

Essex Rock & Mineral Society Annual Report for 2022

Membership

Our membership is currently 121, an improvement following recovery from lockdown and higher than it has been for some years. Our Affiliation to the Geologists' Association is aided by the fact that 12 ERMS members are also GA members. Thanks go to Mark Matthews for continued promotion and improvement of our Membership and payments system.

Venues and meetings

Meetings continued with moderate attendance at both the Shenfield and Stanway venues after relaxation of lockdown restrictions. Online Zoom talks have also continued, often with a differing selection of members. Hall meetings have attracted plenty of interest in showing specimens. We aim to maintain the two monthly venues, as well as a regular Zoom offering.

ERMS publication and production

Work on the second edition of the book, 'Essex Rock' was completed and it appeared in June. Sales have been brisk and the book is in stock at Chelmsford City Museum and at all Essex Wildlife Trust visitor centres. The input and assistance of ERMS members is hugely appreciated.

Field Visits

Several very successful visits took place this year with eight well-attended trips. We were well looked-after at North Stifford church with refreshments at the end of our May walk along the Mar Dyke to view the shapes in the landscape and the rocks in the church walls. Bull's Lodge and Colemans Farm quarries gave us plenty of variety, rock and fossil, with a good look at Simon Brice's collection at Colemans. The final trip, to test the Colchester City Geology Trail Guide revitalised by Brian and Kaye Gordon, was a great success with two groups testing the trail. We aim to publish a new guide following testing. Thanks go to David Turner and Gerald Lucy for organising all the field visits, and to members' for their guidance during each trip.

Shows and Open Days

Ros and Ian again exhibited the Essex Rock display at Walton Town Show in August Bank Holiday weekend. The 40th ERMS Essex Gem and Mineral Show in February was very successful despite the very recent release from lockdown. We are planning the usual North Romford venue for the 41st show for 2023. Thanks go to Jeff Saward for his continued great efforts despite continued uncertainties.

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. The website www.erms.org was maintained by committee members with updated information including full details of talks, visits and events, the Show, news updates and member information.

My sincere thanks go to all of our members and committee for keeping our Society as buoyant and popular as usual.

Ian F Mercer, Chairman

October 2022