

**MINUTES OF THE 54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE QUATERNARY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER,
3 JANUARY 2019**

The President, Professor Neil Glasser, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 43 members of the Association and one non-member:

Mark Bateman, Clare Boston, Becky Briant, Richard Chiverrell, Lauren Davies, Steve Davison, Jonathan Dean, Geoff Duller, Joanne Egan, Ian Fairchild, Trevor Faulkner, William Fletcher, Mick Frogley, Neil Glasser (Chair), Mark Hardiman, Philip Hughes, Liz Hurrell, Matt Jones, Sandra Gomes, Maria F. Sanchez Goñi (non-member), Christine Lane, John Lowe, Barbara Mauz, Fflyff McClaren, Gina Moseley, Madeline Moyle, Sean Pyne-O'Donnell, Adrian Palmer, Emma Readitt, Luis Rees-Hughes, Geoff Richards, Helen Roberts, Helen Roe (minutes), Robyn Seymour-Jones, Timothy Shaw, David Shirley, Grace Skirrow, Charlotte Slaymark, Rachel Smedley, Richard Staff, Abi Stone, Mike Walker, Graham Wilson, Ann Wintle.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Eleanor Brown, Kim Davies, Tom Roland, Katherine Selby and Tom White.

2. MINUTES OF THE 53RD 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 that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began his report by thanking the organisers of the 2018 ADM (held at Plymouth University) for putting together such a professional and positive experience for all attendees.

a. Finances. The President commented on the financial health of the Association and noted that an increase in income from JQS had enabled additional awards to be made during 2018. He underlined his ongoing commitment to ensuring that reserves are spent efficiently to support the activities of the QRA.

b. Treasurer duties. The President thanked Tom White for agreeing to resume the role of Treasurer in August 2018 after Jack Lacey had stood down. He noted that the Treasurer role has become increasingly demanding in recent years and that the Executive have begun to consider ways of devolving some of the duties which have traditionally been undertaken by the Treasurer to others. One model under consideration is to seek the support of an accountant to help with auditing and other tasks (*see further discussion on this under item 6a*).

c. GDPR Compliance. The President thanked John Hiemstra and Tom Roland for their help in ensuring that the Association is compliant with the new data protection (GDPR) legislation which was introduced in May 2018.

d. Trustees Annual Report 2016-2017. This report had been prepared by Jack Lacey and submitted in late May 2018.

e. Geological Society Specialist Groups Meeting. The President had attended this annual meeting on behalf of the Association in May 2018. He noted that in comparison to many other affiliated groups, the QRA are in a strong financial position as a result of the JQS income.

f. INQUA Foundation. The President noted that he had received a letter from the INQUA President asking the Executive to consider supporting the formalisation of a new '*Foundation for International Union for Quaternary Research*'. This change will (i) enable INQUA to be registered as a non-profit organization in the Netherlands; (ii) provide legal protection for officers of the INQUA Executive; and (iv) enable INQUA to accept donations from individuals and corporations to support its activities. The Committee had supported this unanimously.

g. INQUA 2019. The President reiterated the Association's support for the forthcoming INQUA Congress, being held in Dublin in 2019 and emphasized that the QRA will play an important contributory role. This will include running five INQUA fieldtrips and running an INQUA Congress Travel Grant scheme. He encouraged members to actively engage with the Congress and to check the INQUA and QRA websites for further details.

h. Conservation issues. The President reported that following a request from a QRA member, he had been asked to submit a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and had duly completed this with significant input from the Conservation Officer, Eleanor Brown (see also *item 9*).

i. JQS matters. The President informed the meeting that he is no longer editor for *Quaternary Science Reviews*, but serves as the Executive Committee's formal representative on the editorial board of *JQS*. The President commented that the volume of submissions to *JQS* remains healthy and thanked the editor, Geoff Duller and the Editorial Board for their ongoing work (see also *item 5d*). The editor acknowledged this, and reported that a new contract with Wiley had been negotiated during 2018, which had resulted in good terms for the QRA (see *item 6(iv)*). It was noted that Neil Roberts will take over as *JQS* editor from January 2020.

g. Honours and awards. As part of the 2018 AGM (held during the ADM), the James Croll Medal had been awarded to Jan Mangerud. Honorary Membership was conferred on Steve Brooks. Full citations were published in *Quaternary Newsletter (QN)* 144.

h. Deceased members. The President reported that several members had sadly passed away. Martin Aitken and Honorary Member John Catt had both died in 2017 and obituaries has been published in 2018 in *QN* 145. An obituary for Honorary Member Brian Sissons was published in the same volume. Honorary Member Chalmers Clapperton had also sadly passed away in November 2018; an obituary will appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*. The President called for a brief silence by way of remembrance.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

a. Membership. Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1290** (Table 1).

