

THE NIGERIAN FIELD

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EDITORIAL

Our Lagos branch volunteered to host this year's ABM and organised a hitch-free programme with comfortable accommodation for members from other branches. Council members and delegates from Abeokuta, Benin and Ibadan were lodged in the convent of the Eucharistic Heart Sisters at Ikeja, a tranquil oasis amid the hustle and bustle of Lagos. Chairman Robert Warren and his committee were there to welcome us on Friday, March 12th and present us with handsome green bags printed with a vigorous lizard encircling the name of our Society with his tail, and 19th century maps of Laogs Island. In the evening we were treated to dinner à la carte at "The Londoner", a well-run restaurant/bar in Ikeja. In deference to my London origins I ordered fish and chips and was not disappointed.

The ABM was held on Saturday, March 13th when the President announced that the Society has finally been registered, and reminded us that next year, 2005, marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Nigerian Field Society. Council was mandated to draw up a programme for the celebration. The winner of the Oseni prize was announced – Tajudeen Okekunle Amusa of the Department of Forest Resources Management, University of Ibadan – whose essay appears in this issue. After the meeting, members were able to buy Field Society cards designed by Joan Bacon and stickers by Steve Folaranmi.

After lunch at the Convent and a brief rest in our individual air-conditioned rooms decorated in cool pastel green and spotlessly maintained, we were off again, destination, Lagos Harbour. We boarded the "Eko Tourist" with about 100 members from Lagos Branch and set sail on a leisurely cruise round Lagos Harbour, accompanied by a mellow musical ensemble and plenty of booze. We were fortunate to have on board Architect John Godwin, a "Lagosian" of 50 years standing, who gave us a commentary on the notable buildings of Lagos Island which reflect its cosmopolitan nature. We arrived back at the Convent around 10 pm and slept very soundly!

E se pupo. E ku inawo. E ku inara. Ki Olorun je Ki Egbe wa ma lo siwaju. Amin. — Thank you very much. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your efforts. May God let our Society go on from strength to strength. Amen.

The articles on a visit to Timbuktu and a bird-watching expedition in Nigeria in this issue reflect the prime aim of our Journal: to publish first-hand accounts of research which records the ever-changing face of West Africa. The article on birds highlights just one aspect of the rich bio-diversity of Nigeria (see Editorial, Vol. 67, part 2).

Frontispiece: The Rufous-Crowned Eremomela (*Eremomela badiceps badiceps*) by Susan Marshall.