



Quaternary Research Association

**MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, HELD ONLINE (via Zoom)
6 JANUARY 2022**

The President, Simon Lewis, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 75 members of the Association and 14 non-members (denoted by *), including:

Kathryn Adamson, Rosie Archer*, Cristina Balaban, Colin Ballantyne, Natasha Barlow, Mark Bateman, Anna Beckett, Louise Best, Sinead Birks, Clare Boston, Geoffrey Boulton, Anna Bourne, Becky Briant, Eleanor Brown, Alice Carter-Champion*, Benjamin Chandler, Chris Clark, Pete Coxon, Alastair Curry, Charlotte Curry, Chris Darvill, Stephen Davison, Cathy Delaney, Michael Dempster, Nico Dewald*, Kevin Edwards, Jeremy Ely, Ian Evans, Derek Fabel, Trevor Faulkner, Paul Fish, Will Fletcher, Mick Frogley, Phil Gibbard, Terence Hackwill, Connie Harpur*, Jane Hart, Tim Heaton*, Slyvie Hodgson*, Dave Horne, Rupert Housley, Anna Hughes, Andrew Jones, Peter Jones, Sharman Jones, Sam Kelley*, James Kirkham*, Harry Langford, Tim Lawson, Daniel Le Heron, James Lea, Simon Lewis, Stephen Livingstone, Jan Mangerud, Anna March*, Fflyff McClaren, Des McDougall, Della Murton, Jacob Noble, Adrian Palmer, Violet Patterson*, Danni Pearce, Kirsty Penkman, Emrys Philips, Barbara Preece*, Richard Preece, Paula Reimer, Benedict Reinardy, Ed Rhodes, David Richards, Gwyneth Rivers, Neil Roberts, Helen Roe (minutes), Jim Rose, Ann Rowan*, Hugh Saxby, James Scourse, Ian Shennan, David Shirley, Alan Smith, Antony Stevens, Chris Stokes, Abi Stone, Rob Storrar, Max Van Wyk de Vries*, Emily Watt, Dorothy Weston, Brian Whalley, Sarah Woodroffe.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Danielle Schreve and Katherine Selby.

2. MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began by thanking the organisers of the 2022 Annual Discussion Meeting (University of Sheffield) for hosting the AGM and for providing technical support.

a. Deceased Members. Rob Westaway had sadly passed away in August 2021. The President described his significant body of work on river terrace systems and his contributions to the QRA's Fluvial Archives Group, amongst other contributions. A short silence was held by way of remembrance.

b. Croll Medal Presentation to 2021 recipient. The President had recently met with Richard Preece to present him with his medal, which had not been possible due to the online format of the 2021 AGM. A nicely illustrated book, "*James Croll and his Adventures in Climate and Time*" by Jo Woolf, had also been published in 2021 to mark the bicentenary of Croll's birth (Publishers: RSGS). This had received support from a QRA Outreach award.

c. Covid-19 Pandemic. The pandemic had continued to have significant impacts on the Association during 2021 and the Executive had continued to have meetings online. The President thanked the Executive for their efforts to ensure that business had continued.

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. The journal is now in its 37th year of publication and continues to provide an outlet for high quality, internationally significant research papers (*Item 5d*). On behalf of the QRA, the President thanked both new and retiring members of the *JQS* Editorial Board for their contributions to the continued success of the journal.

e. Equality & Diversity Working Group. Following on from discussions at the 2021 AGM, the President confirmed that a new Equality and Diversity Issues (EDI) Working Group was established in 2021 led by Vice President Jane Hart (see *Item 8 below*). Jane and other members of the working group were thanked for their consideration of this important matter, which will continue to be a priority in the years ahead.

f. QRA website. The President confirmed that the Executive have agreed to move forward with a website overhaul which will involve engaging a new hosting provider. The Publicity Officer, Chris Darvill, has set out an timetable to develop this in 2022 (see *Item 5i*). A priority will be simplicity and efficiency in design and operation so that the Publicity Officer and others are able to maintain and update the site on a day-to-day basis. Chris Darvill was thanked for his hard work and willingness to lead on this important project.

g. Executive Sub-committees. To help manage an increasingly large volume of business, the President announced that the Executive have agreed to establish four sub-committees covering the following areas: Finance & related matters; Publications & Communications; Grants, Outreach & Conservation, and Equality & Diversity. All Executive members will participate (as appropriate) and each sub-committee will meet at least once a year. The sub-committees will report to the Executive committee.

h. Executive Committee retirements. The President thanked five retiring members for their work during their terms in office: Jane Hart, Helen Roe, Kathryn Adamson, Katherine Selby and Eleanor Brown (for roles see *Item 5g*). Dale Tromans was thanked for completing his term as Postgraduate Representative in Autumn 2021 and Sinead Birks was welcomed as his replacement.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

a. Membership.

