



Geologists' Association - South Wales Group **Cymdeithas Y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru**

Registered Charity Number 1054303

50 YEAR ARCHIVES 1960-2010 - HONORARY MEMBERS and OTHER AWARDS

This section includes details of honorary membership and other awards made from 1960 to 2010.

The details have been taken from various records; committee minutes, reports of meetings, secretarial correspondence and, since 2000, copies of the scrolls presented (with photos).

Until now, there has been no comprehensive compilation of this data. On the one hand the honorary members are well known and documented. On the other hand however, other awards are not. An extensive search of the secretarial papers has revealed only three. There may have been others, if so, no mention of them has been found; on balance it is felt that there were no more awards but this is not certain.

Honorary Members (6)

The Category of Honorary Members was established in the 19th Session, on 15 October 1977. The qualifications required for nomination as Honorary Member have nowhere been listed, allowing maximum flexibility to the considerations of the Committee.

1. **Thomas Richard ‘Dick’ Owen** (*died 1990*)

It was not until 1984, on marking 25 Years of the Group, at the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting on 10 March, that the first Honorary Membership was bestowed, on Professor Thomas Richard ‘Dick’ Owen.

Committee minutes of 15 October 1983, Minute 154:

Proposed Dr M.G. Bassett, seconded A.J. Thomas and approved that Professor T.R. Owen become an Honorary Member (the 1st) of the Group.

Letter 27 January 1984 to Professor TR Owen

Dear Professor Owen,

The Group celebrates this session the 25th anniversary of its formation. The Group, aware of your encouragement of its formation and its activities and of the interest promoted by your enthusiasm, wishes to record its appreciation of the 25 years of your continuous support. The Committee proposes that you should become the first Honorary Member of the Group and it hopes that you would be able to attend the 25th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 10 March 1984 at 11.00 in the Department of Geology University of Cardiff when a short ceremony of presentation will take place.

Yours sincerely Alun J Thomas (Hon secretary, S Wales Group)

Minutes of the TWENTY FIFTH Annual General Meeting, 10 March 1984:

“Professor TR (Dick) Owen, for his services to the Group over twenty five years, to be the Group's first HONORARY MEMBER. The Eulogy read and Commemorative Scroll presented by Dr Douglas A Bassett. Dr Bassett referred to 'Dick's' presence on the Preliminary Committee in late 1959 and on the Group's first committee in 1960, to his chairmanship during 1966-68, to his leading the Group's field excursions on 10 occasions and giving lectures on 7 occasions.”

2. **Douglas Anthony Bassett** (*died 2009*)

At the 27th A.G.M. on 8 March 1986 the second Honorary Membership was bestowed on Dr Douglas Anthony Bassett.

Committee minutes of 17 January 1986, Minute 168:

Unanimously agreed to offer Honorary Membership (2nd) to Dr D.A. Bassett to be presented at 27th A.G.M. on 8 March 1986;

The Presentation (a commemorative scroll and address) was made by the Retiring Chairman Mr Alan G. Thomas. His “guidance and industry had supported greatly the Group’s early years”.

3. Alun James Thomas

On Saturday 10 March 1990 at the 31st Annual General Meeting, Mr Alun J. Thomas the Group's Secretary for 22 years (1966-1989) was elected the Third Honorary Member.

Committee minutes of 20 January 1990, Minute 201:

Committee to nominate as (3rd) Honorary Member, Alun J. Thomas in recognition of his services to the Group as Secretary for 22 years and for his contribution to geology in particular in education in Wales.

The presentation (an Estwing geological hammer and Address) was made by the Retiring Chairman, Mr R. Alan Stevens.

Minutes of the thirty-first Annual General Meeting, 10 March 1990:

"The retiring Chairman awarded Honorary Membership to the incoming Chairman, Mr Alun James Thomas, and commended him for his work over many years as Secretary to the Geologists' Association South Wales Group, and as Schools Service Officer for geology at the National Museum of Wales for 25 years."

4. Roland Parsons (*died 2004*)

On Friday 26th March 1993, at the 34th Annual General Meeting, the fourth Honorary Membership was bestowed on Roland Parsons.

Minutes of the thirty-first fourth Annual General Meeting, 26 March 1993:

"The Chairman [Michael G Bassett] had pleasure in awarding Honorary Life Membership to Roland Parsons, who was the Group's Treasurer from its inception in January 1960 until 1990."