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change (17-18)
Ordinary Members	602	598	636	656	615	682	677	-5
Postgraduate Members	343	344	368	358	289	369	395	+26
Unwaged/Retired Members	141	145	146	147	134	137	137	0
Honorary members	29	31	35	38	38	41	40	-1
Institutional members	29	37	29	26	21	22	17	-5
Corresponding members*	20	19	23	23	23	23	24	+1
Total Membership	1164	1174	1237	1248	1120	1274	1290	+16

Table 1. Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2018. *Includes copyright members

Subscriptions for 2018 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.

b. Meetings

i) Annual Discussion Meeting

Data/model inter-comparison in Quaternary Research

Plymouth University, 3–5 January 2018

Organisers: Stephanie Mills, Caroline Clason, Neil Roberts, Ralph Fyfe, Nicki Whitehouse, Matt Telfer, Anne Mather, Tim Daley, Jessie Woodbridge

Attendees: 82. Report: *QN* 145 (June 2018)

ii) Field Meeting

Palaeolithic Archaeology in the Breckland

Breckland, Norfolk, 28 June 2018

Organiser: Simon Lewis

iii) 23rd Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium

University of Glasgow, 22–24 August 2018

Organiser: Charlotte Slaymark

Attendees: c. 25

viii) Joint QRA/GLWG Overseas Field Meeting

Glacial land systems of SE Iceland: Quaternary applications

Reynivellir, Iceland, 31 August – 8 September 2018

Organiser: David Evans

Grantown-on-Spey, 26–29 October 2017

Organiser: Jon Merritt, Clive Auton, Emrys Phillips and Callum Firth

The QRA also **co-sponsored** five meetings in 2018:

(i) *Paleochronology Building Workshop II*, held in January in Mexico (organized by Maarten Blaauw, Marco Aquino, Paula Reimer, Andrés Christen);

(ii) *EGU training school for early-career scientists - Glaciers, moraines and climate: Challenges of identifying, dating and extracting palaeoclimatic data from former glacier fluctuations* held in Inchnadamph, Scotland in August (organized by Sven Lukas, Jostein Bakke, Clare Boston, Natasha Gribenski, Susan Ivy-Ochs and Willem van der Bilt);

(iii) *The Fourth Sea Level and Coastal Change (SLaCC) Field Conference* held in Fort William Arisaig & Kentra, Scotland in September (convenors: Rob Barnett, Sarah Woodroffe, Ian Shennan);

(iv) *Global Palaeofire Working Group: Diverse knowledge systems for fire policy and biodiversity conservation: integrating palaeoecology, traditional knowledge and stakeholders* held in Egham in September (organized by Daniele Colombaroli, Jay Mistry, Alice Milner and Boris Vannière);

(v) *9th International Symposium on Testate Amoebae (ISTA9): Recent Advances and Future Research Priorities* held in Belfast in September (organized by Helen Roe, Andrew Macumber, Graeme Swindles and Stephen Prentice).

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2018 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held at Plymouth University by Marie France Loutre (PAGES) entitled *A brief tour in the world of complementarity between data and models*.

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. QRA Grants and Awards

During the 2017-18 financial year, **£50,262.50** was awarded by the QRA to 58 of its members under its standard awards schemes. Full details are provided in the Awards Officer's report (*agenda item 7*). This represents a significant increase on the sum allocated in 2016-2017 (£30,840.40).

Details of all QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: qra.org.uk/grants

d. Publications

Quaternary Newsletter

3 issues: 144 (Feb 2018), 145 (June 2018), 146 (October 2018)
Editor: Dr Abi Stone (Manchester)

Journal of Quaternary Science

Volume 33: containing 71 research papers across eight issues, one of which was themed (Issue 3, The impact of drastic environmental changes in prehistoric hunter-gatherer adaptations, edited by João Cascalheira and Nuno Bicho).

Editor: Professor Geoff Duller (University of Aberystwyth)

QRA Field Guides

One new field guide was published: *Glacial Landsystems of Southeast Iceland - Quaternary Applications* (Evans) to accompany the joint QRA/GLWG field meeting held in Iceland in August-September 2018. Five field guides are currently in production for INQUA 2019. A further guide is being prepared to support a joint GLWG / QRA to be run in October 2019 in *Glenclova and Strathmore*.

See the Publications Secretary's report for further details (*item 8*).

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 has recently supported one research group, SLACC, which completed 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 have organised 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 fourth meeting was held in September 2018 in NW Scotland (jointly with the QRA) and a report published in *QN 147*. More information can be found at: 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.

Study Groups were established with the purpose of enabling small groups of researchers to be associated with the QRA. Study Groups do not receive any funding from the QRA. Anyone interested in forming such a group should contact the Secretary.

f. Outreach

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

(i) QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

Twelve entries were submitted this year. The winner of the 2018 prize was Jack Wharton (UCL) for his thesis entitled '*Reconstructing AMOC over the past 7,000 years: Is the Industrial Era weakening an unprecedented event?*' An abstract of the winning dissertation will be published in *QN*.

The judges wish to highly commend two other students who conducted substantial field and laboratory based studies. Tamara Brian (University of Cambridge) produced a meticulous and beautifully presented dendrochronological study of the Lötschental valley in Switzerland. Annabel Everard (University of St

Andrews) conducted a fine palaeoecological study of evidence of changing burning and grazing regimes preserved in blanket bogs in the eastern Scottish Highlands.

