

AGENDA

59th Annual General Meeting of the Quaternary Research Association

Thursday, 4th January 2023 at 1.30 pm in person and online

Hosts: University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University

(Use Zoom link below to join meeting at 1.30 pm)

Chair: Professor Jane Hart (President)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual report of the President (JH)
5. Annual report of the Secretary (AP)
6. Annual report of the Treasurer (RH)
7. JQS Editor's Report (NR)
8. Announcement of new Executive Committee members (below)
9. Break
10. Honorary Members of the QRA
11. Award of Prizes and Medals

Item 11: Announcement of new Executive Committee members

The following people have been nominated to succeed retiring members:

Treasurer:	Tim Lane (Liverpool John Moores University)
QN Editor:	Ed Garrett (University of York)
Meetings Officer:	Jenna Sutherland (Leeds Beckett University)
Outreach Officer:	Naomi Holmes (University of York)
EDI Officer:	Della Murton
Publicity Officer:	Sophie Williams (Durham University)
Ordinary Member:	Howard Lovell (University of Portsmouth)

Online link to attend the AGM (set up through Will Fletcher):

Topic: QRA AGM & Keynote - University of Manchester

Time: Jan 4, 2024 01:00 PM London

<https://zoom.us/j/99617263578>

Meeting ID: 996 1726 3578

Passcode: ADM2024

Adrian Palmer
Honorary Secretary
20th December 2023
a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk

MINUTES OF THE 58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, HELD ONLINE (via Zoom hosted by the Geological Society of London) 5th JANUARY 2023

The President, Simon Lewis, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 42 members of the Association:

Neil Adams, Cristina Balaban, Natasha Barlow, Sinead Birks, Clare Boston, Rebecca Briant, Emma Cooper, Alastair Curry, Christopher Darvill, John Davis, Stephen Davison, Cathy Delaney, Natalie Deng, Stephen Eaton, Mary Edwards, Ian Evans, Trevor Faulkner, Paul Fish, Will Fletcher, David Giles, Inese Grinbauma, Andrew Hart, Jane Hart, Tom Hill, Rupert Housley, Andrew Howard, Peter Jones, Simon Lewis, John Lowe, Fflyff McLaren, Della Murton, Adrian Palmer (Minutes), Simon Price, Caroline Richards, David Roberts, Neil Roberts, Jim Rose, Cat Rouse, Richard Staff, Antony Stevens, Abi Stone, Sarah Woodroffe.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was again being held online due rail strikes impacting travel options for delegates to the ADM and the AGM. Apologies were received from Emrys Phillips and Michael Dempster.

2. MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising as they would be covered by Action points.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began by thanking the organisers of the 2023 Annual Discussion Meeting convened by the QRA Quaternary Engineering Geology Group. The Geological Society of London was also thanked for its co-sponsorship and hosting of the ADM, and for providing technical support for the AGM.

a. Deceased Members. The President acknowledged the key contributions of three recently deceased QRA members: Rendell Williams, Hilary Davies and Michael Tooley. Obituaries detailing their involvements with the science and QRA had been published in the Quaternary Newsletter. A short silence was held by way of remembrance.

b. COVID-impacted presentation. The President recorded that, due to the impact of the COVID pandemic on last year's AGM, the delayed medal presentations to Paula Reimer (JCM 2022) and Andrew Newton (LPM 2021) were performed by Helen Roe at Queens University Belfast. A photo of the ceremony for Ben Chandler (LPM 2022) with his family was also displayed. Congratulations was again offered to the recipients of the medals

c. QRA Administrator. The President announced that Val Siviter (QRA Administrator) had decided to formally retire from her role. Val had provided over twenty years of support to the QRA and was fundamental to the smooth operation of the QRA through membership enquiries, publication sales and distribution and was often the first point of contact for members and non-members with queries. The President sincerely thanked Val for all her work and wished her the very best for her retirement. The Executive Committee had undertaken a recruitment process and offered the role to Lucy Engelhart, who is warmly welcomed to the QRA and had now just completed a 2-month handover period with Val. This work also included the transfer of the bookstore from Wales to Durham, where it is now stored in commercial facilities.

d. Finances and JQS Matters. The President reported that the QRA's finances remain in a state of good health and that the Association continues to meet its charitable objectives, as detailed in annual reports to the Charities

Commission (see *Item 6, Treasurer's Report*). Royalty payments from *Journal of Quaternary Science (JQS)* continue to allow the Association to support a wide range of research activities. However, there are a series of changes to the working practices of the Association (e.g Administration, website upgrade) that will increase the year-to-year running costs. As such a broader discussion of current membership fees will be held as a separate agenda item later in the meeting.

e. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. The work on EDI continues within the Associations workings and now includes the policy document as being available. An additional agenda items has been included concerning Constitutional Amendments that would reflect this work and the proposal to establish an EDI Officer on the Executive Committee.

