to the hole in the roof of the shelter. In August the Secretary received an e-mail from the warden stating that he was still seeking quotes for the repair and that no grants for the cost of the repair from Natural England were available until 2026.

There were three geological Quiz Nights held during the year and two former members presented lectures about their latest research – Philip Vixsebroxse on his research into the Ediacaran fauna and Kris Saether on editing a new volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Geology*. Members were encouraged to share lifts to field meetings using a new group on a messaging app. Martin Clarke of Leeds joined the Society in 2025 and Mick Oates was the new member of the Committee.

MH December 2025

Appendix 9.

HGS Membership in 2025.

These are statistical data collected by the Secretary in May 2025. The data is taken from membership records for current members and from replies from members to a short questionnaire sent by e-mail by the Secretary to about 70 members. The questionnaire was not sent to members who don't use e-mail and not all members replied. The questionnaire asked open questions and the author has arranged them into categories. Some members volunteered additional information. The percentages in the results have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Members were asked for the following information: age, qualifications, geological qualifications, reason for joining the Society, what they most enjoy and their specialist geological interest. The original replies have been deleted in accordance with the HGS Data Protection Procedure.

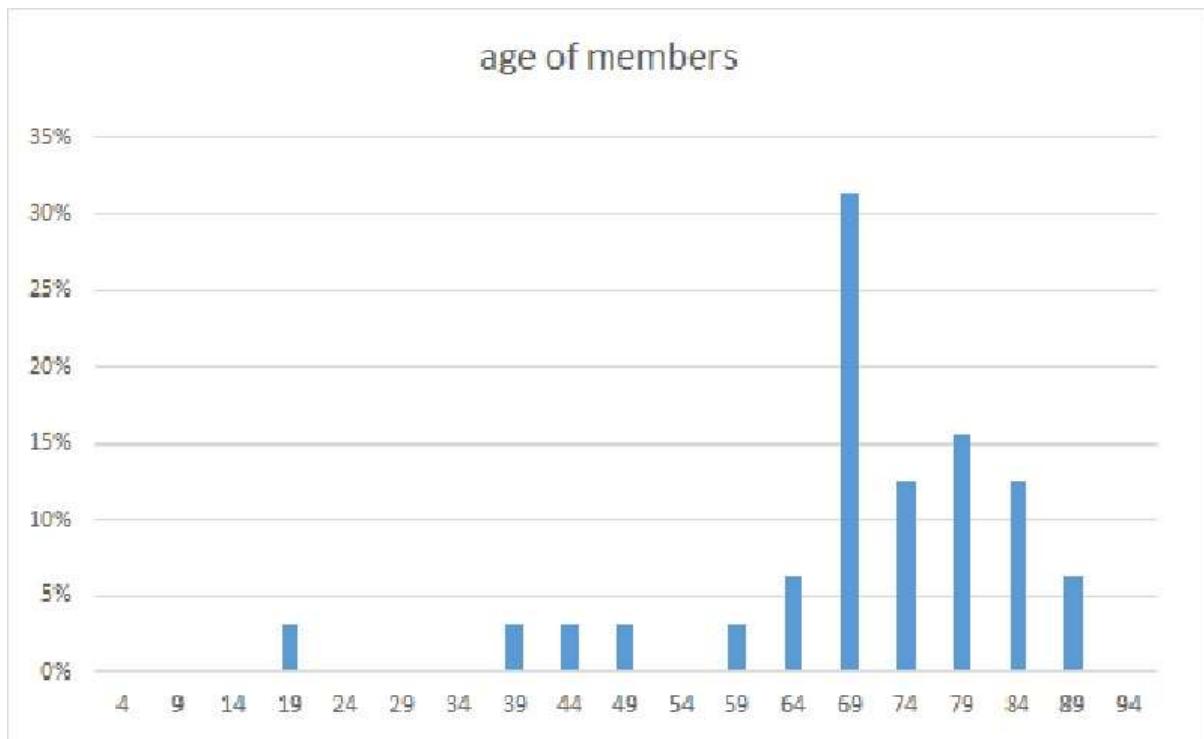
Address (by rounded percentage)

Hull postcode	21%
Other HU postcode	32%
YO postcode	18%
Other Yorkshire	10%
Lincolnshire	14%
Further away	6%

Gender by percentage

Male 64%, Female 36%

Age profile (by percentage)



Highest Overall Qualifications

GCSE/O Level	0
A Level or equivalent	2
Degree	14
Postgraduate qualifications	12

Highest Geological Qualifications

None	8
GCSE/O Level	2
A Level or equivalent	5
Degree	11
Postgraduate qualifications	3

Five members have degrees from the Open University and a further five had studied with the Open University. At least five have a University Foundation Award from Hull University and six declared that they have professional experience in geology.

