



Quaternary Research Association

## **Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Quaternary Research Association held at University of Durham on 5th January 2017 at 16:00.**

The President, Professor Pete Coxon, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 37 members of the Association:

Natasha Barlow, Mark Bateman, Martin Brader, Clare Boston, Geoffrey Boulton, Chris Burn, Philip Collins, Pete Coxon (Chair), Andy Emery, David Evans, Ian Evans, Mick Frogley (minutes), Ed Garrett, David Giles, Terence Hackwill, Mark Hardiman, Ceri James, Stewart Jamieson, Peter Jones, Richard Jones, Jack Lacey, Jonathan Lee, Sven Lukas, Jon Merritt, Julian Murton, Mihaela Newton, Colm O'Cofaigh, Adrian Palmer, Simon Price, Jim Rose, Ian Shennan, Chris Stokes, Abi Stone, Rob Westaway, Tom White, Richard Waller and Ron Williams.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The President welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Tim Atkinson, David Bridgland, Stewart Campbell, Laura Crossley, Bethan Davies, Rachel Devine, Geoff Duller, Andrew Finlayson, Neil Glasser, Michael Hambrey, Danielle Schreve, Barbara Silva and Michael Tooley.

### **2. Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **4. President's report**

**a. Previous ADM.** The President began his report by thanking the organisers of the 2016 ADM (held at Royal Holloway, University of London) for putting together such a professional and positive experience for all attendees.

**b. Honours and awards.** As part of the 2016 AGM (held during the ADM), the President had awarded medals to Tom White (Lewis Penny Medal) and Alayne Street-Perrott (James Croll Medal) and conferred Honorary Memberships on Chris Caseldine, Rick Shakesby, Tony Stuart and David Sugden.

**c. Conservation issues.** The President reported that the Secretary had responded in writing on his behalf to oppose a re-submitted application to develop the Callandar moraine and to highlight the geoheritage value of this structure.

**d. JQS matters.** In February, prior to the JQS Editorial Board meeting, the President had been visited in Dublin by Sarah Phibbs, Vice-President of Society Management Community / Society Marketing for Wileys, for a 'health-check' meeting. As a result both of that meeting and subsequent correspondence, the President then contacted Wileys in order to begin re-negotiation of our JQS

contract. This has resulted in a draft document from Wileys, which is currently being considered by the Editorial Board (see also item 6c, below).

**e. Deceased members.** The President sadly reported that several members had passed away: GP Askew, Brian Hawkins, Valerie Hall and Nick Stephens (for whom an obituary had been published in *Quaternary Newsletter* 138).

**f. QRA Executive Committee.** The President noted several personnel changes to the Executive Committee. Postgraduate Representative Jack Lacey had completed his term of office in September and been replaced by Rachel Devine (Royal Holloway), who had been voted in at the Nottingham Postgraduate Symposium. Tom White (Treasurer) and Emma Pearson (Ordinary Member) were also completing their terms of office at this AGM; the President thanked all outgoing committee members on behalf of the Association for their considerable efforts on the Executive. Tom White has kindly agreed to remain for a further year *ex officio* to advise the incoming Treasurer. In addition, the President was also completing his term of office at this AGM and warmly thanked the Executive Committee members with whom he had worked over the past three years.

## 5. Honorary Members of the QRA

The President announced that three members had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status: Tim Atkinson, Mike Hambrey and Mike Tooley. These nominations were accepted unanimously by the membership and were announced at the meeting with citations that will subsequently appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*.

## 6. Annual Report of the Secretary

The report covered the period January – December 2016.

**a. Membership.** Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1120** (Table 1). Although this appears to represent a reduction in comparison with the previous few years, it is likely to be a truer reflection of membership levels, coming as it does after a concerted attempt to clean up the database and to remove redundant entries.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change (15–16)
Ordinary Members	575	581	602	598	636	656	615	–41
Postgraduate Members	275	331	343	344	368	358	289	–69
Unwaged/Retired Members	145	149	141	145	146	147	134	–13
Honorary members	28	28	29	31	35	38	38	0
Institutional members	29	29	29	37	29	26	21	–5
Corresponding members*	19	19	20	19	23	23	23	0
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>–128</b>

**Table 1.** Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2016. \*Includes copyright members

Subscriptions for 2016 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. The institutional membership rate is £35. On behalf of the membership, the Executive Committee once again thanked Val Siviter for all the hard work she does for the Association, notably with regard to management of the membership database.

