

SOCIETY REPORTS

ABEOKUTA BRANCH

Officers of the branch

1. Mr. A. A. Lawal	—	Chairman
2. Mr. J. O. Fatokun	—	Secretary
3. Mrs. N. B. Ogunbowale	—	Treasurer
4. Dr. M.A. O. Sotayo	—	Financial Secretary
5. Mr. M. O. O. Oyatogun	—	Activity Manager

Membership

The Abeokuta Branch of the Society presently has its member drawn from various institutions (i.e. University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), Federal College of Education (FCE), Agro-Services, Ogun State Television (OGTV), secondary schools, etc.).

As at today, the membership strength of Abeokuta Branch is forty (40). Out of these, twenty-five (25) are active. That is, they attend meetings and activities regularly and fulfill their financial obligations to the society.

A branch membership directory was compiled and printed within the year in report. The directory contained the names, titles, areas of specialization, contact/e-mail addresses and phone numbers of members.

Meeting venue/frequency

The Branch used to meet every second Wednesday of the month at the Mini-Campus of UNAAB until May 2003 when we had to relocate to a more accessible location at I.I.G. Guest House, Kemta White House, Asero, along Abeokuta/Ibadan Road. We decided to relocate our meetings to this place when it was obvious that attendance at our meetings had dropped considerably.

The new meeting venue was considered to be centrally located to most institutions where we have the majority of our members. We now meet at the new location every second Tuesday of the month at 5.00p.m.

The management of the Guest House has been magnanimous enough to give us the use of the venue free between May and December, 2003, but we started paying a token ₦500:00 monthly as rent with effect from January, 2004.

Finance

Members agreed to pay annual dues of ₦1,700:00 per member. Out of this, ₦500:00 is for the Society Journal while the remaining ₦1,200:00 is for the up-keep of the branch. The

branch also makes voluntary donations at every meeting for light refreshments at the meetings.

Excursion

Due to the protracted industrial action embarked upon in 2003 by the University staff who form the bulk of membership of the branch, most of the planned visits of the society could not be actualized in year 2003.

However, 27 members went on an excursion to the Badagry area on September 3, 2003. The places visited included:

- ASCON, Topo
- Whispering Palms, Iworo-Ajido
- Slave Relics, Badagry
- First Storey Building in Nigeria, Badagry
- Suntan Beach, Badagry

Members found the places visited highly interesting and were eager to go on similar visits in the near future. The visits were covered with a video camera for record purposes.

The branch plans to visit Kainji National Park and Ikogosi Warm & Cold Water Spring-in April and June 2004 respectively.

Personalia

We are happy to announce promotions of some of our notable members:

Dr. L. O. Ojo is now the Ag. Director, Federal Ministry of Environment/UNAAB Linkage Centre, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Dr. A. O. Dipeolu is now Director, UNAAB Consult, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Dr. (Mrs.) M. A. Dipeolu is now Deputy Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

— J. O. Fatokun
Secretary

BENIN BRANCH

Executive Committee

Dr. I.I.Ero [Chairman]

Dr M. E. Obaze [Vice Chairman]

Dr. J.F. Bamidele [Secretary]

Dr. W.W. Modugu [Programme Officer]

Mr. O.T. Aremu [Financial Officer]

Membership

Interest in the Society has continued to grow. Financial members have risen to over 30 but attendance at meetings and activities is in the order of 40 to 50. Membership has been drawn from various backgrounds, viz. academia, the legal profession, medicine, the civil service, etc.

Activities

The branch hosted the 2003 Annual Business Meeting of the Nigerian Field Society from 14th – 15th March 2003 at the University of Benin, Faculty of Education Board room. The ABM attracted personalities including the Vice-Chancellor who was represented by Prof. G. I. Akenzua, D.V.C Uniben. The meeting was very successful in spite of the fact that there was an on-going strike by the academic staff union (ASUU) in most of the Nigerian universities. Five branches were present at the ABM.

After the break in regular activities, the branch was able to organise a well attended lecture and demonstration on bee keeping as an enterprise in Edo State which was delivered in January 2004 by Chief E. I. I Idaeowor of the technology incubation centre, Benin City.

An excursion was undertaken to Coca-Cola bottling plant Benin-City in February 2004, one of the most modern in the West African sub-region.

The Benin Branch also visited the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the University of Benin, Ekenwan Road, to see the various sections including Painting, Ceramics, Textiles, Sculpture, Metal Design etc.

Meetings

The monthly meetings continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m in the board room of the faculty of Agriculture, Ugbowo Campus, University of Benin.

Journals

Members and non-members of the Society have continued to show great interest in the Nigerian Field Journal including the back issues.

Acknowledgement

The N.F.S Benin Branch would like to record the support and encouragement in cash and kind which contributed to the success of the 2003 ABM.

