

## **SOCIETY REPORTS**

### **IBADAN BRANCH, March 2011–April 2012**

The Ibadan Branch of the Society held series of activities in the year 2011 up to the month of April 2012, among which are summarised below:

The Branch had its 2011 Annual General Meeting on the 19th of March, 2011 at the Dominican's Institute, Samonda, Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Branch also planted commemorative trees for the Society's 80th Anniversary in the Botanical Garden of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria on the 28th May, 2011.

The Branch was represented at the 2011 Annual Business Meeting of the Society that was hosted by Benin Branch and held at the Faculty of Engineering Board Room, University of Benin, Benin-City, Nigeria from the 3rd to 4th June, 2011.

A lecture titled "Beauty in Unexpected Places: The Transformation of an Invasive Weed" was also delivered to the Society" by Miss Achenyo Idachaba on the 1st of December, 2011 at the Drapers' Hall, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Branch also organised a get together party for members on the 18th of February, 2012 at the Dominican's Institute, Samonda, Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Branch had its 2012 Annual General Meeting on the 14th of April, 2012 at the Botanical Garden of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

—Andrew A. Erakhrumen  
Branch Secretary

### **ILE-IFE BRANCH, April, 2012**

Membership of the Society has continued to increase especially because of the regular meetings and Lecture Series that has attracted scholars and other interested individuals to the activities of the Society. Unfortunately, the Society was unable to organize any excursion or trips. In 2011, several lectures were given by invited speakers as well as members of the Society. The General Meeting and the Executive meeting still continue to hold as scheduled. A summary of the events in 2011 are listed below.

#### **2011 ABM Benin (4 June)**

Four members of the Branch attended the 2011 ABM hosted by the Benin Branch (Prof. A.O. Isichei—Chairman, Stephen Foláránmí—Secretary, Prof. I.F. Adeniyi—National

President and Ikpe Emmanuel). The Guest Lecturer was the legendary Dr. Victor Nwaifor who gave a talk, "The Essence of Our Cultural Heritage: Benin as A Case Study."

The High points of the meeting were the nomination and election into the vacant post of the Vice President and the Editor in Chief. While the Dr. (Mrs.) Ekpo Chairperson Ibadan Branch became the Vice President, the position of the Editor in Chief went to Prof. E.A. Obot, Executive Director of NCF, Lagos. The New rates are:

Members	₦2000
Postgraduate Members	₦1500,
Student Members,	₦500.

To commemorate the World Environment Day in 2011, a Lecture titled "Forest and the Environment" was delivered on Thursday 9th June, 2011 by Professor J.O. Fáluyi of the Department of Botany with about 30 people in attendance. Also in June, the Branch was instrumental to the inauguration of the JABU Branch of the Society on Tuesday June 14th, 2011.

The April Lecture, "Impact Assessment of Patronage of Tourism Sites on the Built Environment of Obáfémi Awólówò University, Ilé-Ifè, Nigeria," was delivered by Dr. Olufemi OMISORE of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Obáfémi Awólówò University.

The monthly event / programme of the Society held on Wednesday 13th July, 2011 at the usual venue was a Lecture given by Prof. I.F. Adéniyi of the Department of Zoology titled "The Hydrology and Water Quality of Owena River; A Typical Nigerian Forest Water Body."

The August lecture, "Archaeology and Tourism: Òsun Northeast, Òsun State" was by far the most attended with 58 people in attendance. The presenter was Mr. Adisa Ogunfolakan of the Natural History Museum while the session was chaired by Dr. G.R. Adeoti, the Ag. Director of the Institute of Cultural Studies.

The September lecture titled "Is the Fear of Probable Political Misuse by State Governments Enough to Prevent the Establishment of State Police Forces?" was delivered by Dr. Kemi Rotimi, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. The lecture, (attended by 41 people) generated thought provoking issues bothering the minds of the Nigerian public about the police.

#### **Inauguration of the NFSYE Club**

A few members of the Society attended the launching the Nigerian Field Society Young Explorers Club on Saturday 19 November, 2011 at IITA Ibadan. The theme of the launch was '*Role of young people in protecting Nigeria's biodiversity*'. The event which was generously supported by the IITA was attended by members from different branches

including the National President Prof. I.F. Adéniyi, The Branch Chairman, Prof. A. Isichie, Branch Secretary, Stephen Foláránmí and Dr. (Mrs.) O.O. Otusanya. After the official Launch, interested members joined the new members of NFSYE club on a tour of the IITA forest and natural sites.