f. QRA website. The President confirmed that a new website is now under construction and that further details will be provided in a later agenda item. However, they took the opportunity to thank profusely the work of Chris Darvill (Publicity Officer) who has initiated and led the redesign process over the last 3 years and has engaged the services of LUV Design to oversee this process. The President looked forward to seeing the fruits of these labours in early 2023.

g. Executive Sub-committees. The first meetings of the four sub-committees covering the following areas: Finance & related matters; Publications & Communications; Grants, Outreach & Conservation, and Equality & Diversity, were held in 2022. There will be a period of adjustment to this new structure but will enable more substantive discussions to be held about future directions before QRA Executive Meetings.

h. Executive Committee retirements. The President thanked three retiring members for their work during their terms in office: Chris Darvill, Kirsty Penkmann and Emily Watt. The fourth retiring member of the Executive was the President themselves and they took the opportunity to reflect on the last three years, which were severely impacted by the COVID pandemic. This saw the move to online Executive meetings with last autumn the first opportunity in over 2 years to have a face-to-face meeting. Much of the work of the QRA was aimed at ensuring the continued running of essential services. Looking to future there are exciting developments through the website with the chance to modernise some functions of the Association, but also the need to maintain and reinvigorate field and discussion meetings after the pandemic. They highlighted that this could occur through the ADM in 2024 which will mark the 60th anniversary of the QRA.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

a. Membership. Total membership of the Association currently stands at **966** (Table 1).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change (21-22)
Ordinary Members	636	656	615	682	677	592	616	617	533	-84
Postgraduate Members	368	358	289	369	395	321	343	295	217	-78
Unwaged/Retired Members	146	147	134	137	137	118	123	130	134	+4
Honorary members	35	38	38	41	40	40	42	44	46	+2
Institutional members	29	26	21	22	17	17	16	16	15	- 1
Corresponding members*	23	23	23	23	24	24	23	23	21	- 2
Total Membership	1237	1248	1120	1274	1290	1112	1163	1125	966	-159

Table 1. Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2022. *Includes copyright members

Membership numbers have fallen again this year, in real terms for both the Ordinary and Postgraduate Members. Whilst there has been a new system for following up on lapsed members, it is hoped that the new website subscription arrangements will enable a more efficient renewal process for members through reminder notices and for its administration.

Although previously mentioned, the Secretary reinforced their sincere thanks toward Val Siviter, who retired as QRA Administrator and formally handed over the role to Lucy Engelhart at the end of December 2022. Val was our first QRA Administrator and was familiar to many through membership enquiries, website log-in

details and online book sales. Her contribution to the QRA over two or more decades had been profound and was thanked her for all her hard work and gracious support.

Subscriptions for 2022 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. The institutional membership rate is £35. The future subscription rates will be discussed later in the AGM in conjunction with proposed Constitutional amendments.

b. Meetings

i) QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2022

5th-8th January 2022. Quaternary Glaciations: Processes, environments and reconstructions.

Location: The University of Sheffield (online)

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: Jeremy Ely, Chris Clark, Ann Rowan, Mark Bateman, Jennifer Doole, Stephen Livingstone, Grant Bigg, Darrel Swift.

Attendees: 205 (data forthcoming) Report: *QN 156*.

ii) 26th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium

Sheffield Hallam University, Friday 1st and Friday 9th September 2022 (hosted online)

Organiser: Sarah Walton and Gwyn Rivers

Attendees: 15. Abstracts in QN 157 and report forthcoming.

iii) QRA/Quaternary Engineering Research Group field meeting to West Cumbria 2022

17th-20th March 2022. The Quaternary engineering geology of the West Cumbria region.

Location: Santon Bridge, West Cumbria

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: The trip leaders were Jon Merritt and Emrys Phillips (British Geological Survey), Paul Fish and Chris Coleman (Jacobs), Nick Smith (National Nuclear Laboratory), with contributions from Sinead Birks (Imperial College), Dave Evans (Durham University) and Keith Nicholls (Network Rail).

Attendees: 30 (approximately 23% F and 77 % M): University (13 incl. 3 PhD); Industry (12) Gov't Agency (3) Retired/Unwaged (2) Report: *QN 156*

iv) QRA/Quaternary Engineering Research Group/Glacial Landforms Working Group field meeting to Anglesey and North Wales 2022

27th-30th October 2022. Field training course in sedimentology, engineering geology and geohazard significance of glacial and periglacial sediments

Location: The Conway Centre, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey.

Meeting Organisers: David Evans (University of Durham), Paul Fish (Jacobs), Julian Murton (University of Sussex), Simon Price (Arup)

Field trip leaders: Dave Evans (Durham University), Emrys Phillips (British Geological Survey), and Julian Murton (University of Sussex).

