

## QRA AGM 2024 Annual Reports Documents. Table of Contents\*

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*\*Sections 1 (Agenda) and 2 (Minutes of AGM 2023) are published as a pdf separately.*

### 3. QRA Honorary Secretary's Report 2023

Adrian Palmer

a. **Membership.** Total membership of the Association currently stands at **852** (Table 1).

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
										<b>(22-23)</b>
Ordinary Members	656	615	682	677	592	616	617	533	476	-57
Postgraduate Members	358	289	369	395	321	343	295	217	183	-34
Unwaged/Retired Members	147	134	137	137	118	123	130	134	142	+8
Honorary members	38	38	41	40	40	42	44	46	43	-3
Institutional members	26	21	22	17	17	16	16	15	8	-7
Corresponding members*	23	23	23	24	24	23	23	21	-	- 21
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>-114</b>

**Table 1.** Summary of membership data as of 15th December 2023. \*Includes copyright members

Membership levels have fallen, which continues a trend observed over the previous two years. This was partly explained by the transition to the new website and the ending of Standing Orders as a means of paying QRA subscriptions. This has provided an opportunity to update the membership details for many of our organization and we are focusing on tracing former members with lapsed memberships to explain the new online portal for membership renewal. However, the overall migration of membership to the new website has been successful with thanks to Jenni Sherriff, Lucy Engelhart, and the team from LUV design. Corresponding Members may need to be recategorized as many of the communications involved physical copies of QN being sent to foreign universities, but this practice has been discontinued.

Lucy Engelhart has now completed their first full year as Administrator. Lucy has been focussing on the challenges of the website migration and updating our membership databases in conjunction with the upgrades to the bookstore.

Subscription rates remained unchanged through 2023, but, for the first time since 2004, the subscriptions will increase to the prices agreed at the AGM in January 2023. The changes were visible on the website from the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and those members that have set up recurring payments from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 will see the higher amount withdrawn from their accounts from this date.

#### b. Meetings

##### i) QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2023

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Applications of Quaternary Geoscience to Engineering: process, properties, and behaviour (online)

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: John Davis, Becky Briant, Simon Price, Julian Murton, Paul Fish, Claire Mellett.

Attendees: Male 114 (64%): Female 65 (36%). Govt Agency 14 (8%), Industry 96 (54%), Academia 69 (38%) Report: QN 159.

ii) ***The Quaternary of Wester Ross: glacier dynamics and post-LGM evolution of glaciated mountainous terrain*** QRA Field Meeting **2023**

18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 Ullapool, Scotland.

Meeting Leader: Colin Ballantyne

Attendees: ~30

Report: QN 160

iii) **The Quaternary of HS2 Joint Meeting.**

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Location: Birmingham and Midland Institute.

Meeting Organisers: Quaternary Research Association Engineering Group and Engineering Group of the Geological Society.

Attendees: 70. Academia (13); Industry (87)

Report: QN 160

iv) **6<sup>th</sup> Sea level and Coastal Change (SLaCC).**

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Location: Trinity College, Dublin.

Meeting Organisers: Robin Edwards and Iris Moeller

v) **27th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

Durham University, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (hosted in-person and online)

Organiser: Holly Jenkins

Attendees: 15. Report forthcoming in QN.

vi) **QRA Engineering Research Group London Field Trip.**

14<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Location: Central London.

Meeting Organisers: QERG

+ non-binary gender not included work is ongoing to consider how to most effectively collect this data based on self-identification.

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 2023 was delivered by David Giles (Card Geotechnics Limited) during the Annual Discussion Meeting. The talk was entitled: "*Quaternary Engineering Geology – Are we there yet?*"

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.

➤ Further details of other co-sponsored meetings and forthcoming meetings in 2023/2024 please see the Meeting's Officer's Annual Report.

### c. QRA Grants and Awards

During the 2020-21 financial year, **£30,226** was awarded by the QRA to 27 members under the standard awards schemes. This is a slight fall from 32 individual awards that were made in the previous year. As this was also an INQUA year, a further **£30,982** was made to 45 members to support attendance in Rome. ECR applications accounted a total of ~70% of the total and 71% of awards went to women.

The Awards Officer has rationalized the online application process that now makes the process more efficient. Further information on the application process was provided in person by the Awards Officer attending the QRA Postgraduate Symposium in September 2023.

From the Financial Year 2023-2024, the funding rounds have been reduced to two from three. Deadlines for these rounds are now 15th September and 15<sup>th</sup> February.

➤ [For further details of these awards please see the Awards Officer's report.](#)

### d. Publications

#### **Quaternary Newsletter**

3 issues: 158 (Feb 2022), 159 (June 2022) and 160 (October 2022)

Editor: Dr Sarah Woodroffe (Durham)

QN was made Open Access in 2023 with members being able to access the volume via a link on the weekly email circular. This move to Open Access was accompanied with a revamp of the format of the articles and the ability to download individual articles. The Circular insert has now been discontinued having been superseded by the weekly email.

➤ [See the QN Editor's report for further details.](#)

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

Volume 38 (2023): eight issues containing 92 articles (1381 pages). Editor-in-Chief: Professor Neil Roberts (University of Plymouth)

The JQS outstanding ECR paper award was made at the 2023 QRA AGM to 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.*'

➤ [See the JQS Editor's report for further details.](#)

#### **QRA Guides**

One new field guide was published in 2023:

*The Quaternary of Wester Ross*. Ballantyne, C (ed.)

The bookstore has now been consolidated in Durham with Lucy Engelhart (QRA Administrator). A stock take shows that we have a total of 3595 books with 448 copies of the '*The History of the QRA*'. Some field guides are out of stock and the Publication Secretary is investigating potential reprints. Last year (to December) 310 books were sold.

➤ [See the Publications Secretary's report for further details and information on book stocks and sales.](#)

### e. Research Groups and Study Groups

The Association supported the following QRA research groups until the end of 2023.

- **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 started 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.

There has been some renewed interest in developing new Research Groups and proposals are invited at any time of the year and should be directed to the Meetings Officer. The application process has been streamlined through the website.

#### 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 8 entries were submitted for consideration this year. The winner of the 2023 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. Althea Davies (St Andrew's) and Phil Gibbard (Cambridge) will take over as judges for academic years 22/23 until 25/26.

##### (ii) QRA Outreach Award

One completed project Pal(a)eoPERCS has been written-up and submitted to QN. Three projects are ongoing i) 'Girls into Geoscience Wales', ii) 'VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes', and iii) 'Virtual Top 50 Quaternary Sites'.

➤ For further details please see the Outreach and External Liaison Officer's report.

#### g. Executive Committee

Seven members of the Executive Committee have completed or will complete their terms of office by January 2024:

- Rupert Housley (*Treasurer*)
- Emrys Philips (*Meetings Officer*)
- James Lea (*Outreach and External Liaison*)
- Sarah Woodroffe (*QN Editor*)
- Jenni Sherriff (*Publicity Officer*)
- Rob Storrar (*Ordinary Member*)

- Sinead Birks (*Postgraduate Representative – September 2023*)

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. Much of their work occurred during the pandemic and was therefore impacted by having to administer the work through online meetings but then also enabling the transition back to more 'normal' systems.

## **h. Postgraduate activities**

We welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in October 2023, Holly Jenkins (Durham University), who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years. Holly takes over from Sinead Birks (Imperial University) and she is thanked for her diligence and promotion of postgraduate matters through the Executive.

