

CONTENTS

1. Subscriptions and membership information
2. QRA Executive Committee 2009
3. Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the QRA
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the JAQR
5. The Joint Association for Quaternary Research
6. QRA Field Meeting: The Solent Basin and West Sussex, 4th-8th April, 2009
7. QRA Postgraduate Symposium: 1st - 4th September 2009
8. QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2010: "Sea Level changes: science of a changing world"
9. QRA Field Meeting: The far Northwest Scottish Highlands, April 2010
10. QRA Research and Conference Grants
11. QRA website development
12. *Journal of Quaternary Science*
13. *Quaternary Newsletter*
14. Calendar of QRA Meetings

Visit the New QRA website at

www.qra.org.uk

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This Circular is also available at:

<http://www.qra.org.uk>

1. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Members are reminded that **subscriptions are due on January 1st**. Please pay promptly either by **STANDING ORDER** before this date or by **SENDING YOUR CHEQUE** punctually. In this way you are reducing the number of reminders and therefore postage costs. Overseas members who have difficulty paying by cheque or standing order can pay by visa (see website for details).

The subscription rates for QRA membership are as follows:

Ordinary Members	£20
Student, retired and unwaged members	£10
Institutional Membership	£35

Treasurer: Dr Peter Allen, 13 Churchgate, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 9NB
peter.allen6@virgin.net

Membership of the Association will be terminated for non-payment of subscriptions.

Membership information, application, standing order and Gift Aid forms can be found on the QRA Website (www.qra.org.uk)

2. QRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009

Following recent elections at the AGM (see below), the Executive Committee of the Quaternary Research Association for 2009 is as follows:

President:	Professor James Scourse (Bangor)	Jan 2011
Vice-President	Professor Barbara Maher (Lancaster)	Jan 2011
Secretary:	Dr Simon Lewis (QMUL)	Jan 2010
Treasurer:	Dr Peter Allen	Jan 2013
Publications Secretary:	Dr Pete Langdon (Southampton)	Jan 2010
Editor, <i>Quaternary Newsletter</i> :	Dr Mark Bateman (Sheffield)	Apr 2012
Awards Officer:	Dr Mick Frogley (Sussex)	Jan 2010
Meetings Officer:	Dr David Roberts (Durham)	Apr 2011
Publicity Officer:	Dr Fabienne Marret (Liverpool)	Jan 2012
Outreach officer:	Dr David Anderson (Eton College)	Jan 2012
Conservation Officer:	Dr Martin Bates (Lampeter)	Jan 2010
Ordinary members:	Dr Jonathan Lee (BGS)	Jan 2009
	Professor Chris Turney (Exeter)	Jan 2012
Editor, <i>JQS (ex officio)</i> :	Professor Chris Caseldine (Exeter)	Dec 2010
Chair, JAQR (<i>ex officio</i>):	Dr Simon Carr (QMUL)	Jan 2010
Postgraduate Representatives:	Lorna Lynch (QMUL)	Sept 2009
	Gunnar Mallon (Southampton)	Sept 2010

3. MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE QRA

Minutes of the 44th Annual General meeting held at St Anne's College, University of Oxford on 5th January 2009 at 19.00 hours.

The President, Professor James Scourse chaired the meeting, which was attended by thirty members of the Association:

Peter Allen, David Anderson, David Bain, Philip Barratt, Simon Blockley, Becky Briant, Eleanor Brown, Bob Bruce, Faith Cairns, Ian Candy, Simon Carr, Chris Caseldine, Kevin Edwards, Mick Frogley, Pete Langdon, Adrian Lister, John Lowe, Ian Matthews, Meriel McClatchie, Hannah O'Regan, Adrian Palmer, Kirsty Penkman, David Richards, Danielle Schreve, Rick Shakesby, Abi Stone, Nicki Whitehouse, Derek Wilde, Simon Lewis (minutes).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The President welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Colin Lewis and Jim Rose.

2. Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

4. President's announcements

a) Radiocarbon Workshop bursaries. The QRA has established a new scheme to award 2-3 bursaries for attendance at the new radiocarbon workshops. The scheme will be open to all members of the Association. The workshops will alternate between the University of Oxford and the NERC Radiocarbon Laboratory, East Kilbride.

b) RGS-IBG. The President reported that, following the successful 2008 ADM, preliminary discussions had begun over developing closer links with the RGS-IBG. This would build on existing links, which include the housing of the QRA archive at the RGS and the administration of the QRA undergraduate dissertation prize by the RGS. It is hoped that any such links would provide mutual benefits to both organisations. A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been written; this will shortly be considered by both the RGS-IBG Council and the QRA Executive Committee. The President emphasised that this does not signal a philosophical change in the way that the executive perceives that future direction of the QRA.

c) The Geological Society of London. Following the decision to wind up the JAQR taken at the AGM of that organisation earlier in the evening, the President confirmed that the QRA executive Committee would now explore the development of a direct link between the QRA and the Geological Society of London. This was unanimously endorsed by the membership.

d) QRA website. The President reported on the development of the new QRA website. Tenders for the work had been invited and the work was awarded to OsborneBrook, a professional web development company based in Brighton. The new website was presented to the meeting and received favourable comment. The President thanked the development team for their work on this project. A request that a link to INQUA be included prominently on the homepage would be passed onto the site developers.

e) QRA Executive Committee. The President noted that a number of members of the Executive Committee complete their terms of office at this meeting. Thanks were expressed to Jason Jordon (Publicity Officer), Becky Briant (Ordinary Member), Christine Lane (Postgraduate Representative) and Rick Shakesby (Treasurer). John Lowe who completes a one-year term as Past President was thanked in particular for his work to deliver the new QRA logo.

5. Lewis Penny Medal Award

The President noted that the Lewis Penny Medal winner would be announced at a presentation ceremony prior to the John Wiley Lecture on the following evening.

6. Honorary Members of the QRA

The President announced that four distinguished Quaternary scientists had been nominated by the Executive for Honorary Member status: Ian Evans (Durham), Charles Harris (Cardiff), Marshall McCabe (Ulster) and Geoff Thomas (Liverpool). These nominations were endorsed by the AGM. Full citations would be read at a presentation ceremony prior to the John Wiley Lecture on the following evening.

7. Annual Report of the Secretary

This report covers the period January - December 2008.

i. Membership

As of 31st December, 2008, total membership of the Association stands at **1025**, a net decrease in the membership of the QRA of 28, most of which is accounted for by reduction in ordinary members. Some of this reduction also reflects lapsed membership as a result of non-payment of subscriptions.

Category	15/04/04	21/03/05	29/3/06	29/3/07	01/01/08	01/01/09	Change (08-09)
Ordinary Members	600	583	599	562	573	545	-28
Postgraduate Members	220	204	231	223	269	269	-
Unwaged/Retired Members	106	131	126	131	137	140	+3
Honorary members	17	18	15	16	19	22	+3
Institutional members*	43	41	40	36	41	33	-8
Corresponding members	15	14	14	14	14	16	+2
Total Membership	1001	991	1025	982	1053	1025	-28

*Includes copyright member

Subscriptions for 2008 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. The institutional membership rate is £35. Day-to-day management of the membership matters and the database of members details is now done by Val Siviter, the QRA's administrator. On behalf of the QRA I would like to thank Val for her continuing hard work for the Association, in the key areas of membership, sales of publications and production and distribution of *QN* and the Circular.

Honorary Members

Two distinguished scientists were elected as Honorary Members of the Quaternary Research Association at its AGM, held in London in January 2008; Professor Jim Rose (RHUL) and Professor David Smith (Oxford). Citations were published in *Quaternary Newsletter*, number 114 (February 2008). A list of Honorary Members of the QRA can be found on the website: www.qra.org.uk

ii. Meetings

Four QRA meetings were held during 2008. Thanks are offered 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.

- i) **Annual Discussion Meeting: The Quaternary of the British Isles and adjacent Seas**, January 2008
Organisers: Jim Rose, David Bridgland, Dan Charman, Pete Coxon, Mark Maslin, Danny McCarroll, Jon Merritt, Catherine Souch, John Lowe
- ii) **Annual Field Meeting: The Quaternary of the North of Ireland**, April 2008

Organisers: Nicki Whitehouse, Helen Roe, Steve McCarron and Jasper Knight
Report: *Quaternary Newsletter*, no, 116 (October 2008).

