

**MINUTES OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, HELD ONLINE (via Zoom)  
7 JANUARY 2021**

The President, Simon Lewis, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 80 participants, including:

Kathryn Adamson, Cristina Balaban, Jenny Bennett, Sinead Birks, Clare Boston, Becky Briant, Eleanor Brown, Jane Bunting, Cynthia Burek, Louis Callard, Victor Cartelle, Benjamin Chandler, Henk Cornelissen, Alastair Curry, Christopher Darvill, Bethan Davies, Lauren Davies, Stephen Davison, Eleanor Day, Cathy Delaney, Michaela Ecker, Jeremy Ely, Trevor Faulkner, Kaja Fenn, Paul Fish, Will Fletcher, Mick Frogley, Phil Gibbard, John Gordon, Michael Grant, Mark Hardiman, Jane Hart, John Hiemstra, Rupert Housley, Steve Juggins, Sebastian Kreutzer, Daniel Le Heron, James Lea, Simon Lewis, Harold Lovell, Michela Mariani, Shasta Marrero, Neil McDonald, Des McDougall, Flyff McLaren, Danielle McLean, Alice Milner, Andrew Newton, Danni Pearce, Kirsty Penkman, Richard Preece, Sean Pyne-O'Donnell, Neil Roberts, Patrick Robson, Helen Roe (minutes), Jim Rose, Nick Schafstall, James Scourse, Katherine Selby, Robyn Seymour-Jones, Richard Staff, Antony Stevens, Jason Stewart, Abi Stone, Robert Storrar, Graeme Swindles, Eileen Tisdall, Dale Tromans, Eline van Asperen, Thya van den Berg, David Warnes, Emily Watt, D. White, Graham Wilson, Sarah Woodroffe, Sabine Wulf, Shuang Zhang.

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kim Davies, Wishart Mitchell, and Mike Walker.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE 55<sup>th</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**

The President began by thanking the organisers of the 2021 ADM for putting together such an excellent meeting under difficult circumstances.

**a. Deceased Members.** Four members had sadly passed away since the last AGM: David Bowen, Geoff Gaunt, Peter Hall and Richard West FRS. The President described their significant and wide ranging contributions to scholarship, to education, and their roles in inspiring others. A short silence was held by way of remembrance.

**b. Covid-19 Pandemic.** The President noted that the pandemic had had many impacts on the Association, with several meetings being postponed or cancelled, and many funded research projects being subject to delays. The Executive Committee had responded by moving meetings online and by adopting a more flexible approach to grant reporting. Changes had also been made to the rubrics for QRA Awards to take the evolving situation into account. The President thanked members of the Executive for their efforts to ensure that core business had continued.

**c. Finances.** The QRA continues to benefit from royalty payments associated with the publication of *JQS*, and the finances are in a good state of health. The President thanked former Treasurer Tom White for his unstinting support in managing the finances on an interim basis in 2019 and for supporting the new Treasurer, Rupert Housley, after he took over in 2020. Both had worked hard under difficult circumstances to prepare the Annual Charity Commission Report in 2020.

**d. JQS matters.** The President thanked Neil Roberts for his continuing work as Editor-in-Chief. JQS had continued to publish high quality, significant research through 2020 in spite of the pandemic (see Item 5d). The annual Editorial Advisory Board Meeting had been delayed, but had been run successfully online in November.

**e. Geological Society.** The QRA had maintained strong links with the Geological Society during the year. The President and Honorary Secretary (Helen Roe) had attended the Geological Society Specialist Groups Meeting in May 2020, which had considered the impacts of the pandemic amongst other themes.

**f. INQUA.** To strengthen the Association's links with INQUA, INQUA President Thijs van Kolfshotten had attended the 2019 Annual General Meeting in Leeds to speak about the organisation structure and new developments. He encouraged UK scientists to get more involved in INQUA (see 2019 AGM Minutes). The President reported that several members currently hold positions in the INQUA Commissions, including *Coastal and Marine Processes* (CMP) and *Humans & the Biosphere* (HABCOM).

**g. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.** The President noted that Equality and Diversity issues had become prominent in 2020, and that whilst the QRA had monitored participation at meetings for several years, more needs to be done. The Executive Committee had discussed plans during the Autumn 2020 meeting to set up a working group to explore EDI issues further, and details would be announced in 2021.

**h. Executive Committee.** The President thanked three retiring members for their work during their terms in office: Becky Briant (Meetings Officer), Kim Davies (Outreach and External Liaison), and John Hiemstra (Ordinary Member).