The Association thanks the examiners Martin Kirkbride and Will Fletcher, and acknowledges the continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS for the administration of the prize.

(ii) 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 three initiatives:

- *The Secrets of Ireland's Peatlands: Bog Bodies, Volcanoes & Climate Change* outreach event hosted by a team from Queen's University Belfast and held in the Ulster Museum, Belfast on the 11th September 2018. A report on this event will appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*.
- *CRYONUS: a website analysing the past behaviour of glaciers and ice sheets*. This project seeks to provide the cosmogenic nuclide community with analytical tools and information regarding the science to the Quaternary community and to a wider public audience. The website is due to be launched in the coming months and the QRA will help publicise the site once it is complete.
- Sponsorship from both Outreach and Geo-conservation Awards for the exploration of a *new talus cone in Joint Mitnor Cave, Buckfastleigh*. The Pengelly Trust, with the support of Natural England, have been carrying out the investigations and will be communicating the findings of the new excavation to visitors in the coming months.

Outreach Awards are normally up to £1000, 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).

g. Executive Committee

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

- August 2018: Jack Lacey (Treasurer - *stood down - replaced by Tom White on an interim basis*)
- September 2018: Rachel Devine (Postgraduate Representative)
- January 2019: David Bridgland (Vice President), Adrian Palmer (Awards)

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 welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in September, Luis Rees-Hughes (Leeds), 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 2018 event being held at University of Glasgow in September. The meeting was a success and a full write-up of the event will appear in a forthcoming 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 postgraduate 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; further upgrades are in the pipeline. Our Publicity Officer, Tom Roland, is 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).

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

This item was presented by the President on behalf of the Treasurer. The financial report was prepared by Jack Lacey and Tom White.

a. Re-evaluation of the Treasurer role

The President noted that the Treasurer role has become increasingly demanding in recent years as the number of award schemes run by the Association has increased, and the number of funded applications has correspondingly risen. In addition to arranging the transfer of funds to award winners, the Treasurer manages all aspects of the Association's finances, prepares the Annual Charity Commission Report, and reviews grant applications as a member of the QRA Awards Panel. The significant time-commitment associated with these tasks had been discussed by the Executive. The Committee had agreed that the Treasurer should be relieved of some of these duties, including the commitment to participate in the Awards Panel (*see item 7b*).

The President reported that another solution to ease the burden of the Treasurer role would be to seek professional support to help with financial management (for example, from an accountant or other similarly qualified financial expert). Following further discussions, a motion was proposed by Christine Lane that a consultation exercise should be undertaken in 2019 with appropriate external agencies to consider this. This was seconded by Richard Chiverrell. A further update on this issue will be passed on to the membership, probably via the Circular. *Action: Treasurer and Executive*

b. Financial Report 2017-2018

The financial report below covers the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. Accounts are detailed in Table 2. The Association's financial activities have been generally comparable to previous years and remain healthy and stable.

(i) Income

In total, the Association's income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £18,064. This comprises £9,237 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £1,534 from book sales paid by cheque, and £7,292 from subscriptions and book sales paid for online through the QRA's website via the Stripe payment system. The Association received an important amount from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science* (JQS), which totalled £75,065 (an increase on last year following contract renewal). Other royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £1,659. The Royal Society contribution towards the UK's membership of INQUA was £5,910, which continues to support the UK as a top-level INQUA contributor. The QRA Treasurer has responsibility for administering a fund from Wiley for the JQS Editorial Board, which is ring-fenced for use on JQS expenses (honoraria, meeting expenses). The payment from Wiley for 2018 was £15,465. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2017-18 was £94,788, and total income was £117,606.

(ii) Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs of the Association have continued to decrease from £16,056 to £13,520, which is principally due to a reduction in printing and postage costs following the transition to digital distribution of *Quaternary Newsletter*. The Association's budget to support activities through grants, awards, and sponsorship increased to £56,803 from last year's total of £32,370. The UK subscription to INQUA for 2017 was £12,349. Overall expenditure for 2016-17 was £80,465.

(iii) Year-end financial status

At the end of July 2018, the Association held:

- £ 91,296.85 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
- £ 27,542.73 in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account
- £ 92,347.82 in our HSBC Community Account
- £ 40,556.89 in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

The Association started the 2017-18 financial year with total funds of £239,186.49 and ended with £251,744.29. As always, the Treasurer will aim to break-even within the financial year. Ring-fenced sums within our holdings include c. £15,300 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Award, £85,500 for the INQUA fund, £5000 for the Lewis Penny Medal, £26,600 for administering the JQS Editorial Board, and £30,000 is designated to meet any unexpected liabilities.

(iv) Plans for future periods

Renegotiation of the QRA's JQS contract substantially increased the Association's annual royalty income. To balance the higher working income, the Executive Committee agreed that spending on selected standard awards would increase and a Geoconservation Award would be introduced from September 2017. A prestigious 'QRA Award' (upper limit £5000, to be introduced January 2019) and the new award limits increased awards spending by over £24,000 in 2017-18. The QRA's financial position means that we will be available to provide important funding opportunities for the 2019 INQUA Congress in Dublin; the QRA awarded £24,000 to 43 Members to support attendance at the 2015 INQUA Congress in Japan. This funding level can be maintained for Dublin 2019.

