

The Society in Good Health

Members will be pleased to know that they belong to a Society which is in robust health – and that's official!

As part of our preparations for seeking Charity status, as proposed at the last AGM, your committee took up the offer of the Community Council of Shropshire to undergo an organisational "health check" on its procedures and constitution. Denis Orme of the Community Council has been working with members of the Committee to revise the wording of the Constitution in line with Charity Commission requirements. This will be put to the members at the next AGM. He has also issued the health-check report in which "The main conclusion is that Shropshire Geological Society is a well-managed and purposeful organisation, carrying out its objects effectively and efficiently."

The few recommendations for further action are being put in hand by the committee: Updating the constitution and considering Charity status (as noted above), making an inventory of maps, books and equipment (an extension of the existing library stock list to include equipment gained through projects) and an invitation to members to register their areas of expertise. The last is in effect the purpose of the next members' evening – another reason to come along.

We would like to thank Denis and the Community Council of Shropshire for undertaking this work free of charge as part of their scheme to help voluntary organisations.

Field Trip Review

The Black Country Story - Part III

Several of our members joined the Black Country Geological Society's field meeting in the Stourbridge area on July 21st. This visit to Upper Carboniferous and Permo-Triassic rocks followed earlier visits to nearby older deposits.

We met at Barrow Hill, Pensnett, where a basaltic vent showed columnar joints, baked xenoliths and some contact with disturbed Coal Measure mudstone, some of which had been found to be volcanic, annoying a local brickpit. We then travelled to Lye where Halesowen Fm. oversteps older Upper Carboniferous. It is coarsely sandy, following a nearby unconformable topography. After lunch we saw the basal pebbly and dune-sandy Permo-Trias near Wordsley.

The day's localities, now greenfield rather than brownfield sites, were a sylvan contrast to the mayhem of the tectonics on the edge of the Midland Platform and of the extractive industry now past.

David C. Smith