Attendees: 44 (approximately 11:33 F:M). University (10); Industry (27) Gov't Agency (5); Retired (2) Report: *forthcoming*

The Executive Committee extends its thanks to the organisers of these meetings, the participants, and to those who have prepared reports on the meetings for *Quaternary Newsletter*.

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2022 was delivered by James Scourse (University of Exeter) during the Annual Discussion Meeting hosted by University of Sheffield. The talk was entitled: "*BRITICE-CHRONO: what next? Problems, ideas, applications.*"

The Meetings Officer is always happy to receive offers of meetings from all members including ECRs. We are flexible on dates and formats and do not necessarily require the production of field guides to accompany field meetings. Updated guidelines for meetings are now available and provide excellent support for those wishing organize meetings.

c. QRA Grants and Awards

During the 2020-21 financial year, **£28,905** was awarded by the QRA to members under the standard awards schemes. This reflects a higher number of applications because of reduced travel restrictions after COVID-19 to enable fieldwork and conference attendance. This year the value of all awards was raised by £150 to reflect eligibility of carer-support costs. In the case of the Quaternary Research Award this amount would increase by £500.

The Awards Officer has rationalized the nomenclature for some of the categories to provide greater distinction between Awards and Grants. For example, the New Research Workers Award (NRWA) will be renamed the New Research Workers Grant, although the Bill Bishop Award will retain its original name established by the Bill Bishop Memorial Trust.

From the Financial Year 2023-2024, the funding rounds will be reduced to two from three. This is to reduce the administrative load and ensure a competitive number of applications. The total amount of funds will remain the same in a financial year. The new deadlines will be 15th September and 15th February. Details of the complete portfolio of QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: gra.org.uk/grants

Summary table of expenditure in each award round for Financial Year 21-22 and list of awardees for Financial Year 21-22.

Fund	Round	No. of applications¹	Total monies requested (£)	No. funded	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded
NRWA	May-22	5	7545	4	5995	80%
	Jan-22	0	0	0	0	na
	Sep-21	3	4500	3	4400	100%
	Total	8	12045	7	10395	88%
PQCF	May-22	5	3320.33	5	3170.33	100%
	Sep-21	2	1305	0	0	0%
	Total	7	4625.33	5	3170.33	71%
QCF	May-22	1	750	1	750	100%
	Jan-22	1	750	1	750	100%
	Sep-21	0	0	0	0	na
	Total	2	1500	2	1500	100%
QRF	May-22	4	4940	4	4940	100%
	Jan-22	1	1500	1	1500	100%
	Sep-21	2	3000	2	3000	100%
	Total	7	9440	7	9440	100%
QRA	Sep-21	2	8200	1	3600	50%
Bill Bishop	Jan-22	1	800	1	800	100%
¹⁴ C Dating Short Course	Jan-22	0	0	0	0	na
¹⁴ C Chrono ²	May-21	3	-	2	-	67%
	Jan-21	2	-	2	-	100%
	Total	5	-	4	-	80%
TOTAL		32	36610.33	27	28905.33	85%

¹ Refers only to eligible applications. ² Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested. Note- the Geoconservation, Outreach Awards and prizes are not listed here

Award	Name	Institution	Title	Awarded (£)
NRWA	Daniel Parkes	Royal Holloway, University of London	Investigating the cause and structure of abrupt climate change events during MIS 11c	1500
NRWA	Dylan Gaffney	University of Cambridge	Tropical plant processing behaviours during the northern colonisation of Sahul (Pleistocene New Guinea and Australia)	1400
NRWA	Sarah Walton	Sheffield Hallam University	Holocene Climate and Environmental Change in South East Iceland	1500
NRWA	Conner Morison	Edinburgh University	Environmental and Societal Impacts of the 939 AD Eldgjá Fissure Eruption, Iceland	1500
NRWA	Charlie Rex	University of Glasgow	A comparison of deglacial monsoon evolution at Lake Suigetsu, Japan	1500
NRWA	Tom Thorne	University of Aberystwyth	Role of climate change in depositional features in an active glacial region	1500
NRWA	Maria Zicos	Natural History Museum	Diet reconstruction of the extinct ground sloth <i>Myiodon darwini</i> at Cueva del Milodón, Chile, from the DNA of coprolites	1495
Bill Bishop Award	Kathryn Price	University of Reading	Ancient rivers, early humans: The River Thames, 500,000–1 million years ago	800
PQCF	Shashank Nitundil	University of Manchester	Investigating records of dune activity in the western Thar desert of India by combining field and laboratory techniques	500
PQCF	Nataschia PannoZZo	University of Liverpool	Testing luminescence as a tool to investigate erosional/depositional processes in salt marsh settings	500
PQCF	Sophie Williams	Durham University	Relative sea-level changes in Australia over the 19th and 20th centuries	670.33
PQCF	Nina Atae	University of Aberystwyth	Using polymineral fine grains to date Chew Bahir lake core from East Africa	750
PQCF	Annabel Everard	University of Aberdeen	Scotland's Ancient Woodlands: Palaeoecological insights into woodland restoration	750
QCF	Bethan Davies	Royal Holloway, University of London	Topographic controls on ice flow and recession for Juneau Icefield (Alaska/British Columbia)	750
QCF	Laura Basell	University of Leicester	Exploring the realms of virtual reality: New Survey Results from Mwanampambe Cave, Kajengwa, Unguja	750
QRA	Tim Atkinson	University College London	Speleothem dating and the onset of ice-sheet glaciation in NW Scotland	3600