(v) Auditing

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

b. Statement of financial activities

Table 2 Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's account for 1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018.

INCOME	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Subscriptions	£12,141.07	£11,250.37	£9,237
Book sales	£1,925.00	£1,204.90	£1,534
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£9,324.05	£6,998.22	£7,292
Total Subs/Book Sales	£23,410.12	£19,453.49	£18,064
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£44,055.00	£45,399.00	£75,065
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£2,730.91	£894.85	£1,659
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£5,480.00	£6,257.45	£5,910
Surplus on Meetings	£2,044.88	£1,809.84	£587
Bank refunds	£1,809.80	£1,080.00	£720
Advertising	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Returned awards	£1,150.00	£0.00	£113
Donations	£317.57	£317.57	£0.00
Interest Received	£27.76	£19.45	£23
Total Other Income	£59,115.92	£55,778.16	£84,077
JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)	£14,000.00	£29,000.00	£15,465
TOTAL INCOME	£96,526.04	£104,231.65	£117,606
WORKING INCOME	£70,196.03	£65,747.34	£94,788
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£4,760.00	£2,936.00	£764
Newsletter postage	£6,099.18	£3,055.07	£1,865
Admin support	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,000
Postage & stationery	£394.48	£455.34	£124

Executive Committee Costs	£1,784.39	£2,424.62	£3,525
Insurance premium	£1,102.76	£1,184.74	£1,242
Total Running Expenditure	£20,140.81	£16,055.77	£13,520
Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£6,417.00	£1,553.00	£7,305
Total Publications Expenditure	£6,417.00	£1,553.00	£7,305
JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)			
Editors' honoraria	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	£9,000
Exec. INQUA costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0
Board meeting travel	£2,040.02	£2,107.84	£1,155
Total JQS Editorial Board Costs	£11,040.02	£11,107.84	£10,155
Grants/Awards/Support			
NRWA	£10,560.00	£9,711.00	£12,145
QRF	£8,805.00	£12,895.00	£25,034
QCF	£5,598.50	£5,311.00	£12,182
PGMA	£0.00	£190.00	£563
Outreach Award	£750.00	£1,750.00	£4,460
Geoconservation Award	n/a	n/a	£1,000
Undergrad dissertation prize	£500.00	£250.00	£250
ADM Poster prizes	£0.00	£0.00	£0
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£1,649.12	£0.00	£0
C14 bursaries	£0.00	£1,263.40	£0
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£0.00	£0.00	£0
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£220.00	£0.00	£669
Postgraduate Conference	£500.00	£500.00	£500
Sub-group support	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Total Grants/Awards/Support	£29,082.62	£32,370.40	£56,803
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£6.00	£24.00	£0
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£269.45	£0.00	£0
Meetings expenditure	£2,554.06	£3,690.96	3,500
Catering (meetings)	£290.40	£962.80	538
INQUA subscription	£0.00	£12,920.98	12,349
Web Site costs	£510.00	£660.00	458
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£200.00	£0.00	200
Medals - striking/engraving	£36.48	£19.44	52
RGS Archives	£0.00	£939.86	£0
Total Other Expenditure	£3,866.39	£19,218.04	£17,098
Bank charges	£268.28	£160.00	£168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£70,815.12	£80,465.05	£105,048
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£25,710.92	£23,766.60	£12,558

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AWARDS OFFICER

a. Standard Awards

In the Standard Awards rounds for financial year 2017/2018 **£50,262.50** was distributed. There was an increase in the number of applications in the May 2018 round, but due to budgetary constraints, we were unable to fund all the applications. There was consequently a fall in the % funded figure for that round. This also caused a fall in the % funded for the year as a whole. There was a clear increase in Quaternary Research Fund (QRF) applications in May 2018, whilst Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF) applications increased through the whole of financial year 2017/18 in comparison to QCF applications in the previous two years.

Fund	No. of applications		No. funded	Total monies requested (£)	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded ¹
NRWA	Sept '17	3	2	2900	2250	77.6
	Jan '18	7	6	9429	6945	74.7
	May '18	5	5	6986	5250	75.2
	Total	15	13	19315	14445	74.8
QCF	Sept '17	4	4	2767	2667	96.4
	Jan '18	9	8	6265	5150	82.2
	May '18	11	7	6208	3110	46.5
	Total	24	20	15240	10927	71.7
QRF	Sept '17	6	6	7246	6009	82.9
	Jan '18	10	8	14424	8625	59.8
	May '18	14	12	18393	9534	51.8
	Total	30	26	40063	24168	60.3
Subtotal	69		58	74618	49540	66.4
PMA 17-18	3		3	722.5	722.5	100
Bishop	0		0	0	0	–
Short-course	0		0	–	0	0
QUB_C14²	5		5	–	–	–
Total	77		66	75340.5	50262.5	66.7

¹ Refers only to eligible applications

² Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested

Note- the Geoconservation, Outreach Awards and prizes are not listed here

b. Notices and Activities 2017-2018

The Executive has revised the Awards reporting period for the AGM to mirror the **financial year** report of September 2017 to September 2018. This report thus covers the September 2017, January 2018 and May 2018 awards rounds.