### *Honorary Members*

Four distinguished scientists were elected as Honorary Members of the Quaternary Research Association at its AGM, held at Royal Holloway, University of London in January 2016; Chris Caseldine (Exeter), Rick Shakesby (Swansea), Tony Stuart (Durham) and David Sugden (Edinburgh).

Citations were published in *QN* 138 (February 2016). A list of Honorary Members of the QRA can be found on the Association's website ([qra.org.uk](http://qra.org.uk)).

## **b. Meetings**

- i) Annual Discussion Meeting: Quaternary Drivers and Responders**  
Royal Holloway, University of London, 6–8 January 2016  
Organisers: Danielle Schreve, John Lowe, Ian Candy, Simon Blockley and Bethan Davies  
Attendees: 150+  
Report: *QN* 139 (June 2016)
- ii) Field Meeting: The Quaternary of the Isle of Skye**  
Portree, Isle of Skye, 20–23 May 2016  
Organisers: Colin Ballantyne and John Lowe  
Attendees: 57  
Report: *QN* 140 (October 2016)
- iii) Field Meeting: The Quaternary Periglaciation of Kent**  
Margate, 10–12 June 2016  
Organisers: David Giles, David Evans and Julian Murton  
Attendees: 42
- iv) Joint QRA/SLaCC Meeting: Whitby and NE Yorkshire Coast**  
Whitby, 4–8 July 2016  
Organisers: Sarah Woodroffe, Natasha Barlow, Nick Rosser, Matthew Brain  
Attendees: 38
- v) Short Discussion Meeting: Developments in Holocene Palaeoecology of the British Isles**  
National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 6–7 September 2016  
Organiser: Heather Pardoe  
Attendees: 22
- vi) 21st Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**  
University of Nottingham, 14–16 September 2016  
Organiser: Jack Lacey  
Attendees: 28
- vii) Joint QRA/GLWG Field Meeting: Glaciation of the Mountains of Mourne, N. Ireland**  
Newcastle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, 27–30 October 2016  
Organiser: Sam Roberson, Iestyn Barr and Mark Cooper  
Attendees: 34

The QRA also **co-sponsored** the 2016 INQUA Early Researcher Conference and Summer School (*Using Observations and Modeling to Understand Past Climate Change*), held at the University of Reading in September (organized by John Carson, Macarena Cárdenas, Sandy Harrison and Joy Singarayer).

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2016 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held at Royal Holloway, University of London, by Sune Rasmussen (Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen), entitled *A high-resolution ice-core account of abrupt climatic changes during the most recent glacial period and a look at their governing mechanisms*.

The Executive Committee extends its thanks to the many people who organised meetings, supported the meetings through their participation and who reported on these activities in *QN* for the information of the wider membership.

### c. Publications

#### *Quaternary Newsletter*

3 issues: 138 (Feb 2016), 139 (June 2016), 140 (October 2016)

Editors: Dr Sven Lukas (Queen Mary) and Dr Abi Stone (Manchester)

During 2016 the Executive sought members' opinions concerning a proposed move to an electronic distribution model of *QN*. A consultation exercise generated 244 responses, the majority of which (~84 %) supported the move. The results of the consultation were made available to members online, via email and through the Circular. The Executive considered the responses carefully and agreed that, from 2017 onwards, *QN* would be routinely distributed electronically, though members still wishing to receive a hard copy would be able to do so, subject to the payment of a small subscription surcharge.

#### *Journal of Quaternary Science*

Volume 31: containing 79 research papers across eight issues, one of which was a themed special issue (*Quaternary palaeoenvironmental proxies and processes*) consisting of papers in honour of Professor Alayne Street-Perrott (winner of the James Croll Medal in 2015).

Editor: Professor Geoff Duller (University of Aberystwyth)

#### **QRA Field Guides**

Three new field guides were published: *The Quaternary of Skye* (Ballantyne & Lowe), *The Quaternary Periglaciation of Kent* (Murton & Giles) and *The Quaternary Glaciation of the Mourne Mountains* (Roberson, Barr & Cooper), each produced to accompany QRA field meetings held in 2016.

Discussion. Members were keen to discuss issues around the renegotiation of the JQS contract. The President outlined the main details of the proposal that was currently being considered by the Editorial Board. Several members commented that, whilst the proposed financial terms would undoubtedly prove more beneficial to the Association than currently, they might nevertheless be more generous and that further negotiation would therefore be appropriate. Wiley's current and likely future policy with regard to Open Access (OA) submissions were also raised, especially the Green OA route, with its associated embargo period. Members were particularly concerned that any OA policy should not act as a barrier to submissions from academics currently subject to REF requirements; further specialist consultation on this issue was therefore urged. The President undertook to report members' concerns back to the Editorial Board in order to inform ongoing negotiations with Wiley.