- (iii) **Short Field Meeting: The Quaternary of Glen Roy**, September 2008
Organisers: Adrian Palmer, John Lowe, Jim Rose
- (iv) **7th International Postgraduate Symposium**, August 2008
University of Liverpool
Organisers: Katharine Welsh and Ian Thrasher

The **John Wiley Lecture** for 2008, entitled “The last glaciation and its impacts in the North Atlantic and adjoining seas” was delivered during the 2008 Annual Discussion Meeting by Professor Edouard Bard (College de France).

iii. Publications

Quaternary Newsletter:

3 issues: 114 (Feb 2008), 115 (June 2008), 116 (October 2008)

Editor: Dr Mark Bateman, University of Sheffield

Journal of Quaternary Science: Volume 23, 8 issues (for 2008).

Five normal issues and two special issues (one a double issue) were published in 2008, containing a total of 65 research contributions. The special issues were:

- Volume 23 (4) Isotopes in Biogenic Silica (IBiS)
Guest Editors: M. J. Leng, F. A. Street-Perrott, P. A. Barker
- Volume 23 (6/7) Timing and Nature of Late Quaternary Mountain Glaciation
Guest Editors: Glenn D. Thackray, Lewis A. Owen, Chaolu Yi

The *Journal of Quaternary Science* continues to be one of the flagship activities of the Association. 2008 has been a very successful year, with an increase in the Impact Factor of *JQS* to 2.5, placing it among the top international geoscience journals. On behalf of the QRA, I would like to thank the editor, Professor Chris Caseldine, the Executive Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board for their work to maintain *JQS* as one of the foremost international Quaternary science journals. Thanks are also offered to the staff at Wiley Blackwell who work very hard to maintain a high production standard for the journal and continue to market the journal to reach a wide international readership. A range of information about *JQS* can be found at the journal’s website:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/2507/home>

QRA Field Guides

Three field guides was published in 2008: *The Quaternary of the North of Ireland* and *The Quaternary of Glen Roy* were produced to accompany QRA field meetings in 2008 and *The Quaternary of Northern East Anglia* was published following the 2007 field meeting to that area. The field guide to accompany the 2007 short field meeting to the Trent valley, originally produced as a pre-print for the meeting, has not yet been published.

QRA Technical Guides

No technical guides were published in 2008.

The publication of field and technical guides continues to form an important part of the Association’s activities and play a major role in raising the profile of the QRA and promoting Quaternary science research. Suggestions for topics for new technical guides or localities for field meetings and accompanying guide books and volunteers to write/edit them are most welcome.

See the Publications Secretary’s report for further details.

iv. QRA Grants and Awards

During 2008, **£12,940** was disbursed by the QRA to its members under its awards schemes.

Fund	No. of applications		No. funded	Total monies requested ¹ (£)	Total monies awarded (£)
NRWA	Jan	6	4	1945	1360
	May	9	8	3260	2300
	Sept	7	6	4000	1750
	Total	22	18	9205	5410
QCF	Jan	3	3	729	600
	May	10	6	2388	1500
	Sept	11	8	2666	1380
	Total	24	17	5783	3480
QRF	Jan	3	2	1000	500
	May	5	5	2413	2150
	Sept	5	3	2628.93	700
	Total	13	10	6041.93	3350
Subtotal	59*		45	21029.93	12240
ADM 09	–		–	–	–
AFM 08	–		–	–	–
Bill Bishop	6		1	700	700
QRA-RLAHA	4		1	–	–
L. Penny 08	2		1	–	–
Total	71		48	21729.93	12940

¹ Refers only to eligible applications.

* Of 59 total applications, only 48 were eligible for consideration.

This year saw a significant rise in the number of applications for QRA support which, despite the increased level of funds made available for awards schemes (around £2000 more in 2008), explains the average funding rate decrease to around **59%** (percentage of total monies awarded compared with monies requested).

	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. of eligible applications	41	29	26	48
Funding rate	63%	65%	83%	59%

AWARDS 2008

New Research Workers' Award

		Awarded (£)
Emily COFFEY	Oxford	400
Alessio GUSMEROLI	Swansea	350
Stephen HITCHINS	Sheffield	400
Timothy JONES	Leeds	400
Georgina KING	St Andrews	400
Karolina LESZCZYNSKA	Cambridge	250
Jonathan LEWIS	Loughborough	250
Ningning LI	Liverpool	250
Lorna LINCH	Queen Mary	350
Gunnar MALLON	Southampton	350
Deborah MCCORMACK	Manchester	350
Hayley MILLS	Liverpool	250
Alexander PRYOR	Cambridge	250
Chris ROLFE	Southampton	250
Ian THRASHER	Liverpool	260
Emma WATCHAM	Durham	350
Joseph WILLIAMS	Open University	300
Quaternary Conference Fund		
Frank CHAMBERS	Gloucestershire	175
Dan CHARMAN	Plymouth	175
Tim DALEY	Swansea	175
Ferme DAVIDS	Aberystwyth	250
Paul HUGHES	Southampton	175
Christine LANE	Oxford	200
Ian LAWSON	Leeds	250
Will MARSHALL	Plymouth	200
Alice MILNER	Leeds	250
Fraser MITCHELL	TCD	175
	Determination of baseline ecological conditions in the Galapagos Islands.	
	Geophysical fieldwork in Arctic Sweden.	
	The Late Pleistocene periglacial environment of East Anglia.	
	Reconstructing Late-Pleistocene and Holocene lake-level changes at Ioannina, northwest Greece.	
	Luminescence dating of glacial deposits in Norway – an appropriate chronology?	
	Pleistocene glaciogenic deposits in Essex, England.	
	Holocene environmental change in coastal Denmark: linking sea and society.	
	Mineral analysis of Chinese loess deposits.	
	Micromorphological study of iceberg scouring on fine-grained substrates.	
	Coring of Kerfontaine raised peat bog in the Massif Armorican, Brittany, France.	
	Attendance of 'Arctic Quaternary Terrestrial Stratigraphy' course run by University Centre in Svalbard.	
	210-Pb dating of a saltmarsh sediment core.	
	What were the behaviours and adaptations that enabled Palaeolithic groups to survive the coldest parts of the last ice age in Europe, 50-20kya?	
	Pleistocene sediments of Lundy Island, North Devon.	
	A lithofacies-based approach to OSL-dating of glaciofluvial sediments.	
	Constraining the long-term uplift rate of Noel Hill, King George Island, South Shetland Islands, Antarctica.	
	Human and climate change impacts on Andean <i>Polyëpis</i> woodlands.	
	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Viuhla, Estonia, May 2009.	
	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Viuhla, Estonia, May 2009.	
	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Viuhla, Estonia, May 2009.	
	12th International Conference on Luminescence and ESR Dating, Beijing, China, Sept 2008.	
	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Viuhla, Estonia, May 2009.	
	EGU, Vienna, April 2008	
	12th International Palynological Congress, Bonn, Germany, Aug/Sept 2008.	
	UK Sea-Level Conference, Ulster, June 2008.	
	12th International Palynological Congress, Bonn, Germany, Aug/Sept 2008.	
	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Viuhla, Estonia, May 2009.	