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 in-person and online by Holly Jenkins (Durham University) on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September. The theme of the meeting was "Exploring the Quaternary through postgraduate research". Attendance was 15 in person and 3 online. 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).

### ***Social Media interaction***

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 2023 was as follows: Twitter: 3237; Facebook: 2503 followers; Instagram: 198 (+18) followers. Twitter remains the most popular form of social media interaction, although there was promising interaction through Instagram particularly during the Wester Ross Field Meeting. Please check the QRA website (homepage) for further details or contact the Postgraduate representatives ([postgrad@qra.org.uk](mailto:postgrad@qra.org.uk))

➤ [See the Postgraduate Representatives' report for further details.](#)

## **i. Publicity**

In 2023, the Publicity Officer has concentrated on the massive task of redesigning and migrating our website with LUV Design providing the facilitation of this. Immediate benefits have been observed through a) a new bookshop design with easier payment options, b) open digital access to *QN*, c) electronic administration of grants, awards, meeting co-sponsorship and research group application forms, d) event listing page, e) Members area and f) electronic membership subscription. One significant enhancement is the separation of different payments for bookshops and memberships allowing improved analysis of financial income. Of particular importance is the upgrade to delivering the QRA weekly mailshot. This is now referred to as the QRA Circular and presents critical information about QRA activities to the membership. This is delivered via Mailchimp with 46% of member opening the email and 5-6% clicking on the links.

Membership migration through the new website has been a significant challenge throughout the year. The Publicity Officer, Honorary Secretary and QRA Administrator have worked on this and the integrating the 2024 subscription changes concurrently. Overall, this has worked well and enabled an overdue update to our membership lists and closure of one of bank accounts that received standing order payments.

Future updates are targeted on generating an archive of QN (open access) and digital Field Guides (members only) whilst enhancing postgraduate content to support QRA postgraduate community and integrating social media into the website.

➤ See the Publicity Officer's report for further details.

#### **j. Geoconservation**

The work on Geoconservation continues within the QRA under Michael Dempster. This includes the QRA's involvement in the publication of Earth Heritage magazine, liaison with the Geological Society of London Geoconservation Committee, support for the Geodiversity Day (UNESCO) and providing advice on the conservation matters notified by QRA members. We would like to highlight the QRA Geoconservation Award, which was not awarded in 2022 and the next deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Please contact [conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk) for further details.

## 4. QRA Treasurer's Report and Financial Review, 2022-23

Rupert Housley

An executive summary is provided in the first part of the report. More detailed financial statements and supporting information is provided in the second part of the report.

### Introduction

This report covers the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 and includes the financial year in which the quadrennial INQUA Congress in Rome took place. Consequently, the Association saw considerable extra expenditure with travel grants to support UK based delegates who were presenting or making other contributions to the Congress. Overall income increased marginally, with the period seeing more book sales, in-person discussion and field meetings, conferences, and outreach events.

Accounts are detailed in Table 1. All values stated below are rounded up to the nearest pound. The figures and accounts stated below remain provisional until checked by an independent financial examiner.

### Income

In total, the Association's income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £19,018. This comprises £9,510 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £2,563 from book sales, and £6,944 from undifferentiated subscriptions and book sales via the Stripe online payment system. The Association received a payment of £70,762 from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science* (JQS). This is a decrease on the funds received last year (2021-22: £79,049). Other royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £779. The Royal Society continues to support the UK's membership of INQUA via the QRA, providing a contribution of £6,615 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 2022-23 was £18,795. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2022-23 was £105,621, and total income was £131,031.

### Expenditure

In this financial year expenditure was greatly enhanced compared to the previous three years. In part this is due to an increase in activities as the Covid-19 restrictions ended, with more in-person events and their associated travel costs. The other factor impacting expenditure was the quadrennial INQUA Congress for which the QRA provided £30,136 for delegate support and £5,269 towards the promotion of the *Journal of Quaternary Science*, the Association's premier product and the lynchpin supporting our grants and prizes programme, and support for the JQS Editorial Board. The health of JQS is fundamental to the QRA and the trade stand at the INQUA Congress also helped with the sale of our technical reports, field guides and books. The UK subscriptions to INQUA for 2022 and 2023 are shown in this year's accounts (£29,333). The design and launch of a new QRA website required the payment of £10,420. Overall expenditure for 2022-23 came to £166,287.

### Year-end financial status

As of 31st July 2023, the Association held:

- £ 132,894 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
- £ nil in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account [closed]
- £ 128,544 in our HSBC Community Account
- £ 68,582 in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account



**Note:** the estimated balance in the Bank of Scotland publications account for FY 21-22 of £27,584 proved incorrect. The true figure of £27,543 was transferred to the HSBC savings account and the BoS publications account is now closed. Restatement of figures takes this error into account.

The Association started the 2022-23 financial year with total funds of £365,276 and ended with £330,020. 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; £43,259 for administering the JQS Editorial Board; and £30,000 designated to meet any unexpected liabilities.

#### 1.5. Plans for the next financial period

The next year will see the appointment of a new officer tasked with furthering equality diversity and inclusion (EDI). Within our existing programme of grants 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. There will be changes to how the membership dues are collected, with the new website streamlining both the membership records and the subscription process. A rollout of the Gift Aid scheme through the new website will strengthen the financial resources of the Association, whilst investment of ring-fenced funds should generate monies to help increase our grants programme. Finally, plans for the digitalisation of existing publications will take place with the intention of enhancing the online provision of QRA print resources (field guides, books, and *Quaternary Newsletter*).

Albert Goodman LLP has been appointed as the independent examiner to review our accounts for the financial year 22-23.

**Rupert Housley, 14 August 2023**

## 2. Statement of financial activities

Table 1: Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 July 2023.

	2022-23	2022-23	2022-23	2021-22
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
<b>Income</b>				
Donations	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Subscriptions and book sales	<b>4</b> 19,018	0	<b>19,018</b>	16,685
Publisher's Royalties	<b>5</b> 71,541	0	<b>71,541</b>	79,852
Wiley JQS Editorial Board	<b>6</b> 0	18,795	<b>18,795</b>	16,978
Royal Society INQUA Support	<b>7</b> 0	6,615	<b>6,615</b>	6,529
Other Income	<b>8</b> 15,062	0	<b>15,062</b>	3,309
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>105,621</b>	<b>25,410</b>	<b>131,031</b>	<b>123,353</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Running Costs	<b>9</b> 15,610	0	<b>15,610</b>	9,669
Publications	7,227	0	<b>7,227</b>	1,174
Grants, awards, and support	<b>10</b> 69,413	0	<b>69,413</b>	32,627
Wiley JQS Editorial Board	<b>11</b> 0	18,769	<b>18,769</b>	13,500
Other expenditure	<b>12</b> 42,124	13,144	<b>55,268</b>	9,887
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>134,374</b>	<b>31,913</b>	<b>166,287</b>	<b>66,857</b>
<b>Net income /(expenditure)</b>	<b>(28,753)</b>	<b>(6,503)</b>	<b>(35,256)</b>	<b>56,496</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	<b>210,359</b>	<b>154,917</b>	<b>365,276</b>	<b>308,780</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>181,606</b>	<b>148,414</b>	<b>330,020</b>	<b>365,276</b>

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

### 3. Statement of financial position

Table 2: Assets and liabilities for the year ended 31 July 2023.