ACTION: President

### d. QRA Grants and Awards

During 2016, **£26,679** was disbursed by the QRA to 39 of its members under its standard awards schemes (Table 2). The full list of successful applicants is given in Table 3.

#### *QRA Prizes*

The 2016 James Croll Medal was awarded to Ian Shennan (Durham). A citation will appear in a future issue of *QN*.

The Awards Officer (Adrian Palmer) thanked the Awards Panel team, namely Tom White, David Bridgland and Emma Pearson, for their consideration of all applications made in 2016. The previous Awards Officer, Erin McClymont, was also thanked for the ongoing help she had provided during the handover.

Full details of all QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: [qra.org.uk/grants](http://qra.org.uk/grants)

**Table 2.** Summary of standard awards for 2016. <sup>1</sup> Refers only to eligible applications. <sup>2</sup> Refers to number of applicants, not the number of dates requested.

Fund	No. of applications		No. funded	Total monies requested (£)	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded <sup>1</sup>
<b>NRWA</b>	Jan	4	3	£3,675	£2,040	56
	May	6	5	£5,058	£4,500	89
	Sept	2	2	£2,000	£1,600	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£10,733</b>	<b>£8,140</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>QCF</b>	Jan	7	7	£3,410	£2,620	77
	May	1	1	£174	£174	100
	Sept	3	3	£1,500	£1,300	87
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£5,084</b>	<b>£4,094</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>QRF</b>	Jan	6	6	£5,095	£4,070	80
	May	6	5	£5,825	£4,225	73
	Sept	7	7	£6,884	£6,150	89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>£17,804</b>	<b>£14,445</b>	<b>81</b>
Subtotal		42	39	£33,621	£26,679	79
QUB_C14 <sup>2</sup>		4	4	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>£33,621</b>	<b>£26,679</b>	<b>79</b>

**Table 3.** Successful award recipients in 2016.

Name	Institution	Title	Awarded
<b>New Researcher Workers Award (NRWA)</b>			
Lesley Blundell	<i>Institute of Archaeology, UCL</i>	Testing the potential of EM surveys to locate dolines containing primary context Middle Pleistocene deposits.	£800
Ella Egberts	<i>Bournemouth University</i>	OSL dating of the Pleistocene river terraces of the Avon valley, Hampshire.	£900
Gebregeorgis Eyob Gebrehewiot	<i>Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland</i>	Climate reconstruction and land cover change in Northern Ethiopia.	£900
Christine Hamilton	<i>Liverpool John Moores University</i>	Mesoscale barrier estuary behaviour in response to sea-level rise, storms and sediment supply.	£800
Josephine Hornsey	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Combined use of high resolution remote sensing and field mapping to determine ice flow dynamics on Rannoch Moor during the Loch Lomond Stadial.	£300
Maurizio Gatta	<i>University of York</i>	Tephrostratigraphic database of Late Pleistocene landscapes of Central Italy.	£540
Rachel Hurley	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Stratigraphies of industrialisation: the fluvial sedimentary record of the first industrial city.	£900
Melissa Mendelova	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Mammuthus</i> in Europe: early evolution and origin.	£800
Ben Pennington	<i>University of Southampton</i>	The Holocene evolution of the Central Nile Delta.	£700
Lucy Roberts	<i>Queen Mary, University of London</i>	Investigating the ecological impacts of late Holocene salinity change in coastal lakes & wetlands using palaeolimnology	£700
Stephen Zhang	<i>University of Bristol</i>	<i>Mammuthus</i> in Europe: early evolution and origin	£800
<b>Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)</b>			
Clare Boston	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	European Geophysical Union 2017	£450
Joanne Egan	<i>University of Manchester</i>	British Diatom Meeting 2016	£174
Nicholas Felstead	<i>Swansea University</i>	El Hombre Temprano en America (8 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium "Early Man in America")	£450
Mick Frogley	<i>University of Sussex</i>	Terrestrial Mediterranean Long Sequence Workshop, Ioannina, Greece	£400
Drasti Gandhi	<i>Gujarat University</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£360
Ed Garrett	<i>Geological Survey of Belgium</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£300
Emma-Jayne Hopla	<i>University of Southampton</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£400