Table 1. Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2021. *Includes copyright members

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change (20–21)
Ordinary Members	636	656	615	682	677	592	616	617	+1
Postgraduate Members	368	358	289	369	395	321	343	295	-48
Unwaged/Retired Members	146	147	134	137	137	118	123	130	+7
Honorary members	35	38	38	41	40	40	42	44	+2
Institutional members	29	26	21	22	17	17	16	16	-
Corresponding members*	23	23	23	23	24	24	23	23	-
Total Membership	1237	1248	1120	1274	1290	1112	1163	1125	-38

Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1125** (see Table 1). A small decline from 2020 may reflect new measures put in place to follow up on lapsed members. Subscriptions for 2021 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. On behalf of the membership, Val Siviter was thanked for her ongoing work for the Association, particularly management of the membership database.

b. Meetings.

i) Annual Discussion Meeting 2021

Landscapes of Change: past, present and future perspectives.

University of Portsmouth, 6th - 8th January 2021 (hosted online)

Organisers: Timothy Barrows, Clare Boston, Laura Cunningham, David Giles, Mark Hardiman, Harold Lovell, Sabine Wulf

Attendees: 275 (approximately 50:50 M:F⁺). Report: *QN* 153.

iii) **26th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

University of St Andrews, 30th - 31st August 2021 (hosted online)

Organiser: Willem Koster

Attendees: 12; Report: *QN* 155 (*forthcoming*)

iii) **QRA / Quaternary Engineering Research Group**

Quaternary Engineering Geology for Offshore Renewables and Careers Event.

Date: 14th October 2021; Format: 1/2 day online event

Organisers: Claire Mellett, Mike Clare, Simon Price and Leah Arlott

Attendees: 95

iv) **QRA Field Meeting**

Nature and Timing of the Deglaciation of the SW Scottish Highlands

Date: 15th-19th September 2021.

Location: Fort William, Scotland

Organisers: Adrian Palmer, John Lowe

Attendees: 29 (approximately 50:50 M:F) *QN* 155 (*forthcoming*)

v) **Co-Sponsored Meeting**

'James Croll – from Janitor to Genius'

Date: 17th-18th April 2021 (held online)

Organisers: Kevin Edwards, Mike Robinson

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

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2021 was delivered during the ADM by Kim Cobb (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) entitled '*Climate Resilience for the 21st Century - Smart Sea Level Sensors*'.

The people who had organised and participated in the above meetings, and who had prepared reports for *QN* were thanked.

c. Grants and Awards.

During the 2020-21 financial year, **£21,825** was awarded by the QRA to members under the standard awards schemes (*see Item 7a*). Details of all QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: qra.org.uk/grants

d. Publications.

Quaternary Newsletter

3 issues: 152 (Feb 2021), 153 (June 2021) and 154 (October 2021).

Editor: Dr Sarah Woodroffe (Durham)

The Editor reported that *QN* had returned to full strength in 2021 following a disrupted year in 2020 due to Covid-19. Three 'bumper' issues had been published, with contributions coming from many different parts of the Quaternary community. These had included several reports from virtual meetings. She urged members to continue to consider *QN* for rapid discussion pieces that focus on issues of interest to the Quaternary science community. *Quaternary Newsletter* also provides a great opportunity for authors to trial new perspectives and present new results that may later become highly-cited research papers. Early career researchers (including PhD students) were encouraged to consider using *QN* to develop their skills in article writing and to continue to write reports about meetings and other events of interest.

Journal of Quaternary Science

Volume 36 (2021): containing 94 items across eight issues (1447 pages).