	Note	2022-23 (£)	2021-22 (£)
<b>Cash funds</b>			
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account		<b>132,894</b>	125,108
Bank of Scotland Publications Account (closed)		<b>0</b>	27,584
HSBC Community Account		<b>128,544</b>	171,866
HSBC Manager's Account		<b>68,582</b>	40,718
<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>330,020</b>	365,275
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Uncashed cheques		<b>(630)</b>	(600)
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>(630)</b>	(600)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>329,390</b>	364,675
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>	14 15		
Bill Bishop Fund		<b>14,655</b>	14,655
Lewis Penny Fund		<b>5,000</b>	5,000
INQUA Fund		<b>85,500</b>	85,500
Wiley JQS Editorial Fund		<b>43,259</b>	43,233
Royal Society INQUA		<b>0</b>	6,529
		<b>148,414</b>	154,917
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
QRA General Fund		<b>151,606</b>	180,359
Unexpected Liabilities Designated Fund		<b>30,000</b>	30,000
		<b>181,606</b>	210,359
Total charity funds		<b>330,020</b>	365,276

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **1. General Information**

The Quaternary Research Association is a registered charity (#262124) operating throughout England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland and is unincorporated. The registered office is 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. The Association constitutes a public benefit entity.

### **2. Statement of compliance**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

### **3. Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of preparation**

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis in pounds sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the Association. Monetary amounts in these accounts are rounded to the nearest £.

#### **Going concern**

The Trustees do not consider that there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are spent or applied at the discretion of the Trustees to further any of the Association's purposes.

Designated funds are a portion of the unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds may only be spent for a particular purpose of the charity. Unrestricted funds may be used to supplement expenditure made from restricted funds.

#### **Income**

Income is the inflow of economic benefits to the Association from the activities that it undertakes. All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the Association. The following specific policies are applied to categories of income:

- Income from subscriptions is stated on a receipts basis and no adjustment is made to account for late receipt; delayed payment of a member's subscription may be due to that member choosing not to renew their subscription.
- Grant or donation income is accounted for when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.
- No income amount is included for the contribution of volunteers.

#### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is the amount of a charity's resources that have been spent or otherwise used up in carrying out its activities. The Association is not registered for VAT and accordingly irrecoverable VAT is registered under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it was incurred. The following specific policies are applied to categories of expenditure:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by the Association in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Association apportioned to charitable activities. Expenditure on charitable activities, for example awards or meeting support transactions, is accounted for when paid.

- All expenditure is allocated to categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable, and consistent basis.
- Meetings are organised by meeting leaders (volunteers), usually with the assistance of the host institution, who handle all aspects of income and expenditure for the meeting. Meetings need to be self-financing and so registration fees should cover costs. Following the meeting, the organisers provide the Association with a financial statement of income and expenditure associated with the meeting and return any financial surplus to the Association, which is accounted for on receipt as net income.

**Trustee's expenses** are the reimbursement by the Association of costs incurred by its trustees in carrying out their duties and similar payments made by the Association direct to third parties on their behalf. Trustee expenses are paid in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance CC11 (Trustee expenses and payments; issued March 2012).

#### 4. Income from subscriptions and book sales

	<b>2022-23</b> <b>Unrestricted funds</b> (£)	2021-22 Unrestricted funds (£)
<b>Subscriptions and book sales</b>		
Membership subscriptions	<b>9,510</b>	8,085
Book sales	<b>2,563</b>	537
Subscriptions/book sales (Stripe)	<b>6,944</b>	8,063
	<b>19,018</b>	16,685

#### 5. Income from Royalties

The Association receives annual royalties from Wiley on subscription and article sales revenue for Journal of Quaternary Science, including income from Open Access Article Publication Charges. In addition, licensing revenue payments are dispersed to the Association from the Publishers' Licensing Services (PLS).

	<b>2022-23</b> <b>Unrestricted funds</b> (£)	2021-22 Unrestricted funds (£)
<b>Royalties</b>		
Wiley <i>Journal of Quaternary Science</i>	<b>70,762</b>	79,049
Publishers' Licensing Services	<b>779</b>	803
	<b>71,541</b>	79,852

#### 6. Income from Wiley JQS Editorial Board

The Association assumed responsibility for administering a fund for the JQS Editorial Board in 2014-15. This money is ring-fenced for use on JQS expenses.

	<b>2022-23</b> <b>Restricted funds</b> (£)	2021-22 Restricted funds (£)
<b>Wiley JQS Editorial Board</b>		
Payment for 2022	<b>0</b>	16,978

Payment for 2023	<b>18,795</b>	0
	<b>18,795</b>	16,978

The amount received each year increases according to the UK Consumer Prices Index.

## 7. Income from Royal Society (INQUA Support)

The Association is the adhering body to the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), and the President of the Association is the national representative to INQUA. The Association is responsible for paying 51% of the annual UK subscription to INQUA from its own unrestricted funds, with the Royal Society contributing the remaining 49% of the balance. The Royal Society has generously made this contribution every year, although it is not guaranteed. The funds received from the Royal Society are ring-fenced for the UK INQUA subscription payment (see note 14 and 15).

## 8. Other Income

	<b>2022-23</b>	2021-22
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	(£)	(£)
<b>Other Income</b>		
Payments for meetings	<b>11,750</b>	2,000
Bank refunds	<b>162</b>	0
INQUA field trip subs	<b>0</b>	0
Returned awards	<b>2,829</b>	1,300
Bank interest	<b>321</b>	9
	<b>15,062</b>	3,309

## 9. Expenditure on running costs

	<b>2022-23</b>	2021-22
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	(£)	(£)
<b>Running costs</b>		
Newsletter and circular printing	<b>1,061</b>	949
Newsletter and book postage	<b>942</b>	1,726
Administrative support	<b>10,015</b>	6,000
Stationary	<b>47</b>	0
Executive Committee costs	<b>2,992</b>	183
Insurance premium	<b>554</b>	811
	<b>15,610</b>	9,669

### *Newsletter and circular printing*

The publication cost for *Quaternary Newsletter* (QN) 157/Circular was £505. Scanning of a batch of archival QN for online access via the website came to £556. The Association's newsletter and circular are made available to most members as a digital document.

### *Administration support*

Administration support, including dealing with membership issues, maintaining the membership database, organising printing and distribution of the Association's Newsletter and Circular, and administering sales of the Association's publications, is outsourced. To the 31 December 2022 Valerie Siviter provided this support, from 1 January 2023 Lucy Engelhart took over this responsibility (with a 2-month overlap).

### *Executive Committee costs*

Executive Committee travel expenses have picked up following the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions. Two in-person meetings take place each year. Officers of the association are reimbursed their travel costs. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the Association during the period.