Ramon Ondicol	<i>University of Aberdeen</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£400
Siddharth Prizomwala	<i>Institute of Seismological Research, India</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£360
Rachel Smedley	<i>Aberystwyth University</i>	European Geophysical Union 2016	£400
S. Tarlati	<i>University of Ulster</i>	AGU Fall Meeting 2016	£400
Graham Wilson	<i>University of Chester</i>	Terrestrial Mediterranean Long Sequence Workshop, Ioannina, Greece	£400
<b>Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)</b>			
Neil Adams	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Cosmogenic nuclide burial dating of Early Pleistocene sediments in Westbury Cave, Somerset, England.	£825
Robert Barnett	<i>University of Exeter</i>	Holocene sea-level changes in the Baie des Chaleurs (eastern Canada).	£1000
Bethan Davies	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Timing of a late glacial re-advance of the Monte San Lorenzo ice cap, Patagonia: implications southern hemisphere mid-latitude palaeoclimate.	£800
Michelle Farrell	<i>University of Hull</i>	Palaeoenvironmental context of the dwarf mammal taxa of Ghar Dalam, Malta.	£800
John Hiemstra	<i>Swansea University</i>	Sedimentology and geomorphology of Caldey Island, Pembrokeshire - Evidence for the Devensian glaciation of the Bristol Channel area.	£550
Christine Lane	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Compiling a tephrostratigraphic record of Holocene volcanic activity for the Virunga Volcanic Province, East African Rift.	£760
Theodora Moutsiou	<i>University of Cyprus</i>	The peopling of the Aegean basin: documenting the Palaeolithic occupation of Naxos, Cyclades, Greece	£800
Stephanie Mills	<i>Plymouth University</i>	Outburst flood magnitude and frequency in Iceland.	£800
Sayantani Neogi	<i>University of Cambridge</i>	Geoarchaeological Research at Mimi Cave, Nagaland, India.	£800
Sandra Nogue Bosch	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Exploring ancient DNA in Cape Verdean sediments.	£900
Iain Robertson	<i>Swansea University</i>	Are recent changes in forest health in the Cascade mountain range of Oregon, USA really unprecedented?	£800
Neil Ross	<i>Newcastle University</i>	Geophysical imaging and characterisation of Cors Caron, mid-Wales.	£760
Daniel Schillereff	<i>Kings College, University of London</i>	Geochemical analysis of peat material from Borneo.	£800
Stephen Tooth	<i>University of Aberystwyth</i>	Chronology and Control of channel change in a globally-important, arid zone wetland: the Okavango Delta, Botswana.	£900
Martin van Haardenbroeck	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Application of dual $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ / $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ analysis on plant and animal remains, Lochan nam Fear, Scotland.	£1000
Rob Westaway	<i>University of Glasgow</i>	Casewick Middle Pleistocene site.	£950
Giles Young	<i>Swansea University</i>	Holocene climate evolution from oak tree-ring isotopes.	£800
<b>QRA-14CHRONO Centre Radiocarbon Dating Award</b>			
Alison Burns	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Prehistoric life on the intertidal salt-marshes of Formby Point.	2 dates
Poppy Harding	<i>University College London</i>	Abrupt Late Quaternary Climatic and Environmental Change in Southern-Siberia; Lake Sediments from an acidic lake environment.	2 dates
Dominic Lee-Dade	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Frequency of large scale submarine landslides in the Lofoten Basin during the Quaternary: implications for landslide and tsunami hazards	3 dates
Michael Sims	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Determining the chronology of turbidite sequences from the Lofoten Margin, Offshore Norway.	3 dates
<b>James Croll Medal</b>			
Ian Shennan	<i>University of Durham</i>		

### **e. Research Groups and Study Groups**

The Research Group scheme is designed to provide a small quantity of start-up funding over a three-year period for specialist Quaternary research groups, with the aim to bring research communities together, foster communication and provide an opportunity for new research projects to be formulated. The scheme has launched a number of significant research collaborations in the past.