QRF	James Bendle	University of Birmingham	Unlocking New Palaeolimnology Proxies	1500
QRF	Ben Chandler	University of Nottingham	Testing the limits: luminescence dating of inferred Younger Dryas glacier limits in the Central Scottish Highlands	1500
QRF	Lauren Davies	University of Cambridge	Modelling and mapping historical volcanic ash dispersal: Katmai 1912	1500
QRF	Kathryn Adamson	Manchester Metropolitan University	Reconstructing palaeoenvironmental conditions in the Egyptian Nile Valley using rhizolith micro-morphology	1440
QRF	Ian Candy	Royal Holloway, University of London	Is there isotopic evidence for a Little Ice Age in Southern England	1500
QRF	Charlotte Spencer-Jones	Durham University	Environmental Reconstruction of Paleo-Mega Lakes: The Makgadikgadi Basin	1500
QRF	Aidan Starr	Rutgers University	The Antarctic Circumpolar Current in the Glacial Southeast Indian Ocean: A Multi-Site Flow Speed Reconstruction	500
¹⁴ C Chrono	Junglas Solveig	Oxford University & British Museum	Establishing a use chronology of Buddhist Cave Temples through stratigraphic paint sampling	3 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Sally Derrett	University of Sheffield	Future fens: using palaeoecology to inform restoration and conservation of the Lincolnshire Fenlands	3 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Jessica Gauld	University of Manchester	Learning from the Past: A Palaeoecological Study to Inform Restoration of Greater Manchester's Peatlands	2 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Naima Harman	Royal Holloway, University of London	Extending coupled cryptotephra and palaeoclimatic analysis of marine cores to the Eastern Mediterranean over the last ~200ka	2 dates

d. Publications

i) Quaternary Newsletter

3 issues: 155 (Feb 2022), 156 (June 2022) and 157 (October 2022) Editor: Dr Sarah Woodroffe (Durham)

QN will be made more accessible in 2023 by providing a link via the weekly email circular and it will be made available to all visitors to the new QRA website. A new presentation of the QN will allow individual articles to be downloaded alongside the whole issue. All members of the QRA are encouraged to present articles to the QN. Further details on the plans for QN are provided in Section 8 as these were laid out in a separate agenda item during the AGM.

ii) Journal of Quaternary Science

Volume 37 (2022): eight issues containing 99 articles (1479 pages). Editor-in-Chief: Professor Neil Roberts (University of Plymouth)

The inaugural JQS outstanding ECR paper award was made at the 2022 QRA AGM to Francesca Pasquetti (PhD candidate, University of Pisa) for her article entitled "On the chronology of the

Mediterranean Sea-level highstand during the Last Interglacial: a critical review of the U/Th-dated deposits”.

iii) QRA Guides

One new field guide was published in 2022:

Glacial and Periglacial Materials: A field-based sedimentology and engineering geology workshop, North Wales. Evans, D.J.A. (ed.)

The bookstore has now been consolidated in Durham with Lucy Engelhart (QRA Administrator). Attempts to reduce the book stock have been made through an online sale in the autumn. The online availability of Field Guides and QN has been discussed in detail particularly with respect to potential copyright issues. The Publication Secretary would like to ask for donations from the membership of issues from 1 to 54 and individual issues of 66, 116, 120, 123, 127 and 128 if possible. Scanning of field guides before 2010 is also ongoing, although we do not have electronic copies of out-of-print guides from the early 1990's, 1980's and 1970's.

e. Research Groups and Study Groups

The Association continues to support the following new QRA research groups, which were formally initiated early in 2021 and continue until the end of 2023. Please contact the lead organisers if you would like to get involved.

- **Quaternary Engineering Geology:** Members: Paul Fish (Lead), Becky Briant, Tom Berry, Julian Murton, Jonathan Lee, Dave Evans, Dave Giles and others.
- **Peatland Ecosystems and Time (PEaT):** Members: Graeme Swindles (Lead), Angela Gallego-Sala, Tom Roland, Alice Milner, Paul Morris, Helen Roe and Gill Plunkett.
- **Virtual Palaeoscience Project (ViPs):** Members: Jane Bunting (Lead), Kim Davies, Simon Hutchinson, Fabienne Marret-Davies, Elizabeth Hurrell, Des McDougall, Danni Pearce, Irene Torereggiani, Nicki Whitehouse and others.