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

Key developments in 2021 included:

- **Published pages & Submissions:** All eight issues of Volume 36 (2021) were published on time. This volume included 1477 pages, in comparison to 1099 in 2020 (a 31% increase), with 94 items (articles plus editorials, book reviews, correspondence) compared to 90 in 2020. There was a small decrease in manuscript submissions from 2020, possibly related to research delays caused by Covid-19.
- **Special Issues:** Two special issues were published: '*BRITICE-CHRONO reconstructions of the last British-Irish Ice Sheet*' (Guest Editor: Arjen Stroeven; Issue 5, July 2021); and '*Geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental research in European loess*' (Guest Editors: Janina Nett & Wei Chu; Issue 8, November 2021). Two other special issues are in progress.
- **Open Access:** JQS publisher Wiley have made 'Transitional Deals' with several European countries, including the UK, which will provide UK universities access to Wiley's full portfolio of journals. This will also enable their staff to publish open access in JQS without charge (until 2023). The corresponding author affiliation defines eligibility. *The deal provides a very strong incentive for UK-based QRA members to publish their work in JQS as their journal of choice.*
- **Impact Factor:** The latest 2-year Impact Factor, for citations during 2020 based on articles published in 2018 and 2019, rose from 2.377 to 2.738. Whilst some of this increase may reflect a change in the way that the impact factor is calculated, the rise was higher than in several competitor journals.
- **Editorial Advisory Board (EAB):**
 - There was a major 'refresh' of the board membership in early 2021 when 15 of the 41 members either stepped down or moved to the new category of Editor Emeritus. Fifteen new members joined, which has improved the gender and age balance.
 - The annual EAB meeting was held online in November 2021, allowing participation for non-UK based members. At this meeting, it was agreed to establish an **Early Career Researcher Advisory Board** for JQS, as a way to engage more closely with the ECR community and give them experience of the editorial world. One of the ECR members will represent the QRA.
- **Outstanding ECR paper award:** A new annual award has been launched for an outstanding paper by an ECR published in JQS. This will take the form of a public award, along with free QRA membership for a year. It will provide recognition of the recipient's work to add to their CV/professional profile. The award will use a maximum of 7 years between PhD completion and the date of initial manuscript submission as the definition of ECR eligibility, allowing for career breaks. For details of the first winner see *Item 14*.

The JQS Editor encouraged members to think about ideas and proposals for future special issues. Members were thanked for their continued support to the journal, both as authors and referees.

QRA Field & Technical Guides - See *Item 9*

e. Research Groups.

Members were reminded to support the three QRA research groups which were established in 2021:

- *Quaternary Engineering Geology*: Leads: Paul Fish, Becky Briant and others
- *Peatland Ecosystems and Time (PEaT)*: Leads: Graeme Swindles and others.
- *Virtual Palaeoscience Project (ViPs)*: Leads: Jane Bunting and others.

New proposals for research groups are invited at any time and should be discussed with the Meetings Officer in the first instance (meetings@qra.org.uk).

f. Outreach.

- *QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize*

Twelve entries were submitted for the 2021 prize. The winner was Sylvie Hodgson Smith (University of Cambridge) (*see Item 14 below*). An Abstract will be published in *QN*. The judges Mary Edwards and Gill Plunkett were thanked for their work in reviewing the entries. The continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS who administer the prize was acknowledged.

- *QRA Outreach Award*

During 2021 one project was allocated funds:

'*Essex Rock – Geology Beneath the Landscape*' - funds are being used to support illustration costs associated with the publication of this book which is aimed at the general public, using accessible language. It contains more than 350 photos and figures to reveal how the rocks and landscapes of Essex have developed. Discussions are ongoing regarding how to offer QRA members a discount on the book. Supported illustrations will also be available to members for general use free of charge.

Whilst activities for two further projects were suspended in 2021 ('*Girls into Geoscience Wales*'; '*VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes*'), a final report was received for the '*College Lake Geology Project (Pitstone Quarry SSSI, Marsworth)*'. The award was used to open a new quarry section, install an interpretation board and open a new path with disabled access. These initiatives will allow visitors, including school groups and academics, to view and understand the Quaternary deposits, adding to the history of the site and inspiring future generations.

Outreach Awards are normally up to £1000, although larger requests will be considered – please see the QRA website for a list of previously funded projects or contact the Outreach Officer (outreach@qra.org.uk).

g. Executive Committee.

The following members completed their terms of office between January 2021 and January 2022 and were thanked on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the smooth running of the Association:

- September 2021: Dale Tromans (*Postgraduate representative*)
- January 2022: Jane Hart (*Vice President*), Helen Roe (*Honorary Secretary*), Kathryn Adamson (*Awards Officer*), Katherine Selby (*Publications Secretary*) and Eleanor Brown (*Conservation Officer*).

h. Postgraduate activities.