The QRA currently supports one research group, SLACC, which completes its three-year period of funding at the end of 2018. The aim of the **Sea Level and Coastal Change Research Group** (SLACC) is to draw together scientists from the UK and NW Europe that are actively researching sea-level and coastal changes and the impact of sea-level change on the coastal environment, in the past, present and future. They organise annual meetings to discuss sea-level and coastal change over a range of time and spatial scales but with particular relevance to vulnerable coastal communities within the UK and NW Europe. Their second meeting was held in 2016 in Whitby and on the NE Yorkshire coast (jointly with the QRA) and a report will appear in a future issue of *QN*. More information can be found at: [dur.ac.uk/geography/slacc/](http://dur.ac.uk/geography/slacc/)

New proposals for research groups are invited at any time and may be discussed with the Secretary in the first instance. These will be put to the membership for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

### **f. Outreach**

As a registered charity, outreach is an important part of our activities and, as our Outreach and External Liaison Officer, Barbara Silva has been pro-active in pushing forward our activities on this front.

#### *QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize*

The winner of the 2016 prize was Tom Sims for his dissertation entitled *The environmental impact of European settlement in Australia: influences on a patterned fen ecosystem*. The abstract of the winning dissertation will be published in a forthcoming *Quaternary Newsletter*. The Association wishes to thank examiners Ian Candy and Ian Evans, in this their final year acting as judges, and to acknowledge the continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS for the administration of the prize.

#### *QRA Outreach Award*

The QRA encourages its members and others to promote and foster engagement between Quaternary science and a wide and diverse audience. In support, we maintain an annual Outreach fund from which grants are awarded. This year we contributed funding towards an Earth Science Week outreach educational project by the North West Highlands Geopark.

Outreach Awards are normally made of up to £750, although larger requests will be considered – please see the QRA website for a list of previously funded projects. For more details please contact the Outreach Officer ([outreach@qra.org.uk](mailto:outreach@qra.org.uk)).

### **g. Executive Committee**

Four members of the Executive Committee completed their terms of office:

- September 2016: Jack Lacey (Postgraduate Representative)
- January 2017: Professor Pete Coxon (President), Dr Tom White (Treasurer) and Dr Emma Pearson (Ordinary member).

The Executive Committee extends its thanks to all these individuals on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the running of the Association throughout their periods in office.

We also welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in September, Rachel Devine (Royal Holloway), who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years.

#### **h. Postgraduate activities**

Postgraduate events continue to be an important component of the activities of the Association. The Annual Postgraduate Symposium series continued, with the 2016 event being held at the University of Nottingham in September. The meeting was a success and a full write-up of the event will appear in a future issue of *QN*. Postgraduate interests are represented on the Executive Committee by two members, who are elected at the Annual Postgraduate Symposium (both posts last for two years). The PG representatives also maintain the social media accounts of the Association.

#### **i. Publicity**

This year has seen continued development of the functionality and content of the new website, including further improvements to the online bookstore and the submission procedure for grant applications. Further upgrades are in the pipeline. Our Publicity Officer, Bethan Davies, is to be thanked for continuing to oversee the website improvements. Members also now receive mailshots to their email accounts approximately once a week: relevant announcements should be sent to the Publicity Officer for circulation ([publicity@qra.org.uk](mailto:publicity@qra.org.uk)).

#### **j. Conservation**

The QRA recognises that geoconservation is particularly important at a time when Quaternary sites are under increasing pressure from development and other human impacts. Recognition of the value of conserving Quaternary sites is vital both for the field-based research and education that are essential to advance the science, and also for the wider benefits for the environment and society. The QRA and its members already carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, as well as offering practical support and working with local groups. The role of QRA Conservation Officer on the Executive Committee ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to present the QRA's position on conservation issues. To this end, our Conservation Officer, Stewart Campbell, has been busy on the Association's behalf during 2016. Some of the most important initiatives have included:

- (i) Highlighting the geoheritage value of the Callander moraine in the face of revised development plans.
- (ii) Instigating formal support from the Association towards the production of *Earth Heritage* magazine.
- (iii) Amending the Association's Meetings Guidelines document to ensure that geoconservation issues feature prominently in QRA Field (and other) Meetings.
- (iv) In collaboration with the Treasurer and Awards Officer, setting up a QRA Geoconservation Award scheme (further details to follow).

#### **k. QRA Archives**

Work has continued throughout the year on the QRA archive project, currently hosted in hard-copy and electronic formats by the RGS-IBG. Hard copies of all Association documentation and correspondence has now been transferred to archive-quality storage. Changes to the website architecture have also been put in hand so that parts of the Association's archive can be made available online to members, subject to consideration of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The Executive Committee is also working to establish an image archive in the near future.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.



## 7. Treasurer's Report

The Report covers the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016. The Association's financial activities (Table 4) have been comparable to previous years and remain healthy and stable.