## 10. Expenditure on grants, awards, and support

	<b>2022-23</b>	2021-22
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	(£)	(£)
<b>Grants, awards, and support</b>		
New Research Workers' Award	<b>13,009</b>	11,995
Quaternary Research Fund	<b>10,146</b>	10,312
Quaternary Conference Fund	<b>750</b>	1,500
INQUA Fund	<b>30,136</b>	0
QRA Research Award	<b>3,600</b>	0
PGMA /PQCF Awards	<b>4,200</b>	3,170
Outreach Award	<b>3,650</b>	3,000
Geoconservation Award	<b>500</b>	0
Undergraduate Dissertation Prize	<b>300</b>	350
C14 bursaries	<b>1,302</b>	0
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	<b>0</b>	800
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	<b>0</b>	0
Postgraduate Conference	<b>0</b>	0
Research sub-group support	<b>1,820</b>	1,500
	<b>69,413</b>	32,627

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

## 11. Expenditure on Wiley JQS Editorial Board

	<b>2022-23</b>	2021-22
	<b>Restricted funds</b>	Restricted funds
	(£)	(£)
<b>Wiley JQS Editorial Board</b>		
JQS Editors' honoraria	<b>13,500</b>	13,500
Executive INQUA costs	<b>695</b>	0
JQS Editorial Board expenses	<b>4,574</b>	0
	<b>18,769</b>	13,500

## 12. Other expenditure

	2022-23	2022-23	<b>2022-23</b>	2021-22
	Unrestricted	Restricted	<b>Total funds</b>	Total funds
	funds	funds	(£)	(£)
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
<b>Other expenditure</b>				

Refunds	0	0	<b>0</b>	20
Meetings	10,375	0	<b>10,375</b>	6,694
Catering	750	0	<b>750</b>	0
UK INQUA subscription	16,189	13,144	<b>29,333</b>	31
Website	10,420	0	<b>10,420</b>	600
Dissertation prize admin.	200	0	<b>200</b>	200
Medals (striking / engraving)	0	0	<b>0</b>	129
Bank charges	260	0	<b>260</b>	193
Earth Heritage Magazine	2,000	0	<b>2,000</b>	1,000
Independent Examiner fee	600	0	<b>600</b>	1,020
QRA Merchandise	1,331	0	<b>1,331</b>	0
	<b>42,124</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>55,268</b>	<b>9,887</b>

#### *Meetings*

The QRA supported three meetings during the period at a cost of £10,375 to the Association. The costs are set against sponsorship and delegate payments.

#### *Dissertation prize administration*

The Association's Undergraduate Dissertation Prize is administered by staff at the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), at a cost of £200 to the Association.

#### *UK INQUA Subscription*

Both the 2022 and 2023 INQUA subscriptions have been paid in FY 22-23, respectively £14,648 and £14,685.

### **13. Analysis of charitable funds 2022-23**

<b>Fund name</b>	<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Bill Bishop	14,655	0	0	0	14,655
Lewis Penny	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
INQUA	85,500	0	0	0	85,500
Wiley JQS Edit Board	43,233	18,795	18,769	26	43,259
Royal Society INQUA	6,529	6,615	13,144	(6,529)	0
	<b>154,917</b>	<b>25,410</b>	<b>31,913</b>	<b>(6,503)</b>	<b>148,414</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
QRA General	180,359	105,621	134,374	(28,753)	151,606
Unexpected liabilities	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
	<b>210,359</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181,606</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>365,276</b>	<b>131,031</b>	<b>166,287</b>	<b>(35,256)</b>	<b>330,020</b>

### **14. Restricted funds**

The Association is responsible for some restricted funds.



#### *Bill Bishop Fund*

The Fund supports the Bill Bishop Award, which is designed 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.

#### *Lewis Penny Fund*

The Fund supports the Lewis Penny Medal, which is named after a founder member of the Association and prominent Quaternary scientist, Lewis Penny.

#### *INQUA Fund*

In 1977 the UK was host to the 10th INQUA Congress in Birmingham. The surplus generated from that event had been held in trust by the Royal Society on behalf of the Association, and the Association took control of the fund in 2012. The Association releases (unrestricted fund) monies in addition to the accumulated interest from this fund to support Association members attending the quadrennial INQUA Congress.

#### *Wiley JQS Editorial Board*

The Association administers expenses for the editorial board of *Journal of Quaternary Science* on behalf on Wiley. The Association receives an annual payment to cover editorial board meeting expenses and to support an overseas speaker for the Wiley Lecture given at the Association's Annual Discussion Meeting.

#### *Royal Society INQUA*

For several years the Association has received 49% of the annual UK subscription to INQUA as a donation from the Royal Society, contributing the remaining 51% of the balance from its own unrestricted funds. These combined funds are ring-fenced for the INQUA subscription payment. See note 7 for further details.

### **15. Future expenditure and commitments**

See section 1.5 of the Treasurer's report for details.

## 5. QRA Awards Officer Report 2023

Will Fletcher

### a. Standard Awards

In the Standard Awards rounds for the financial year 2022-23, **£30,226** was distributed to 27 recipients. This represents an increase in the total awards from the preceding financial years 2022-23 (£28,905) and 2020-21 (£21,825). Application numbers were slightly lower with 27 total applications compared to 32 in 2022-23 but higher than in 2020-21 (22 awards). However, in 2022-23 many members accessed the INQUA Travel Grants funding, which is reported separately below. The healthy number of applications suggests a continued strong resumption of research activities following the global pandemic. The overall success rate of applications was very high, reflecting a high standard of project applications (average 95%). Early Career Researchers (postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers) accounted for 69.2% of the allocated funds; 66.7% of successful applicants were women.

Fund	Round	No. of applications <sup>1</sup>	Total monies requested (£)	No. funded	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded
NRWG	May-23	6	9506	6	9506	100%
	Jan-23	2	2953	2	2403	100%
	Sep-22	1	1500	1	950	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13959</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12859</b>	<b>100%</b>
PQCF	May-23	4	3450	4	3450	100%
	Sep-22	0	0	0	0	na
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>100%</b>
QCF	May-23	0	0	0	0	na
	Jan-23	1	750	1	750	100%
	Sep-22	0	0	0	0	na
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>100%</b>
QRSG (QRF)	May-23	2	2607	2	2607	100%
	Jan-23	5	7160	5	7160	100%
	Sep-22	1	1000	1	1000	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10767</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10767</b>	<b>100%</b>
QRLG (QRA)	Sep-22	0	0	0	0	na
Bill Bishop Award	Jan-23	0	0	0	0	na
<sup>14</sup> C Short Course Bursary	Jan-23	2	1300	2	1300	100%
<sup>14</sup> C Chrono <sup>2</sup>	May-23	1	-	1	-	100%
	Jan-23	2	-	1	-	50%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66.70%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30226</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29126</b>	<b>95%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Refers only to eligible applications; <sup>2</sup> Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested;

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

*Table 1: Summary of Standard and Special Awards 2022-2023, excluding INQUA Travel Grants. For details of award holders, please see Appendix 1 below.*

#### **b. QRA INQUA Travel Grants 2023**

The XXI INQUA Congress took place in Rome, Italy from 13 – 20 July 2023. Through the QRA INQUA Travel Grants scheme, the QRA supported the attendance of 45 delegates at the Congress. A total allocation of £30,982 was made across 45 awards (Appendix 2) representing an average award of £688. Early Career Researchers (postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers) accounted for 69.5% of the allocated funds; and women accounted for 71.1% of the awards. It was excellent to see many QRA delegates, especially junior researchers, enjoying the scientific, cultural and social benefits of the meeting in Rome.

#### **c. Acknowledgements**

- The QRA would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Queens University Belfast <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology for an annual allocation of radiocarbon determinations for New Researchers.
- The QRA is pleased to acknowledge the Radiocarbon Laboratory at University of Oxford for jointly supporting the participation of QRA members in the short course 'Radiocarbon Dating and Bayesian Chronological Analysis', which is run by the NERC Radiocarbon Facility (University of Oxford and SUERC, University of Glasgow) and the University of Oxford NERC DTP.

