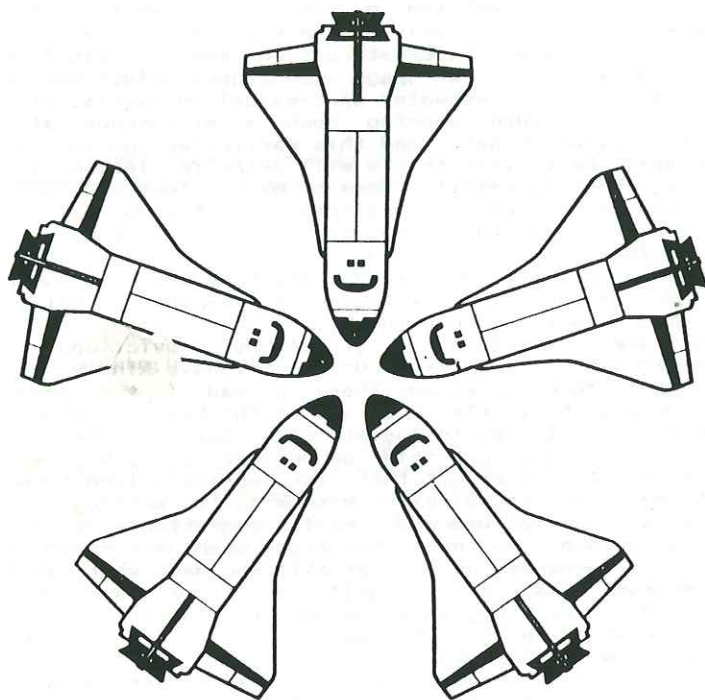


CHARNIA

LEICESTER

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY



THE NEWSLETTER OF
SECTION C (GEOLOGY)
DECEMBER 1994 - JANUARY 1995

EDITORIAL

Geologically, an interesting New Year lies ahead. The Saturday School in particular is always a major event to greatly look forward to and the 1995 Saturday School is no exception.

If, by the time you receive this newsletter, you haven't reserved your place, book as soon as you can. The fee is £15.50, which covers coffee, lunch and mid-afternoon drink, with concessions for state-retired persons (£13) and full-time students/benefit recipients (£10.50). The venue is Vaughan College on Saturday, February 11th., 1995. If you know someone who would be interested in attending but who is not a member, please pass the details on. I have included the programme details on the back cover of this edition of 'Charnia'. As you might expect, there is a considerable input from Leicester University...

The 1995 programme commences with Dr. Siveter's discourse on pelagic ostracods. I imagine the title of this talk will raise a few eyebrows: pelagic = inhabiting expanses of open water (in preference to bottom dwelling or shoreline dwelling) either drifting in currents or actively swimming, and Ostracod = a member of a Subclass of the Crustacea. For more details I refer you to the programme over, on page 2. Strangely, the only Ostracod I know of is a freshwater species called *Cypris*, studied in my student years when peering down a microscope at the contents of a plankton net - and this particular species is not strictly pelagic. Being less than a millimetre in length it is not surprising that, as fossils, some of us overlook them and yet they have survived from the Cambrian to the present day. Ostracods are very useful stratigraphic and palaeo-ecological indicator species.

As you may be aware, we will no longer be using the Council Room at the Museum for our meetings, the Members' Evening in December being something of an historic occasion. 'Economic constraints' have resulted in our (temporary?) eviction. The Geology Department of Leicester University have kindly allowed Section C to hold future meetings there instead of the somewhat unsuitable Museum Service's premises at The Rowans, off London Road. I feel that I should point out that the Section C Committee, at its meeting held on October 26th., 1994, made a formal resolution to the effect that 'the Section's long-term aim should be to re-establish Leicester Museum as its meeting venue.' This proposal was carried *nem con*. Whilst regrettable, this move does have advantages in that 'town meets gown' and maybe, in a way, is a natural progression. After all, who made what was then the Town Museum possible in 1849? In 1912, it was Dr. Astley Clarke who said of the LLPS, "May the Society flourish! May its future be the stepping stone to the institution of a University College in our town!" (See pp. 8-10)

Peter Blake is busily co-ordinating and developing this Summer's Field Visits. Hopefully, we will have one or two unusual venues to look forward to. When the fieldwork calendar is announced, please be sure to mark events in your diary - and please bring along friends too!