### a. Income

Income from membership subscriptions, paid directly into our main subscriptions account via standing order, was £12,161.07, representing a small increase on 2014–15. Online book sales, paid directly into our publications account, totalled £1,925.00. In total, our income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £23,410.12 (similar to last year). The Association continues to receive a significant amount from Wiley as a profit-share from publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science*, which this year totalled £44,055. In addition, royalties disbursed to us by the Publisher's Licensing Society (PLS) amounted to an additional £2,730.91. Overall, the Association's working income for the year (subscriptions, book sales and royalties) is stable at around £70,000.

### b. Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs increased slightly to £20,140.81, though this sum is still comparable with previous years. Our budget to support activities through grants, awards and sponsorship was increased by around £4000 this year, to £29,082.62. Note that our INQUA subscription (of £12,612) has not yet been paid for the 2015–16 financial year.

### c. Year-End Financial Status

At the end of July 2016, we held:

£ 70,489.45	in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
£ 26,297.03	in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account
£ 78,118.92	in our HSBC Community Account
£ 40,514.49	in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

We started the 2015-16 year with £189,760.89 and ended with £215,419.89. As always, the Treasurer will aim to break-even within the financial year.

### d. Auditing

The finances have not yet been audited and were submitted to the AGM subject to approval by the external auditor.

Discussion. Members questioned the Treasurer over the accounts and the apparently large surplus held by the Association. The Treasurer explained that around £140,000 of our holdings include ring-fenced sums of more than £20,000 for specific awards and prizes (including the Bill Bishop Award and the Lewis Penny Medal), around £86,000 for the INQUA fund and £30,000 to meet any unexpected liabilities. Members suggested that the Association still held a significant surplus over and above these protected funds and that, in order not to jeopardize our charitable status, we might re-consider our future financial strategy. The President agreed to raise this issue at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION: President / Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

**Table 4.** Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's Account for 1 August 2015 – 31 July 2016.

			£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Subscriptions			11744.13	11596.48	11494.46	12141.07
<b>Total Subscriptions Income</b>			<b>11744.13</b>	<b>11596.48</b>	<b>11494.46</b>	<b>12161.07</b>
Book sales			615.80	2845.30	1648.40	1925.00
<b>Total Publications Income</b>			<b>615.80</b>	<b>2845.30</b>	<b>1648.40</b>	<b>1925.00</b>
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)			0.00	0.00	7762.98	9324.05
<b>Total Subs/Booksales</b>			<b>12359.93</b>	<b>14441.78</b>	<b>20905.84</b>	<b>23410.12</b>
<b>Subs/Booksales annual totals:</b>			<b>12359.93</b>	<b>38583.02</b>	<b>23227.27</b>	<b>23410.12</b>
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)			45057.00	45304.00	46213.00	44055.00
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)			0.00	0.00	10921.22	2730.91
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support			5500.00	5230.30	5037.38	5480.00
Surplus on Meetings			1563.80	1724.45	1492.75	2044.88
Bank refunds			0.00	9453.44	0.00	1809.80
Internal transfer (from HSBC MM)			0.00	20000.00	0.00	0.00
ADM sponsorship			0.00	1858.22	0.00	0.00
Advertising			600.00	600.00	0.00	1500.00
ADM income (Eventbrite)			0.00	37585.65	30135.00	0.00
ADM refund			0.00	0.00	7199.85	0.00
Returned awards			0.00	0.00	1800.00	1150.00
Donations			346.44	317.57	317.57	317.57
Interest Received			42.27	38.56	28.33	27.76
Bond maturation			0.00	4346.70	0.00	0.00
Transfer (from PayPal account)			0.00	24141.24	2321.43	0.00
Transfer (from HSBC bond)			0.00	0.00	35430.17	0.00
Other income			460.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>			<b>78289.37</b>	<b>150600.13</b>	<b>140896.70</b>	<b>59115.92</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board Account</b>			0.00	0.00	13794.40	14000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>90649.30</b>	<b>165041.91</b>	<b>175596.94</b>	<b>96526.04</b>
<b>WORKING INCOME</b>			<b>57416.93</b>	<b>59745.78</b>	<b>78040.06</b>	<b>70196.03</b>
			£	£	£	£
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Newsletter & Circular printing			5857.40	5990.80	3636.00	4760.00
Newsletter postage			5637.40	6174.72	5102.28	6099.18
Admin support			6000.00	6000.00	6000.00	6000.00
Postage & stationery			344.71	806.92	0.00	394.48
Executive Committee Costs			2648.11	1523.14	2140.90	1784.39