#### **d. Notices and Activities 2022-2023**

In 2023 the applications process for all grant applications and medal nominations moved online through the new website. This has been very successful and minor troubleshooting by QRA members is gratefully acknowledged.

The Awards Officer gave an information session to attendees at the QRA Postgraduate Symposium at Durham University in September 2023 and contributed to a round table discussion on funding for postgraduate researchers.

In 2023, the remit of Lewis Penny Medal was expanded to reflect the international scope and thematic diversity of Early Career Researchers' activities.

A new set of James Croll and Lewis Penny Medals have been struck at the Royal Mint (10 of each medal), requiring new casting of the dies because the previous set were too worn. The total cost for the 20 new medals was £8,460.

Following changes accepted at the 2022 AGM, members are reminded that upcoming standard awards rounds will take place twice per year with deadlines of 15<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## Appendix 1 - STANDARD AWARDS - Award holders

Award	Name	Institution	Title	Awarded (£)
NRWG	David Hatton	Queen's University Belfast	The detection of toxic cyanobacterial metabolites (microcystins) in lake sediment cores and their applications for understanding the drivers of palaeo cyanobacterial bloom events.	1453
NRWG	Sharman Jones	Aberystwyth University	What is the influence of sandy subglacial sediment on ice stream dynamics?	950
NRWG	Gwyneth Rivers	Sheffield Hallam University	Using transverse ridge morphometry to understand ice sheets in high spatiotemporal resolution.	1100
NRWG	Carla Huynh	University of Edinburgh	Constraining the Lateglacial and Holocene deglaciation in southernmost Patagonia	1500
NRWG	Gianbattista Marras	University of Cambridge	Reconstructing Western Mediterranean Holocene Palaeoenvironmental Change: a Comparative Model from Sardinia	1650
NRWG	Thomas Garner	Ulster University	Formation and structure of rock coast microbialites	1650
NRWG	Paulina Mejías Osorio	University of Vienna	Sedimentary record of modern processes at rapidly retreating glaciers	1650
NRWG	Andrea Sandoval Molina	University of Bradford	Hunting fool's gold: Provenance study of pre-Hispanic Mayan iron ore reflective artifacts.	1650
NRWG	Megan Wafra	Brunel University London	Petrological and Geochemical insights into Quaternary basaltic volcanism at the Kula Volcanic Province	1406
PQCF	Ailsa Guild	University of Durham	Structural Glaciological Evolution of rapidly Receding Temperate Piedmont Glaciers; Implications for Debris Entrainment and Landform Development at Svínafellsjökull, Southeast Iceland.	900
PQCF	Eftesum Eftesum	University College London	Inferring agricultural impacts on aquatic biodiversity in farmland ponds and assessing ecological recovery following restoration	900

PQCF	Thomas Clewer	Nottingham Trent University	Assessing the impacts of fire events, both natural and anthropogenic, on the carbon balance of European Blanket Bogs.	900
PQCF	Junaid Arif	University of Leeds	Three-Dimensional outcrop-based characterization of shoreface sequence architectures on an uplifting interbasinal relay zone: the Late Pleistocene Corinth Rift, Greece.	750
QCF	Julie Durcan	University of Oxford	Single grain quartz OSL signal properties assessed using EMCCD imaging	750
QRA	Tim Atkinson	University College London	Speleothem dating and the onset of ice-sheet glaciation in NW Scotland	3600
QRSG (QRF)	Marie Busfield	Aberystwyth University	Geological, geomorphological, and glaciological controls on rapid debris accumulation on Tsijiore Nouve, Switzerland	1450
QRSG (QRF)	Naomi Holmes	Sheffield Hallam University	Exploratory fieldwork: rewilding landscapes – a palaeoecological approach	1260
QRSG (QRF)	Shasta Marrero	Cardiff University	Dating megatsunami boulders using cosmogenic chlorine-36	1470
QRSG (QRF)	Rhiannon Stevens	University College London	Do sulfur isotope in late Pleistocene loess sequences record changing permafrost conditions?	1500
QRSG (QRF)	Thomas Stevens	Uppsala University	Holocene mineral dust and climate in the High Arctic	1480
QRSG (QRF)	Eileen Tisdall	University of Stirling	First chironomid inferred temperature record from southern Patagonia: Field work opportunity in the Cordillera Darwin (53°-55°S)	1000
QRSG (QRF)	Li Kangkang	Queen's University Belfast	An annually resolved, early Medieval oxygen isotope record from a subfossil tamarisk from the Tarim Basin, northwest China	1650
QRSG (QRF)	Carla Ferreira	Queen's University Belfast	At the edge of Europe: climate, land-use and fire histories of an European Atlantic upland from a palaeoecological perspective	957
<sup>14</sup> C Short Course	Cristian González Rodríguez	University College London	QRA-Oxford Radiocarbon Dating Short Course Bursary	650
<sup>14</sup> C Short Course	Grace Summers	Durham University	QRA-Oxford Radiocarbon Dating Short Course Bursary	650

<sup>14</sup> C Chrono	Megan Leake	Newcastle University	Bones of the Northumbrian Landscape: A new zooarchaeology of early medieval Jarrow	3 dates
<sup>14</sup> C Chrono	Oliver Thomas	University of Manchester	From summits to cirques: Deciphering the nature and rate of ice loss from the last Welsh Ice Cap	3 dates

## Appendix 2 – QRA INQUA Travel Grants 2023

Name	Institution	Award
Adamson, Kathryn	Manchester Metropolitan University	£550
Ashpitel, Lucy	University of Aberdeen	£750
Balaban, Cristina	Durham University	£900
Beck, Kristen	University of Lincoln	£500
Beckett, Anna	Royal Holloway, University of London	£900
Best, Louise	University of Gloucestershire	£900
Boston, Clare	University of Portsmouth	£500
Boyes, Benjamin	University of Sheffield	£900
Briant, Becky	Birkbeck, University of London	£900
Busfield, Marie	Aberystwyth University	£500
Carney, Matthew	Manchester Metropolitan University	£485
Carter-Champion, Alice	Aarhus University	£500
Curry, Charlotte	University of Sheffield	£575
Darvill, Christopher	University of Manchester	£754
Deb, Ankur	Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere	£847
Delaney, Cathy	Manchester Metropolitan University	£430
Edwards, Megan	University of Leeds	£750
Essell, Helen	Queen's University Belfast	£885
Ferrandin, Sarah	Queen's University Belfast	£600
Gauld, Jessica	University of Manchester	£505
Harding, Poppy	University of Hertfordshire	£660
Hatton, David	Queen's University Belfast	£834
Howden, April	Liverpool John Moores University	£600
Hughes, Anna	University of Manchester	£690
Jones, Sharman	University of Aberdeen	£545
Lane, Tim	Liverpool John Moores University	£540
Mariani, Michela	University of Nottingham	£897
Marras, Gian Battista	University of Cambridge	£200
Oien, Rachel	University of Aberdeen	£900
Oliveira, Dulce	Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere	£737
Rivers, Gwyneth	Sheffield Hallam University	£700