The last event on Wednesday 21 December, 2011 was a general meeting and lecture, “Òwò Palace Art in the Context of Yorubaland,” delivered by Akin Adejuwon, the Curator of the Institute of Cultural Studies, O.A.U., Ife. There were 42 people in attendance; the event was also used as a end of year get together for members.

The year 2012 has been a busy one for the branch; meetings continue to take place, no lecture, excursion or trips has however taken pace. Members have been preoccupied with the planning of a successful hosting of the 2012 ABM as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the branch.

—Stephen Foláránmí  
Branch Secretary

### **Lagos Branch**

Another active year for the branch, carrying out a wide range of activities with an ever changing group of members (and committee members).

### **Programme**

Over 20 events were held covering culture, history, flora and fauna, music, art, films, walking, exploring, bicycling, canoeing, cooking. Although somewhat constrained by the elections and their aftermath, we held trips to nearby national parks (forest elephant footsteps and more in Omo-Shasa-Oluwa forests, game spotting (and cultural sights) across the border in Benin and ancient kingdoms (Epe – Sungbo’s Eredo). We also visited the Durbars in Kano, Badagry, Sacred groves of Oshogbo. Around Lagos we walked to Lighthouse Beach, explored the vast Nigerian Railways train yards at Ebute Mette, the architecture of the old quarter of the island, saw birds in Lekki Conservation Area, musicians, artists and their works, villages and their Masquerades (Ebi festival) and their development (with Sailharbour Foundation), and cycled across Third Mainland bridge. We had evening talks on butterflies, bird conservation, herbs, forest elephants, sustainable development, traditional culture, and watched documentaries on Lagos and local communities.

As well as the usual annual support for NFS National activities (e.g. paying for the Website which covers all the activities of the NFS country-wide), the Lagos Branch made a donation of 300,000 naira towards the launch of the NFS Young Explorers Club.

### **Volunteers**

A huge thanks is due to the committee members and trip leaders who plan and carry out the program of activities (all voluntarily). We are fortunate to have dedicated committee members who continue to work hard for the NFS – Paulette and Will vanTrier (past co-chairs) , Betti-O, Phil Hall, Mike Newton, Romeo and Irene Barberopoulos, Aino Oni-Okpaku, Prof Obot, Sharon Cornish and Jonathon Barrow (Treasurer) and Sue Bunch (Membership secretary), Melissa Morse, Chris Drexler.

We said Good-bye and thank you to some very active committee members – Jonathon, Sue and Melissa. We welcomed (back) Robin and Hugh Campbell (after their sabbatical) and a new Membership Secretary Chevvone Hendrische and new Treasurer – Susan and and Carl Eriksson. We are very grateful to them for volunteering to take on these roles.

### **Thanks to Partners**

The Branch would like to give a big thanks to Legacy. This NGO is dedicated to the reservation of historic monuments and sites in Nigeria and during the year ran many joint trips with the NFS. Special thanks are due to John and Jill Godwin and John Ebiekpi for organising these trips.

### **Lagos Branch Membership**

2011 saw the membership steady at 150 family members which represent about 300 people. This is a large group of people who are keen to see more of Nigeria. Given there are many aspects of Nigeria that deserve to be seen, we would welcome more people willing to help lead trips or run talks and to help bridge the gap between the two!

—Charles Wheeler  
Chairman Lagos Branch  
April 2012

### **UK Branch, for 2011**

Chairman Professor Rob Oldham; Treasurer Mr Geoff Partridge; Secretary Miss Sheila Everard

The last increase in the annual subscriptions to the branch to £5.00 does not appear to have deterred members as the total remains quite high at 116; 39 of these are joint subscriptions making the actual membership 155. Considering the distance members have to travel to meetings held all over the country, the average attendance of 31+, is very satisfactory.

### **AGM and Spring meeting –Keswick Cumbria , 7th/8th May 2011**

Thirty six members and three guests attended the AGM at the Skiddaw Hotel Keswick followed by lunch and a tour of the local mining museum. In the Lake District, volcanic activity has resulted in a wealth of mineral deposits; twenty of these are of significant commercial value. They include graphite, lead, barium, tungsten, coal and iron. The museum recorded the exploitation of minerals from prehistoric times to the present day.

A short walk took us to the Pencil Museum, celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We entered through a replicated graphite mine after a talk about the 350 year history of the manufacture of pencils. Legend has it that a violent storm which uprooted trees, exposed a strange black material; shepherds found it useful for marking sheep. A cottage industry making pencils grew by stages to the founding of the first UK pencil factory in Keswick in 1832. Pencils are now manufactured near Workington, but the museum preserves the fascinating history and attracts 80,000 visitors a year. One exhibit of especial interest was a wartime pencil given to all servicemen flying on active service over Germany. The pencil concealed a rolled up map and compass where the eraser tip should have been; those shot down and attempting to escape back to UK would have an invaluable tool. This wartime secret was never discovered by the Germans.