## 5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

### a. Membership.

**Table 1.** Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2020. \*Includes copyright members

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change (19–20)
Ordinary Members	598	636	656	615	682	677	592	616	+24
Postgraduate Members	344	368	358	289	369	395	321	343	+22
Unwaged/Retired Members	145	146	147	134	137	137	118	123	+5
Honorary members	31	35	38	38	41	40	40	42	+2
Institutional members	37	29	26	21	22	17	17	16	-1
Corresponding members*	19	23	23	23	23	24	24	23	-1
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>+51</b>

Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1163** (see Table 1). Members were asked to check that their subscription payments are up to date and to contact Val Siviter ([admin@qra.ac.uk](mailto:admin@qra.ac.uk)) with any queries. Subscriptions for 2020 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. On behalf of the membership, Val Siviter was thanked for her ongoing work for the Association, particularly management of the membership database.

### b. Meetings.

#### i) 2020 Annual Discussion Meeting (ADM)

*Quaternary Earth System processes and feedbacks: challenges for society*

University of Leeds, 8th - 10th January 2020

Organisers: Natasha Barlow, Ruza Ivanovic, Christian Maerz, Karen Bacon, Paul Morris, Graeme Swindles

Attendees: 108 (69% male; 31% female).

#### ii) 25th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium

University of Chester, 26th - 27th August 2020 (hosted online)

Organiser: Dale Tromans

Attendees: 11 (55% male; 45% female). Report: *QN 152* forthcoming

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2020 was delivered during the ADM by Camille Li (University of Bergen) entitled '*At the crossroads of atmosphere-ice-ocean mechanisms for abrupt climate change*'.

The people who had organised and participated in the above meetings, and who were preparing reports for *QN* were thanked. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, other meetings planned for 2020 had been postponed or cancelled.

Offers of future meetings are welcomed, and the formats are flexible and that field meetings do not necessarily require the production of accompanying guides. Anyone interested in running a meeting should contact the Meetings Officer ([meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)).

**c. QRA Grants and Awards.** During the 2019-20 financial year, grants totalling £33,205 were awarded to members under the QRA's Standard Awards schemes (see Item 7a). Details of all QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: [qra.org.uk/grants](http://qra.org.uk/grants)

#### **d. Publications.**

##### ***QRA Field Guides***

No new field guides were published in 2020.

##### ***Quaternary Newsletter***

2 issues: 150 (Feb 2020), 151 (October 2020) *NB. the June issue was cancelled due to the pandemic.*

Editor: Dr Sarah Woodroffe (Durham)

The QN Editor reported that she would be happy receive articles that use existing or virtual datasets to move the science forward in the absence of opportunities to undertake fieldwork. *QN* provides a great opportunity to publish rapid discussion pieces on issues of interest to the Quaternary science community. Early Career Researchers (including PhD students) were encouraged to consider using *QN* to develop their skills in article writing and to continue to write excellent reports about meetings of interest to the Quaternary community.

##### ***Journal of Quaternary Science***

*Volume 35: containing ca. 90 articles across eight issues*

Editor-in-Chief: Professor Neil Roberts (University of Plymouth)

In spite of the pandemic, *JQS* had continued without major difficulties in 2020. Key developments include:

- **Published page increases:** Volume 35 (2020) had comprised 1099 pages, in comparison to 707 pages for volume 34 (2019), in line with agreed expansion targets of ~20% per annum. Manuscript submissions also increased by ~20%.
- **Special Issues:** A special issue entitled "*Tephrochronology as a global geoscientific research tool*" was published in January 2020 (29 papers; 379 pages). Several other special issues are in progress.
- **Print copies - future plans:** The number of printed copies of the journal is small and is decreasing. In light of this, it has been agreed that the regular print run will be discontinued (probably from 2022). The option of using "print on demand" is being explored when paper copies are needed.
- **Open Access:** JQS publisher Wiley have made 'Transitional Deals' with several European countries, including the UK, which will provide UK universities access to Wiley's full portfolio of journals. This will also allow their staff to publish open access in *JQS* without charge (until 2023).
- **Impact Factor:** Disappointingly the latest 2-year Impact Factor (IF) for citations during 2019 (based on articles published in 2017 and 2018), fell from 2.846 to 2.377. This is the same as the IF in 2016 and 2017.
- **QRA Website Access:** Action had been taken to allow members who do not have institutional access to *JQS* to have access via the QRA website (see Item 5i).