Roe, Helen	Queen's University Belfast	£600
Staff, Richard	University of Glasgow	£750
Stoker, Benjamin	Charles University, Prague	£385
Stone, Abi	University of Manchester	£900
Summers, Grace	Durham University	£900
Taylor, Edward	University of Leeds	£624
Thomas, Oliver	University of Manchester	£900
Timmins, Madeleine	University of Exeter	£629
Walsh, Amy	Royal Holloway, University of London	£500
Walton, Sarah	Sheffield Hallam University	£820
Wang, Tianyuan	University of Manchester	£900
Williams, Sophie	Durham University	£694
Wills, Alastair	University of Nottingham	£900
Woodroffe, Sarah	Durham University	£547

## 6. Journal of Quaternary Science Editor's report 2023

Neil Roberts

### Editorial matters

- Rewi Newham's term of office as JQS Associate Editor for Asia and Australasia finishes at the end of 2023, after more than 10 years of fine service. He will stay on for 2024 in a reduced role to complete manuscripts in the system and to oversee a Special Issue of the journal in memory of Lynda Petherick (see below). John Tibby (University of Adelaide) has been appointed as his successor from January 2024.
- The process of appointing the next JQS editor, who is due to start in January 2025, is underway, and a call for applications is planned for early 2024.
- The latest 2-year Impact Factor, for citations during 2022 based on articles published in 2020 and 2021, fell from 2.77 to 2.3 for JQS. While disappointing, this partly reflects a change in the way that IF is calculated, and which has affected all journals. Wiley, as a signatory of DORA, is no longer using IF as its primary metric, but takes into consideration other indexing methods/metrics such as article downloads.
- The number of regular manuscript submissions for 2023 is currently on target to be like 2022 (n=140). However, in the absence of any new Special Issues prior to late 2023 (see below), the total number of new submissions for the current year will probably be slightly lower than in 2020 and 2021.

### JQS Volume 38 (2023)

All eight issues of the 2023 volume of JQS have been published on schedule. The eight issues total 1381 pages, compared to 1479 pages in 2022, with 92 items (articles plus editorial, book review, correspondence, etc) compared to 99 in 2022.

The manuscript Acceptance Rate for manuscripts submitted during 2022 was ~65%, and the median turnaround time from initial submission to final acceptance was around 20 weeks, with no significant publication back-log (less than a month from acceptance to on-line publication on average).

### Open Access and Data

Wiley has established Transitional/Transformational Deals with several countries worldwide, including the UK via JISC. This gives UK Universities access to Wiley's full portfolio of journals and allows their staff to publish open access in JQS without charge, and is aligned with Plan S. The annual JISC fund is no longer cash limited as it was in previous years. This deal provides a very strong incentive for QRA members, most of whom are UK-based, to publish their work in JQS as their journal of choice. The full Article Processing Fee (APC) for Gold OA in JQS in 2023 was otherwise £2830.

The proportion of fully Open Access (OA) papers in JQS increased in 2023 to 52%, up from 38% in 2021.

Discussions are on-going about Open Data badging for JQS, using FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse).

### Special Issues



Special Issues (SIs) can help to provide a steady flow of published papers in the journal. One of the unfortunate consequences of Covid-19 is that no new SI proposals came forward during the pandemic, as lockdowns caused face to face meetings and conferences to be replaced by virtual, on-line events. As a consequence, there were no SIs published in JQS in 2023. With lockdowns now over, and in person meetings re-starting, three new SI initiatives are currently underway:

1. A Virtual Special Issue, on “Palaeo-perspectives on anthropogenic soil loss and landscape resilience”, jointly with the journal *Geoarchaeology*, and co-edited with Kevin Walsh and Sarah Sherwood. Papers will be fully published in one or other of the two journals following their acceptance and then brought together *post hoc* in 2024-25 to create the VSI. Invitations to potential contributors have been sent out, along with an open call for submissions.
2. A SI on “Southern Hemisphere records of Late Quaternary climate change, people and dust: papers in honour of Lynda Petherick” being co-edited by Rewi Newnham, Jasper Knight, Kathryn Fitzsimmons, Lydia McKenzie and Patrick Moss. Lynda was, among other things, president of the Australasian Quaternary Association (AQUA) prior to her untimely death, aged only 40. This SI will draw on papers presented at two symposia convened in her memory, one at the AQUA conference in Adelaide in December 2022, the other at INQUA congress in Rome (July 2023).
3. "Social-ecological resilience of complex preindustrial societies in the Balkans and Anatolia during the Late Holocene", to be guest edited by Alessia Masi, Adam Izdebski, Timothy Newfield and Laura Sadori.

In addition, there may be a SI on Pleistocene megafauna of South America published during 2024.

### **Editorial Advisory Board (EAB)**

The 2023 annual JQS Editorial Advisory Board meeting took place in Rome as part of the INQUA Congress. 16 members of the board and others (e.g., editors, past and present) joined this in-person only meeting. The next annual EAB meeting is provisionally scheduled to take place in spring 2024 in London with hybrid format.

### **Outstanding ECR paper award**

In November 2021, the EAB agreed to establish an annual award for an outstanding paper by an Early Career Researcher published in JQS. This is in the form of a public award and is designed to give kudos and recognition of their work to add to their CV/professional profile.

From an initial screening of papers fully published in the journal during 2022, a short-list was drawn up by the JQS editors. The final choice was then made by a sub-group from the QRA Executive Committee, and the winner announced at the 2023 QRA AGM; he was Neil Adams (PhD student, University of Leicester; now Curator of Fossil Mammals, Natural History Museum, London) for his article entitled “An Early Pleistocene hippopotamus from Westbury Cave, Somerset, England: support for a previously unrecognised temperate interval in the British Quaternary record”.

The 2023 ECR award process is currently underway, with the result due to be announced at the QRA annual general meeting in January 2024.

As part of the QRA’s plans to name all of its awards, it has been proposed that the annual award for an outstanding ECR paper in JQS be named after the pioneering archaeo-zoologist and mammalian palaeontologist, Dorothea Bate.

Finally, can I thank QRA members for their continued support for *JQS* both as authors and referees.

## 7. Quaternary Newsletter Editor's Report

### Sarah Woodroffe

We have had three bumper issues of *QN* in 2023 with contributions coming from many different parts of the Quaternary community, with *QN* continuing to be a useful outlet for discussions within the Quaternary community.

*QN* has taken a huge step into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century this year, as it has moved from being a pdf distributed by the weekly QRA email (or print copy for some members) to being a fully open-access publication on the new QRA website. From the June 2023 issue onwards, anyone (not just QRA members) can download individual articles or reports from *QN* issues, or the whole issue, from the website. Alongside this Publications Secretary Cathy Delaney has led the digitisation of the *QN* archive, which is now also available on the QRA website with all issues back to issue 23 in November 1977 available to download as pdfs from the website.

This change to fully digital and open access has meant we have had to make some changes to the layout of each issue. The newsletter has retained its traditional front cover (if the whole issue is downloaded), but each article now has its own header to ensure it retains its identity as part of a *QN* issue when downloaded separately. We have also made some minor layout changes to enhance readability. We expect *QN* articles will now travel more widely in the digital sphere but will retain the identity of being from *QN*, with its long history of publishing articles and reports of interest to our community.

The move to open access, individually downloadable articles and layout changes will hopefully make *QN* more visible and accessible in future. Alongside this the newly accessible digital *QN* archive will hopefully become an invaluable resource for researchers. I often receive emails from members looking for specific articles from the *QN* archive, and now they are available online for all to view and download.

