

The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

(Founded 1876)

Papers for Students No.1

"Introducing Junior Membership."

by

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The Society has established junior membership in its ranks as from 1st January 1964, for young people from the ages of 12 to 18. From now on those who are too young for full membership in the Society will, by this form of membership, have a feeling of belonging to the Society. Those who hope, some day, to be biologists with a special interest in the Mollusca, as well as those who just want to be conchologists, will be able to make the right contacts early in their career getting advice and help which will save much time and perhaps some false starts.

As this a new and untried adventure for the Society it may be some time before the movement is under way but the present plans and provisions for junior members should now be made widely known.

Responsibilities.

New members join by applying in writing to the Officer in charge of Juniors for a membership form on the receipt of which he/she should fill in and return to him. This form should be countersigned by a sponsor especially if the new junior member is not paying his/her own subscription. This form will be put before the Society and when the new junior member is elected they will be informed. As soon as possible after this the new member should pay the Treasurer of the Society (for address see below) an entrance fee of 2/6d and their first annual subscription of 7/6d. Then, on the 1st January each year an annual subscription of the same amount. (Note: If the election to membership takes place after the beginning of October in any year the subscription is deemed to cover the following year.)

Privileges.

Junior Members will be able to attend the meetings of the Society but not be allowed to vote. Other and special meetings will be arranged for juniors from time to time and information about these can be obtained from the Society's Officers. These meetings will be held in the Board Room at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7. and this is by kind permission of the Trustees. At each of these meetings there will be a number of full and adult members of the Society who are in charge of these junior meetings assisted by others who are interested in helping forward the work. It is hoped to arrange special excursions for junior members (and others) during each year which will give them a practical insight into field work.

Junior Members will receive "The Conchologists' News Letter" which is published by the Society and is circulated to all full members within the British Isles. This publication will, as soon as possible now, include a "Junior Section" carrying information of interest to juniors and to which juniors will have the privilege of contributing. These contributions will be subject to the control of the editor of "The Conchologists' News Letter."

The official organ of the Society is "The Journal of Conchology", this will not be available to Junior Members but it is probable that they will be able to obtain some of the back numbers of parts of the "Journal of Conchology" at the privileged rates allowed full members. For these parts you should apply to the Hon. Treasurer.

Many of the full members of the Society who have a considerable experience are willing to give advice and help to junior members. It has always been the policy of the Society to encourage and help serious students of the Mollusca. It realises that not only its own future but the whole future of the science of Malacology depends on the recruitment of new workers in this branch of Natural History. You should ask one of the Society's officers if you wish to be put in touch with someone who can help you.

Looking Forward.

Junior Members will be admitted to full membership of the Society at the age of 18 if they so wish it. Continued membership as a junior will not be encouraged. When a junior member becomes a full member he/she will enter into all the privileges of membership and also pay the full subscription, £1. per annum. This transfer will take place at the end of the year in which a junior becomes 18. The annual subscription may be increased from time to time as the Council sees fit. The junior member will not, however, be expected to pay the entrance fee of 10/-s (or more if the Council raises the fee) which is normally paid by adults joining the Society.

For the help of all members certain publications are available, for example copies of Winckworth's "List of British Marine Mollusca" are still available also the "Census of the Distribution of British Non-marine Mollusca". A list of the areas included in the census of the Marine Mollusca of these Islands which the Society is now making should be available in cyclostyled form. This latter is especially important for all who wish to help in this work and to send their records to the officer in charge of the Marine Census.

Further, a series of papers is being planned for the help of junior members. These are being written by senior members of the Society and will show how and where to look for shells both marine and non-marine, how to identify the shells when found, how to preserve them best in a collection and keep a collection in good order. As time goes on others will appear dealing with fossil shells, how you can help to advance the Science of Malacology (the study of the animal as well as the shell), the subject of

Ecology (habits and habitats) of Mollusca and many other branches of the science.

The Council would like to emphasise the fact that junior membership is designed for serious students of the mollusca and that both indoor and outdoor meetings should be considered scientific gatherings. They would like all present to behave with that decorum becoming young scientists, and that activities inconsistent with the aims of the Society should not take place.

Finally the success of this new venture depends on publicity as much as anything else and, mindful of this, active steps are being taken to have notices of junior membership placed in as many of the journals as possible circulating amongst young naturalists. At the same time a lot depends on the personal work of senior members in introducing junior membership to as many people and organisations as they can. Some senior members are willing to give lectures to schools and other gatherings of young people and application should be made to the officer in charge of juniors if and when the services of such speakers are required. At present few are available but we hope that in time most of the country will be covered.

Some addresses

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