

## OBITUARY — DAVID LONG 1937–2018

David Long joined the Conchological Society in 1967, a 51-year membership during much of which he served as a Council member and as elected President between 1987–1989. Responding in his 'On the Spot Profile' (Mollusc World **23**: 2010) David revealed that his interest in molluscs was inspired in 1950 by the collection of fossil marine shells from the cliffs at East Bavants, near his childhood home in Suffolk. By the mid-1960s he had also developed an active interest in non-marine Mollusca and, encouraged by Michael Kerney, he joined the Conchological Society. From that time, he actively contributed to the Society's national 10km non-marine recording scheme, something that he continued to do throughout his membership.

David's early interest in non-marine recording is recalled by June Chatfield in this reminiscence of an important and pioneering field trip. "My time with David in the field was on the first society field week to Ireland in 1968 as a small group led by Michael Kerney to tackle a paucity of modern Irish records for the Atlas project. David Long drove the large hired car as we worked our way recording along the central limestone and canal belt, round to Sligo and finally looped round to visit A. W. Stelfox at Newcastle, Co. Down in the north".

David and his wife Pat lived in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire where he was employed at the government establishment of GCHQ. In 1969 he began a 3-year posting to work in defence services in Melbourne, S.E. Australia. During his time there, David also took every opportunity to pursue and develop his conchological interests which he did there with considerable success; he enthusiastically embraced the Australian 'molluscan community', joining the Malacological Society of Australia and so making many long-standing friends and contacts. David was able to advance his interest in fossil turrids by collecting scientifically important new material from local Neogene strata and also continued his non-marine recording by working with members of the National Museum of Victoria (for a more detailed and personal account of David's time in Australia please see the following obituary submitted by Robert Burns).



Photo restored by Rowan Edwards

On his return to Cheltenham from Australia, David resumed his previous interests including Tertiary fossil collecting from the famous Barton Beds at Barton-on-Sea in Hampshire. Most of his conchological time was, however, spent in non-marine recording in his home county of Gloucestershire. He was especially interested in continuing work for the Society's non-marine census with a particular interest in site assessment of SSSIs and nature reserves. His work in the county is, perhaps, best remembered by his important studies of two snail species. David systematically mapped the pupillid *Abida secale* on a fine 1km scale, demonstrating its close association with the rock-rubble habitats of the Cotswold Jurassic limestone outcrops (Long 1970). His work confirmed the national importance of this area as a stronghold for *A. secale*, also providing an early example of the value of grid mapping at a finer than 10km scale.

Another of David's notable achievements was his discovery in 1985 of a second site for the



David looking for snails during Conchological Society field meeting, Flitwick Moor, 2011.

small pupillid snail *Lauria sempronii* (Long 1986, Kerney, 1999). Prior to this new find, *L. sempronii* was only known from specimens collected at Haresfield Beacon in 1894 (although the finds were not recognised as being of this species until 1971 [Kerney & Norris 1972]). Extensive later surveys in the Haresfield area failed to find further specimens there and, before David's important *L. sempronii* discovery, it was feared extinct in the UK (Kerney & Cameron 1979). David's commitment to biological recording and natural history in Gloucestershire is demonstrated by his active involvement with the Gloucestershire Natural History Society, which he served as a Conservation Committee member. He was also strongly involved with the Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society, acting for many years as their molluscan recorder. In recognition of David's important work for them, the Society published an obituary in 2018 (Long 2018). Additionally, David was also an active member and for a time Chair, of the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group.

Over many years those attending Society meetings in London will also recall that David's visits were often together with his wife Pat, who also took an interest in Society affairs. David was a loyal and very well-liked Society member; a real asset to the Conchological Society. David's always calm, measured and gentle nature put people at ease. He took an interest in others and was always ready to listen and offer help, especially to conchological beginners. Despite his unassuming nature David had a fine eye for detail, his analytical approach to issues invariably leading to a sensible and measured outcome – a reflection of

his typically wise judgement. David's death is a great loss, not only to Pat and his family, but also to the Conchological Society; he will be much missed, but very fondly remembered.

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Keith Alexander, June Chatfield & Martin Willing

#### DAVID LONG: SOJOURN IN AUSTRALIA, 1969–1972

David and his wife Pat spent three years based in Melbourne, Australia. Not a moment wasted, David made himself and his molluscan interests known to Dr Brian Smith, then Curator of Molluscs, National Museum of Victoria (now Museums Victoria). Brian suggested membership of both the Malacological Society of Australia, Victorian Branch, and the Marine Study Group of Victoria, the latter associated with the Museum, and with an active schedule of field work and volunteer museum work one Saturday per month. David attended meetings, field days and workdays, enthusiastically participating in all activities. He was easily coerced onto membership of group committees, even serving as chairman of the MSGV for one year.

David lectured to both groups on many subjects including the marine fossils of East Anglia, and the survey of non-marine molluscs of Great Britain and Ireland. He contributed to the monthly newsletters of both groups, not only

“Chairman’s Remarks” during his tenure, but with numerous observations on Australian molluscs made during holiday travels throughout the south-eastern part of the continent.

His interest in fossil molluscs led him to visit and explore, sometimes in company of Tom Darragh and Ken Bell of the Palaeontology Department of the Museum, and myself, the many Miocene outcrops to the south and south-west of Melbourne. David and Pat ventured further afield to collect from the Eocene and Oligocene beds outcropping along the Otway Coast of south-western Victoria, and at Aldinga, south of Adelaide, South Australia. These older outcrops produced turrids of similar likeness and age to those with which he was more familiar in England. Some years after returning to Britain, David wrote up the fossil turrids from the Brown’s Creek beds, describing five new genera and subgenera, and 18 new species or subspecies. All his type material is in the Museums Victoria Palaeontological collections. Eventually, all his Australian fossil material was donated to the Natural History Museum, except for three brilliant specimens which, because of my interest, he left with me: an intact Miocene *Diaphana* akin to the living *D. brazieri* Angas, 1877 of southern Australia; a pleurobranch shell of the genus *Berthella*, possibly the Miocene precursor to the living *B. medietas* Bum, 1962 of southern Australia, and a Late Eocene Julia suggestive of warmer waters at the time of deposit. By way of recompense, he became the proud owner of a perfect 50mm long fossil cowrie, *Umbilia eximia*, that I had found washed into a creek bed on one of our fossil-hunting excursions.

David’s time in Australia was opportune. Brian Smith had started surveying and publishing a series of short illustrated guide notes on the land and freshwater molluscs of Victoria, native and introduced. David was more than pleased to help. I had discovered two small snails on the underside of strawberry leaves in my vegetable patch in Geelong. David looked at the specimens, tentatively identified them as *Vitrea*

*contracta*, but to confirm his identification, he sent them off to England for verification. Result: first record for Australia, another species to add to our growing list of introductions, and, as an aside, never another specimen found in my garden, or reported elsewhere in Australia. Hence, a David Long paper on Zonitids appears within the Brian Smith series.

Those of us who remember David’s sojourn in Australia, remember a man whose knowledge was appreciated, whose willingness to participate in and actively support local groups meant that he and we learned much, and whose friendship extended to all. In my case, a letter, a Christmas card, a calendar, plus membership of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland for 46 years. For David, ditto plus reciprocal membership of the Malacological Society of Australasia for 46 years. Home and abroad, he will be greatly missed.

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The 1000<sup>th</sup> Conchological Society meeting in Leeds, 1987. Photo taken by Derek Rands.