I want to reiterate the request for researchers to please continue 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. I also continue to encourage Early Career Researchers (including PhD students) 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.

This is my last annual report as editor of *QN*, as I step down from this role after four years in January 2024. A lot has happened during my tenure as editor, from the pandemic to a new open-access future for *QN*. I do feel that despite some ups and downs *QN* is now in great shape for the future. The February 2024 issue will be number 161, which demonstrates its longevity and continued relevance to the Quaternary Community. The new editor will be Dr Ed Garrett from the University of York. We have discussed how *QN* can become more widely read in future, and Ed has lots of excellent ideas. I believe its future is in safe hands.

## 8. Publicity Officers Report 2023

Jenni Sherriff

### QRA weekly mailshot & Mailchimp

The Publicity officer compiled and edited the email newsletter to QRA members approximately once a week (less in the summer). The weekly email design has been updated to match the new website and provide more links to the QRA website. Emails usually go out at 3 pm. Originally this has been on a Friday, but since October we have been trialling a Wednesday to see if this increases readership. Currently, 46% of members open these emails and 5-6% click on the links provided.

Mailchimp continues to be used as the email provider. The QRA Mailchimp account is now fully integrated with the new QRA website meaning the organisation can now keep more consolidated membership lists. Mailchimp has also proved useful in communicating key messages to members regarding membership, events, QN publications, and updates to the membership. Because of this, the QRA is considering subscribing to a paid plan (we are currently using the free version) to allow for more features. This is currently being investigated by the Publicity Officer, Administrator and Treasurer.

### Website Redesign

The main task of the Publicity Officer this year has been the website redesign and membership migration. At the end of 2022, the QRA agreed to initiate the design process with LUV. The website redesign took place between January and April 2023 and involved the migration of content from the previous website, updating design, testing and refinements. The new website was launched in late April 2023. Some key features of the new website that are of benefit to the QRA membership are:

- The revamped **QRA bookshop** is more visually appealing and easier to navigate, with member discounts and sales easily implemented.
- **Open digital access to the QN**. Current and archived issues can be downloaded from the website.
- **Electronic grant, awards, meeting co-sponsorship and research group application forms**. These are accessible to members and the forms are sent digitally to the corresponding QRA Executive Member.
- **Event listing page** which can be subscribed to.
- **Members area** which holds information about membership, QRA documents, and proxy server link to the Journal of Quaternary Science.
- **Electronic membership subscription** including recurring payments (in place of standing orders) and automatic reminders when memberships are due to expire.

LUV is still providing hosting and support for the website which the QRA pays for quarterly.

### Membership migration

Allied to the website launch has been the migration of the QRA membership database to MemberPress (which is a plugin in the new QRA website). This is to allow for more efficient management of the QRA membership list & integration with Mailchimp (see above). Shortly after the new website was launched, the QRA membership was migrated to MemberPress, and members were sent an email notification on how to activate their account. Overall, the migration went smoothly and the QRA is currently working to transfer those members who pay by Standing Order to other payment methods and follow up with members who have not yet activated their account.

### Ongoing website updates

Currently, 3 members of the QRA Executive have administration rights on the new QRA website (Publicity Officer, Publications Secretary & Administrator) following on from training by LUV. Currently, the Publicity Officer oversees website updates, the Publications Secretary oversees the

bookshop and updates to the publication archives (QN and Field Guides) and the Administrator oversees the membership and payments.

As part of the website update, archives of the QN (open access) and digital copies of older QRA field guides (members area) are currently being updated on the website.

The next updates to the website will be focused on:

- Producing more postgraduate-led content to support the QRA postgraduate community.
- Integrating the QRA website and our social media (Twitter[X], Facebook, Instagram).

Jenni Sherriff steps down as Publicity Officer in January 2024 as they are going on maternity leave. The handover with the new Officer will take place in early January 2024.

## **9. QRA Publications Secretary's Report 2023**

**Cathy Delaney**

### **QRA Book Publications**

One new field guide was produced this year: *The Quaternary of Wester Ross* (ed. Colin Ballantyne). A total of 100 copies were printed; since May we have sold 13 in addition to those sold as part of the field trip.

### **Planned Publications**

A field guide is planned for the forthcoming joint IQUA/QRA field trip to Co. Louth, Ireland, to be edited by Gill Plunkett (QUB).

A new technical guide on Micromorphology has been proposed by Emrys Phillips, who will be the main editor. We intend to proceed with this and are currently discussing the format (print and/or pdf).

### **Reprints of guides**

No guides have been reprinted this year so far. However, *The Quaternary of Skye* (2016) is now out of print, but still sells, so a limited reprint is planned in the New Year.

### **Book sales and stock**

The new administrator, Lucy Engelhart, undertook a full stock take in January, recording a total of 3595 books in the store. This includes 448 copies of *The History of the QRA*, which were moved to the store at the beginning of the year. This was put on sale in May with a price reduction from £37 to £10, as the stock takes up a considerable amount of space. However, sales were low, so we may need to dispose of some copies to make further room in the store.

Book sales so far this year have totalled 310 (to the start of December), which is a little higher than 2022 (271 books sold). The biggest seller was *Fluvial Archives of Major English Rivers* (2019), which sold 42 copies, 22 of them in October. *A Practical Guide to the Study of Glacial Sediments* (2021) continues to sell well (27 copies). A further 5 field guides and 1 technical guide sold more than 10 copies.

### **Postage**

Postages costs have been increased to £3.50 for a guide, to reflect increased costs. However, additional guides are now charged at £1, rather than the full postage rate, a benefit of the new online shop.

The new website arrangements means that sales abroad have now resumed, with postage costs calculated individually by the new administrator, Lucy Engelhart.

### **Online availability of QRA publications**

#### **(i) Quaternary Newsletter:**

Digitisation of QN 56 onward took place last year, except for a few missing issues (see below). The digitised issues were temporarily unavailable during the change of website, but most have now been added to the new website; however, a few failed to download (see below).

Thanks to the kind donation by Phil Hughes of Richard West's set of QNs, issues 23-55 (except 47) are now digitised and are available to download through the QN archive.

*We are currently looking for issues 1 to 23, 47 (Nov 1985), 128 (Oct 2012), 129 (Feb 2013), 131 (Oct 2013), 133 (June 2014), 134 (Oct 2014), 135 (Feb 2015) and 136 (June 2015) and ask any members with these issue numbers who are willing to donate them to get in touch.*

#### **(ii) Field and Technical Guides:**

I have identified 116 field guides produced by the QRA since 1964 so far, starting with Birmingham in 1964. Fifty-one guides printed prior to 2000 had already been scanned into pdf form by former Publications Secretary Ian Candy, and I have started uploading these to the website. They are available to members through the link on the Members Dashboard. Further guides published before 2010 have also been located and will be scanned and added to the website in the future.

## 10. QRA Meetings Officer Annual Report January 2024

### Emrys Phillips

The number of meetings over the past year has increased slightly, mainly due to the increased number of applications for co-sponsorship of meetings (see below) the number of offers to organise QRA field and discussion meetings remains low. All the relevant meeting proposal guidance notes and application forms are now available online via the QRA web site (<https://www.qra.org.uk/qra-meetings/>) or from the QRA Meetings Officer ([meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)). The main concern is the current lack of a proposal for the Annual Discussion Meeting in January 2025.