The value of the awards has recently changed; the limits of the QCF has increased to £750 from £500, and the New Research Worker's Award (NRWA) and the QRF to £1500 from £1000.

There was a substantial increase in the number of applications during the year. The standard of applications has remained high, and therefore the Awards Panel refined procedures to ensure greater consistency in the means of selecting and funding applications within budgetary constraints and *inter* and *intra* award rounds and Officers. The criteria are ‘*scientific excellence*’, ‘*value/reasonable cost*’ and ‘*financial need*’.

It is worth noting that there has not been an increase in applications to the Postgraduate Meetings Award (PMA) this year, partly because there is an undefined limit to the award and it is unclear how it might be used. To this end, from September 2019 the PMA will be rebranded as the **Postgraduate Quaternary Conference Fund (PQCF)**. This will be an equivalent to the QCF, but will be specifically for Postgraduates (Masters and PhD) with the same funding level of £750. Consequently, with the NRWA, postgraduate students will be able to apply for **£2250** of funding from the QRA during their postgraduate research career. However, they will only be able to apply for one of each of these awards during their postgraduate careers and will not have access to QRF or QCF until after these studies have been completed. This change will help to encourage more applications by making increased funds available to the PG community and will provide greater clarity regarding the definition and criteria of the different funding options.

Other points:

- A three-month limit has been applied for claiming funds to avoid issues with reporting accounts.
- A minor change has been made to the composition of the Awards Panel; the Treasurer will now be relieved of his/her Awards Panel obligations as part of the need to rationalise the Treasurer's responsibilities. The four-person panel will now comprise the Awards Officer, the Vice President and two ex-officio Executive members.
- The stock of James Croll and Lewis Penny Medals has been replenished.
- The INQUA Travel Fund 2019 has been opened with details available on the website. The fund will be administered on the same lines as the previous two cycles.
- The University of Oxford Radiocarbon Short Course Bursaries will be available in the January 2019 round with the course running in March 2019.

c. Special grants

- The new **QRA Research Award** with an upper limit of £5000 was awarded for the first time at the Annual General Meeting 2019.
- The **Bill Bishop Award** for 2016-2017 was not awarded.
- The QRA would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Queens University Belfast ¹⁴**CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology** for an annual allocation of radiocarbon determinations for New Researchers.

STANDARD AWARDS - award holders

Name	Institution	Title	Awarded (£)
New Researcher Workers Award (NRWA)			
James Allard	University of Manchester	Glaciation of the Balkans during the Late Pleistocene: extent, timing and climatic significance	750
Ahmad Alshdaifat	University of Nottingham	Reconstructing the Late Pleistocene to early Holocene palaeoclimate of southern Jordan using sedimentary archives	1000
Sujay Bandyopadhyay	University of Burdwan	Pleistocene geomorphic history of the western Bengal Basin, India.	1500
Matthew Carney	Manchester Metropolitan University	Coring of proglacial lake sediments near Birr, Co. Offaly Ireland	1250
Lucile Crete	University of Bournemouth	Using fossil antelope teeth and remote sensing of contemporary African vegetation community types to reconstruct hominin habitats in the Omo-Turkana basin (3.5 – 1.6 Ma)	1250
Marc Dickinson	University of	Resolving the chronology of the Mediterranean dwarf	1370

	<i>York</i>	elephants: application of a new method of amino acid dating on Sicilian material	
William Hiles	<i>University of St Andrews</i>	Elemental analysis for the detection of human-induced landscape instability in Iceland	540
Mihaela Newton	<i>University of Durham</i>	Field survey of mega-grooves in Assynt, Scotland	1000
Emma Readitt	<i>Edgehill University</i>	Holocene palaeotempestology and environmental change in the Gulf Coast of the USA.	1100
Graham Rush	<i>University of East London</i>	Rapid sea-level rise and climate change: lessons from the Holocene.	1400
Charlotte Slaymark	<i>University of Glasgow</i>	Calibrating biomarkers for quantitative temperature and precipitation proxies in the UK.	1500
Matthew Tomkins	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Geomorphological mapping and Schmidt Hammer sampling of granitic rock slope failure deposits (RSFs), in the Central and Eastern Pyrenees.	1200
Matthew Watkins	<i>University of Swansea</i>	Detecting forest insect and disease outbreaks within the palaeoecological record	1235
Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)			
Natasha Barlow	<i>University of Leeds</i>	PALSEA and QUIGS working groups of PAGES	450
Anna Bourne	<i>University of Southampton</i>	International Focus Group on Tephrochronology and Volcanism (INTAV) International Field conference and Workshop, Romania	600
Louise Callard	<i>University of Durham</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	550
Benjamin Chandler	<i>Queen Mary University of London</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	750
Charlotte Clarke	<i>University of Southampton</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	600
Chris Darvill	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Glacial landsystems of SE Iceland Joint QRA/GLWG Overseas Field Meeting	400
Andrew Emery	<i>University of Leeds</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	500
Kaja Fenn	<i>University of Oxford</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	600
Mick Frogley	<i>University of Sussex</i>	C3S Climate Data Rescue Capacity Building Workshop & 10th ACRE Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand.	750
Delia Georghiou	<i>SUERC</i>	Glacial landsystems of SE Iceland Joint QRA/GLWG Overseas Field Meeting	400
David Grady	<i>University of Aberystwyth</i>	IPA-PAL 2018, University of Stockholm	575
Karen Halsall	<i>University of Liverpool</i>	10th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, Dublin	600
Poppy Harding	<i>University College London, University of London</i>	International Society of Diatom Research	400
Lauren Knight	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	QRA ADM 2018, Plymouth.	517
Rachel Lem	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Impacts of sea-level rise from past to present (Islr2018), Uretht, Netherlands.	250
Hannah Mathers	<i>University of Glasgow</i>	EGU Training School Glaciers, Inchnadamph, Scotland.	470
Ali Monteath	<i>University of Southampton</i>	AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, USA	750
Theodora Moutsiou	<i>Cyprus</i>	24th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Barcelona, Spain	450