Colm O'COFAIGH	Durham	Exploratory workshop on the frequency and timing of glaciations in northern Europe (including Britain) during the Middle and Late Pleistocene, February 2009.	150
Sean PYNE-O'DONNELL	Royal Holloway	33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo, Norway, August 2008.	250
Vincent RINTERKNECHT	St Andrews	Goldschmidt 2008, Vancouver, Canada. July 2008.	200
Katy ROUCOUX	Leeds	12th International Palynological Congress, Bonn, Germany, Aug/Sept 2008.	250
Claire TWIDDLE	Exeter	12th International Palynological Congress, Bonn, Germany, Aug/Sept 2008.	250
Bas van GEEL	Amsterdam	Peatland archives of Holocene climate variability, Vihula, Estonia, May 2009.	175
Sarah WOODROFFE	Durham	AGU, San Francisco, USA, December 2008.	180
Quaternary Research Fund			
Simon BLOCKLEY	Royal Holloway	Reinvestigating Holocene and Late Pleistocene lake deposits at Star Carr.	250
Jonathan CARRIVICK	Leeds	Integrated modelling of Arctic glacier runoff and floodplain dynamics.	450
Edward CONNELL	Aberdeen	Stratigraphical investigations at three sites in Buchan, NE Scotland.	200
Ian EVANS	Durham	Recent change in small glaciers in British Columbia.	450
John HIEMSTRA	Swansea	Late Quaternary history of Shetland: unravelling the sedimentary record.	250
Naomi HOLMES	Exeter	Climate change and the adoption of agriculture in Ireland.	450
Katherine SELBY	York	Diatomite: understanding the deposition, degradation and dating of the sediment.	350
Thomas STEVENS	Kingston	Dating and constraining the origin of Chinese loess deposits.	500
Matthew TELFER	Oxford	Understanding linear dune development: a detailed dating study of linear dunes encroaching on pan surfaces..	450
Bill Bishop Award			
Katy WILSON	UCL	Environmental changes recorded in East African palaeolakes: implications for human evolution	700
ORA-RLAHA Luminescence Dating Award			
Ashley PARTON	Oxford Brookes	Late Quaternary landscape and climate change from southeast Arabia: the nature of Isotope Stage 3 and human dispersal	
Lewis Penny Medal 2008			
Kirsty Penkman	York		

Lewis Penny Medal

The Lewis Penny Medal for 2008 was awarded to Dr Kirsty Penkman (University of York) in recognition of her ground-breaking work in the field of amino acid dating techniques. A citation was published in *Quaternary Newsletter*, number 114 (February 2008). Dr Penkman published a fuller report on her work in *QN* 116 (October 2008).

v. Research Groups and Study Groups

Research Groups

This 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. The QRA currently supports only one research group:

IBiS (Isotopes and Biogenic Silica Research Group): Established in 2006, its aims include promotion of the study of all forms of biogenic silica and their role in biogeochemical cycling at ecosystem to global scales, advancement of the techniques for the study of biogenic silica, widening access to existing equipment, knowledge and expertise, promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration by identifying foci for future research initiatives and establishing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. The convenor is Prof. F. Alayne Street-Perrott (University of Wales Swansea).
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ibis/home.html>

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

Study Groups

At the AGM in January 2008 a new category of Study Group was 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.

vi. Outreach

As a registered charity outreach is an important part of our activities and David Anderson, our Outreach Officer continues to make considerable progress with this area of QRA activity. The outreach web pages (<http://qra.org.uk/outreach.htm>) which will be further enhanced over the next year. In particular the QRA website will be hosting the Ice Age Network pages, which include a number of useful resources for teaching.

Elsewhere, the QRA sponsored the GLIMPSE exhibit at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition (see the October QN for a report). During 2009 it is planned to extend outreach activities by linking events to field meetings, for example creation of teaching resources that could be made available for use by visiting school groups linked to sites on the Solent/Isle of Wight field meeting.

As part of its outreach activities the QRA sponsors an Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, aimed at encouraging undergraduates to produce dissertations on a Quaternary topic of the highest standard. In 2008 twelve dissertations were submitted for consideration and, from a particularly strong field this year, the winner was Hannah Milne (University of Aberdeen) for a dissertation entitled: *Climate of*

the Loch Lomond Stadial in Perthshire and the Cairngorms. The winner will be awarded a prize of £250 prize.

On behalf of the QRA I would like to thank Profs David Smith and Mike Walker for judging this year's entries for the dissertation prize.

vii. Joint Association for Quaternary Research

The JAQR continued to function as a link organisation between the QRA and the Geological Society of London. The activities of JAQR are largely those of the QRA with some meetings identified specifically as JAQR activities and contact with the Geological Society at the Standing Science Committee of the Geological Society.

viii. Executive Committee

Five members of the Executive committee complete their terms of office in January 2009. On behalf of the QRA, I would like to thank the following people for the contribution to a number of aspects of the activities of the QRA:

Dr David Anderson (Outreach Officer)

Dr Becky Briant (Ordinary Member)

Dr Jason Jordon (Publicity Officer)

Dr Pete Langdon (Publications Secretary)

Dr Rick Shakesby (Treasurer)

In addition Professor John Lowe ends his one year term as Past President. The executive committee would like to thank John for his work in this role. Two new members of the Executive Committee began their terms of office in January 2008: James Scourse (President), Barbara Maher (Vice President), Mark Bateman (Editor, *QN*), David Roberts (Meetings Officer). We also welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in September; Gunnar Mallon (University of Southampton) who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years.

ix. Postgraduate activities

Postgraduate activities continue to flourish within the Association. The success of the annual postgraduate symposium continues, with over 30 participants at the 2008 symposium held at the University of Liverpool. The postgraduate community are also maintaining a lively presence on the QRA web site. Postgraduates are represented on the Executive Committee and their contribution on behalf of the postgraduate community is most welcome. The **John Wiley and Sons** award for the best presentation at the postgraduate symposium was won jointly by Gina Moseley (Bristol) and Abi Stone (Oxford). Abstracts of their papers can be found on the QRA website.

x. Publicity

The web site continues to be a vital part of the QRA's publicity effort. In addition, the email list of members is held by the Publicity Officer and is used to provide notices and additional information to the membership. The list has only around 50% of members and we would encourage all members to register email contact details so that they can receive announcements by email.

During 2008 the Executive Committee invited tenders for work to redesign the QRA website. The work was awarded to OsborneBrook, a professional web development company, who have begun the first phase of work to develop a new website for the QRA. This will provide a basis for further development over the next 1-2 years. The new website will provide a professional web presence for the QRA.

8. Annual Report of the Treasurer

1. Overview

The attached accounts are for the first full year of the changed accounting period of the QRA funds from January-December to August-July. The latter is better suited to an AGM held during the Annual Discussion Meeting in January, because the annual accounts and Treasurer's Report can be presented to a larger audience of members than was typically the case when the AGM was held during a field meeting in April. (Note that the previous accounting period on the attached accounts is for an interim 7-month period (January-July 2007), so that the sums do not represent an annual income or expenditure rate. Direct comparison is, therefore, difficult for some items of expenditure in particular.)

(The QRA currently has three bank accounts in all: the Treasurer's account, the Publications account and a deposit account which was set up several years ago in order to help to provide a contingency or reserve fund for the Association's activities.)

Comparison of income and expenditure for the annual accounting period with the previous 7-month accounting period shows no unexpectedly high expenditure. Running costs have increased, but the large difference between August 2007-July 2008 and the previous interim accounting period is mostly a result of some annual costs not coinciding with the latter period. At the time of writing, projected income and expenditure to the end of 2008 in the Treasurer's Account are likely to show a net surplus over the 12 months to the end of December 2008 of about £4-6k. This surplus compares with a net deficit of c. £6k in the calendar year of 2007, when there was extra expenditure in the form of support for delegates to attend the INQUA Congress in Australia. There was a larger surplus on the Publications Account in the last financial year as a result of continued income from sales of field and technical guides, but printing costs required for only one guide.

The Association in all three accounts has net monetary assets of £92320.38 (as of July 31st 2008), of which £15.3k is ring-fenced (Bill Bishop Memorial Trust), £5k is kept embedded within the Treasurer's Account to assist in financing the Lewis Penny Medal award and c. £16.4k kept in a separate deposit account to help ensure that the Association has sufficient funds in addition to those in the other two accounts to meet any commitments should a major setback occur (see Assets and Liabilities summary sheet). Thus, our assets are sound and the Executive Committee is actively seeking ways of extending our funding of the Association's good causes.

2. Income

(a) *Membership.* Subscription income has increased again this year slightly, compared with the previous two years. This increase in income can be attributed largely to the efforts of Val Siviter in continuing to remind a dwindling number of members who pay by standing order to alter their standing orders so that they pay the correct subscriptions (or indeed are reimbursed if they have inadvertently overpaid).

(b) *Royalties.* Income from the *Journal of Quaternary Science* royalties amounted to c. £29.5k.

(c) *Royal Society contribution to annual renewal of INQUA membership.* This amounted to c. £3.5k during the accounting period.

(d) *Donations.* These amounted to some £340. Members of the Association will wish to thank those concerned for their generosity.