Roland Parsons was the Honorary Treasurer of the Group from 23 January 1960 until his retirement after 31 sessions on 10 March 1990.

5. Michael G Bassett

Committee minutes of 20 May 2002, Minute 44.1.10.3:

It was agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** that **Mike Bassett** should be awarded Honorary Membership at the next AGM.

Minutes of the forty-fourth Annual General Meeting, Saturday 29th March 2003:

"HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP of the Group was awarded to **Michael G Bassett** in recognition of his outstanding support for and contributions to the Group in his capacity as Keeper of Geology at the National Museum of Wales and as member, Committee member, Field Excursions Secretary (1968-1974), Editor (1974-2002), editor of *Geological Excursions in Dyfed, South-West Wales* (1982), co-editor of *Geological Excursions in South Wales and the Forest of Dean* (1971) and *Geological Excursions in Powys, Central Wales* (1993), Vice-Chairman (1990-1992 and 1994-1999) and Chairman (1992-1994), and in recognition of his many contributions to the interpretation and understanding of geology, particularly in Wales. Alun J Thomas gave an account of Prof Bassett's achievements and contributions to the Group over 35 years, and he was presented by the President [Allan Cuthbertson] with a framed certificate.

Geologists' Association - South Wales Group
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The Committee and members of the Geologists' Association South Wales Group have great pleasure in awarding Honorary Life Membership of the Group to

Michael G Bassett

in recognition of his outstanding support for and contributions to the Group in his capacity of Keeper of Geology at the National Museum of Wales and as member, Committee member, Field Excursions Secretary (1968-1974), Editor (1974-2002), editor of *Geological Excursions in Dyfed, South-West Wales* (1982), co-editor of *Geological Excursions in South Wales and the Forest of Dean* (1971) and *Geological Excursions in Powys, Central Wales* (1993), Vice-Chairman (1990-1992 and 1994-1999) and Chairman (1992-1994), and in recognition of his many contributions to the interpretation and understanding of geology, particularly in Wales.

Allan Cuthbertson (President)
29th March 2003

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Michael G Bassett

in recognition of his outstanding support for and contributions to the Group in his capacity as Keeper of Geology at the National Museum of Wales and as member, Committee member, Field Excursions Secretary (1968-1974), Editor (1974-2002), editor of *Geological Excursions in Dyfed, South-West Wales* (1982), co-editor of *Geological Excursions in South Wales and the Forest of Dean* (1971) and *Geological Excursions in Powys, Central Wales* (1993), Vice-Chairman (1990-1992 and 1994-1999) and Chairman (1992-1994), and in recognition of his many contributions to the interpretation and understanding of geology, particularly in Wales.

Allan Cuthbertson (President)
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6. **H Geraint Owen** (2009, presented 2010)

Minutes of the fiftieth Annual General Meeting, Saturday 21st March 2009:

“Geraint Owen retired as Secretary, he remains as a Committee Member; his knowledge is welcomed. The President thanked Geraint for his outstanding contribution over 21 years as a committee member, 19 of these as Secretary. The recommendation was that he be made an Honorary Member. The recommendation was ENDORSED.”

Dr Geraint Owen was presented with Honorary Membership on 23.01.10, the occasion of the Group’s 50th anniversary lecture and celebrations. The citation read:

“The Committee and members of the Geologists’ Association South Wales Group have great pleasure in awarding Honorary Life Membership of the Group to:

Geraint Owen

In recognition of his outstanding support for and contributions to the Group in his capacity of Committee Member since 1988, Hon Field Secretary (1989-1990), Secretary (1990-2009), co author of *Walking the Rocks* and Walks Leaflets and in recognition to his many contributions to the interpretation and understanding of geology and the public understanding of science.”



24/1/2010

Dear Lynda

I would like to record my thanks to you, the rest of the Committee and the entire Group for the very kind award of Honorary Membership of the Geologists' Association South Wales Group that you have awarded me. Yesterday's 50th anniversary meeting was a tremendous and memorable event, and it was a great honour for me to receive such a beautiful certificate at that event. I will treasure the certificate and the memory of the occasion.

