

# Essex Rock & Mineral Society Annual Report for 2020

## Membership

Our membership is currently 111, much the same as last year despite pandemic progress. Our Affiliation to the Geologists' Association is aided by the fact that 13 ERMS members are also GA members. Thanks go to Mark Matthews for continued promotion and efficient management of our Membership system.

## Venues and meetings

Both the Shenfield and Stanway venues closed following the 3<sup>rd</sup> March meeting, due to Government Covid19 regulations coming into force. The first online Zoom talk took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, since when these have continued monthly, often with members joining from remote locations, including Botswana. Speakers are also able to present talks from remote locations, another benefit of using Zoom. The most recent talk was presented by a speaker, very successfully, from his room at Leicester University. Hall meetings may eventually resume at less regular intervals depending on circumstances.

## ERMS publication and production

Produced with the aid of the Geologists' Association Curry Fund, the 'Fossils in Essex and beyond' chart was published, followed by the 'Essex Rocks' chart with our Essex geological column of 'deep geology'.

A new signboard for the erratic dolerite boulder from Marks Warren was produced and installed at Bedfords Park in the L.B. Havering district (formerly Essex).

Work on the planned second edition of the book, 'Essex Rock' is well under way, aided by time made available by Covid19 lockdown. The great assistance of ERMS members is very much appreciated, with much advice, reading and editing, diagrams and photos and loans of specimens for photography.

## Field Visits

Only three out of ten planned trips took place this year due to Covid19 restrictions. Participants attended from other clubs or joined as guests. Thanks go to David Turner and Gerald Lucy for organising visits.

## Shows and Open Days

A family day on Ice Age Essex was run by Ian and Ros at Epping Forest Museum in Waltham Abbey in October to complement their Ice Age exhibition. The display 'Cornwall Come to Essex' was shown at Essex Field Club Social in December.

Ian and Ros ran the 2019 GA Festival of Geology field trip to Thorndon Country Park and the Ice Age Wall in November. The Thorndon Jurassic Tree has been moved and cleaned and a new noticeboard is in progress.

A Jurassic Essex display and presentation were provided for the GeoEast 'Jurassic East' Conference at Cambridge on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The 38<sup>th</sup> ERMS *Essex Gem and Mineral Show* in February was again very successful; thankfully we were able to benefit from its success just before Covid19 lockdown curtailed such activities. Thanks go to Jeff Saward for his continued efficient management.

Ian set up a cabinet of drawers to house Chelmsford Museum's Essex Reference Collection which they had put aside when the Museum's Geology Room was dismantled. The ERMS committee agreed to fund this project.

Ros and Ian Mercer have set up the ERMS contribution for the November 2020 online GA Festival of Geology entitled "The Story of Essex in Rocks" to complement the Essex Rocks poster.

### **Publicity**

Our publicity and Show leaflets continued to bring success. ERMS Facebook was maintained by Helen Vickers who also publicised the Society in other ways. Mark Matthews, Membership Secretary, organised publicity displays at local libraries which were very well received. The website [www.erms.org](http://www.erms.org) was maintained by Ian Mercer with updated information including full details of talks, visits and events, news and member information.

*Ian F Mercer, Chairman*

October 2020