The following day the group visited 'The manor of the Valley' Dalemain. This beautiful house, originally C16<sup>th</sup> but later improved and extended, is the private home of the Hasell-McCosh family, descended from the original purchasers in 1675. A Fulani hat hung from the stand in the hall but we never discovered why. An annual, international marmalade competition is held here and we were able to sample and buy the exhibits in the tea room afterwards. The gardens, landscaped along a stream, were a delight. Elsewhere an Elizabethan knot garden and a children's garden provided more variety. Spring bulbs and flowers gave colour as we were too early for the summer displays of roses.

We are grateful to Rachel Nicholson for planning the weekend.

### **Summer Meeting at Dungeness Kent 11th/12th June 2011**

35 members gathered at Winchelsea Lodge, East Sussex, for a most interesting and detailed study of Dungeness. The event was organised by Steve Graham and included guided visits to the Nature Reserve and the RSPB site. The large area of shingle built up over centuries of long shore drift is still growing and 5 lighthouses have been built to keep up with the changes. One section is an SSSI with many rare and interesting plants growing in abundance in the protected areas. On Sunday we had two lectures about the Romney Marsh area. Terry Burke secretary of the Romney Marsh Research Trust talked about the mediaeval landscape of Romney marsh and two of the churches we visited the previous evening, Fairfield and Brooklands. Climate change in the C13<sup>th</sup> altered much of the landscape and subsequently former ports such as the Cinque Ports, (providing the King with

ship services) have silted up. In mediaeval times, Rye was the largest town in the south of England having a population of 4000 people, the same as it has today. The second lecture on the post glacial evolution of the Romney marsh was given by Professor Martyn Walker from Kingston University. He explained how the marsh and particularly the peat had been formed from a pre-glacial forest, subsequently submerged by the sea as the ice melted. Later, we visited Pett Level Beach where peat, laid down between 6000-4000 years BC including alder stumps and branches of the same age could be seen on the surface.

#### **Autumn Meeting in the Montrose area, 10th/11th September 2011**

This meeting in Angus Scotland was attended by 22 members; many stayed together in the Northern Hotel Brechin, where we were royally fed and watered. Our first meeting was at the House of Dun, built by William Adam in the early C18<sup>th</sup> for David Erskine, Lord Dun. Significant alterations were made to the house by John Erskine Kennedy and his wife Lady Augusta FitzClarence, whom we learned was the illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Clarence, later William IV who preceded Queen Victoria on the throne of England. William had many children with his much loved mistress the actress Mrs Jourdan but no legitimate heir, hence the succession of Victoria to the throne when William died in 1837. It was Lady Augusta's walk set in a deep ravine that we followed in torrential rain when visiting the garden. She had also planted the magnificent row of Wellingtonias at the front of the house, soon after they were introduced to Britain in 1853. In the walled garden, a strange hanging structure turned out to be a hanging game larder shaded by lime trees.

Later that evening we had a lecture from Sheila Mann, on Violet Jacob Erskine, an accomplished poet. Violet, born in 1863 spent much time with the estate workers, learning their dialect. This inspired some of her poetry which captures their language and way of life. Always unconventional, she travelled the countryside alone on horseback, gathering material for her work.

The following day we visited the Montrose Wildlife Reserve, situated along the edge of the Montrose Basin. This large sea inlet is rich in nutrients and was used in the past to raise mussels, for salmon and eel netting, salt panning and hunting waterfowl. Now protected from commercial exploitation, it provides a perfect environment for migrating and resident birds, as many as 50,000 migrants pass through the basin each year. One of the best equipped visitor centres in the UK, it provides telescopes, binoculars and a great deal of information at all levels of interest.

Finally, in what can euphemistically be described as bracing weather, the group visited St Cyrus Nature Reserve. In contrast to the Montrose basin, the visitor centre is small, a former C19<sup>th</sup> lifeboat station. We crossed the bridge, built in 1985 by the Gurkhas and were blown like autumn leaves along the beach in what may have been the last puffs of Hurricane Katrina. Returning along the quieter path on the other side of the dunes, we passed the C13<sup>th</sup> Nether Kirkyard where a jilted poet had shot himself, and a watch hut,

built in former times to prevent the theft of bodies for medical research.

### **News of members**

Sadly the following have died: A.A. Wilson Reading (13th November 2010 and R.W. Fishwick, Devon (12th February 2011).