I'm very sorry that Wendy and I weren't able to stay for lunch, and I hope that also went well. It certainly seemed to be getting off to a good start.

It's always dangerous to pick out individuals for particular thanks, but please pass on my thanks to Nigel for handling the event well, to Steve and yourself (and I expect Dave was roped in too!) for arranging the whole thing, and to Rhian for the beautiful certificate.

Thank you all very much indeed. I expect I'll see you at the next Committee meeting. Graham

Other awards (3)

From time to time, other awards have been made by the Group.
Those known are:

1. Roland Parsons

On 10 March 1984, at the 25th Annual General Meeting, Roland Parsons was presented with a Commemorative Scroll bearing the words “To Roland Parsons the grateful thanks of the Group for 25 years unbroken and loyal service as honorary Treasurer”, the Presentation being made by the Hon. Secretary Alun J. Thomas.

2 Howard Bartlett

On Saturday 7 March 1987, at the 28th Annual General Meeting, a presentation was made to Howard Bartlett in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Group.

From “A Geological Perspective” by Alun J Thomas (2003)

“Howard Bartlett joined as a schoolboy from Tonyrefail and as a technician in the Department of Geology at University College Cardiff was not for 25 years to miss as projector operator a single Group meeting in Cardiff (the Group showed its appreciation of his commitment in March 1987).”

3 Alun J Thomas

On Saturday **13 March 2010**, after the fifty-first Annual General Meeting, a presentation was made to member Alun James Thomas of a **SPECIAL AWARD** for “fifty years membership and service to the Group”, by the President Malcolm Shaw.

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The committee and members of the Geologists' Association South Wales Group have great pleasure in awarding this certificate in commemoration of 50 years membership and service to the Group to:

Alun Thomas

In recognition of his outstanding support for and contributions to the Group over 50 years as Committee Member (1964-1997), Secretary (1966-1988), Vice Chairman (1988-1990), Chairman (1990-1992) and Ex officio Vice Chairman (1992 – 1997), authorship of walks leaflets and "A Geological Perspective", leadership at numerous field excursions and presentation of lectures to the group.

Malcolm Shaw (President)
13th March 2010

**Presentation to member Alun James Thomas of a SPECIAL AWARD
on Saturday 13 March 2010
after the Group's 51st AGM
in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University.**

Incoming President Malcolm Shaw, in introducing the presentation, said that it was a great pleasure as his first job to make this presentation.

Alun James Thomas has been a mainstay of the Group since 1960.

He seconded the nomination of Douglas Bassett as founder chairman at the inaugural meeting, he was a committee member for 33 years, Secretary from 1966 to 1988, Vice Chairman 1988-1990, Chairman 1990-1992, and ex officio Vice Chairman 1992-7.

He led eight field trips, delivered three lectures, wrote the *Barry Island-Friars Point* leaflet for the Group's *Geological Walks in Wales* series in 1988, and wrote the *Geologists' Association South Wales Group: A Geological Perspective; 1960-1992* (arising from his 1992 retiring Chairman's address) in 2003.

He was awarded the Foulerton Award by the national GA in 1980 for meritorious support for the Association's aims and work.

He was deservedly given Honorary Membership of our Group in 1990.

Malcolm presented Alun with a scroll commemorating the award, with the warmest of thanks from the Group. We hope that we continue to see Alun for quite a while yet.

In response, Alun said that the recognition of the Group does him a great honour. He accepted the award with humility.

In looking at the members present, he noted a few familiar faces, including the 13th Chairman, Alan G Thomas, the 18th Chairman Peter Hodges, and the 19th elected as the 1st President Lynda Garfield. He noted Howard Bartlett, the "Tonyrefail Toddler", our projectionist at Cardiff meetings, who had moved from epidiascope onwards over many years.

The Group is very egalitarian. We have great good fortune in relying on the generosity and time of the geological staff of Cardiff and Swansea Universities, and the National Museum of Wales.

The origins of the Group were laid by three wise men, Douglas Bassett, Frank Rhodes, Graham Anderson, a Welshman, Englishman and Scotsman. We came of age after 21 years, and are now a recognised part of the rich geological heritage of Wales.

Following a joke about a Welshman marooned on a desert island, Alun concluded with his observation that the future of the Group is in good hands.



[with many thanks to Rhian Kendall for preparing the scroll]