3. Expenditure

Total Running Expenditure for August 2007- July 2008 was actually slightly lower than in the last year for which there is a full year of accounts (Jan-Dec 2006). The costs for attendance of Executive Committee members at meetings during the year are actually lower than in 2006.

Quaternary Research Association (Registered Charity No. 262124)

Income and expenditure on Treasurer's Account for August 2007-July 2008 compared with Jan-July 2007 (interim accounting period).

	Jan-July 2007 Total income £	Aug 2007-Jul 2008 Unrestricted income £	Aug 2007-Jul 2008 Restricted income	Aug 2007-Jul 2008 Total income £
INCOME				
Member subs (Treasurer's acct only)	13793.76 (=total subscriptions)	12670.21		12670.21
Member subs (Publications acct only)	-	1790.00		1790.00
Total Running Income	13793.76	14460.21		14460.21
Book sales	4509.72	10266.73		10266.73
Transfer from Treasurer's Acct	5000.00			
Total Publications Income	9509.72	10266.73		10266.73
Surplus on Meetings	0.00	172.39		172.39
Interest Received on Treasurer's acct	723.62 (=total interest)	885.76		885.76
Interest received on Publications acct	-	197.35		197.35
Interest received on Halifax deposit acct	-	398.52		398.52
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	2874.00	3485.00		3485.00
Royal Society: support for delegates to INQUA Conf	7391.09	0.00		0.00
Publisher's Royalties Received	29536.05	29562.00		29562.00
Meetings receipts: Quaternary Research Assoc	0.00			
Returned grants	0.00			
Donations	324.75	340.62		340.62
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund	0.00		0.00	
Other income	0.00	423.00		423.00
Total Other Income	40849.51	35464.64		35464.64
TOTAL INCOME ON BOTH ACCOUNTS	64152.99	60191.58		60191.58
EXPENDITURE				
<i>(Newsletters & Circulars) - costs now subdivided as below</i>				
Newsletter & circular printing costs	3359.00	4977.00		4977.00
Admin support	3400.00	5686.75		5686.75
Postage (Newsletter & publications) & stationery	1910.07	4114.27		4114.27
Executive Committee Meetings	1935.38	1305.89		1305.89
Other Exec expenses	188.03	0.00		0.00
Insurance	0.00	630.00		630.00
Bank Charges				
Web Site Costs	216.78	438.27		438.27
Total Running Expenditure	11009.26	17152.18		17152.18
Publications Account				
Printing	7058.00	3400.00		3400.00
Postage	0.00			
Bank charges	161.01	195.46		195.46
Sub-Committee Expenses	0.00			
Stationery	0.00			
Miscellaneous	0.00	10.00		10.00
Refunds	16.80			
Total Publications Expenditure	7235.81	3605.46		3605.46
Meetings expenditure	233.70	1108.33 (Soton meeting adv)		1108.33
Refund/Reimbursement	90.00	2975.00		2975.00
Research Grants				
NRWA	850.00	3060.00		3060.00
QRF	3470.00	3280.00		3280.00
QCF	834.00	2350.00		2350.00
QRA Conf Fund	0.00	50.00		50.00
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress, Australia	20900.00	600.00		600.00
Lewis Penny Award	0.00			
Lewis Penny Award (engraving)	0.00	21.85		21.85
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	800.00	700.00		700.00
Postgraduate Conference advance	795.00			
Postgraduate Meetings Award	120.00			
INQUA subscription	5916.82	7574.67		7574.67
Euromam	0.00			
QUAVER	750.00	0.00		0.00
IBiS		240.94		240.94
Other expenditure	5000.00 (TR to Publ acct)	500.00 (Diss. Prizes + admin)		500.00
Royal Society Exhibition support		1000.00		1000.00
Total other expenditure	39759.52	23460.79		23460.79
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON BOTH ACCOUNTS	58004.59	44218.43		44218.43
NET SURPLUS(+)/DEFICIT(-)	6148.40	15973.15		15973.15
R A Shakesby				
Treasurer				

QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity No. 262124)

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31ST July 2008

ASSETS		
July 2007		July 2008
56704.79	Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	63630.80
6677.49	Bank of Scotland Publications Account	15326.11
15949.45	Halifax Treasurer's Account	16347.97
79331.73	Total Monetary Assets	95304.88
<u>79331.73</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>95304.88</u>

LIABILITIES		
2056.00	Uncashed cheques (Treasurer)	2984.50
2056.00	<u>Total Liabilities</u>	2984.50
62021.21	Total Net Assets – Unrestricted	77065.86
15254.52	Total Net Assets – Restricted	15254.52
77275.73	TOTAL NET ASSETS	92320.38

Dr R A Shakesby
Treasurer

Date

We have examined the books and records of the Quaternary Research Association and confirm that the above accounts are in accord with the figures above.



Prof D McCarroll
Member Examiner

Date 16/12/08



Mr T Fearnside
Independent Examiner

Date 2/12/2008

4. Reserve fund

The QRA has a reserve fund set up some years ago in a separate deposit account with funds now of some £16.4k, which in the normal run of events remains untouched. The Charity Commission requires that each charity should have reserve funds commensurate with its perceived need. The amount and its need have been deliberated in the past and are reviewed on an annual basis. The Executive Committee considers that the Reserve Fund is needed to cover costs, for example, arising from unexpected eventualities such as the late cancellation of a field meeting. The deposit account funds together with those available in the Treasurer's Account could conceivably also be needed to cover the bulk of running costs in the event of income from royalties falling considerably or even ceasing in any year. In this eventuality, the QRA's commitments could be covered in that year giving time to take steps to bring the QRA's finances back onto a sound financial basis.

5. Lewis Penny Medal and Bill Bishop Memorial Trust

The LPM award scheme in 2007-8 was in its fourth year of operation. The medal was awarded to Dr K Penkman. (Payment of the award itself and travel costs fell outside of the accounting period.)

6. Auditing

Prof. Danny McCarroll (*Member Examiner*) and Mr Tim Fearnside (*Independent Examiner*) have scrutinised and approved the accounts for August 2007-July 2008.

7. Appointment of new Treasurer

Dr Peter Allen, who preceded me as Treasurer, has agreed to act as Treasurer once more in 2009. I thank him for his help when I took over the position, and wish him well for the future.

The membership was invited to suggest how QRA funds could be used, these included additional funding to support postgraduate attendance at meetings and the setting aside of funds to support attendance at INQUA 2011 in Bern.

9. Annual Report of the Publications Secretary

1. Publication Activity 2008

1.1 Field Guides

Three field guides were published in 2008: *North of Ireland* (Whitehouse et al.), *The Quaternary of Glen Roy* (Palmer et al.) and *The Quaternary of Northern East Anglia* (Candy et al.). One other guide [*Trent Valley* (Howard & Bridgland)] has suffered delays in production and will be printed imminently.

1.2 Technical Guides

No technical guides were printed in 2008 although progress has been made.

A users guide to Fungal Palynomorphs (Blackford & Innes) is awaiting one final review for one chapter while the rest is being formatted ready for printing.

Modelling Pollen Dispersal and Deposition: the PolLandCal approach (Bunting et al) has suffered delays due to illness of key authors.

Tephrochronology: Theory & Practice (Blockley & Lowe). A new proposal has been put forward for this guide which has been accepted by Exec.

Clast [Lithological] Analysis (Bridgland). This next edition of the old TG3 is gathering text and hopes to be completed towards the end of 2009.