### **Programme for 2012**

AGM & Spring Meeting, Birmingham University — Friday 13th / Saturday 14th April 2012. Organisers are Brian Hopkins & Evelyn Murphy. A talk and visit to the Danford Collection has been arranged.

Summer Meeting, Chichester, West Sussex — 14th/15th July 2012. Organiser is Brian Hopkins.

Autumn Meeting, Conway North Wales — 8th/9th September 2012. Organisers are John & Maggie Hall.

### **Programme for 2013**

AGM & Spring Meeting, Bristol Area — 20th/21st April 2012. Organisers, Barbara Ryder and Janet Kirk.

Summer meeting: 'West Africana Road Show' with a display of items owned by members, date and venue to be arranged.

Autumn meeting: Faversham Kent — 14th/15th September 2012. Organisers Geoff & Dinah Partridge.

Members from Nigeria who will be in the UK and who would like to attend are very welcome. Please contact the secretary via address in the Journal.

—Sheila Everard

## WARRI BRANCH

### Membership

1. Pa. Mac Eyeyibo - Branch Chairman
2. Mr. Henry A. Erikowa - Branch Secretary
3. Mr. Sonde Eghuba
4. Pastor Elijah Obas
5. Mr. Abiloye Erikowa
6. Mr. Aboyewa Oghomieno
7. Miss Yemi Omasan
8. Mr. Peter O.A. Okwuegbe
9. Mr. Ayo Ayesa
10. Bishop (Mrs) Wood
11. Mr. Michael O. Ewetan

### Activities

Our major concern in Warri is on membership drive. As nothing is known about the Nigerian Field Society in this area, members have been involved in individual/collective enlightenment outreaches through the free distribution of The Society's Journals. Warri, being a predominately oil city with its institutions and companies petroleum based, generating people's interest on The Society has not been easy. We are not relenting!

The branch is presently engaged in the collation of data on spices/medicinal plants in the three Warri Local Government Areas (South, North and West) to proffer solution in checking rate of extinction.

—Henry A. Erikowa  
Branch Secretary



**NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY**  
**NIGERIA ACCOUNT FOR 2011**

Opening Balance as at January 2011	₦863,318.00
<b>INCOME</b>	
Branch subscriptions:	
Ife	65,000.00
Lagos	120,000.00
Ibadan	15,600.00
Abuja	00.00
Benin	12,000.00
Abeokuta	00.00
Corporate subs 2011	nil
Transfer from UK account (£1,750)	437,500.00
Individual subs 2011	nil
Journal sales	4,000.00
Back Nos.	nil
Yoruba culture	nil
Corporate subscription 2009	478,000.00
Contributions	654,100.00
(NEST T-shirts, conference bags, stickers. Mr Silva's sculpting of Ibadan Melimbe Bird. IITA ₦500 lunch subsidy x 60. FRIN bus hire. Music Circle PA system)	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>₦1,517,418.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
President 2011 Imprest	10,000.00
Editing and formatting	35,000.00
Secretary 2011 Imprest	10,000.00
Business manager 2011 Imprest	10,000.00
Journal (Combined issue, Vol. 76)	186,150.00
Postage	98,000.00
Benin Branch for ABM 2011	20,000.00
Bank charges	400.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>₦369,550.00</b>
<b>Balance: December 2011</b>	<b>₦1,147,868.00</b>

Dr. Modupe Ladipo  
Treasurer

**NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY - UK ACCOUNTS FOR 2011**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2011**

**RECEIPTS**

2010		2011
£		£
1,368	Ordinary subscriptions, and donations	1,276
305	2010 Corporate subscriptions	349
255	2011 " "	409
70	Sale of back numbers	109
-	Advertisements	15
69	Interest	76
<u>2,067</u>		<u>2,234</u>

**PAYMENTS**

296	Postage	312
6	Stationery, photocopies & computer media	2
2,000	Printing	1,750
16	U.K. Branch subscriptions	14
<u>2,318</u>		<u>2,078</u>
(251)	Difference between Receipts and Payments	<u>156</u>

**BALANCES as at 31st DECEMBER 2011**

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

27,253	Opening balances at beginning of year	27,002
(251)	Difference between Receipts and Payments	156
<u>27,002</u>		<u>27,158</u>

**CASH AT BANKS**

National Westminster Bank:		
6,328	Current Account	6,408
Halifax plc:		
17,725	Main Fund	17,800
<u>2,949</u>	Prize Fund	<u>2,950</u>
<u>27,002</u>		<u>27,158</u>

Notes: Income was more than last year, due to more libraries paying in advance, and somewhat higher sales of back numbers. Payments were less, as a smaller amount was transferred for printing the journal and its transport to the UK.

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