For an extremely modest outlay, copies of the Society's 'Transactions' (Vol. 88, 1994) are available from Trevor Ford. In this publication you will find considerable detail concerning last year's Saturday School, 'Charnia Revisited'. There is also a most interesting paper on 'Exceptional Preservation of Fossils in Brazil' by Dave Martill.

Back to the opening editorial topic: in the Autumn 1994 edition of 'Charnia' I mentioned the 'Endeavour' Space Shuttle flight. I also commented on the vastness of geological data obtained from space. The 'Endeavour' flight returned after eleven days with the equivalent of 20 000 encyclopaedias-worth of geological, oceanographic, meteorological and hydrological data!

Programme : January - March 1995

January 18th Dr David Siveter (Leicester University) 'The Origins of Pelagic Ostracods'

February 1st Prof Brian Windley (Leicester University) 'Geological Tales from Mongolia'

February 11th (Saturday) Vaughan College Saturday School

February 15th Simon Timberlake (South Eastern Museums Service) 'Seven Years on the Road with a Peripatetic Travelling Geology Curator - a Travelogue with a Difference'

March 1st Members Evening - short presentation of slides

March 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, followed by the Chairman's address by Dr. Roy Clements 'Looking at Fossils - part II'

*Preview of our talks in the remainder of our winter meetings, 1994/5
(Please note the change of venue to Geology Dept., Univ. of Leicester)*

January 18th The Origins of Pelagic Ostracods

Ostracods are a fascinating, but often neglected, group of arthropods with a stratigraphical range of Cambrian to Recent. They inhabit a wide range of salinities and are typically benthic. Some time during their history, some ostracods got off the bottom to live a pelagic lifestyle. Exploring field evidence from China, Australia, and various parts of Europe (including Britain), the talk will outline when, how and why Ostracods adopted a pelagic way of life.

Now a Reader in Palaeontology at Leicester University, David Siveter followed his undergraduate studies here studying Ostracods for his PhD with Professor Sylvester Bradley. On completion he continued his research with a Post Doctoral Fellowship. Around 1974 he began work with Professor Sylvester Bradley on the Stereo Atlas of Ostracod Shells - work which he still continues today.

February 1st Geological Tales from Mongolia

Mongolia is little known geologically and so most current work there is of an exploration type. The Altai mountain range occupies the southwest part of this most vast country. In the west it rises to 4000 metres in the middle of the continent of Asia and yet in the east it is buried beneath the sands of the Gobi desert - Why is this? Landsat photographs taken from a height of about 400 kilometres from a satellite provide a wonderful overview of this mountain range and its structures, and a good background for our field work in the summer of 1994. This talk will be an illustrated geotravelogue through this very remote part of central Asia, outlining key aspects of its geology.

Brian Windley needs little introduction as a speaker to our section. A Professor at the University, he will be giving this talk in his own territory. This will be a chance for us to savour a glimpse of the culture, geography and geology of Mongolia.

February 15th Seven Years on the road with a Peripatetic Travelling Geology Curator

Simon Timberlake has visited almost 200 museums or other institutions with geological collections in the south-east of England. No two museums are alike, although many share similar problems in the care of specialist collections (such as geology) without easy access to specialist advice. Apart from providing advice and some practical help in curation, conservation and re-storage of collections. One of the greatest challenges is to demonstrate within each individual situation how these often redundant collections can be put to much better and appropriate use. Display and educational work is an increasing function of this post.

Simon is a graduate of Leicester, also taking the Certificate of Museum Studies in 1956, and subsequently the Diploma of the Museum Association. He received the Foulerton Award of the Geologists Association in 1990 for his work as peripatetic curator in the Southeast. His other main interest is his archeological research - investigating and excavating prehistoric mines.

March 1st Members Evening

Short presentations of slides by members. Hopefully a chance to catch up on the presentations we did not have time for at our Christmas meeting - also, at least two members have sneaked off 'Down Under' this winter, hopefully they have some record of their travels.... Plus all the other collections you have to share with us!