We thank the Vice-Chancellor University of Benin, Bendel Feeds and Flour Mills. Faith Medical Centre, Alaghodaro Committee Bank, the Forestry Department, MANR, Benin, 7Up Bottling company, Benin, NFS Lagos and Ile-Ife branches and the President and Council of the NFS.

IBADAN BRANCH

The members of the executive committee of Ibadan Branch include the following:

Engr. John A. Morakinyo – Chairperson
 Dr. E. Ekpo – Vice Chairperson
 Mr. J.M. Usman – Secretary
 Mr. Steve Odidi – Treasurer
 Mr. Tom Inyabri – Asst. Secretary
 Mrs. Chris Bankole – Programme Secretary
 Mr. Adesope, A.A.A. – Membership Secretary
 Mr. Chris Ajao – Ex-Officio Member
 Rev. Albert Cato – Ex-Officio Member

The financial membership of Ibadan Branch for the year 2003 as at 31 December 2003 was 45. The Branch activities for 2003 were as follows:

Date	Activity	Present
22/02/03	Annual General Meeting Election of executives and dinner	25
08/03/03	Trip to Biogas Project, University of Ibadan	21
16/03/03	ABM, Benin City	8
24/03/03	Video show – Blue Planet, Part 2	10
17/05/03	Video show – Blue Planet, Part 3	8
31/05/03	Trip to Idanre Hills	8
14/06/03	Trip to Bower's Tower and St. Theresa's Minor Seminary	8
17/06/03	Lecture "Fruit and vegetable industry in Nigeria" by N.J. Usoro	34
29/07/03	Joint lecture with NSIAC "From Ladies to Women: Post WW2 women's protest in Abeokuta" by Prof. Judi Byfield	45
19/08/03	Video show – Bengal Tigers, Part 1	12
19/08/03	Field trip to Olokemeji River, "The house that Jack built"	3
16/09/03	Joint lecture with NSIAC "Yoruba dental medicaments"	38
30/09/03	Video show – King Cobra (National Geographic)	15
21/10/03	Lecture "Ecological sanitation" by Prof. M.K.C. Shridhar	26
25/10/03	Field trip to Erin Ijesa Waterfalls	4
15/11/03	Visit of Lagos Branch to Ibadan Branch. Places visited: 1. National Museum 2. Bee keeping unit at Dominican Community 3. Faremi's Garden	33
27/12/03	End of year party	24

— J. Michael Usman
 Secretary, Ibadan Branch

LAGOS BRANCH

In 2003 we continued our efforts to help Lagos residents enjoy Nigerian nature and culture at its best, and to help sustain the Society as a whole, beyond Lagos. Membership rose by almost 40% to 139. The number of members continuing year-on-year nearly doubled from previous years. We went digital, both with email and with a web-site. We held six talks in the year, with attendance reaching eighty on one occasion. We managed one local trip, and ten outside Lagos, including one out of Nigeria altogether. Three of our Committee were given Chieftaincy titles, and one of our members was knighted!

With these achievements in mind we celebrate the end of eight years of joint Chairpersonship by Wil and Paulette van Trier who stepped down at the AGM in February. That occasion itself was typical of their period in charge – a grand feast attended by 30 members.

Our trips included old favourites: IITA (15 on the trip, in January), Ogidi in Kogi State (16 people, in March), Okomu National Park (18, in May), Oshogbo (20, in July), Topo Island and Whispering Palms near Badagry, by boat (28, in August); Ibadan (20, in November), and not once, but twice to Kano and Katsina for the Durbar (21, in February and 32, in November).

In September a small party of seven managed two of the top sites in Nigeria in a single long weekend. We climbed to the mountain fastness of Sukur, took in its architectural splendour and paid our respects to the Llidi. By the next morning we were out with the fishermen on Lake Chad.

A party of seventeen journeyed to Agadez in the Niger Republic in October. From there we headed into the rock desert of the Air Mountains, enjoyed the hospitality of the Tuaregs, saw the silversmiths at work, climbed a volcano, slept out under the stars, bathed in hot springs, and rounded the trip off at the sensational 3,000+ year old giraffe rock carvings of Dabous.

In December we learnt to appreciate the tremendous variety just around our own lagoon to the east of Lagos. Gin distillation, a bush meat market, a high priestess, two-storey rafia palm houses, and Ghanaian nomadic fishermen: it's all right here, and twenty four of our members experienced it first hand.

During the year we heard talks on Growing Orchids, Head Ties, and Bird Tourism. Eighty people heard the personal reflections of George Bennett from the fifties to the present day, and seventy one heard the British High Commissioner recall some of his adventure-filled times in Nigeria, illustrated by his own photographs. We held a Palm Wine tasting evening (forty three attendees), and the Christmas party drew in forty seven to round off the year.