A new QRA Research Group has been approved to start in 2023 called **SLaCC: Sea Level and Coastal Change**, which will be organised by Louise Best (University of Gloucestershire) and Sarah Woodroffe (Durham University). The group's remit will be to address “*How can palaeo sea level and coastal data contribute to next generation UK Climate Projections and UK Climate Risk Independent Assessments?*”. For further details please contact the leaders.

New proposals for research groups are invited at any time and should be discussed with the Meetings Officer in the first instance.

f. Outreach

As a registered charity, outreach is an important part of our activities and, as our Outreach and External Liaison Officer, James Lea, has been pro-active in promoting our activities.

(i) QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

A total of 5 entries were submitted for consideration this year. The winner of the 2022 dissertation prize will be announced during the AGM in January and an abstract of the winning dissertation will be published in *QN*.

The Association thanks the judges Mary Edwards and Gill Plunkett for their work in reviewing the entries and acknowledges the continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS for the administration of the prize.

(ii) QRA Outreach Award

Two projects that were suspended during the pandemic are now reactivated (Girls into Geoscience Wales, 2023-2026; and VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes). New awards have been made to *Essex Rock – Geology Beneath the Landscape* the QRA have solicited a book review to be included in in Spring issue of *QN*. QRA members will also be eligible to buy the book at a discount secured as part of the terms of funding from the QRA. Funds have been allocated to ‘PalaeoPERCs’, an international organization which showcases early career

research through online seminars to support seminar and outreach activity. Further details can be found at <https://paleopercs.com>

(iii) Polar Environments Day

A Polar Environments Day, a free event supported by the QRA, was held at Royal Holloway, University of London on the 31st March 2022 with the event being attended by 150 students from under-served schools about polar research. It received positive feedback from the students. The QRA supported with a stand that advertised the role of Quaternary research in addressing modern climate issues. All volunteers wore QRA branded t-shirts. A report is available in QN 157.

g. Executive Committee

Four members of the Executive Committee have completed or will complete their terms of office by January 2023:

- Simon Lewis (*President*)
- Kirsty Penkman (*Ordinary Member*)
- Chris Darvill (*Publicity Officer*)
- Emily Watt (*Postgraduate Representative – September 2022*)

The Executive Committee extends considerable thanks to these individuals on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the running of the Association throughout their periods in office. There have been some challenging terms of office due to the pandemic and grappling with some significant changes to the QRA's organization.

h. Postgraduate activities

We welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in December 2022, Laura Boyall (Royal Holloway), who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years.

Postgraduate events continue to be an important component of the activities of the Association. The Annual Postgraduate Symposium series continued this year and was hosted online by Sarah Walton and Gwyn Rivers (Sheffield Hallam University) over consecutive Fridays at the start of September. The meeting was a success and a full write-up of the event will appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*. Postgraduate interests are represented on the Executive Committee by two members, who are elected at the Annual Postgraduate Symposium (both posts last for two years).

The postgraduate representatives also maintain the social media accounts of the Association. The number of followers on the QRA Social Media accounts as of late 2021 was as follows: Twitter: 3140; Facebook: 2465 followers; Instagram: 180 followers. Twitter remains the most popular form of social media interaction. Please check the QRA website (homepage) for further details or contact the Postgraduate representatives (postgrad@qra.org.uk)

i. Publicity

In 2021, the Publicity Officer, distributed regular E-mail Newsletters to members approximately once a week (members can opt out at any time in compliance with GDPR rules). These remain an effective means of advertising positions, events and news across the membership. They were also used to inform members of changes to QRA activities associated with Covid-19 disruption. The Publicity Officer currently schedules these for 3 pm on Fridays and requests that the relevant announcements are sent to publicity@qra.org.uk by Thursday for circulation that week. This email Circular will now replace the paper copy that was posted with the hard copy of the QN.

Significant progress has been made to redesign and upgrade the QRA website, which has become a key resource for the management of QRA Administration and the interface with members and beyond. Several challenges had developed with the old website and consequently the Executive supported the Publicity Officer's recommendation of redesign and support from a new agency. We have secured the services of LUV Design to initiate and discuss the design process, which is ongoing. Completion of the new website is currently scheduled for the 10th February 2023 and we may ask for feedback from user groups during the design phase.

j. Geoconservation

The work on Geoconservation continues within the QRA under Michael Dempster. We would like to highlight the QRA Geoconservation Award, which was not awarded in 2022 and the next deadline is 1st March 2023. Please contact conservation@qra.org.uk for further details.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

a. Introduction. This Report covers the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022. Accounts are detailed in Table 1. The Association's financial activities were relatively stable with the focus on preparing for the enhanced expenditure associated with the INQUA Congress in 2023. The QRA is in a good position to give significant financial support to UK delegates attending the meeting in Rome next year. Income remains steady and expenditure is in line with the period before Covid-19 impacted on research, field meetings, conferences, and outreach events.