The *JQS* Editor thanked members for their continued support for the journal both as authors and referees.

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

During 2020 proposals were received for three new research groups, which will formally commence in Jan 2021:

- **Quaternary Engineering Geology:** Applicants: Paul Fish (Lead), Becky Briant, Tom Berry, Julian Murton, Jonathan Lee, Dave Evans, Dave Giles and others.

- **Peatland Ecosystems and Time (PEaT):** Applicants: Graeme Swindles (Lead), Angela Gallego-Sala, Tom Roland, Alice Milner, Paul Morris, Helen Roe and Gill Plunkett.
- **Virtual Palaeoscience Project (ViPs):** Applicants: Jane Bunting (Lead), Kim Davies, Simon Hutchinson, Fabienne Marret-Davies, Elizabeth Hurrell, Des McDougall, Danni Pearce, Irene Torereggiani, Nicki Whitehouse and others.

Outlines of the three groups were given during the meeting. New proposals for research groups are invited at any time and should be discussed with the Meetings Officer in the first instance ([meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)).

## f. Outreach.

### (i) QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

A record number of entries (18) were submitted for the 2020 prize. The winner was Ellie Day (Durham University) (*see Item 13 below*). An Abstract will be published in QN. The judges Mary Edwards and Gill Plunkett were thanked for their work in reviewing the entries. The continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS who administer the prize was acknowledged.

### (ii) QRA Outreach Award

Whilst many activities in 2020 had to be suspended because of the pandemic, two projects were allocated funds:

- *'Girls into Geoscience Wales':* A two-day event aimed at young women (Years 11-13) interested in finding out more about geoscience. This will give young women the opportunity to listen to leading female geoscientists talk about their jobs and how they got there; to take part in geoscience workshops; and to have the opportunity to get a flavour of studying geosciences at university. The event had to be postponed due to the pandemic, but will be supported by the QRA when it is permitted to go ahead.
- *'VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes':* an online resource for education and outreach ([vrglaciers.wp.worc.ac.uk](http://vrglaciers.wp.worc.ac.uk)), which provides immersive, ground-level virtual 'field' access to glaciers and glaciated environments. The Association is committed to supporting additional development of the resource to include interpretative aids.

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 or contact the Outreach Officer ([outreach@qra.org.uk](mailto:outreach@qra.org.uk)).

### (iii) QRA Photo competition

At the 2020 QRA ADM in Leeds a successful photo competition was run, which received entries from a broad range of Quaternary themes. The top 15 photos were voted on by meeting participants. The winning picture was *'The Rock of the Faces', Beinn a' Bhuird, Cairngorms, Scotland*, submitted by Adrian Hall, Stockholm.

## g. Executive Committee.

The following members completed their terms of office between January 2020 and January 2021 and were thanked on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the smooth running of the Association:

- September 2020: Luis Rees-Hughes (*Postgraduate representative*)
- January 2021: Becky Briant (*Meetings Officer*); Kim Davies (*Outreach and External Liaison*); John Hiemstra (Ordinary Member).

Emily Watt (UCL) joined the committee in September 2020 to represent the postgraduate community.

## h. Postgraduate activities.

Postgraduate events continue to be an important component of the activities of the Association. The Annual Postgraduate Symposium series has continued, with the September 2020 event being hosted by University of Chester as an online meeting. The meeting was a success and a write-up will appear in QN.

The postgraduate representatives also maintain the **social media** accounts of the Association. The number of followers for the QRA's Social Media accounts in 2020 was reported as follows: *Twitter*: 2,757; *Facebook*: 1,634; *Instagram*: 172. Twitter remains the most popular. Members were encouraged to promote activities and

discussions on Quaternary-related themes via these social media platforms. For further details, members should check the website or contact the Postgraduate Representatives ([postgrad@qra.org.uk](mailto:postgrad@qra.org.uk)).

#### **i. Publicity.**

In 2020, the new Publicity Officer, Chris Darvill, distributed e-mail Newsletters to members approximately once a week. These remain a popular and effective means of advertising positions, events and news across the membership. The Publicity Officer currently schedules these for 3 pm on Fridays and requests that the relevant announcements are sent to [publicity@qra.org.uk](mailto:publicity@qra.org.uk) by Thursday for circulation that week.

The Publicity Officer also worked with the QRA website management company, *Focal Strategy*, and Wiley to enable members to access *Journal of Quaternary Science* content via the website using their membership login. This is now active and details will be circulated to members via email.