Insurance premium			740.68		967.76		1040.33		1102.76
<b>Total Running Expenditure</b>			<b>21228.30</b>		<b>21463.34</b>		<b>17919.51</b>		<b>20140.81</b>
Printing (Field Guides & Books)			3095.00		18990.00		8982.32		6417.00
Printing (other)			0.00		1228.00		26.00		0.00
<b>Total Publications Expenditure</b>			<b>3095.00</b>		<b>20218.00</b>		<b>9008.32</b>		<b>6417.00</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board Costs (from ringfenced budget)</b>									
	Editors' honoraria		0.00		0.00		12050.00		9000.00
	Exec. INQUA costs		0.00		0.00		1241.77		0.00
	Board meeting travel						1295.01		2040.02
							<b>14586.78</b>		<b>11040.02</b>
<b>Grants/Awards/Support</b>									
Grants		NRWA	11465.00		13320.00		6700.00		10560.00
		QRF	3900.00		8625.00		7910.00		8805.00
		QCF	7084.00		11930.00		7230.00		5598.50
		PGMA	220.00		0.00		393.00		0.00
		Outreach Award	0.00		1200.00		1500.00		750.00
		UG dissertation prize	250.00		250.00		250.00		500.00
		ADM Poster prizes	0.00		100.00		50.00		0.00
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress			0.00		0.00		23650.00		1649.12
C14 bursaries			1212.00		0.00		504.00		0.00
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award			800.00		0.00		800.00		0.00
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)			364.30		1050.50		173.54		220.00
Postgraduate Conference			613.80		500.00		500.00		500.00
Sub-group support		GLWG	500.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
		SLACC	0.00		0.00		500.00		500.00
			<b>26409.10</b>		<b>36975.50</b>		<b>50160.54</b>		<b>29082.62</b>
Outreach	S. Senk		500.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
	Other		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
			750.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Other			1000.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
<b>Total Grants/Awards/Support</b>			<b>28659.10</b>		<b>36975.50</b>		<b>50160.54</b>		<b>29082.62</b>
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)			19.39		11288.83		23.60		6.00
Refund (ADM subs etc)			0.00		0.00		1256.38		269.45
Meetings expenditure			1000.00		1500.00		3500.00		2554.06
Catering (meetings)			0.00		0.00		3061.92		290.40
INQUA subscription			11253.67		10767.96		11170.17		0.00
Web Site costs			600.00		3360.00		3636.00		510.00
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)			0.00		200.00		0.00		200.00
Medals - striking/engraving			2976.48		53.04		38.40		36.48
ADM costs (venue hire)			0.00		28366.60		23466.75		0.00
ADM 2015 deposit			0.00		6960.00		0.00		0.00
<b>Total other expenditure</b>			<b>15849.54</b>		<b>62496.43</b>		<b>46153.22</b>		<b>3866.39</b>

Funds transfer (to HSBC Community)		0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0
Swets		0.00	0.00	175.00	0
Bank charges		0.00	723.12	139.00	268.28
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>68831.94</b>	<b>161876.39</b>	<b>138142.37</b>	<b>70815.12</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>		<b>-£2,152.49</b>	<b>£3,165.52</b>	<b>£37,454.57</b>	<b>£25,710.92</b>

## 8. Publications Secretary's Report

### a. New and upcoming titles

Three new Field Guides were published during 2016 relating to Field Meetings held during the year: (1) *The Quaternary of Skye* (Ballantyne & Lowe); (2) *The Quaternary Glaciation of Kent* (Murton & Giles); and (3) *The Quaternary Glaciation of the Mourne Mountains* (Roberson, Barr & Cooper). Feedback on all three had been extremely positive. Several new Field Guides were in the pipeline, corresponding to planned 2017 Field Meetings in the northern Pennines, the Yellow River (China) and the Vale of Pickering.

### b. Book sales

This year had seen a 30 % increase in sales over 2015, representing the best year for book sales since 2006 (when records began). New format field guides had been selling especially well, though sales of the *History of the QRA* monograph had been poor. An online book sale was planned for February 2017.

### c. Stock levels

Stock levels of pre-2005 Field Guides remains excessively high. In tandem with low sales of many of these titles, storage is proving to be an ongoing problem. Attempts at trying to give away stock to university libraries has also proven unsuccessful. The Executive have therefore made the reluctant decision that, following the February 2017 online book sale, some excess stock will have to be destroyed.