All values in the text below are rounded to the nearest pound. The figures have been checked and approved by an independent financial examiner. The Association's audited accounts are with the Charity Commission.

b. Income. In total, the Association's income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £16,685. This comprises £8,085 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £537 from book sales, and £8,063 from undifferentiated subscriptions and book sales via the Stripe online payment system. The Association received a payment of £79,049 from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science* (JQS). This is an important increase on the funds received last year (2020-21: £73,830). Other royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £803. The Royal Society continues to support the UK's membership of INQUA via the QRA, providing a contribution of £6,529 towards our subscription. The QRA 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 2021-22 was £16,978. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2021-22 was £96,537, and total income was **£123,353**.

c. Expenditure. As in the previous two years (2019-20 and 2020-21) the day-to-day running costs of the Association (primarily payment of our Administrator, funding meetings of the Executive, postage, and website maintenance) were reduced, coming to a total of £9,669. This reflects a move to holding committee meetings online with Zoom compared to physical meetings and a more competitive public liability insurance policy. At £32,627 the Association's spending on Grants, Awards, and Meeting Sponsorship has been impacted by a delay in paying the headline QRA research fund award (typically £5k). Postgraduate conference and outreach awards are returning to a more normal level following the enforced break caused by the pandemic. The UK subscription to INQUA for 2022 will appear in the 2022-23 accounts of the Association. Overall expenditure for 2021-22 was **£66,857**.

d. Year-end financial status.

As of 31st July 2022, the Association held:

- £ 125,107.71 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
- £ 27,583.52 in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account [estimate]
- £ 171,865.83 in our HSBC Community Account
- £ 40,717.73 in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

The Association started the 2021-22 financial year with total funds of £308,779.05 and ended with £365,274.79. Ring-fenced sums within our holdings include £14,655 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Award; £85,500 for the INQUA fund; £5,000 for the Lewis Penny Medal; £43,233 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 20% gross profit share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science*. This is a fundamental element of the QRA's financial position for it underpins the grants, outreach events, and prizes which the Association gives out. Next year there will be a programme of enhanced spending associated with a new QRA administrator post, the replacement of the current website with an updated and enhanced product, the costs associated with new storage of the stock of technical and field guides which the Association holds, and support for numerous UK delegates who wish to

participate in the summer 2023 INQUA Congress. To further diversity and equality, within our existing programme of awards the QRA is making additional funds available to applicants who act as carers. The funds will be provided where activities require time away from home on fieldwork or when participating in conferences.

f. Auditing. As noted above, the finances have not yet been audited and are submitted to the AGM subject to approval by the external auditor.

Table 2: Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's account for 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022.

INCOME	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Subscriptions	£8,298	£8,241.59	£8,085.29
Book sales	£609	£464.20	£536.50
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£4,925.59	£7,773.42	£8,062.88
Total Subs/Book Sales	£13,832.59	£16,479.21	£16,684.67
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£74,963	£73,830	£79,049
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£951.65	£1,596.52	£803.04
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£6,279	£6,279	£6,529
Surplus on Meetings	£2,079.98	£431.08	£2,000
Bank refunds	£4.86	£0	£0
INQUA Field trip subscriptions	£331.43	£0	£0
Advertising	£0	£0	£0
Returned awards	£0	£1,606.39	£1,300
Donations	£1,000	£0	£0
Interest Received	£76.88	£4.07	£8.98
Total Other Income	£85,686.80	£83,747.06	£89,690.02
JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)	£31,879	£16,154	£16,978
TOTAL INCOME	£131,398.39	£116,380.27	£123,352.54
WORKING INCOME	£93,240.39	£93,947.27	£99,845.69
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£1,062	£821	£949
Newsletter postage	£934.13	£2,075.33	£1,725.54
Admin support	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Postage & stationery	£0	£136.96	£0
Executive Committee Costs	£3,659.68	£749.67	£182.97
Insurance premium	£1,233.06	£1,160.78	£811.42
Total Running Expenditure	£12,888.87	£10,943.74	£9,668.93
Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£2,355	£5,174	£1,174
Total Publications Expenditure	£2,355	£5,174	£1,174
JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)			
Editors' honoraria	£12,000	£11,001.50	£13,500
Exec. INQUA costs	£220	£0	£0
Board meeting travel	£1,513	£0	£0
Total JQS Editorial Board Costs	£13,732.74	£11,001.50	£13,500