- The Executive welcomed Sinead Birks as a new Postgraduate representative in September 2021.
- *26th Annual Postgraduate Symposium 2021*: This was hosted by University of St Andrews (30th - 31st August) as an online meeting. The number of followers of the QRA PG Symposium account increased by 12 (to 348) over this period, and there were ca. 2500 profile visits. A write-up will appear in *QN*.
- *Social Media activities*: The postgraduate representatives also maintain the **social media** accounts of the Association. The number of followers on the accounts as of late 2021 was as follows: Twitter: 2996; Facebook: 1980 page likes and 2054 followers; Instagram: 175 followers. Members are encouraged to promote activities and discussions on Quaternary-related themes via these social media platforms. For further details, members should check the website or contact the Postgraduate Representatives.

i. Publicity.

- **Email Newsletters**: In 2021, the Publicity Officer, distributed regular E-mail Newsletters to members approximately once a week. These remain an effective means of advertising positions, events and news across the membership. The Publicity Officer currently schedules these for 3 pm on Fridays and requests that the relevant announcements are sent to publicity@qra.org.uk by Thursday for circulation that week.
- **QRA website - updates**: Some minor changes were made to the website during the year: (i) the Stripe payment system was checked to comply with changes to European SCA payments; (ii) workflow was streamlined and improved to allow members to access *JQS* content on the Wiley website via the membership page; (iii) Postage costs were updated to reflect higher costs. Two further changes requested in summer 2021 from the website management company (*Focal Strategy*) are still outstanding (the documentation relating to orders and text-boxes relating to amended postage costs both require updates).
- **Commissioning of a new QRA website 2022-23**: Due to protracted difficulties with gaining access to regular maintenance support from the website management company and other long-standing problems (e.g. issues with membership updates), the Executive agreed in October 2021 that the website is no longer fit for purpose and a **new website should be commissioned**. The main objectives in 2022-23 are to establish a specification for the new website, commission quotes and approve a re-design. The Publicity Officer, Chris Darvill, is co-ordinating the implementation, with input moving forward from the new Publications & Communications sub-committee (see *Item 4g above*). Members will be kept updated on progress.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

a. Introduction. The report covers the period between 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021. Accounts are detailed in Table 2. The Association's financial activities have picked up from the COVID-19 impacted situation reported in last year's accounts. The aim is to break-even within a financial year and in 2020-21 this was achieved. Overall, the finances of the Association remain healthy and stable. All values stated here are rounded up to the nearest pound. The figures and accounts presented remain provisional until checked by an independent auditor.

b. Income. In total, the Association's income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £16,479. This comprises £8,242 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £464 from book sales, and £7,773 from undifferentiated subscriptions and book sales via the Stripe online payment system. The Association received an important contribution of £73,830 from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *JQS*. This is 1.5% less than last year (2019-20: £74,963). *JQS* subscription revenue decreased by 6%, but this was countered by growth in Open Access revenue. Other royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £1,597. *The Royal Society* continues to support the UK's membership of INQUA via the QRA, providing a contribution of £6,279 towards our subscription. The 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 2020-21 was £16,054. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2020-21 was £91,905, and total income was **£116,380**.

c. Expenditure. Day-to-day running costs of the Association (primarily payment of our Administrator, funding meetings of the Executive, postage and website maintenance) were somewhat reduced in comparison to previous years at £10,944. This reflects a move to holding committee meetings online. At £40,054, the Association's spending on Grants, Awards, and Meeting Sponsorship has started to return to a more normal level compared with last year's low total of £27,877. Whilst in-person conference attendance remains low, applications for other research-related activity is picking up. The UK subscription to INQUA for 2019 (£13,498), 2020 (£13,764) and 2021 (£13,500) all appear in this report showing that the QRA is continuing to support a comprehensive programme of international research activities and collaborations. Overall, expenditure for 2019-20 was **£111,835**.

d. Year-end financial status.