The following “advert” will once again be sent to all QRA members early in 2024 encouraging more people to become involved and offer to lead field trips, workshops and discussion meetings.

“The QRA organises a range of meetings each year including our Annual Discussion Meeting held in early January, as well as field meetings, workshops and the Postgraduate Symposium. After the restrictions of the pandemic, we would very much welcome offers from researchers to run field meetings related to any aspect of Quaternary science in the UK or Europe. Offers to organise specialist one- or two-day workshops and/or discussion meetings, which focus on any aspect of Quaternary science worldwide, are also very welcome. These workshops and discussion meetings can either be on-line or in-person. In particular we would especially welcome offers to run a meeting from a diverse range of early career scientists as a QRA meeting is a great way to show case your research. If you would like to find out more or submit an offer to run a QRA meeting then please email [meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)”

The Quaternary Engineering Research Group led by Paul Fish (Jacobs) has continued to be very active over the past year raising the profile of Quaternary sciences and further developing the links between academic researchers and engineering geologists. As a result, it was agreed by the QRA Executive committee to extend their funding for another 3 years.

#### Meetings held in 2023:

- January 2023: QRA Annual Discussion Meeting – “Applications of Quaternary Geoscience to Engineering: process, properties and behaviour”, held online due to rail strikes.
- 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023: QRA field meeting – “Wester Ross”.
- 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2023: “Sea level and coastal change” – Trinity College, Dublin.
- 5-6<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Co-sponsored Paleoclimate Society-QRA meeting – “Paleoclimate Society Research in Progress Meeting”.
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023: QRA postgraduate symposium – Durham University.
- 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Inaugural UK-ICON workshop (with the British Antarctic Survey).
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023: QRA Engineering Research Group - Central London day field trip.
- 25<sup>th</sup> September: Co-sponsored Nordic Sedimentary Research Group-QRA meeting – “Marine Geohazards on Formerly Glaciated Margins”, Oslo, Norway.

#### Future meetings 2024

- 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January 2024: QRA Annual Discussion Meeting - Changing Resolutions in Quaternary Science Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester.
- April 2024: Joint IQUA/QRA field trip to Co. Lough field trip. Date to be confirmed.
- 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August 2024: Joint CANQUA-QRA field meeting - “Glacial geomorphology and Quaternary palaeoglaciology of SE Alberta and SW Saskatchewan, Canada”. Field meeting prior to the CANQUA (<https://www.canqua.com/>) discussion meeting in Regina.
- Sept. 2024: Joint Geological Society, London and QRA meeting - “Ecological uniformitarianism – help or hindrance to palaeoecology, palaeoclimatology and conservation biology?”

## 11. QRA Outreach Officer's Report 2023

James Lea

### Undergraduate dissertation prize

- Thanks are noted to Prof Mary Edwards and Dr Gill Plunkett for acting as judges for the Dissertation Prize for the past three years
- Dr Althea Davies (St Andrews) and Prof Phil Gibbard (Cambridge) have kindly agreed to take on the role of judges for dissertations submitted for the academic years 2022/3 to 2025/6. They have been fully briefed on the role, guidance, timelines and responsibilities associated with the judging process.
- The deadline for submissions this year was extended to early October on account of the lifting of the UCU marking and assessment boycott that had impacted submissions to the award.
- We received 8 applications this year which were sent to the new judges
- Joint winners and one highly commended submission have been identified. This follows the precedent in previous years where more than one highly commended submission was identified.
- Catherine Souch (RGS) has been notified of the winning submissions, and JL has contacted their supervisors to notify them of the good news.

### Outreach award (& Geo Conservation)

Awarded and ongoing

- Girls into Geoscience Wales (Marie Busfield – Aberystwyth)
- Supporting the use of 'VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes' for education and outreach: no updates given (Des McDougall – Worcester)
- Virtual Top 50 Quaternary Sites (Simon Hutchinson – Salford)

Completed award:

- Pal(a)eoPERCS - widening participation in Quaternary Research. Write up has been submitted to QN. Have been notified that they intend to submit a second request for funding in 2024.

## 12. QRA Postgraduate Representative's Report 2023

Laura Boyall and Holly Jenkins

### Social Media interaction

The number of followers on the QRA Social Media accounts as of the start of December 2023 are as follows:

- i. X (Twitter): 3237 followers (Gaining 117 in the past year)
- ii. Facebook: 2503 page likes
- iii. Instagram: 198 followers (Gaining 18 in the past year)

### Social media activity

- i. **X/Twitter:** The number of twitter followers have increased through the year. We have received more interactions on our tweets, likely through the increased following, and more tweets being sent out.
- ii. **Instagram:** The increase in Instagram activity is likely due to a post promoting the Wester Ross field trip and the PG symposium. We will continue to promote QRA events on Instagram.

### Postgraduate events in 2023

This year's Postgraduate Symposium was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September at Durham University, organised by Laura Boyall and Holly Jenkins. We had 19 postgraduates signed up to attend in person, and three online. The theme was "Exploring the Quaternary through postgraduate research".

The 2024 Postgraduate Symposium will be held in late August 2024 in Belfast through a collaboration between Queens College Belfast and Ulster University.

Sinead Birks's two-year term as Postgraduate Representative has come to an end and has been replaced by Holly Jenkins, a PhD student from Durham University.



## 13. QRA Conservation Officer Report 2023

### Michael Dempster

Conserving our Quaternary geoh heritage is vital for science and society. The QRA and its members carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, offering practical support and working with local groups. The role of the QRA Conservation Officer ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to promote the QRA's position on conservation issues. This includes:

i) *The QRA's continued support for Earth Heritage – The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine* ([www.earthheritage.org.uk](http://www.earthheritage.org.uk)). Issue 59 was published in summer 2023 and at the time of writing, Issue 60 is drafted and scheduled to be published in January 2024. This free-to-download publication is produced twice a year by the Geologists' Association, QRA, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and NatureScot, with major contributions from others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. The QRA Conservation Officer is on the editorial board for the magazine, and QRA members can suggest articles and news items to the QRA Conservation Officer, and also receive email notifications of new issues by following the instructions on the Earth Heritage Magazine homepage.

ii) *The QRA's liaison with other geological organisations on conservation matters* through membership of the Geological Society of London's Geoconservation Committee, which is currently on hiatus.

iii) *The QRA's input on conservation policy matters and liaison with the national Geodiversity Forums and on international matters.* The QRA is a supporting organisation of International Geodiversity Day (IGD), proclaimed by UNESCO in 2021. There is a dedicated website that contains information on geodiversity and an interactive map for organised events (<https://www.geodiversityday.org/>). The second International Geodiversity Day took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023.

iv) *Advising on conservation matters notified by QRA members.* QRA members are encouraged to consult the QRA Conservation Officer if conservation advice on Quaternary sites in the UK is needed.

v) *The QRA Geoconservation Award.*

The QRA Conservation Award is open to individuals and organisations to deliver conservation projects, activities and organise conservation themed events, as well as share good practice on Quaternary geoconservation. One application for £500 was received from and awarded to the Scottish Geology Trust in 2023, to support a pilot project to develop a website for Geological Conservation Review sites in Scotland.

The next application deadline for the QRA Geoconservation Award is 1 March 2024. Please contact the QRA Conservation Officer ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) for details.