Grants/Awards/Support			
NRWA	£11,890	£16,066	£11,995
QRF	£8,470	£13,235	£10,312
QCF	£2,800	£0	£1,500
QRA Research Fund	£0	£4,960	£0
INQUA Fund	£2,155.86	£0	£0
PGMA	£0	£1,489	£3,170
Outreach Award	£0	£1,500	£3,000
Geoconservation Award	£1,000	£1,004	£0
Undergrad dissertation prize	£0	£300	£350
ADM Poster prizes	£0	£0	£0
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£0	£0	£0
C14 bursaries	£0	£0	£0
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£800	£0	£800
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£461.32	£0	£0
Postgraduate Conference	£0	£0	£0
Research sub-group support	£0	£1,500	£1,500
Total Grants/Awards/Support	£27,877.18	£40,054.40	£32,627.33
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£0	£0	£20
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£0	£0	£0
Cancelled INQUA fieldtrip reimbursements	£1,050	£0	£0
Meetings expenditure	£2,000	£1,025	£6,694
Catering (meetings)	£0	£0	£0
INQUA subscription	£0	£40,761.24	£30.62
Web Site costs	£450	£450	£600
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£300	£200	£200
Medals - striking/engraving	£0	£37.68	£129.34
RGS Archives	£0	£0	£0
Bank charges	£176.96	£187.26	£192.52
Earth Heritage Magazine online publishing	£0	£2,000	£1,000
Independent Examiner's fee (financial audit)	£0	£0	£1,020
Total Other Expenditure	£3,677.96	£44,661.18	£9,886.54
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£60,530.75	£111,834.82	£66,856.80
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	£70,867.64	£4,545.45	£56,495.74

The Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

7. QRA MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2022, 2023 and 2024

a. Meetings held in 2022 are detailed in the Secretary's Report (Section 5b).

b. Forthcoming meetings in 2023 and 2024

QRA 2023 Annual Discussion Meeting: *'Applications of Quaternary Geoscience to Engineering: Process, Properties and Behaviour'*.

Date: 5th-7th January 2023

Venue: Burlington House, Geological Society of London

Organisers: John Davis, Becky Bryant, Simon Price, Julian Murton, Paul Fish, Claire Mellett.
Contact: TBC

Field meeting: *The Quaternary of Wester Ross: glacier dynamics and post-LGM evolution of glaciated mountainous terrain*

Date: 18th-21st May 2023

Location: Kinlochewe Hotel and Bunkhouse

Organisers: Colin Ballantyne and Doug Benn.

Contact: ckb@st-andrews.ac.uk

QRA Engineering Geology Group One Day Conference: *Quaternary Engineering Geology of High Speed Two.*

Date: Friday 16th June 2023

Location: Birmingham and Midlands Institute

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: Sarah Trinder, Julian Murton, Kevin Briggs, Sebastian Gibson.

QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2024: '60th Anniversary of the QRA.'

Date: 3rd – 6th January 2024

Location: Manchester Metropolitan University

Meeting Organisers: Cathy Delaney, Kathryn Adamson, Iestyn Barr, Chris Darvill and Anna Hughes.

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.

8. QUATERNARY NEWSLETTER

Three bumper issues of *QN* were published in 2022 with contributions coming from many different parts of the Quaternary community. *QN* continues to be an outlet for discussions within the Quaternary community. An Editor highlight was the running debates about the River Trent and Lincoln Gap during the Quaternary – which culminated in three articles on the issue in *QN*157 in October, “*Palaeodrainage reconstruction of the River Trent: new evidence from Google Earth imagery*” by Colin Baker, “*Final thoughts on the Lincoln Gap problem*” by Allan Straw and “*Thoughts on the Trent “Trench” and the Lincoln and Chopwell Butler Gaps: discussions of contributions by Allan Shaw and Colin Baker*” by David Bridgland.

This year the *QN* was made more accessible by providing a link directly to the newsletter in the weekly QRA email newsletter when it is published. In 2023 *QN* will be made freely available on the new QRA website for all to view and download (not just QRA members). *QN* format will be updated and presented to allow individual articles to be downloaded alongside the whole issue. Mock-ups of the new adapted *QN* design was presented. The newsletter will retain its traditional front cover but each article will now have its own header to ensure it retains its identity when downloaded separately.

The editor requested that researchers continued to consider *QN* when thinking where to publish rapid discussion pieces that focus on issues of interest to our community. *QN* should be a place where authors can trial new perspectives and introduce new results that may later become highly cited research papers. Early Career Researchers (including PhD students) were also encouraged to use *QN* as a way of developing their skills in article and report-writing by submitting articles based on their recent results and to continue to write excellent reports about meetings of interest to the Quaternary community.

9. SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES

The Treasurer and Secretary made a short presentation to the AGM to explain the need for an uplift the annual subscription rate. Every year our finances are closely monitored and the subscription charge to

members. The last time subscriptions were raised was **19 years ago in 2004**. Since then, we have financial turbulence and inflation (£20 in 2004 is now equivalent to £37 in 2022) have been subsumed, but more recently the costs associated with QRA's administration have increased permanently (e.g. administrator costs and book storage). The aim has been to limit these costs going forwards while at the same time increasing the benefits to members, but now these activities are unsustainable without additional income to meet our running costs. The Executive proposed to make the following changes to the membership rates, to come into effect from **January 1st, 2024**.

Ordinary	existing £20*	new £30
Student /unwaged	existing £10	new £15
Retired	existing £10	new £15
Institutional	existing £35	new £60

These changes were proposed to the membership and was unanimously voted through via an online vote. Subscriptions will be monitored every year at the Executive Committee with future increases brought to the AGM.

Notice to the membership was given about further procedural changes to subscriptions that will occur in 2023 and 2024. This process will be required because of changes to the new website and the consolidation of bank accounts, an ongoing process undertaken by the Treasurer.

i) The new QRA website, which will be launched in 2023, will be the prime focus for managing QRA membership. Options will include the payment by bank card of single year subscriptions or annually recurring membership. This will replace the previous system of standing orders.

ii) The QRA will be moving subscription payments to a new bank account. The existing Halifax-Bank of Scotland account will be replaced by an HSBC bank account. Existing standing orders will need to be cancelled to be replaced by website card payments which will become the primary mode for membership of the association. Once the new website has been brought online, a guide will be sent to all members with Standing Orders to aid in setting up the new payment via the website. The payment for Jan 2023 will be unaffected.

iii) The new website will allow members to make Gift Aid declarations, which will provide a valuable source of income to the Society. Please note this is not a subscription payment method. It allows the QRA to reclaim the tax paid on your subscriptions.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES:

The QRA is run in accordance with its Constitution. The current Constitution was last updated in 2012 and now did not accurately reflect the composition of the Executive Committee and some aspects of the running of the Association. The following amendments to the constitution were proposed by the Secretary. Section 5.2 Subscriptions: The start date for subscriptions was no longer exclusive to January and membership lasted for 12 months from the point joining the QRA. The sanction for lapsed memberships would be changed from 1 year to 3 months as there is a more efficient means of sending reminders to the membership through the website.

1. Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 Management:

- a. Reference to the Membership Officer would be removed as the role was no longer part of the Executive (6.1);
- b. Inclusion of a defined period for the Postgraduate Representatives (2 years; 6.2);
- c. New EDI Officer to be included and will start from January 2024 as a 3-year term (6.1)
- d. Removal of the Circular from the QN (6.3). The impact on the constitution for this would mainly fall on the notification of Nominations of Officers which will now be delivered via the weekly email at the end of June with a deadline set for the end of August. If there is more than nomination then a formal process of election has been set within the Constitution with an election run by the Secretary and Vice President.

2. All sections Removal of gendered language. All gendered language would be removed from the constitution.

The opportunity to discuss these proposals was offered to the membership and a formal vote moved on this package of recommendations through an online vote. 97% of attendees voted in favour of these changes.

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 2022 Circulars and deadlines announced. No other nominations had been received for the posts so the following were duly elected:

President: Jane Hart (University of Southampton)
Publicity Officer: Jenni Sherriff (King's College London)
Ordinary Member: Katy Roucoux (St Andrews University)

Emily Watt's term as Postgraduate Officer had ended and will be replaced by:
Postgraduate Officer: Laura Boyall (Royal Holloway, University of London)

12. HONORARY MEMBERS

The President announced that Mary Edwards and Martin Bell had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status. These nominations were accepted unanimously by the membership; full citations will appear in *Quaternary Newsletter*.

13. AWARD OF PRIZES AND MEDALS

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2022/2023:

a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize - 2022:

Yuqiao Deng (University College London) for her thesis entitled '*A tephropalaeoecology study investigating volcanic eruptions and tephra depositions' impacts on a lacustrine ecosystem in Northeast China, using diatoms as environmental indicators.*' Runner Up: Duncan Russell (University of Plymouth).

b. Outstanding Paper in *Journal of Quaternary Science* by an Early Career Researcher - 2023:

Neil Adams (PhD candidate, University of Leicester and Natural History Museum). Title: '*An Early Pleistocene hippopotamus from Westbury Cave, Somerset, England: support for a previously unrecognized temperate interval in the British Quaternary record.*' Special commendations were received by Charlotte Haniot, Bin Han and William Daniels.

c. Quaternary Research Award - 2023:

Not awarded in 2023

d. Lewis Penny Medal - 2023:

Not awarded in 2023

e. James Croll Medal - 2023:

Colin Ballantyne (St Andrews University).

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

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting started at 4.15 pm and ended at 6.15 pm

Minutes taken by Adrian Palmer (Secretary)
1st March 2023

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