**March 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, plus Chairman's Address
'Looking at Fossils - Part II' by our Chairman, Roy Clements**



Proposed changes to the *Rules of Section C (Geology) of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society*

The rules which currently govern the operation of our Section were "adopted unanimously at the Annual General Meeting of the Section held on 15th March, 1962", since which time they appear not to have been modified in any way. Since your Committee over the years has not conducted the Section's business with a copy of the Rules in hand, so to speak (and indeed when we came to think about them, we had to look quite hard to find a copy), it is almost inevitable there has developed some departure between practice and prescription. There appears to be no need for a wide ranging constitutional debate and complete rewriting of the Rules, but your Committee feels that a small number of amendments are necessary to make the Rules up-to-date, and easier to live with! Indeed in wording the changes, we have deliberately sought to be minimalist, and to maintain maximum flexibility. We shall be bringing these suggested changes in the Rules for approval at the Section's Annual General Meeting to be held in March 1995. To this end, therefore, the current Rules are reproduced below, and are followed by the suggested changes. You will notice the Rules make clear the close relationship between the Section and the Parent Body of the Society, and indeed we shall need to obtain formal approval from the Council of the Society for the proposed changes.

Before reproducing the Rules, it is worth noting that, as a matter of historical interest, the original document had the following bracketed comments at the points here indicated by asterisks:

*[The Reduced Annual Subscription is at present fixed at 2/6.]

**[The Annual Subscription is at present 6/-]..... Perhaps it is time for a change!

THE RULES:

1. *The objects of the Section shall be to promote, record and extend the knowledge of the science of Geology in the County and district of Leicester by holding meetings for the delivery of lectures, for the reading of original papers and for discussion, and by holding meetings in the field, and by such other means as the Committee may from time to time determine.*
2. *Any Member or Associate of the Parent Body may join the Section by paying to the Treasurer a reduced Annual Subscription which will be determined from time to time by the Section at a General Meeting and after consultation with the Council.**
3. *Any other person, not being a member of the Society is eligible for election as a member of the Section and may be elected to membership at any meeting of the Section. Such members shall pay to the Treasurer an Annual Subscription which will be determined from time to time by the Section at a General Meeting and after consultation with the Council except that persons pursuing a full-time course of study at an educational institution shall pay the reduced subscription as in Rule 2.***

4. *The management of the Section shall be vested in a Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Field Meetings Secretary, a Treasurer, a Students Representative, and not less than two or more than four other members.*
5. *The officers and members of the Committee (other than the Student Representative) shall be nominated by any two members of the Section. Such nominations shall reach the Secretary at least one week before the time arranged for the Annual General Meeting. The Student Representative shall be nominated by the Students' Union Geological Society of the University of Leicester.*
6. *The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected for one year and shall not hold the same office for more than two successive years. All other officers shall be elected for one year, and may offer themselves for re-election. The Student Representative shall serve for one year. Other members of Committee shall serve for two years. The new Committee shall contain at least three members who were not members of the Committee during the preceding year. The Chairman shall be a member of the Society or approved by the Council of the Society. The Committee shall elect one of its members to the Council of the Society.*
7. *The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies as they occur.*
8. *The Committee of whom half shall form a quorum, shall meet when summoned by either the Chairman, the Secretary or the Treasurer or any three members of the Committee, one week's notice in writing being given.*
9. *The Committee may create Subcommittees for special purposes and may co-opt members to serve on such Subcommittees. The Chairman and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of such Subcommittees.*
10. *The Annual General Meeting (of which ten shall form a quorum) shall be held in due time to receive and approve the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for presentation to the Council in accordance with its Rules. Notice of the A.G.M. and of the nominations required by Rule 5 shall be sent by post to all members at least 14 days before the time of the meeting.*
11. *Special General Meetings of the whole membership may be called by the Committee or on the signed request of six members of the Section sent to the Secretary. Such Special General Meetings shall not be held within 28 days of the request and 14 days notice of the meeting shall be given by post to all members.*
12. *The Section is subject to the Rules of the parent body and of those set out hereon, which can be changed by simple majority at any General Meeting, all members having the power to vote.*

THE PROPOSED CHANGES:

[As a convention, proposed additions or substitutions (there are no deletions) are shown in italics.]