2. Sales

Sales for 2008 (excluding late December) are 455, a solid performance with x2 guides published. An important point to note is that both the new and reprinted TGs sell very well. For comparison the four previous years are shown below:

Total sales over the last 4 years:	2008	455	(2 published)
	2007	554	(3 published)
	2006	430	(2 published)
	2005	471	(3 published)

Itemised sales are shown overleaf:

3. QRA Publications Account

Financial activity on the QRA Publications account from August 2007 – July 2008 is summarised below:

2007-08	<i>Credit</i>				Total Credit	<i>Debit</i>				Total Debit	Running Balance from 01.08.07 6677.49
	Interest Current	Book sales	Misc.	Memb.- ship		Print Costs	Refund	Misc.	BoS charges		
Aug-07	12.78	1901.73	0	170.00	2084.51	0	0	10	10.00	20.00	8742.00
Sept	12.78	1022.15	0	0.00	1034.93	0	0	0	32.21	32.21	9744.72
Oct	16.96	612.10	0	0.00	629.06	0	0	0	16.32	16.32	10357.46
Nov	16.71	1295.20	0	0.00	1311.91	0	0	0	10.00	10.00	11659.37
Dec	19.35	502.30	0	110.00	631.65	0	0	0	10.00	10.00	12281.02
Jan-08	18.71	1168.30	0	310.00	1497.01	0	0	0	24.01	24.01	13754.02
Feb	18.76	791.20	0	275.00	1084.96	0	0	0	14.45	14.45	14824.53
Mar	18.35	990.10	0	160.00	1168.45	0	0	0	14.30	14.30	15978.68
Apr	18.37	0.00	0	0.00	18.37	0	0	0	23.66	23.66	15973.39
May	15.89	1209.40	0	425.00	1650.29	3400.00	0	0	10.00	3410.00	14213.68
Jun	14.12	536.20	0	180.00	730.32	0	0	0	18.25	18.25	14925.75
Jul	14.57	238.05	0	160.00	412.62	0	0	0	12.26	12.26	15326.11
totals	197.35	10266.73	0.00	1790.00	12254.08	3400.00	0.00	10.00	195.46	3605.46	

Point to note:

- BoS charges include the use of our credit card facility (£10 minimum)
- The balance is reasonably high due to a balance transfer of £5,000 from the main account last year in anticipation of more TGs being published. When the TGs are published (hopefully x2 in 2009) this will make an initial dent in the balance, but should be recouped over following years due to high sales of these guides.
- The print costs look slightly out of place compared with book sales, but x2 guides were printed in August and December 2008, totalling £8.7k.
- Analyses of past years financial data suggest that book sales now *appear* to be roughly matching print costs. Further years data will be needed to confirm this.

Publications mail order sales Jan-early Dec (inclusive) 2008 (excludes field meeting sales, bookstalls etc)

Title	Date	Editor(s)	Copies sold 2008	No. of copies held (Val)
Field Guides				
Glen Roy & Vicinity	2008	Palmer et al.	19	
North of Ireland	2008	Whitehouse et al.	42	178
Brecon Beacons	2007	Carr et al.	48	212
Somerset	2006	Hunt & Haslett	25	204
Scilly	2006	Scourse	21	199
Rossendale	2005	Crofts	10	204
Quaternary of Central Western Ireland	2005	Coxon	7	122
Nene Valley	2005	Langford & Briant	4	195
Quaternary Mammals of S & E England	2004	Schreve	8	110
Central Grampian Highlands	2004	Lukas et al.	8	214
Isle of Man & North West England	2004	Chiverrell et al.	7	229
Glen Affric & Kintail	2003	Tipping	6	254
W. Highland Boundary	2003	Evans	9	101
South-West Ireland	2002	Harrison & Mighall	5	144
Central Germany (Thuringia)	2002	Meyrick & Schreve	5	54
East Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire	2001	Bateman et al.	8	125
West Wales	2001	Walker & McCarroll	6	62
Banffshire Coast and Buchan	2000	Merritt et al.	1	110
Dumfries & Galloway	1999	Tipping	4	121
West Cornwall	1999	Scourse & Furze	5	57
North East England	1999	Bridgland et al.	12	126
Kent & Sussex	1998	Murton et al.	3	104
South Midlands & Welsh Marches	1997	Lewis & Maddy	4	172
Islay & Jura	1997	Dawson & Dawson	2	109
Devon & East Cornwall	1996	Charman et al.	3	119
Cairngorms	1996	Glasser & Bennett	8	218
Orkney Isles	1996	Hall	5	1
Lower Reaches of the Thames	1995	Bridgland et al.	1	0
Cumbria	1994	Boardman & Walden	6	43
Jersey	1993	Keen	2	154
Shetland Isles	1993	Birnie et al.	4	3
Central East Anglia & the Fen Basin	1991	Lewis et al.	6	17
Beaulieu to Nairn	1990	Auton et al.	1	5
Technical Guides				
No.7 Stratigraphic field sections (2)	1999	Jones et al.	38	213
No.8 Non-marine ostracods	2000	Griffiths & Holmes	9	364
No.9 Id of Testate Amoebae in peats	2000	Charman et al.	22	294
No.10 Chironomids	2007	Brooks et al.	81	167
QP 6 Mountain Glaciation			0	155

10. QRA Meetings programme 2009-10

It was announced that the September 2009 field meeting to the Canadian Prairies had been cancelled as insufficient numbers had registered for the meeting. The planned field meeting to the NW Scottish Highlands has been postponed until 2010. The programme for 2009-2010 is as follows:

April 4th - 8th 2009

Field Meeting: The Solent River & Hampshire Basin

Venue: Southampton

Organisers: Becky Briant, Martin Bates

Contact: Becky Briant: b.briant@bbk.ac.uk

January 2010

Annual Discussion Meeting: "Sea Level Changes: Science of a Changing World"

Venue: Durham University

Organisers: Ian Shennan, Prof Antony Long, Dr Sarah Woodroffe, Dr Dave Roberts

Contact: Ian Shennan: Ian.Shennan@durham.ac.uk

April 2010

Field Meeting: NW Highlands

Venue: Inchnadampf

Organisers: Sven Lukas, Tom Bradwell

Contact: Sven Lukas: s.lukas@qmul.ac.uk

Sept 2010

Field Meeting: Solway Firth

Venue: Solway Firth

Organisers: Dave Evans, Colm O'Cofaigh, Antony Long, Stephen Livingstone

Contact: Dave Evans: d.j.a.evans@durham.ac.uk

11. Election of new Executive Committee members

The President announced that following the publication of nominations for members of the Executive Committee in the June 2008 Circular, no further nominations had been received. However, since the publication of the nominations in the Circular, Nick Golledge had now taken a position in New Zealand and would therefore be unable to take on the role of Publications Secretary. Therefore it was proposed, and ratified, that Pete Langdon continue in that post for a further year. In addition, following David Anderson's successful term as Outreach Officer he had been invited to continue for a further term. The following were therefore elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Treasurer	Peter Allen	(2009-2013)
Publicity Officer	Fabienne Marret	(2009-2012)
Publications Secretary	Pete Langdon	(2009-2010)
Outreach Officer	David Anderson	(2009-2012)
Ordinary Member	Chris Turney	(2009-2012)

12. Any other business

In response to the Treasurer's request for suggestions for use of QRA funds, Peter Allen suggested that support could be provided to local groups engaged in activities related to geodiversity plans. This would be given further consideration by the Executive.

The Meeting closed at 19.45 hours

S. Lewis

Secretary

7th January 2009

4. MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE JAQR

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Joint Association for Quaternary Research (Quaternary Research Association and the Geological Society) held at 18.30 hours on Monday 5th January 2009, at St Anne's College, University of Oxford

Dr Simon Carr chaired the meeting at which 30 members of the JAQR were present.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Colin Lewis and Jim Rose.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 2008 AGM, published in the February 2008 QRA Circular, were accepted. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Activities of the JAQR in 2008

The chairman reported that there had been no activities specifically linked to the JAQR in 2008.

4. Proposal to wind up the JAQR

The chairman introduced the proposal to wind up the JAQR, which had been published in the October 2008 Circular and on which comments had been invited. The chairman outlined the history of the JAQR and the rationale for its creation. He went on to outline the current status and role of the JAQR, in particular the nature of the link with the Geological Society of London. The JAQR acts as a link between the Geological Society and the QRA which, among other benefits, gives the JAQR and QRA access to facilities at Burlington House. However there has been relatively little activity in recent years and the JAQR is a largely unnecessary body. The JAQR committee met in June 2008 to discuss the future of the JAQR and the chairman had met with both the President and Executive Secretary of the Geological Society to discuss the JAQR. It is now clear that there is no need for the JAQR to continue to function as a link and SJC reported that due to the low percentage of FGS membership within the JAQR, it is no longer viable for the JAQR to continue under current GS rules.

SJC reported that following the publication of the proposal in the Oct 08 Circular no comments had been raised in writing. Comments and questions were invited from members present. In response to a question from John Lowe the chairman confirmed that there would be no change in current benefits to the QRA if a direct affiliation were established.