### d. Digitisation of Field Guides

Attempts to make out-of-print Field Guides available electronically via the QRA website are ongoing. Around 90 % of pre-2000 Field Guides have been scanned, however major issues concerning digital IPR have been encountered.

Discussion. Members pressed the Publications Secretary for additional details and clarification on the digital IPR issues. During discussion, the benefits of making out-of-print Field Guides available for download were acknowledged across the board, though it was made clear that the Association would not be able to move forward on this matter until a workable solution had been identified. The Publications Secretary assured members that this matter had been under consideration by the Executive Committee for some time and that specialist advice was being sought with a view to making the Field Guides available as soon as practicable.

The Publication Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

## **9. *Quaternary Newsletter***

The Editor informed members that *QN* submission guidelines would shortly be changed in order to reflect the additional flexibility that came with the adoption of a dominantly electronic distribution model. For example, there is immediately the scope to include longer articles and colour images. The Editor was also keen to encourage a more diverse range of content, including discussion articles, contributions from Research Groups and commissioned perspective pieces resulting from ADMs / Field Meetings. Members were asked to be creative with future *QN* submissions and to discuss ideas with the Editor.

## **10. Meetings Officer's Programme**

The Meetings Officer outlined the programme of meetings currently confirmed for 2017 onwards:

### **2017 Meetings**

#### **QRA Field Meeting**

11–14 May     *The Quaternary of the North Pennines*  
Venue:        Middleton-in-Teesdale  
Organisers:   David JA Evans (Durham)  
Contact:       d.j.a.evans@durham.ac.uk

#### **QRA Field Meeting**

8–11 Sept.     *The Quaternary of the Vale of Pickering and Environs*  
Venue:        Scarborough  
Organisers:   Paul Lincoln, Laura Eddey, Mark Bateman and Adrian Palmer  
Contact:       a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk

#### **QRA Overseas Field Meeting**

10 Sept.       *The Quaternary of the Yellow River and its environs*  
Venue:        Lanzhou University, People's Republic of China  
Organisers:   Hu Zhenbo, Wang Xianyan, Pan Boatian, David Bridgland and Jef Vandenberghe  
Contact:       d.r.bridgland@durham.ac.uk

#### **QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

Aug/Sept.     Exact dates tbc.  
Venue:        Royal Holloway, University of London  
Organisers:   Rachel Devine (RHUL)  
Contact:       mava401@live.rhul.ac.uk

### **2018 Meetings**

#### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting**

3–5 January   *Data/Model Inter-Comparison in Quaternary Research*  
Venue:        Plymouth University  
Organisers:   Stephanie Mills, Caroline Clason, Neil Roberts, Ralph Fyfe, Nicki Whitehouse, Matt Telfer, Anne Mather, Tim Daley and Jessie Woodbridge  
Contact:       caroline.clason@plymouth.ac.uk

#### **Joint QRA/GLWG Overseas Field Meeting**

31/8– 8/9      *Glacial land systems of SE Iceland: Quaternary applications*  
Venue:        Reynivellir, SE Iceland  
Organisers:   David JA Evans (Durham)  
Contact:       d.j.a.evans@durham.ac.uk

## **2019 Meetings**

### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting**

January            *Environmental Change: Pace, Magnitude and Impact*  
Venue:            Chester University  
Organisers:      Graham Wilson, Katherine Welsh, Phillip Marren and Amanda Williams  
Contact:          graham.wilson@chester.ac.uk

Further details about future QRA meetings can be found at: [qra.org.uk/meetings](http://qra.org.uk/meetings)

## **11. Award of Prizes and Medals**

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2016:

**a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize.** Tom Sims (Leeds) for his dissertation entitled *The environmental impact of European settlement in Australia: influences on a patterned fen ecosystem*. The abstract of this winning dissertation will be published in a forthcoming issue of *QN*.

**b. James Croll Medal.** Ian Shennan (University of Durham). A full citation will appear in a future issue of *QN*.

## **12. Election of new Executive Committee members**

The following people have been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Nominations were published in the October 2016 Circular. No other nominations were received by the closing date and so the following were duly elected:

President:	Neil Glasser (Aberystwyth)
Treasurer:	Jack Lacey (BGS)
Ordinary Member:	Julie Durcan (Oxford)

## **13. Any other business**

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing President.

The meeting finished at 17:30.

Minutes taken by Dr Mick Frogley (Secretary)

February 2017