1. It is clear that in the Rules the phrase "members of Committee" has been used with two different meanings, i.e. to refer either, to anyone on Committee, or, to those on Committee who are not officers. We would suggest distinguishing the latter as "Members", and this convention has been followed below. Thus in Rule 5, the fourth word should be "Member".
2. For consistency under Rule 4 "Students Representative" should read "*Student Representative*".
3. Also under Rule 4 we need to recognise two posts valuable to the Committee's functioning (Editor and Minutes Secretary), as well as the fact that over the years it has been extremely useful for Committee to be able to co-opt additional members. We would suggest adding after "...four other Members" the following: "*one of whom may act as Minutes Secretary and another as Editor. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members.*"
4. Currently the fourth sentence in Rule 6 has been taken to mean rather different things by different people. The new wording proposed here is intended to make clear what was surely the original meaning, particularly in view of what is said in the following sentence in the existing Rule 6. It should also accommodate the implications of the change to Rule 4 proposed in paragraph 3 above. We suggest the revised wording should be as follows: "*Other Members of Committee shall be elected to serve for two years, and, with the exception of those Members with special responsibilities, shall not normally be available for immediate reelection as Members at the end of their two years.*"
5. In practice it is often difficult to comply with the fifth sentence in Rule 6, particularly in view of the small size of the Section. We suggest it should be revised to read as follows: "*As a whole, the new Committee should normally contain at least two members who were not members of the Committee during the preceding year.*"
6. Our current Honorary Life President of the Section, Dr. Bob King, is not occupying a position recognised in the Rules. Indeed, your Committee would like the Section to be able to reward, from time to time, those members of the Section who over many years may have contributed beyond the normal call of duty to the well-being of the Section. Committee proposes the following changes:
 - 6.1. To renumber the current Rule 12 as Rule 13.
 - 6.2. To create a new Rule 12 to read: "*Any member of the Section who has rendered conspicuous service to the Section may, on the recommendation of the Committee to the Annual General Meeting or to a Special General Meeting, be*

elected as the Honorary Life President or an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Section."

Roy Clements
December 8th 1994

QUIZ

Possibly a waste of time, perhaps a diversion from greater matters. It could even be the case that it was included by a desperate editor to fill a blank space in this issue!

Question 1. If you do not play chess, go straight to question 2

With one chess set and one board, how many different ways are there for the thirty-two pieces to be correctly set out for the start of a game?

Question 2. What will increase by 629 million during 1995?

Question 3. Which is the odd one out from birds you might see in Leicester? Brambling, chaffinch, kingfisher, magpie, stonechat or woodpecker?

Question 4. Which is the odd one out from: Telesto, Rhea, Janus, Phobos, Mimas or Calypso?

Question 5. ..and the odd one out from: ants, apes, asses, owls, apples and oranges?

Question 6. What is an anagram of PICTURES?

Question 7. Which is the odd one out? *Productus corrugatus*, *Passaloteuthis apicicurvata*, *Heliolites porosus*, *Botaurus lentiginosus*, *Conulus albogalerus*, or *Cheirurus bimucronatus*?

Question 8. Which is the odd one out from: static, sphere, cube, scope, plane, phobia?

Question 9. Which is the odd one out from: practical, physical, metric, magnetic, logical, graphic?

Question 10. Which is the odd one out from: teach, fight, draw, buy, catch, bring?