The chairman asked the members to vote on the proposal to dissolve the JAQR. On a show of hands 29 were in favour, 0 against with 1 abstention. The proposal was therefore accepted.

The chairman also pointed out that the QRA would now consider how to develop more effective direct links with the Geological Society and the JAQR would be dissolved with immediate effect.

5. Any other business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 18.45 hours

Dr S. Lewis, Secretary, JAQR
5th January 2009

5. THE JOINT ASSOCIATION FOR QUATERNARY RESEARCH

Dissolution of the Joint Association for Quaternary Research

The Annual General Meeting of the Joint Association for Quaternary Research was held at St Anne's College Oxford, on Monday 5th January. The main business of this meeting was to discuss the proposal to dissolve the Joint Association and to vote upon this motion. The results of the ballot are reported in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, but can be summarised as almost unanimous support (with only one abstention) in favour of proposal. As such, the Joint Association for Quaternary Research has formally been dissolved as an organisation.

This dissolution provides the Executive Committee of the QRA and the Council of the Geological Society the opportunity to discuss direct affiliation, with QRA becoming an 'affiliated' Specialist Group, which will streamline the relationship between the two organisations, and stimulate more joint activities between these two societies.

As the outgoing (and final) chairperson of the Joint Association for Quaternary Research, I would like to thank all those who participated in the launch and activities of the JAQR, in particular those who were involved in the executive committee of the Joint Association over the years. I specifically would like express my thanks to Peter Worsley and Jim Rose, who were instrumental in setting-up the JAQR as a means of affiliating the QRA and the Geological Society, and to John Catt, who worked assiduously over many years in maintaining this affiliation. I hope that this development has the desired effect of invigorating participation of Quaternary scientists within the broader geological community, and strengthening the relationships between the QRA and Geological Society.

Dr Simon Carr
Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London.

6. QRA FIELD MEETING: SOLENT BASIN AND WEST SUSSEX: APRIL 2009

QRA Field Meeting 2009 The Solent Basin and West Sussex 4th - 8th April 2009

A joint meeting with the Prehistoric Society

Leaders: Becky Briant, Martin Bates, Rob Hosfield, Francis Wenban-Smith

This Field Meeting will be based at Southampton University and visit a wide range of sites typifying extra-glacial landscapes in the surrounding regions, which have not been visited by the QRA since 1998 (Sussex) and 1987 (Hampshire and the Isle of Wight).

The field meeting will focus on the following themes:

- Evolution of the extra-glacial coastal / fluvial landscape over multiple cycles of sea-level change
- Dating and nature of the Palaeolithic occupation of the region
- Human use of the landscape during the Holocene

Saturday 4th April. Introductory evening lecture

Sunday 5th April. The West Sussex coastal plain

Themes: Coastal landscapes, Palaeolithic occupation

Sites: Selsey, Warblington, Boxgrove, Slindon

Coordinator: Martin Bates

Monday 6th April. The Isle of Wight

Themes: Coastal and fluvial landscapes, Palaeolithic occupation

Sites: Priory Bay, Ventnor Late-glacial sequence, St George's Down

Coordinator: Francis Wenban-Smith

Tuesday 7th April. The Solent

Themes: Fluvial and estuarine landscapes, Palaeolithic occupation

Sites: Barton-on-Sea, Lepe (Stone Point interglacial deposits), Tom's Down

Coordinator: Becky Briant

Wednesday 8th April. The New Forest

Theme: Human use of the landscape during the Holocene

Sites: Cranes Moor and Barrow Moor.

Coordinator: Michael Grant

A registration form is included with this Circular.

Further details are listed on the QRA web site, or available from Becky Briant (b.briant@bbk.ac.uk, 07952 766881), Martin Bates (m.bates@lamp.ac.uk), Rob Hosfield (r.hosfield@reading.ac.uk) and Francis Wenban-Smith (ffws@soton.ac.uk).

QRA Publications

The QRA currently has field guides to over thirty destinations available for purchase. Recent additions to the series include:

The Quaternary of Northern East Anglia (Candy et al.) 2008

The Quaternary of Glen Roy and vicinity (Palmer et al.) 2008

The Quaternary of the North of Ireland (Whitehouse et al.) 2008.

The Quaternary of the Brecon Beacons (Carr et al.) 2007

The Technical Guide series includes:

No. 10 *The Identification and Use of Palaeartic Chironomidae larvae in Palaeoecology.* (Brooks et al) 2007.

No. 7 *The Description and Interpretation of Quaternary Stratigraphic Field Sections* (Jones et al.) 1999 (Digitally reprinted version).

More details on QRA publications and an order form can be found on the website (www.qra.org.uk).

If you are interested in producing a technical guide please contact the Publications Secretary. If you have a suggestion for a field meeting and accompanying guide book please contact the Meetings Officer.

**Registration for QRA Annual Field Meeting, Solent Basin and West Sussex
4th-8th April 2009 (field days on 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th April)**

Organisers: Becky Briant (Birkbeck College, London), Martin Bates (University of Wales, Lampeter), Rob Hosfield (Reading), Francis Wenban-Smith (Southampton)

Maximum numbers: 100

Registration (non-refundable after 2nd March 2009) includes travel and field guide, but not food or accommodation. Non-resident participation is welcome.

Please note that meetings are only open to QRA members. Any non-members wishing to participate must join the QRA before attending the meeting. Please note below if you are not a QRA member and the QRA Administrator will contact you.

I wish to register for the meeting: £ 59 £.....
(£ 35 for students / unwaged, £ 18 per day [please state which days])

I am / am not a member of the QRA (delete as appropriate)

Accommodation (limited places, non-refundable after 2nd March 2009)

I wish to be a resident at Highfield Hall (includes bed, breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal [7th April breakfast and packed lunch only]) for the following nights:

4 th April 2009 (£70 ensuite, £56.50 shared bathroom).....	£.....
5 th April 2009 (£70 ensuite, £56.50 shared bathroom).....	£.....
6 th April 2009 (£70 ensuite, £56.50 shared bathroom).....	£.....
7 th April 2009 (£51 ensuite, £37.50 shared bathroom).....	£.....

Special dietary requirements: Vegetarian Vegan Other

Personal details:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Telephone (mobile preferred):

Email:

I enclose a cheque payable to **Birkbeck College** to value £.....

Please return this form and payment by 2nd March 2009 to:

Dr Becky Briant, School of Geography, Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX, UK.

Email: b.briant@bbk.ac.uk

(In the event of cancellation, the QRA will refund booking monies less any irrecoverable costs already incurred within the time-frames stated above.)

7. QRA POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM: 1st - 4th September 2009

The QRA Postgraduate Symposium for 2009 will take place between 1st and 4th September 2009. It will be hosted by the Schools of Environment and Development and Earth Sciences at the University of Manchester. The symposium organisers will put out a call for papers early in 2009.

The QRA Postgraduate Symposium provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to meet in an informal environment to share their research. Participation is particularly encouraged from those at an early stage in their academic career wishing to gain experience in presenting to a friendly audience and foster links with like-minded Quaternary scientists.

Further information on the symposium will appear in due course on the QRA website and in the Circular.

Contact: Deborah McCormack, Rose Wilkinson (deborah.mccormack@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

8. QRA ANNUAL DISCUSSION MEETING: JANUARY 2010

Preliminary Announcement

QRA ANNUAL DISCUSSION MEETING Sea Level Changes: Science of a Changing World Durham University

Day 1: Evening registration and ice breaker for delegates arriving early

Day 2: Full day session

Day 3: Full day session

Day 4: Morning session and midday departure

From multiple Quaternary glacial/interglacial cycles to perceptions and predictions of future scenarios, changes in sea level reflect the complex interactions and consequences of our transient Earth – Climate system and, more recently, society. The 2010 QRA Annual Discussion Meeting will address these interactions through themed sessions that aim to address the different spatial and temporal scales of sea-level change. The conference format will comprise four themed sessions, each introduced by at least one invited paper from World leaders in the field who will provide a summary of our current state of knowledge and the uncertainty of what we don't know or understand. We propose an evening "Any Questions" style session on "Sea level science and society: effective communication of our research", with a panel comprising academics and the media to answer questions from conference delegates.