Heather Pardoe	<i>Museum of Wales</i>	10th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, Dublin	340
Sarah Woodroffe	<i>Durham University</i>	AGU Fall Meeting, New Orleans, USA	750
Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)			
Kristjan Ahnerson	<i>University of Bangor</i>	Tephra contouring: A novel application of tephrochronology to study reduction of coastal woodland in Viking-Age Iceland	800
Becky Briant	<i>Birkbeck College, University of London</i>	Life on the Edge?	750
Rachel Carr	<i>University of Newcastle</i>	Determining ice thickness and volume change in the Kåfjord Alps, Troms county, northern Norway, since the Little Ice Age	1000
Caroline Classon	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Fallout radionuclides (FRNs) in glacial environments: investigate the distribution of cryoconite on an Icelandic glacier such as Svínafellsjökull and the levels of FRN activity present in the supraglacial environment.	1250
John Cooper	<i>University of Swansea</i>	The Submerged Landscapes of Gower	1200
Jonathan Cripps	<i>Simon Fraser University</i>	Deglaciation of the central Fraser Plateau, British Columbia	1500
Alistair Curry	<i>University of Hertfordshire</i>	Holocene modification of sediment-mantled hillslopes in the English Lake District	1000
Nick Cutler	<i>University of Newcastle</i>	Interpreting tephra layers: what factors influence tephra layer preservation?	950
Ed Garrett	<i>University of Durham</i>	Testing the supercycle hypothesis using palaeogeodesy	1100
Maurizio Gatta	<i>University of York</i>	Fallout radionuclides (FRNs) in glacial environments: investigate the distribution of cryoconite on an Icelandic glacier such as Svínafellsjökull and the levels of FRN activity present in the supraglacial environment.	850
Roland Gehrels	<i>University of York</i>	Establishing palaeoecological baselines to assess impacts from pollution in South Africa.	979
Jim Innes	<i>University of Durham</i>	Laboratory preparation of pollen samples from a peat profile at site F46, Nosterfield Quarry, North Yorkshire	400
Antonia Law	<i>Keele University</i>	What can contemporary proglacial lakes tell us about the early stages of lake ontogeny?	1470
Martin Kirkbride	<i>University of Dundee</i>	Debris-cover formation at Khumbu Glacier, Nepal	1500
Alice Milner	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Establishing palaeoecological baselines to assess impacts from pollution in South Africa	1200
Gina Moseley	<i>University of Innsbruck</i>	The fundamental knowledge gap in coastal terrestrial palaeoclimate records for Greenland	750
Richard Payne	<i>University of York</i>	The Falkland Islands Peat Project	1300
Alex Pryor	<i>University of Exeter</i>	The age and climatic context of Middle Stone Age (MSA) occupations at Bundu Farm, South Africa	400