The Publicity Officer worked with the Awards Officer in 2020 to streamline an offline grants application system as the online version on the website was causing applicants and the Awards Officer additional, unnecessary work. Some minor changes to the website can be made by the Executive Committee; more major changes must be arranged with the website management company, which was challenging in 2020. The Executive Committee will continue to review these and other website-related issues in 2021 before deciding whether a significant upgrade or redesign is required.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

### **6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

**a. Introduction.** The annual financial report was prepared by Rupert Housley (Treasurer) and former Treasurer, Tom White. The report covers the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. Accounts are detailed in Table 2. All values stated are rounded up to the nearest pound.

The Association's financial activities have generally been comparable to previous years, although the pandemic has suppressed both income and expenditure. Overall, the finances of the Association remain healthy and stable. The figures and accounts presented below remain provisional until checked by an external auditor.

**b. Income.** In total, the Association's income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £13,833. This comprises £8,298 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £609 from book sales, and £4,926 from undifferentiated subscriptions and book sales via the Stripe online payment system. The Association received an important contribution of £90,784 from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *JQS* an appreciable increase on the previous financial year. Other royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £952. The Royal Society continues to support the UK's membership of INQUA via the QRA, providing a contribution of £6,279 towards our subscription. The Treasurer also administers the *JQS* Editorial Board fund, provided by Wiley and ring-fenced for *JQS* expenses (honoraria and meeting expenses). The payment from Wiley for 2019-20 was £16,058. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2019-20 was £105,568, and the total income was £131,398. The figure for total income is higher than for the previous three years due to the increase in the profit-sharing with Wiley from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science*. On behalf of the QRA, the Treasurer gratefully acknowledges a donation of £1,000 from ShareGift (The Orr Mackintosh Foundation).

**c. Expenditure.** Day-to-day running costs of the Association (primarily payment of our Administrator, funding meetings of the Executive, postage and website maintenance) were comparable to previous years at £12,889. At £27,877 the Association's spending on Grants, Awards, and Meeting Sponsorship was significantly less from last year's total of £83,766. This is due to two factors; last year the QRA supported many delegates who attended the 2019 INQUA Congress, whilst in 2020 the pandemic significantly suppressed applications for fieldwork and conference attendance grants. The UK subscription to INQUA for 2019 does not appear in this report as payment fell outside the reporting timeframe. This will be shown in next year's financial statement. Overall, expenditure for 2019-20 was £60,531.

#### **d. Year-end financial status.**

As of 31st July 2020, the Association held:

- £108,710.31 in the Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account

- £27,600.00 in the Bank of Scotland Publications Account [estimate]
- £127,235.09 in the HSBC Community Account
- £40,704.68 in the HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

The Association started the 2018-19 financial year with total funds of £233,366.96 and ended with £304,250.08. As always, the aim was to break-even within the financial year, but the exceptional nature of the months March-July 2020 meant spending was not possible as research activity was curtailed by external factors. A strong pick-up in expenditure is expected once travel restrictions are removed and in-person meetings and fieldwork are re-started. Ring-fenced sums within the Association's holdings include £16,255 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Award, £85,500 for the INQUA fund, £5,000 for the Lewis Penny Medal, ~£16,000 for administering the *JQS* Editorial Board, and £30,000 designated to meet any unexpected liabilities.

**e. Plans for the next financial period.** The QRA continues to receive a substantially increased profit share from the publication of *JQS*. The high level of reserves means that spending on standard awards and activities can be maintained at the higher level of ~£50,000 trialled for the 2017-18 financial year, including additional funding for GeoConservation awards and the prestigious QRA Research Award. As always, this spending will be closely monitored to ensure that reserves are replenished ahead of the next INQUA awards round in 2023.

**Table 2:** Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's account for 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.

