

September 1971.

BHA Newsletter.

I think the members who attended the wine and cheese evening on August 5th enjoyed the occasion. It was a shame that we had already seen the film but it was just as provocative the 2nd - 3rd time around for some!

Some really good 'holiday' exhibits were on show particularly some exciting garnet schists and granite from Sweden and some really lovely polished fossils.

Not many people availed themselves of the bran tub and Barry is looking for suitable places to dispose of his ammonites.

The following contributed by Maurice:- "The eleven members of the Society who attended the meeting on September 5th on the Dorset Coast could not have picked a better day. The heat of the sun was tempered by a pleasant inshore breeze. The party met at Portland Museum (unfortunately closed) at Church Ope Cove and scrambled down to the sea shore over large blocks of fallen Portland stone. There were ample exposures of the cherty series with beds of tabular chert. The varied fossiliferous beds were well weathered and plenty of fossils were collected. One large ammonite, which weighed over half a hundredweight (it nearly accounted for the member who was attempting to haul it up the cliff) ((I had mentally written such a nice obituary on Maurice too)) In the end it was removed in three pieces for later reconstruction.

After lunch the group reassembled at Ringstead Bay and spent several hours locating the well known Jurassic/Cretaceous unconformity. Here the chalk and gault/upper greensand rests unconformably on Portland and Kimmeridge beds. Some time was spent in finding the exact point of the unconformity and a little cheating with the regional guide was needed to convince everybody. It was obvious when you know the answer. ((this was much more evident from a distance))

Before leaving for home, the mineral fanatics, had a field day!! removing some magnificent nodules from the Kimmeridge clay. These contained large perfect calcite crystals.

It is hoped to return to Ringstead in the near future to explore the Corallian beds to the west. "

Many thanks to Richard Pinker and Maurice Hewins for the combined organisation of this event. It really was a super day and very humorous fighting over the nodules etc:

I hope you have all kept the 7th October free - please support the Society on this evening - Mr. Solomons has kindly given his time to lecture us - I would like to see a really good turn out. The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on Friday 28th January 1972 at the Adult Education Centre - please give some thought if you would like to be put up for election to the Committee - full details later.

Best Wishes,

Norsewood, Yatesbury Close, Farnham.

Audrey Hewins.

Late extra! from Roger - The most attractive form, was seen inside some spheroidal nodules up to two feet in length found at Ringstead. When broken open, these revealed cavities and intricately intertwined passageways throughout the whole of the nodule. They were all lined with crystals of calcite. Two of the three crystal habits were apparent, the sharply pointed dog tooth crystals up to one quarter inch long, so tightly packed as to look like a hedgehog's back and the larger squat nail head variety, up to one half inch across and looking like a pale yellow quartz. Certainly these were the best finds of the day.