As of 31st July 2021, the Association held:

- £116,979.91 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
- £27,583.52 in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account [estimate]
- £ 123,506.87 in our HSBC Community Account
- £ 40,708.75 in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

The Association started the 2020-21 financial year with total funds of £304,233.60 and ended with £308,779.05. As always, the aim was to break-even within the financial year and it is clear from these figures that this was achieved. Reserves are being held to cover increased expenditure in 2023 when the next INQUA Congress is planned. Ring-fenced sums within our holdings include £15,455 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Award, £85,500 for the INQUA fund, £5,000 for the Lewis Penny Medal, ~£34,600 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*. Book sales returns have increased due to the recent production of two field guides / technical reports. The high level of reserves means that spending on standard awards and activities can be maintained at the higher level of ~£50k trialled for the 2017-18 financial year, including additional funding for Geoconservation awards and the prestigious £5k QRA Research Award. As always, this spending should be closely monitored in order to ensure reserves are replenished ahead of the next INQUA Congress awards round in 2023.

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 2020 to 31 July 2021.

INCOME	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Subscriptions	£9,309	£8,298	£8,241.59
Book sales	£1,125	£609	£464.20
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£8,173	£4,925.59	£7,773.42
Total Subs/Book Sales	£18,607	£13,832.59	£16,479.21
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£73,785	£74,963	£73,830
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£883	£951.65	£1,596.52
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£5,825	£6,279	£6,279
Surplus on Meetings	£149	£2,079.98	£431.08
Bank refunds	£0	£4.86	£0
INQUA Field trip subscriptions	£19,311	£331.43	£0
Advertising	£0	£0	£0
Returned awards	£1,020	£0	£1,606.39
Donations	£1,000	£1,000	£0
Interest Received	£22	£76.88	£4.07
Total Other Income	£101,995	£85,686.80	£83,747.06
JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)	£0	£31,879	£16,154
TOTAL INCOME	£120,581	£131,398.39	£116,380.27
WORKING INCOME	£98,935	£93,240.39	£93,947.27
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£1,159	£1,062	£821
Newsletter postage	£1,821	£934.13	£2,075.33
Admin support	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Postage & stationery	£0	£0	£136.96
Executive Committee Costs	£3,347	£3,659.68	£749.67
Insurance premium	£1,180	£1,233.06	£1,160.78
Total Running Expenditure	£13,508	£12,888.87	£10,943.74
Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£3,310	£2,355	£5,174
Total Publications Expenditure	£3,310	£2,355	£5,174
JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)			
Editors' honoraria	£9,000	£12,000	£11,001.50
Exec. INQUA costs	£0	£220	£0
Board meeting travel	£1,113	£1,513	£0
Total JQS Editorial Board Costs	£10,113	£13,732.74	£11,001.50
Grants/Awards/Support			
NRWA	£19,005	£11,890	£16,066
QRF	£19,495	£8,470	£13,235
QCF	£5,334	£2,800	£0
QRA Research Fund	£4,260	£0	£4,960

INQUA Fund	£30,620	£2,155.86	£0
PGMA	£0	£0	£1,489
Outreach Award	£0	£0	£1,500
Geoconservation Award	£1,805	£1,000	£1,004
Undergrad dissertation prize	£250	£0	£300
ADM Poster prizes	£0	£0	£0
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£0	£0	£0
C14 bursaries	£1,297	£0	£0
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£0	£800	£0
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£163	£461.32	£0
Postgraduate Conference	£500	£0	£0
Research sub-group support	£0	£0	£1,500
Total Grants/Awards/Support	£82,766	£27,877.18	£40,054.40
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£8	£0	£0
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£0	£0	£0
Cancelled INQUA fieldtrip reimbursements	£0	£1,050	£0
Meetings expenditure	£1,700	£2,000	£1,025
Catering (meetings)	£387	£0	£0
INQUA subscription	£12,842	£0	£40,761.24
Web Site costs	£450	£450	£450
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£200	£300	£200
Medals - striking/engraving	£3,000	£0	£37.68
RGS Archives	£0	£0	£0
Bank charges	£281	£176.96	£187.26
Earth Heritage Magazine online publishing	£0	£0	£2,000
Total Other Expenditure	£18,860	£3,677.96	£44,661.18
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£139,111	£60,530.75	£111,834.82
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-£18,488	£70,867.64	£4,545.45

The Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AWARDS OFFICER

a. Standard Awards.

In the Standard Awards rounds for financial year 2020-21 **£21,825** was distributed. This was less than in the 2019-20 financial year (£33,205). This year, application numbers were much reduced (Total: 22) compared to the previous financial year (43). This is most likely a result of the on-going impacts of Covid-19-related restrictions on travel, laboratory access, fieldwork logistics, and academic workloads. Nonetheless, overall success rate of applications was very good (average 94%).