Lucy Roberts	<i>Queen Mary, University of London</i>	Uncertainty in the distribution of Mg/Ca in shells of <i>Cyprideis torosa</i> (Crustacea, Ostracoda): Implications for palaeoclimate reconstructions	1500
Nicole Sanderson	<i>University of Quebec</i>	Measuring the distribution of ¹³⁷ Cs in peatlands as a geochronological marker using a portable gamma spectrometer	1250
Helen Shaw	<i>Maynooth Univesity</i>	Investigating the potential to interpret and quantify historic grazing density from pollen diversity and coprophilous fungal spores in traditional high-nature-value farmed landscapes.	1050
Martin Stokes	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Quaternary alluvial fan dynamics from Santo Antao island (Cape Verde)	850
Toby Tonkin	<i>University of Oxford</i>	Establishing a refined deglacial chronology for the Cairngorm Mountains using Schmidt Hammer Exposure Dating (SHED)	475
Jessie Woodbridge	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Palaeoclimate, land cover and cultural change in central Turkey	534
Alessa Geiger	<i>University of Michigan</i>	A Multi-Method approach to constrain Patagonian Ice Sheet Geometry changes West of the Andean divide during the late Quaternary	1000
Lynda Yorke	<i>University of Bangor</i>	How low can you go? Investigating the sedimentary sequence of the Glaslyn estuary and Afon Glaslyn, Gwynedd.	840
QRA-14CHRONO Centre Radiocarbon Dating Award			
Alvaro Castilla-Beltran	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Determining the timing of the first human impacts in Santo Antão's landscapes, Cape Verde	2 dates
Rachel Everett	<i>University of Warwick</i>	Ancient DNA taphonomy within submerged palaeolandscapes research: An integrated multi-proxy approach for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction at Tan-y Bwlch, Aberystwyth.	2 dates
Rachel Peacock	<i>University of Hull</i>	Dating the remains of Castor fiber (European beaver) at Skipsea Withow Gap, East Yorkshire.	3 dates
Leeza Pickering	<i>Durham University</i>	Is there any stratigraphic evidence of the Storegga Slide reaching Budle Bay, Northumberland?	3 dates
Ashley Tuton	<i>University of Southampton</i>	What controls turbidite recurrence intervals on the central Sumatran margin?	3 dates
Postgraduate Meetings Award (PMA)			
Andrew Emery	<i>University of Leeds</i>	QRA ADM 2018, Plymouth.	200
Julian Martin	<i>Royal Holloway</i>	QRA ADM 2018, Plymouth.	112.50
Lauren Knight	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	EGU General Assembly 2018	250
Radiocarbon Short Course University of Oxford. (not held in 2018)			
QRA Research Award		Stuart Black (Reading University)	
James Croll Medal		Ann Wintle (<i>Aberystwyth University</i>)	
Lewis Penny Medal		Clare Boston (<i>University of Portsmouth</i>)	

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY

This item was presented by the Secretary on behalf of the Publications Secretary.

a. QRA Book Publications

One new Field Guide was published in 2018: *Glacial Landsystems of Southeast Iceland - Quaternary Applications* (Evans). Five field guides are currently in preparation for INQUA 2019: (i) *The Quaternary Fluvial Archives of the Major English Rivers* (Briant, Bridgland, White); (ii) *The nature and timing of the 'Younger Dryas' Glaciation of Scotland* (Palmer and Lowe); (iii) *Different Styles of Younger Dryas Glaciation in the Northwestern and Central Scottish Highlands* (Lukas and Boston); (iv) *Late Quaternary Landscape Evolution, Palaeoenvironments and Human Occupation in the North of Ireland* (Roe, Whitehouse, Knight); (iv) *The Isles of Scilly: Tracing and Dating the LGM Ice Limit* (Scourse). A further field guide is in production to support an October joint GLWG/QRA *Glen Clova and Strathmore* meeting run by Wishart Mitchell.

b. Book Sales and stock

Book sales in 2018 totalled 327, compared to 456 in 2017. The current book stock held by Val Siviter is c. 2861 (2872 in 2017) (both Field and Technical Guides). David Bridgland has moved all the North East book store to the centrally held stock managed by Val Siviter, except for some copies of *The Quaternary of Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire*. Additional copies are still available of the '*History of the Quaternary Research Association*' (Eds. Catt and Candy).

c. Out of print publications

The Brecon Beacons guide is now out of print and cannot unfortunately be reprinted for logistical reasons.

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

This item was presented by the Secretary on behalf of the Publications Secretary.

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 in working with local groups. The role of the QRA Conservation Officer on the Executive Committee (conservation@qra.org.uk) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to present the QRA's position on conservation issues. Some of the most important initiatives in 2018 have included:

(i) *Earth Heritage - The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine*. The Association has continued its support for this magazine (www.earthheritage.org.uk), and issues 49 and 50 were published in 2018. This free-to-download publication is produced twice a year by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales, the Geologists' Association and the QRA, with major contributions from others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. QRA members can receive email notifications of new issues by following the instructions on the *Earth Heritage Magazine* homepage. QRA members are also encouraged to suggest articles or news items for the magazine by contacting the Conservation Officer who represents the QRA on the editorial board.

(ii) The QRA has set out how its meeting, research, conservation and outreach activities contribute to the delivery of the Scottish Geodiversity Charter.

(iii) The Association continues to liaise with other geological organisations on conservation matters through our membership of the Geological Society's Geoconservation Committee.

(iv) The President has written to the local planning authority in support of conservation and management of the *Callander (Auchenlaich) Moraine*. He also responded to Scottish Natural Heritage's consultation on the Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve management plan. Following a request by a QRA member, the QRA President wrote in support of continued funding for Torquay Museum given its important Pleistocene and Palaeolithic collections.

(v) QRA members have reported concerns about potentially damaging activities carried out at Lleiniog (Anglesey). The Conservation Officer has contacted Natural Resources Wales and asked that members report specific concerns to their Senior Geologist in the first instance. The QRA will continue to monitor the situation.

(vi) Following a request by a QRA member, the President has responded to government consultations on the *National Planning Policy Framework* in relation to the conservation of Quaternary sites.