Roger Newman

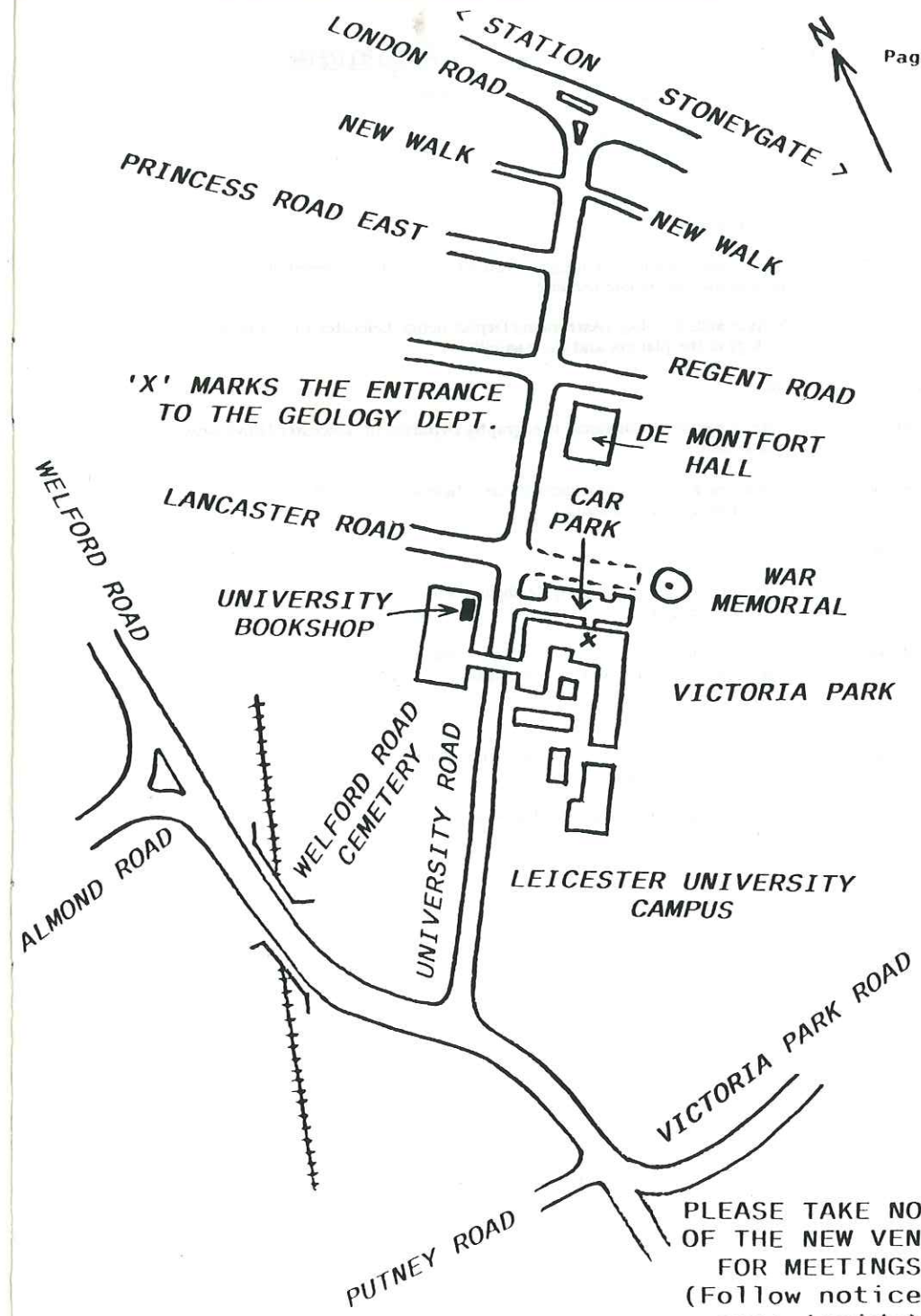
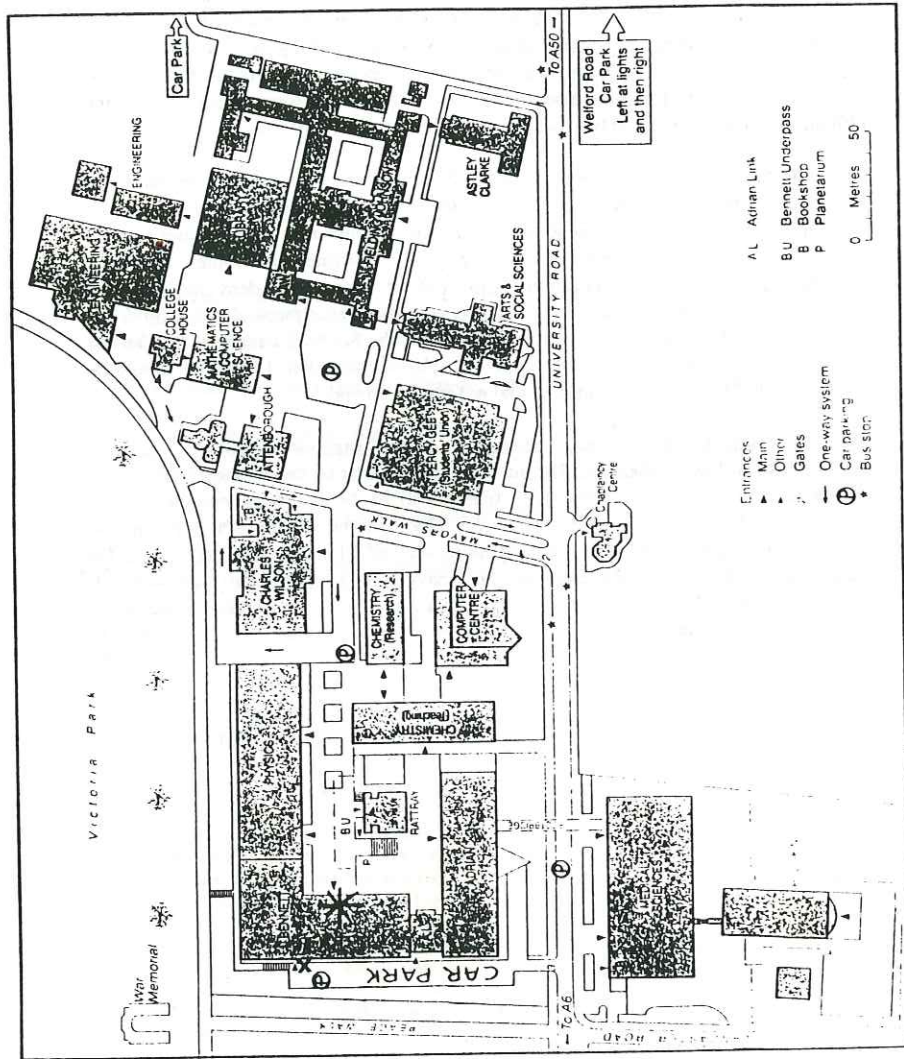
New Meetings' Venue for the Section