INCOME	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Subscriptions	£9,237	£9,309	£8,298
Book sales	£1,534	£1,125	£609
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£7,292	£8,173	£4,925.59
<b>Total Subs/Book Sales</b>	<b>£18,063</b>	<b>£18,608</b>	<b>£13,832.59</b>
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£75,065	£73,785	£90,784.00
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£1,659	£883	£951.65
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£5,910	£5,825	£6,279
Surplus on Meetings	£587	£149	£2,079.98
Bank refunds	£720	£0	£4.86
INQUA Field trip subscriptions	£0	£19,311	£331.43
Advertising	£0	£0	£0
Returned awards	£113	£1,020	£0
Donations	£0	£1,000	£1,000
Interest Received	£23	£22	£76.88
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>£84,077</b>	<b>£101,995</b>	<b>£101,507.80</b>
JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)	£15,465	£15,821	£16,058
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£117,606</b>	<b>£120,581</b>	<b>£131,398.39</b>
WORKING INCOME	£94,788	£92,393	£105,568.24
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£764	£1,159	£1,062
Newsletter postage	£1,865	£1,821	£934.13
Admin support	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Postage & stationery	£124	£0	£0
Executive Committee Costs	£3,525	£3,347	£3,659.68
Insurance premium	£1,242	£1,180	£1,233.06
<b>Total Running Expenditure</b>	<b>£13,520</b>	<b>£13,508</b>	<b>£12,888.87</b>

Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£7,305	£3,310	£2,355
<b>Total Publications Expenditure</b>	<b>£7,305</b>	<b>£3,310</b>	<b>£2,355</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)</b>			
Editors' honoraria	£9,000	£9,000	£12,000
Exec. INQUA costs	£0	£0	£220
Board meeting travel	£1,155	£1,113	£1,513
<b>Total JQS Editorial Board Costs</b>	<b>£10,155</b>	<b>£10,113</b>	<b>£13,732.74</b>
<b>Grants/Awards/Support</b>			
NRWA	£12,145	£19,005	£11,890
QRF	£25,034	£19,495	£8,470
QCF	£12,182	£5,334	£2,800
QRA Research Fund	£0	£4,260	£0
INQUA Fund	£0	£30,620	£2,155.86
PGMA	£563	£0	£0
Outreach Award	£4,460	£0	£0
Geoconservation Award	£1,000	£1,805	£1,000
Undergrad dissertation prize	£250	£250	£0
ADM Poster prizes	£0	£0	£0
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£0	£0	£0
<sup>14</sup> C bursaries	£0	£1,297	£0
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£0	£0	£800
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£669	£163	£461.32
Postgraduate Conference	£500	£500	£0
Research sub-group support	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Grants/Awards/Support</b>	<b>£56,803</b>	<b>£83,766</b>	<b>£27,577.18</b>
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£0	£8	£0
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£0	£0	£0
Cancelled INQUA fieldtrip reimbursements	£0	£0	£1,050
Meetings expenditure	£3,500	£1,700	£2,000
Catering (meetings)	£538	£387	£0
INQUA subscription	£12,349	£12,842	£0
Web Site costs	£458	£450	£450
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£200	£200	£300
Medals - striking/engraving	£52	£3,000	£0
RGS Archives	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Other Expenditure</b>	<b>£17,097</b>	<b>£18,860</b>	<b>£3,800</b>
<b>Bank charges</b>	<b>£168</b>	<b>£281</b>	<b>£176.96</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£105,048</b>	<b>£139,111</b>	<b>£60,530.75</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>£12,558</b>	<b>-£18,488</b>	<b>£70,867.64</b>

The Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.



## 7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AWARDS OFFICER

### a. Standard Awards.

In the Standard Awards rounds for financial year 2019-20 **£33,205** was distributed. This was slightly less than in the 2018-19 financial year (£39,804). This year, application numbers were reduced (total applications: 43) compared to the previous financial year (62). This is most likely a result of Covid-19 restrictions on laboratory access, fieldwork logistics, and academic workloads. Nonetheless, the overall success rate of applications was very good.

**Table 3:** Summary of Standard and Special Awards 2019-2020. Award holders are given in Table 4.

Fund	Round	No. of applications <sup>1</sup>	Total monies requested (£)	No. funded	Total monies awarded (£)	% Funded
<b>NRWA</b>	May-20	3	4470	3	3470	100
	Jan-20	12	16896	7	7500	58
	Sep-19	3	20373*	2	2600	67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21366</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12570</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>PQCF</b>	May-20	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan-20	2	1250	1	500	50
	Sep-19	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>QCF</b>	May-20	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan-20	3	2250	2	1300	67
	Sep-19	2	1500	2	1500	100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3750</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>QRF</b>	May-20	7	7305	7	7065	100
	Jan-20	7	10110	6	6200	86
	Sep-19	4	5310	3	4070	75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22725</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17335</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Bill Bishop</b>		-	-	-	-	-
14C short course		-	-	-	-	-
14C Chrono <sup>2</sup>	May-20	1	-	1	-	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49091</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34205</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Refers only to eligible applications

<sup>2</sup> Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested

\*Includes one application for £18,773

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

QCF= Quaternary Conference Fund, PQCF=Postgraduate Quaternary Conference Fund; QRF=Quaternary Research Fund; NRWA= New Research Worker's Awards

**b. Special grants.** The QRA acknowledged the continued support of the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology, Queen's University Belfast, for an annual allocation of radiocarbon determinations for New Researchers.

