Irish geology rockery opened in Dublin

Nearly two years ago my brother Peter called me from the *National Botanic Gardens* in Glasnevin, Dublin, where he is Director, to tell me that he had discovered something that would interest me. My curiosity aroused, I visited the next day and we walked to an overgrown flowerbed that was due for replanting. There he pointed in one corner to some



st some Old Red Sandstone conglomerate.

Peter had stumbled on an old rockery that clearly contained some interesting rock types. I suspected that the basalt columns had arrived in the Botanic Gardens over 150 years ago when it was under

Giant's Causeway basalt

pieces of the columnar basalt that had

come from the Giant's Causeway in Co.

Antrim. Looking around I noticed some

bored limestone, large flint cobbles and

the Botanic Gardens over 150 years ago when it was under administration of the Royal Dublin Society. There and then we decided to restore the rockery an educational resource, using the geological specimens but augmenting them with additional rock types from elsewhere in the Gardens. The pieces selected had to be striking but also

reasonable large so that their distinctive characteristics could be easily seen.

Sad to say

The Belfast Geologists' Society lost two other very valued members earlier this year. They will be sadly missed.

Mary Popper, who died on May 14th, was a member for many years and a frequent attendee at winter meetings. Mary and Tom became something of a Belfast Geologists' Society institution - they were really enthusiastic and regularly came to winter meetings. We offer our sympathy to Tom and their family.

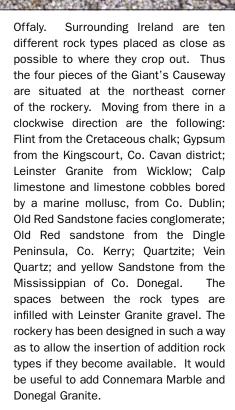
Sue Turner, who died on June 7th, had been ill for some time. We send our sympathy to her husband John, who is one of our keenest members, and all their family.



Patrick and Peter Wyse Jackson designed the layout of the new rockery. Patrick supplied text and some images for the explanatory labels that accompany each rock type. Aisling O'Donoghue and the

Horticultural Team of the National Botanic Gardens built the rockery.

The centerpiece comprises the shape of Ireland outlined in quartzite and infilled with Mississippian limestone from Stradbally, Co.



This rockery has already been well received by visitors and it is hoped will be a useful addition to the growing number of geological educational resources. The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin (www.botanicgardens.ie) is open every day of the week and admission is free (although there is a charge for parking).

Patrick N. Wyse Jackson, *Trinity College*, *Dublin*