I am sure most members of the Section will now be aware that, beginning in the New Year, we shall no longer be able to hold our meetings in our traditional home - the New Walk Museum. I little thought, when I became your Chairman a little over a year and a half ago, that it would be my lot to preside over such a sad break in the continuity of the Section's long history. This break is the result of a unilateral decision by the authorities in the Museums' Service - cutting costs is the excuse. Your Committee still has some (and only some) hopes that this break will only be temporary, and that, if nothing else, the Museums' Service will come to recognise the obligation it has to the Society of which we are part. Time will tell.

In the meantime, we are very pleased to accept the very generous invitation to use the facilities in the Geology Department of the University of Leicester. The current head of the Department, Professor Ansel Dunham, deserves our special thanks, but I know the welcome comes from the Department as whole. However, without wishing to seem ungrateful, and without wishing to deny the potential benefits of this new arrangement to the Section (and Department alike), I think we must take care to preserve the special character of the Section, which, as for the rest of the Society, is one of "town meets gown". Having said that, I think we would be wise to view this as a new beginning, and not just as an end.

So, starting with our very first meeting after Christmas, all our meetings will now be held in lecture theatre LT10 on the Ground Floor of the Bennett Building on the main campus of the University. Access will be by the main entrance to the Bennett Building (asterisked on the plan). Once in the foyer, turn right and go through the double doors you will soon see us! I have indicated places for parking cars on the plan. As usual, we shall have a 7.00 for 7.30 pm start, and will need to be out of the building by 9.30 pm. As a member of the Geology Department (as well as being your Chairman), it will give me great pleasure to welcome you to your new home!

Roy G. Clements
December 6th 1994



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS (Follow notices once inside)

Geology from Space

Saturday 11 February 1995

Programme

- 9.30 am Assemble
- 10.00 am *Dr Michael Whateley* (Geology Department, Leicester University)
Introduction to remote sensing
- 10.35 am *Dr Alan Mills* (Geology/Astronomy Departments, Leicester University)
Geology of the planets and their satellites
- 11.10 am Coffee
- 11.40 am *Professor Andrew Millington* (Geography Department, Leicester University)
Just Deserts
- 12.15 pm *Dr Andrew Harris* (Department of Earth Sciences, Open University)
Monitoring volcanic activity
- 12.50 pm Lunch
- 1.45 pm *Dr David Greenbaum* (British Geological Survey)
Resource mapping
- 2.20 pm *Dr Charlie Moon* (Geology Department, Leicester University)
Geographical Information Systems applied to mineral exploration
- 2.55 pm Tea
- 3.30 pm *Dr Mitch Langford* (Geography Department, Leicester University)
Leicester and its environs
- 4.05 pm *Dr Michael Whateley* (Geology Department, Leicester University)
The Leicestershire coalfield
- 4.30 pm Close