Theme 1: Modelling sea-level change: global to local scales

Theme 2: Quaternary Sea level change, past people & their environments

Theme 3: Resolving ice-sheet & sea-level interactions

Theme 4: Sea-level change 2000 BP to 2100 AD

Contact details:

Organising Committee

Prof Ian Shennan (I.Shennan@durham.ac.uk), Prof Antony Long, Dr Sarah Woodroffe, Dr Dave Roberts

9. QRA FIELD MEETING: FAR NORTHWEST SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS: APRIL 2010

QRA FIELD MEETING The Quaternary of the far NW Scottish Highlands

Organisers: Sven Lukas (Queen Mary, University of London), Tom Bradwell (BGS, Edinburgh)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPOSED
FROM ITS ORIGINAL DATES OF MAY 2009 TO APRIL 2010**

Background

The western part of this remote area of Britain was last visited by the QRA in 1995; the area inland of Assynt (i.e. the interior of Sutherland) has received little research attention until recently. Since the last meeting, a large amount of recent research has led to considerable advances in our understanding of the chronology and dynamics of Late Quaternary ice masses and palaeoecology (see below) that have implications for other areas of the British mainland and offshore. It is thus timely to revisit this spectacular area.

Preliminary programme

The meeting will focus on the late Quaternary of the far NW Highlands and adjacent (offshore) areas. Three and a half field days are planned, and the provisional programme will contain:

Day 1:

The influence of bedrock lithology and structure on Quaternary landform formation; subglacial sediments related to ice-streaming (Allt an Strathan); P-forms, outwash terraces and sea-level evidence (Keanchulish, Strathkanaird); megagrooves (Rhidorroch, Elphin); ice-sheet thickness (Quinag).

Day 2:

Cosmogenic isotope dating of Late Devensian deglaciation (Loanan Valley); speleothems, ^{14}C and U-Th dates from the Assynt Bone Caves (Allt nan Uamh); karst and post-glacial weathering (Inchdamph); Holocene peat profiles and environmental change (Inchnadamph).

Day 3:

Rogen moraines and pre-Younger Dryas readvance limits (Loch Shin); Geomorphological evidence of extensive Younger Dryas glaciation, glacier reconstruction and palaeoclimatic significance (Loch Shin, Loch a'Ghriama, Loch More); Younger Dryas "hummocky" moraine sedimentology and glaciodynamic significance (Bealach nam Meirleach).

Day 4:

Large-scale rock-slope failure (Bealach nam Meirleach, Ben Hee); ^{14}C -chronology (Loch Stack).

Accommodation

The meeting will be based at the Inchnadamph Hotel and Inchnadamph Lodge, Inchnadamph. The venues are both well equipped to cater for the group in all aspects (food, well-stocked bar); a large meeting room for evening presentations and a range of accommodation are also available.

Indicative costs per night per person are c. £17 for bunkhouse accommodation, £25-35 per single or shared twin/triple room, bed and breakfast included and c. £45-50 for a single room including dinner, bed and breakfast. Both en-suites and shared facilities are available. Registration costs will be around £80 (standard) and £40 (students/unwaged members).

Access

It should be noted that, due to the widespread absence of roads and usable tracks, all days of this field meeting will involve long walks across mountainous, partly difficult and possibly water-logged ground. Inchnadamph does not have any alternative facilities, and although we will pass local shops on some days, we would encourage participants planning not to have dinner at the hotel to bring provisions for the whole meeting based on previous experience.

Travel

Transport during the meeting will be in University minibuses, BGS and private vehicles, and we will aim at keeping the number of vehicles to a necessary minimum due to available parking space. The majority of roads in this area of the Highlands are single-track, so that larger buses for group transport are not a feasible option due to road widths.

The closest railway station to the area is Lairg, about an hour's drive south of the proposed meeting place, and pick-up from the station can be arranged if required. For everyone's convenience, we would offer to organise lifts for participants who do not travel to the venue as part of a group.

Further details on the field trip can be obtained by contacting either

Sven Lukas (email: S.Lukas@qmul.ac.uk; Tel.: 020 7882 8417) or

Tom Bradwell (email: tbrad@bgs.ac.uk; Tel.: 0131 650 0284).

10. QRA RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE GRANTS

Please note: Full details of all QRA grants and application forms are available on the website (www.qra.org.uk). Applicants for awards should read the details carefully before submitting an application.

If you require a hard copy, please contact Dr Mick Frogley at:

Department of Geography, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QJ

email: M.R.Frogley@sussex.ac.uk

tel: 01273 873237

Quaternary Research Fund

Purpose: To foster research in any area of Quaternary studies

Eligibility: Members of the QRA of at least one years standing (NB postgraduates should apply to the New Research Workers' Awards)

Deadlines: 15th January, 15th May and 15th September

Awards: £50-500

New Research Workers' Awards

Purpose: To foster research in any area of Quaternary studies by postgraduate students

Eligibility: Postgraduate student members of the QRA of at least 6 months standing

Deadlines: 15th January, 15th May and 15th September

Awards: Up to £500

Quaternary Conference Fund

Purpose: To assist attendance at Quaternary science conferences and field meetings.

Eligibility: Members of the QRA of at least one years standing

Deadlines: 15th January, 15th May and 15th September

Awards: Normally up to £250

The Bill Bishop Award

- Purpose:** To provide support for field-based research in the subject of geology and related sciences in the fields of (i) Cenozoic stratigraphy, palaeoenvironments and chronology in relation to hominid evolution and (ii) British Quaternary stratigraphy, palaeoenvironments and geomorphology
- Eligibility:** Full and part time PhD and MPhil students
- Deadline:** 15th January annually
- Award:** £800 (maximum)

Lewis Penny Medal

- Purpose:** Awarded to a young or new research worker, and who has made a significant contribution to the Quaternary Stratigraphy of the British Isles and its maritime environment.
- Deadline:** Nominations should be submitted by 15th September annually.

QRA-RLAHA Luminescence Dating Award

- Purpose:** Set up in collaboration with the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at Oxford University, up to six optically-stimulated luminescence dates (from Pleistocene or Holocene sediments) will be awarded.
- Eligibility:** PhD students
- Deadline:** January 15th annually.

Postgraduate QRA Meetings Awards

- Purpose:** To enable a greater number of postgraduates to attend QRA meetings.
- Eligibility:** Any registered postgraduate who has been a QRA member for more than **6 months**
- Deadlines:** For Easter Annual Field Meeting or May Short Field Meeting: **January 15th**
For September Short Field Meeting: **May 15th**
For January Annual Discussion Meeting: **September 15th**
- Awards:** 50% of the costs of the meeting (excluding travel to the venue); six awards for the Annual Field Meeting, six awards for the Annual Discussion Meeting and three awards for the Short Field Meeting

Radiocarbon Dating Short Course Bursaries

- Purpose:** To enable members to participate in the annual two-day radiocarbon dating short course run jointly by NERC, AHRC and the University of Oxford.
- Eligibility:** The scheme is open to any QRA member (except undergraduates) regardless of length of membership, though preference will initially be given to first year PhD students who are not funded by either NERC or AHRC.
- Deadline:** 15th January annually
- Awards:** Up to three bursaries will be awarded annually and will cover course fees only. Any other attendant expenses must be met by the applicant. Further details about the short course can be found at www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses.

See the QRA website for forms and additional information on applying for these research grant schemes.

11. QRA WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The new QRA website was launched at the AGM in January 2009. The new site has been developed for the QRA by OsborneBrook, a professional web design company. The first phase of the development is almost complete and will provide the QRA with a completely new and up-to-date web presence. It will also provide a platform for further development over the next few years.

Members' Directory: The QRA has in the past made available to its members a directory of members' address and contact details, originally as a paper publication and more recently as an on-line document in a password protected area of the old QRA website. The new QRA website will have a significantly enhanced members' directory, in which contact details will be held securely in a password-protected area and individual members will be able to update address and contact details. You will also be able to search the directory for other QRA members. It is hoped that this will be operational during February. Information will be distributed via the website and QRA email list.

<http://www.qra.org.uk>

QRA
Quaternary Research Association

Home | About | Research | Meetings | Publications | Awards | Outreach | Contacts

The Quaternary Research Association

About the QRA

The Quaternary Research Association is a research organisation interested in the last 2.6 million years of Earth's history (the Quaternary) – also known as the 'Ice Age'.