### c. Notices and Activities 2019-2020.

The Awards Officer reported that the online Awards application system is currently suspended while this section of the website is revised. In the interim, applications are by email only. Applicants should use a new form which has been designed by the Awards panel. This new process has been successfully implemented since May 2020.

Disclaimers have also been added to all application forms, to ensure that all QRA-funded activities comply with institutional/national/international Covid-19 regulations. All recipients of QRA awards are requested to inform the QRA if their activities are delayed or cancelled.



**Table 4.** Standard Awards - Award holders

Name	Institution	Title	Award (£)
<b>NRWA</b>			
Anna Cutmore	<i>University College London</i>	Reconstructing abrupt climate changes of the last deglaciation & Holocene in Western Iberia using pollen & biomarker analyses	1100
Chiara Bancone	<i>University College London</i>	Temporal and spatial distribution of microplastics in the sediments of UK rural and urban lakes	1500
Jessie Woodbridge	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Understanding past drought, central Turkey	900
Benjamin Boyes	<i>University of Brighton</i>	Deglaciation of the Kola Peninsula, northwest Arctic Russia, during the Last Glacial-Interglacial Transition	1000
Cristina-Ioana Balaban	<i>Durham University</i>	Testing the competing influence of winds and topography during the past glaciation of the Southern Carpathians, Romania	1500
Charlotte Hipkiss	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Climate and human influences on the environmental history of Ngofe Marsh, Tonga	1300
Juan-Felipe Gómez	<i>University of Victoria</i>	Lagoon Evolution as a Tool to Decipher Modern	900
Gregor Hahn	<i>University of Leicester</i>	Coastal Changes on a Deltaic Barrier Island	900
Fiona Holloran	<i>University College London</i>	Stable isotope analyses at Picken's Hole, Somerset	1000
Laura Hunt	<i>University of Nottingham</i>	Quantifying human and climate impacts on crater lake hydrology and water balance over the past 1,000 years in Uganda	1470
Amy Gray	<i>Loughborough University</i>	Analysing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon levels (PAHs) in lake sediment cores from Svalbard.	1000
Cecile Porchier	<i>University College London</i>	variability in East Africa between 150,000 and 80,000 BP	1000
<b>PQCF</b>			
Roseanna Mayfield	<i>University of Southampton</i>	EGU General Assembly	500
<b>QCF</b>			
Rebecca Schlegel	<i>Swansea University</i>	EGU General Assembly	750
Jesse Zondervan	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	AGU Fall meeting	750
Luis Reece Hughes	<i>University of Leess</i>	EGU General Assembly	650
Ryan Dick	<i>Newcastle University</i>	9th International Symposium on Subaqueous Mass Movements and Their Consequences	650
<b>QRF</b>			
Rebecca Schlegel	<i>Swansea University</i>	EGU General Assembly	750
Jesse Zondervan	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	AGU Fall meeting	750
Luis Reece Hughes	<i>University of Leeds</i>	EGU General Assembly	650
Ryan Dick	<i>Newcastle University</i>	9th International Symposium on Subaqueous Mass Movements and Their Consequences	650
Rob Storrar	<i>Sheffield Hallam University</i>	Active formation and evolution of glaciofluvial landforms at Breiðamerkurjökull, SE Iceland	1500
Della Murton	<i>University of Cambridge</i>	X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis of discrete terrestrial sediment samples	1150
Adrian Palmer	<i>Royal Holloway</i>	Developing the annually-resolved archive of Patagonian Ice Sheet deglaciation using floating glaciolacustrine varve chronologies in the Lago General Carrera basin, Chile	1420
Bethan Davies	<i>Royal Holloway</i>	Glacier processes and landscape evolution in Gepatchferner, Kaunertal, Austria	1000
Abi Stone	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Quaternary dynamics of the Namib Sand Sea: exploring the potential of the portable luminescence reader along a south-north gradient.	1000
Robert Davis	<i>British Museum</i>	Burning question: Fire-use in northwest Europe 400,000 years ago	1000
Daniele Colombaroli	<i>Royal Holloway</i>	To Burn or not to Burn? Informing Fire Policy in Brecon Beacons NP based on its ecological history	1000
John Hiemstra	<i>Swansea University</i>	Connecting the dots - Devensian ice limits on Gower (multi-beam sonar survey)	1100
Eliza Cook	<i>University of Copenhagen</i>	Volcanic link - Using Northwest Pacific eruptions to synchronise global climate records. A first tephrochronological investigation of Lake Baikal, Russia.	1100
Kristen Beck	<i>University of Lincoln</i>	A palaeoecological perspective on the ecological implications of seawall removal at Gibraltar Point, UK	1250