— R.D. Warren
Chairperson

UK BRANCH REPORT 2002

Chairman's report

It is very satisfying to see our Branch of the Society continuing to flourish and once again many thanks are due to our committee members who voluntarily give their time and efforts to the efficient running of our affairs. Similarly one must express gratitude to all those members who have organised visits and events during the year.

An account of the 2003 programme appears elsewhere and also plans for future activity in 2004 plus some preliminary thoughts for 2005. However, I would say a few words on the Bristol Seminar. Despite some organisational problems with the Museum, Barbara Ryder with all due persistence, eventually overcame these and in the outcome, the conduct and ambience of the seminar were a great success. It is becoming apparent that present day charges for conference accommodation are way beyond our purse and must affect our ability to pursue major meetings in the future. It must be appreciated therefore, that the Museum provided us with a venue free of charge and we will need to look to similar arrangements in the future. Also, we need to express the thanks of the membership to Dr Gibbs for his generous donation towards the costs of the seminar.

I now await copies of their papers from the contributors and on receipt, I will attempt to edit and produce the formal proceedings of the seminar as 'Occasional Paper No.3.'. Using the copying facilities available to me and by using slide binders, we have in the past been able to produce a very reasonable looking document at a very reasonable cost. I am hopeful that the speakers will produce hard or email copy with all due dispatch.

Finally, our good Joint Secretaries are wishing to hand over the reins of office. They will be missed and we must be grateful for the professional way in which they have guided the Branch's affairs. Fortunately, Sheila Everard has been persuaded to take over for a limited period and a gradual handover is planned. I would remind members that we are always on the lookout for individuals willing to serve the needs of the Branch – volunteers should get in touch!

— Paul Tuley

Branch activities and visits:

- Spring Meeting & AGM, held at Richmond on Saturday 13th April 2002
- Summer Meeting in Warwickshire June 15th 2002, Marsh, Muck and Magic, with visits to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve and Ryton Organic Gardens
- Plymouth and the Eden Project, 21-22nd September 2002

NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

THE NIGERIA ACCOUNT

INCOME

Opening balance as of January 2003	N293,366.28
Branch subscriptions	N103,500.00
UK account transfers	N367,500.00
Sale of Journals	N5,200.00
Sale of Cards	N7,150.00
Sale of Stickers	N26,800.00
Individual Membership Dues	N2,200.00
Corporate Membership Dues	2,000.00
Subtotal	N514,30.00
Total	N807,716.28

EXPENDITURE

Intec printers: Journal	N331,500.00
Cards	N60,000.00
Stickers	N30,000.00
Editor's Honorarium	N25,000.00
Typesetting of Journal	N12,000.00
President's Imprest	N10,000.00
Secretary's Imprest	N10,000.00
Bank charges and VAT	N3,718.95
Library arrangements & Miscellaneous	N7,200.00
Total	N499,418.95
Income	N807,716.28
Expenditure	N499,418.95
Balance	N308,297.33

— Modupe Ladipo
National Treasurer

THE FRANK BRIDGES PRIZE, 2003

In this contest, conducted by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, winners for

ages 12-14 are:

- Yetunde Olasun, Sacred Heart Catholic College, Absolute, Ogun State
- Ijoma Bessy Kaku, Federal Government College, Oshana, Abia State

Winners for ages 15-18 are:

- Love Ogochobor, University Secondary School, Ekpoma, Edo State
- Chigozie Ugwueto, Loyola Jesuit College, Wuse, Abuja, Federal Capital

THE UK ACCOUNT**INCOME**

Opening balance as of January 2003	£20,237
Receipts (Subscriptions, sale of journals, advertisements etc.)	2,629
Total	£22,866

EXPENDITURE

Total	£2,345
Income	£22,866
Expenditure	£2,345
Balance	£20,521

DISTRIBUTION OF BANK BALANCES

National Westminster Bank (Current Account)	£2,113
Halifax Plc:	
Main Fund	£15,568
Prize Fund	£2,840
Total	£20,521

Notes: Receipts were higher than last year, due to increased subscriptions and advertisements. Payments were similar to last year – postage was more, but tax was less. Receipts exceeded payments by £284.

— Dr Joyce Lowe, Council Member Resident in U.K.

I have examined the books and vouchers related to these accounts, and I confirm that the Receipts and Payments Accounts fairly state the transactions, and that the Balances standing in the bank accounts as at the 31st December 2003 have been verified by me.

— Justine Chamberlain A.C.A., Auditor
February 2004

THE FRANK BRIDGES PRIZE, 2003

In this contest, conducted by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, winners for ages 12-14 are:

- Yetunde Olaosun, Sacred Heart Catholic College, Abeokuta, Ogun State
- Ijeoma Bassey Kalu, Federal Government College, Ohafia, Abia State

Winners for ages 15-18 are:

- Love Ogedegbe, University Secondary School, Ekpoma, Edo State
- Chigozie Ugwuejo, Loyola Jesuit College, Wuse, Abuja, Federal Capital