(vii) *QRA Geoconservation Awards*. One award had been given to *Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership*. Please contact the Conservation Officer (conservation@qra.org.uk) for queries re the awards scheme.

10. QRA MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2018–19

a. Forthcoming meetings in 2019

INQUA pre and post congress field trips - see <https://www.qra.org.uk/inqua19-field-trips/>

Pre:QGL-5: The Nature and Timing of the ‘Younger Dryas’ Glaciation of Scotland

Date: 19th – 23rd July 2019
Venue: Southern, central and eastern Grampian Mountains
Leader: Adrian Palmer & John Lowe
Contact: a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk

Pre:QFL-6: The Quaternary Fluvial Archives of the Major English Rivers

Date: 20th – 24th July 2019
Venue: Lower Thames, Solent, Trent, Severn/Avon
Leaders: Becky Briant, David Bridgland, Tom White, Eleanor Brown
Contact: b.briant@bbk.ac.uk; d.r.bridgland@durham.ac.uk

Pst:QHL-3: Late Quaternary Landscape Evolution, Palaeoenvironments and Human Occupation in the North of Ireland

Date: 1st – 4th August 2019
Venue: Northern Ireland
Leaders: Helen Roe, Nicki Whitehouse, Jasper Knight
Contact: h.roe@qub.ac.uk

Pst:QGL-4: Different Styles of Younger Dryas Glaciation in the Northwestern and Central Scottish Highlands

Date: 1st – 5th August 2019
Venue: Highlands
Leaders: Sven Lukas, Clare Boston
Contact: sven.lukas@geol.lu.se

Pst:QG/ArchL-5: The Quaternary of the Isles of Scilly

Date: 1st – 5th August 2019
Venue: Scilly
Leader: James Scourse
Contact: j.scourse@exeter.ac.uk

Note: the viability of the QRA-run INQUA trips will be confirmed in late March 2019 – dates may move if cancelled for INQUA. The trips are centrally bookable through Val Siviter.

Joint QRA/GLWG Field Meeting to Glen Clova and Strathmore, eastern Scotland

Date: 24th to 27th October 2019
Venue: Strathmore

Organiser: Wishart Mitchell, Martin Kirkbride, Simon Cook
Contact: w.mitchell@dundee.ac.uk

QRA Postgraduate Symposium

Aug 2019: tbc.
Venue: University of York
Organisers: Sophie Williams (York)
Contact: slw555@york.ac.uk

b. Forthcoming meetings in 2020

QRA Annual Discussion Meeting

Jan 2020. *Quaternary Earth System processes and feedbacks: challenges for society*
Venue: University of Leeds
Organisers: Karen Bacon, Natasha Barlow, Ruza Ivanovic, Christian Maerz, Paul Morris, Graeme Swindles
Contact: n.l.m.barlow@leeds.ac.uk

c. Forthcoming meetings in 2021

QRA Annual Discussion Meeting

Jan 2021. Title tbc
Venue: University of Portsmouth
Organisers: Timothy Barrows, Clare Boston, Laura Cunningham, David Giles, Mark Hardiman, Harold Lovell, Sabine Wulf
Contact: clare.boston@port.ac.uk

11. CIRCULAR: MEMBER CONSULTATION

The Secretary reported that a consultation exercise had been undertaken with the membership during 2018 on the mode of distribution of the *Circular* in response to queries which had arisen during the 2018 AGM. This exercise had shown that there is significant support for distributing the *Circular* via email as a 'badged' *Newsletter* item. This method of distribution had worked successfully throughout 2018 and no complaints had been received. It was agreed during the meeting that the *Newsletter* circulation should continue. It was noted though that for the minority of members who still prefer to receive a hard copy of the *Circular* with a printed copy of *QN* this could be facilitated.

12. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As noted under *item 6*, Tom White has kindly agreed to resume the role of Treasurer on an interim basis (Sept 2018 to Jan 2020) until a new Treasurer can be found. The following people have been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Nominations were published in the October 2018 Circular. No other nominations were received by the closing date so the following were duly elected:

Vice President: Jane Hart (Southampton)

Awards Officer: Kathryn Adamson (Manchester Metropolitan)

Conservation Officer: Eleanor Brown (Natural England)

13. HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE QRA

The President announced that Phil Gibbard had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status. An outline of Phil's significant contribution to Quaternary science and to the QRA was given during the meeting. The nomination was accepted unanimously by the membership; a full citation will appear in *QN 147*.

14. AWARD OF PRIZES AND MEDALS

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2018:

a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize. Jack Wharton (UCL) for his dissertation '*Reconstructing AMOC over the past 7,000 years: Is the Industrial Era weakening an unprecedented event?*' As noted under item 5 above, dissertations by Tamara Brian (Cambridge) and Annabel Everard (St Andrews) were highly commended.

b. Quaternary Research Award. Stuart Black (University of Reading).

b. Lewis Penny Medal. Clare Boston (University of Portsmouth).

c. James Croll Medal. Ann Wintle (Aberystwyth University).

Full citations will appear in a future issue of *QN*.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting started at 16:45 and finished at 18:15 hrs
Minutes taken by Dr Helen Roe (Secretary)
January 2019