Members special geological interests (though a large number also stated that they liked geology generally).

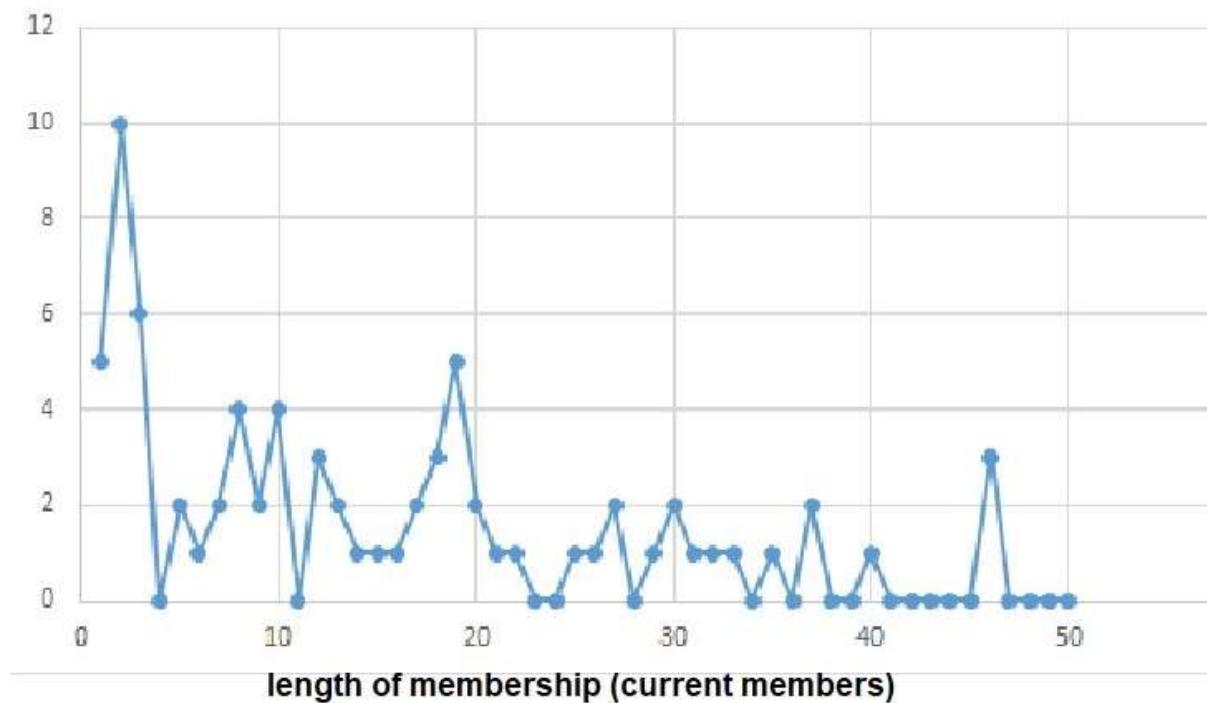
Quaternary	7
Fossils	6

Local geology	6
Minerals	3
Industrial	3
Landscape	2
Chalk	2
Speeton Clay	2
North Sea	2
Coastal erosion	2
Petrology	1
Books	1

Initial reason for joining the HGS

Keep up to date	10
Local geology	9
General geology	9
To support child geologist	3
Field trips	3
Lectures	2
Quaternary geology	2
Zoom talks	2
Newsletter	1
Fossils	1
Chalk geology	1
Follow on from Adult Education	1

Length of membership (by percentage)



What members enjoy most about the HGS

Fieldwork	11
Friendship and socialising	10
Keeping up to date	7
Research	5
Lectures	6
Zoom Talks	4
Passing on skills and knowledge	2
Roadshows	2
Newsletter	1
Club Nights	1

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