Jim Innes	Durham University	<i>Palynology of Late Mesolithic microlith-bearing peat from Esklets, North York Moors, and micro-wear analysis of the flints</i>	1000
Stephan Harrison	Exeter University	<i>Late Holocene Moraines on Ben Nevis Scotland?</i>	1260
Ali Monteath	University of Southampton	<i>Peatland Carbon accumulation in the Falkland Islands across the Pleistocene-Holocene transition</i>	875
Graeme Swindles	Queens University Belfast	<i>Integrating palaeoecology and traditional knowledge to understand the long-term hydrological dynamics of Canada's largest watershed</i>	1300
Neil Loader	Swansea University	<i>Assessing Potential in Native Scots Pine for Isotope-supported Dendrochronology</i>	740
Lee Bradley	Manchester Metropolitan University	<i>Using dinoflagellate cysts to explore climate change and human impact on aquatic ecosystems</i>	640
<b><sup>14</sup>CHRONO</b>			
Will Burton	University of Southampton	The African Humid Period at ODP Site 662	3 dates

## 8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY

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

**a. QRA Book Publications:** No new publications were published in 2020.

**b. Book Sales and stock:** Book sales in 2020 totalled 136, compared to 297 in 2019. The current book stock held by Val Siviter is *ca.* 2877 (compared to 3100 in 2019) and includes both Field and Technical Guides.

**c. Out of print publications:** The following guides are now out of print: Glacitectonics; Assynt and Coigoch; Brecon Beacons; Central East Anglia and the Fen Basin; Cumbria; Devon and Cornwall; East Yorkshire Dales; Isle of Man and NW England; Kent and Sussex; Lower Reaches of the Thames; Norfolk and Suffolk; Orkney; Shetland Isles, SW Scottish Highlands; West Wales.

## 9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

The QRA and its members carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, offering practical support and working with local groups. The role of QRA Conservation Officer ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to promote the QRA's position on conservation issues. Some of the initiatives in 2020 included:

**a. Earth Heritage – The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine** ([www.earthheritage.org.uk](http://www.earthheritage.org.uk)). Issue 53 was published in 2020 and Issue 54 will be published shortly. This free-to-download publication is produced twice a year by the Geologists' Association, the QRA, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and NatureScot, with major contributions from others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. QRA members can suggest articles and news items to the QRA Conservation Officer, and also receive email notifications of new issues by following the instructions on the Earth Heritage Magazine homepage.

**b. Liaison and input into conservation policy matters.** The conservation officer had liaised regularly with geological organisations on conservation matters through membership of the Geological Society of London's Geoconservation Committee. The QRA has also provided in principle support for the development of a Geodiversity Charter for Wales and an International Geodiversity Day. The Association also responded to a Defra consultation on the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

**c. Advising on conservation matters notified by QRA members.** In 2018, QRA members reported concerns about potentially damaging activities carried out at Lleiniog (Anglesey). The QRA is continuing to monitor this situation. Advice has been provided to QRA members on planning applications affecting Quaternary SSSIs. Members are encouraged to consult the QRA Conservation Officer [conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk) if conservation advice on Quaternary sites in the UK is needed.

**d. The QRA Geoconservation Award.** Two awards were made in 2020:

- Additional funding was awarded for the production of diagrams for the *Geological Conservation Review Quaternary of Southern England* volume (initial award 2019);
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust were awarded funds for the development of an interpretation panel and equipment hire as part of the 'Ice-Age Geoheritage: Glacial Erratics in the Community' project.

Two QRA Conservation Award projects from 2019 are close to completion. Herne Bay Museum received funding for curating Palaeolithic and Pleistocene collections from sites in Kent and an article is being prepared for inclusion in *Earth Heritage Magazine*. Pitstone Quarry SSSI (College Lake Nature Reserve, Marsworth) have created a new section and path, and designed a new interpretation panel which will be installed in 2021 (note - this project is jointly funded by a QRA Outreach Award). An article will be produced for *Earth Heritage Magazine* once work has been completed.