» more about the QRA
» join the QRA

The Journal of Quaternary Science

The Journal of Quaternary Science is published on behalf of the QRA by Wiley-Blackwell.

» JQS page at Wiley-Blackwell
» Discounted subscriptions for members

News

16/01/09 - QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2010 - preliminary announcement ([read](#))
07/01/09 - Lewis Penny Medal 2009 awarded to Tom Bradwell ([read](#))
07/01/09 - Honorary Members of the QRA for 2009 ([read](#))
06/01/09 - Annual John Wiley Lecture by Professor Francesco D'Errico ([read](#))

» view all news

Forthcoming meetings

04/04/09 - 08/04/09
QRA Field Meeting, The Solent Basin and West Sussex ([view](#))

15/04/09 - 17/04/09
Geoarchaeology 2009: Landscape to laboratory and back again ([view](#))

19/04/09 - 24/04/09
EGU Session GM3.5: Cold regions geomorphology: present landforms and past climate ([view](#))

» view all meetings

Postgraduate members

The QRA has an active postgraduate community with around 250 members. Postgraduates organise their own symposium each year (late Aug/early Sep) to exchange ideas in an informal environment.

» more about postgraduate activities

INQUA

The QRA is a member of the International Union for Quaternary Research, which unites scientists from all over the world. The next (XXVIII) INQUA Congress will be held in Bern, Switzerland 20th July - 27th July, 2011.

» INQUA web site

Grant applications

The QRA funds grants to members with the aim of promoting Quaternary research and training as widely as possible. Applications can be submitted at any time and are reviewed three times a year.

» view available grants

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12. JOURNAL OF QUATERNARY SCIENCE

The *Journal of Quaternary Science* is the Association's journal, founded in 1986 and published on behalf of the QRA by Wiley-Blackwell. JQS currently publishes eight issues per year, including two special issues. In 2008 the Impact Factor for JQS increased to 2.5, placing it among the top multidisciplinary geoscience journals. The journal continues to develop in the Americas, Asia and Australasia, while continuing to represent the wide range of Quaternary science research in Europe. JQS publishes original papers on any field of Quaternary research, and aims to promote a wider appreciation and deeper understanding of the earth's history during the last two million years. Papers of wide international interest from a wide range of disciplines appear in JQS including, archaeology, botany, climatology, geochemistry, geochronology, geology, geomorphology, geophysics, glaciology, limnology, oceanography, palaeoceanography, palaeoclimatology, palaeoecology, palaeontology, soil science and zoology.

The QRA benefits directly from the success of JQS through the annual royalty it receives from Wiley-Blackwell. This income has allowed the Association to expand its range of grants schemes, in particular to support postgraduate researchers, to fund over thirty scientists to participate in the recent INQUA Congress in Cairns, Australia and undertake development of its web site to enhance the on-line presence of the QRA.

With the continued development of on-line publishing, the income to the journal is increasingly determined by the subscription packages purchased by institutional libraries in the UK and elsewhere. It is therefore important that:

- Academic and related organisations continue to include JQS in their library's subscription packages,
- On-line usage of JQS is increased by maximising the number of downloads of articles from the Wiley InterScience® web site,
- QRA members consider JQS as an outlet for their research and encourage colleagues and co-workers to submit papers to JQS.
- Organisers of meetings or conferences include publicity materials to promote JQS to meeting delegates. Please contact Genevieve Eastwood at Wiley-Blackwell (geastwoo@wiley.com) to discuss requirements.

The QRA Executive Committee also continues to encourage individuals to take advantage of the very significant reduction in subscriptions to receive the print edition of JQS which are offered to all QRA members by Wiley-Blackwell.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jhome/2507>

The top ten cited articles in JQS for 2007 are:

1. Alloway, BV; Lowe, DJ; Barrell, DJA; Newnham, RM; Almond, PC; Augustinus, PC; Bertler, NAN; Carter, L; Litchfield, NJ; McGlone, MS; Shulmeister, J; Vandergoes, MJ; Williams, PW. Towards a climate event stratigraphy for New Zealand over the past 30 000 years (NZ-INTIMATE project).
2. Charman, DJ; Blundell, ACCROTELM Members. A new European testate amoebae transfer function for palaeohydrological reconstruction on ombrotrophic peatlands.
3. Pearce, NJG; Denton, JS; Perkins, WT; Westgate, JA; Alloway, BV. Correlation and characterisation of individual glass shards from tephra deposits using trace element laser ablation ICP-MS analyses: current status and future potential.
4. David, B; Roberts, RG; Magee, J; Mialanes, J; Turney, C; Bird, M; White, C; Fifield, LK; Tibby, J. Sediment mixing at Nonda Rock: investigations of stratigraphic integrity at an early archaeological site in northern Australia and implications for the human colonisation of the continent.

5. Bridgland, DR; Demir, T; Seyrek, A; Pringle, M; Westaway, R; Bieck, AR; Rowbotham, G; Yurtmeni, S. Dating quaternary volcanism and incision by the river Tigris at Diyarbakir, southeast Turkey.
6. Holmgren, CA; Norris, J; Betancourt, JL. Inferences about winter temperatures and summer rains from the late Quaternary record of C-4 perennial grasses and C-3 desert shrubs in the northern Chihuahuan Desert.
7. Bowen, DQ; Gibbard, PL. The Quaternary is here to stay.
8. Pyne-O'Donnell, SDF Three new distal tephras in sediments spanning the Last Glacial-Interglacial
9. Transition in Scotland.
10. Asrat, A; Baker, A; Mohammed, MU; Leng, MJ; Van Calsteren, P; Smith, C. A high-resolution multi-proxy stalagmite record from Mechara, Southeastern Ethiopia: palaeohydrological implications for speleothem palaeoclimate reconstruction.
11. Brauer, A; Wulf, S; Mangili, C; Moscariello, A. Tephrochronological dating of varved interglacial lake deposits from Pianico-Sellere (Southern Alps, Italy) to around 400 ka.

13. QUATERNARY NEWSLETTER

Copy deadlines for *QN* are: 1st of January, May and September each year. Material should be submitted to the Editor:

Dr Mark Bateman
Department of Geography,
University of Sheffield
Sheffield, S10 2TN
M.D.Bateman@Sheffield.ac.uk

Quaternary Newsletter

QN is published three times a year and includes short research papers, meeting reports, abstracts, research reports, reviews, news and notices. Short research articles (up to 3000 words in length) would be particularly welcomed by the Editor; all submissions are reviewed prior to acceptance.

If you would like to discuss submission of a short research paper for publication in *QN* please contact the Editor, Dr Mark Bateman (M.D.Bateman@Sheffield.ac.uk).

14. CALENDAR OF QRA MEETINGS

Offers to arrange meetings are always welcome. Please contact the Meetings Officer: Dr David Roberts (d.h.roberts@durham.ac.uk) to discuss your proposal.

4th - 8th April 2009

QRA Field Meeting

The Solent Basin and West Sussex

Venue: University of Southampton

Organisers: Becky Briant, Martin Bates, Rob Hosfield

Contact: Becky Briant (b.briant@qmul.ac.uk)

See details and registration form in this Circular

1st - 4th September 2009

QRA Postgraduate Symposium

Venue: University of Manchester

Organisers: Deborah McCormack, Rose Wilkinson

Contact: Rose Wilkinson (deborah.mccormack@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

January 2010

Annual Discussion Meeting: “Sea Level Changes: Science of a Changing World”

Venue: Durham University

Organisers: Ian Shennan, Prof Antony Long, Dr Sarah Woodroffe, Dr Dave Roberts

Contact: Ian Shennan: Ian.Shennan@durham.ac.uk

April 2010

QRA Field Meeting

Far North West Scottish Highlands

Organisers: Sven Lukas, Tom Bradwell

Contact: Sven Lukas (s.lukas@qmul.ac.uk)

See details in this circular

September 2010

Field Meeting: Solway Firth

Venue: Solway Firth

Organiser: Dave Evans, Colm O’Cofaigh, Antony Long, Stephen Livingstone

Contact: Dave Evans: d.j.a.evans@durham.ac.uk

Details of all QRA meetings are also available on the website: www.qra.org.uk

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