Details of the Conservation Award can be found on the QRA website.

## 10. QRA MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2021-2022

### a. Forthcoming meetings in 2021

#### (i) Field Meetings

*Nature and Timing of the Deglaciation of the SW Scottish Highlands*

Date: September 2021

Location: Fort William, Scotland

Organisers: John Lowe and Adrian Palmer. Contact: [a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk)

#### (ii) Annual Postgraduate Symposium 2021

Date: August 2021

Location: University of St Andrews

Organiser: Willem Koster. Contact: [wwk1@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:wwk1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

#### (iii) Co-sponsored meetings

*'CryoMars'*

Date: 1st March 2021

Format: Online (Hosts, University of Sheffield)

Organisers: Jeremy Ely, Frances Butcher. Contact: [f.butcher@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:f.butcher@sheffield.ac.uk)

*'James Croll – from Janitor to Genius'*

Date: 17th - 18th April 2021

Venue: Perth, Scotland

Organisers: Kevin Edwards, Mike Robinson. Contact: [kevin.edwards@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.edwards@abdn.ac.uk)

*Co-sponsored session - Society for Africanist Archaeologists Meeting, Oxford*

Date: 15th - 20th August 2021

Venue: University of Oxford

Organisers: Emma Loftus. Contact: [el485@cam.ac.uk](mailto:el485@cam.ac.uk)

### b. Forthcoming meetings in 2022

QRA 2022 Annual Discussion Meeting: *'Quaternary Glaciations: Processes, Environments and Reconstructions'*.

Date: 5th - 8th January 2022

Venue: University of Sheffield

Organisers: Jeremy Ely, Chris Clark, Ann Rowan, Mark Bateman, Jennifer Doole, Stephen Livingstone, Grant Bigg, Darrel Swift. Contact: [j.ely@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.ely@sheffield.ac.uk)

### c. Meetings postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 that have yet to be rescheduled

*Co-sponsored meeting: 'Cryogenian glaciation: the extraordinary Port Askaig record and its comparators'*

Venue: University of St. Andrews (new date tbc)

Organisers: Anthony Spencer, Catherine Rose, Ian Fairchild, Roger Anderton, Doug Benn, Bruce Levell, Mike Hambrey

*Co-sponsored meeting - Cosmo2021-Scotland*

Venue: Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) (*new date tbc*)

Organisers: Derek Fabel, Delia Gheorghiu, Andy Hein, Martin Hurst, Shasta Marrero, Ángel Rodés

Website: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/suerc/cosmo2020scotland/>

The Meetings Officer thanked those who had offered meetings, and reminded members that a grant of £500 is available for running QRA sponsored meetings. Members were encouraged to think about hosting short (e.g. one day) meetings or overseas meetings with other Quaternary organisations; all types of meetings that promote Quaternary science are welcomed. Published field guides are not obligatory for field meetings.

## 11. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following people had been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Details of the posts had been given in the June and October 2020 Circulars and deadlines announced. No other nominations has been received for the posts so the following were duly elected:

**Meetings Officer:** Emrys Phillips (BGS)

**Outreach and External Liaison:** James Lea (University of Liverpool)

**Ordinary Member:** Rob Storrar (Sheffield Hallam University)

## 12. HONORARY MEMBERS

The President announced that Cynthia Burek and Wishart Mitchell had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status. The nominations were accepted unanimously by the membership; a full citation will appear in *QN* 152.

## 13. AWARD OF PRIZES AND MEDALS

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2020:

**a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize:** Ellie Day (Durham University) for her thesis entitled '*A Sedimentological Reconstruction of the Glacial History of Happisburgh, Norfolk, through Marine Isotope Stage 12*'. Runner Up: David Warnes (Newcastle University).

**b. Quaternary Research Award:** Cathy Delaney (Manchester Metropolitan University) for a project entitled '*Irish Ice Sheet Ice Dynamics During Onshore Retreat, Last Glacial Termination*'

**c. Lewis Penny Medal:** Andrew Newton (Queen's University Belfast).

**d. James Croll Medal:** Richard Preece (University of Cambridge).

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

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

*The meeting started at 2 pm and ended at 4 pm*

Minutes taken by Helen Roe (Secretary)

10 February 2021

*Updated 9 December 2021*