Table 3: Summary of Standard and Special Awards 2020-2021. Award holders are given in Table 4.

Fund	Round	No. of applications ¹	Total monies requested (£)	No. funded	Total monies awarded (£)	% Funded
NRWA	May-21	3	4450	3	4450	100%
	Jan-21	4	5516	4	5516	100%
	Sep-20	4	5900	3	4500	75%
	Total	11	15866	10	14466	92%
PQCF	May-21	1	740	1	740	100%
	Jan-21	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep-20	1	749	1	749	100%
	Total	2	1489	2	1489	100%
QCF	May-21	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan-21	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep-20	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
QRF	May-21	3	4050	3	4050	100%
	Jan-21	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep-20	3	3300	2	1820	67%
	Total	6	7350	5	5870	84%
Bill Bishop		0	0	0	0	0
¹⁴ C short course		-	-	-	-	-
¹⁴ C Chrono ²	May-21	1	-	1	-	100%
	Jan-21	2	-	2	-	100%
	Total	3	-	3	-	100%
TOTAL		22	24705	20	21825	94%

¹ Refers only to eligible applications

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

QCF= Quaternary Conference Fund, PQCF=Postgraduate Quaternary Conference Fund; QRF=Quaternary Research Fund; NRWA= New Research Worker's Awards. Note- the Geoconservation, Outreach Awards and prizes are not listed here

b. Special grants. The QRA would like to acknowledge the continued support of the ¹⁴CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology, Queen's University Belfast, for an annual allocation of radiocarbon determinations for New Researchers.

c. Notices and Activities 2020-2021.

The new application forms continue to work well, and there are currently no imminent plans to implement online only submissions. This will continue to be reviewed in the future, in line with on-going website updates.

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

Table 4. Standard Awards - Award holders

Name	Institution	Title	Award (£)
NRWA			
Holly Norton	University of Lincoln	<i>Disentangling Climate-Disease Interactions in Lincolnshire, UK</i>	1450
Shuang Zhang	Royal Holloway University of London	<i>Developing a dating and correlation framework for palaeoclimate and archaeological records in the Eastern Mediterranean region over the Late Quaternary</i>	1500
Wouter Bonhof	University of Exeter	<i>Variable migratory behaviour in Late Pleistocene reindeer and bison from Arctic Siberia.</i>	1500
Josh Pike	Royal Holloway University of London	<i>Developing a robust Last Glacial-Interglacial Transition Tephrostratigraphic Framework for Patagonia</i>	1500

Alvaro Beltran	University of Southampton	<i>Assessing anthropogenic impacts on the endemic-rich forests of São Tomé Island</i>	1500
Jesse Hennekam	University of York	<i>Morphological divergence of the island ruminant <i>Myotragus balearicus</i></i>	1500
Aashna Tandon	Gujarat University	<i>Understanding the Late Pleistocene-Holocene terrace development in the Northeast Himalayan Frontal Thrust zone, India</i>	1330
Ewan Shilland	University College London	<i>What has driven long-term aquatic plant change in upland lakes and streams and do plant eDNA, sediment trap sedDNA and sediment core sedDNA match known assemblages and historical change?</i>	1200
Katie Gunning	University of Lincoln	<i>Understanding the impacts of desilting agent on aquatic ecosystem health and sustainability</i>	1486
Emma Cooper	Royal Holloway University of London	<i>The deglaciation of central-Patagonia (44 – 45°S) during the Last Glacial-Interglacial Transition</i>	1500
PQCF			
Laura Hunt	University of Nottingham	<i>Human and climate impacts on Ugandan crater lake hydrology</i>	749
Kenta Sayama	University of Oxford	<i>Expanding the scope of geoheritage conservation in Arabia: Protecting Quaternary Palaeoenvironmental sites as geocultural sites in the UAE and Oman</i>	740
QRF			
Carla Ferreira	Queens University Belfast	<i>At the edge of Europe: climate, land-use and fire histories of an European Atlantic upland from a palaeoecological perspective</i>	1200
Becky Briant	Birkbeck, University of London	<i>Investigating potential C14-contaminants during processing and storage of archaeological plant and insect samples</i>	1500
Nick Loughlin	Northumbria University	<i>Reconstruction of an Indigenous Domesticated Ecosystem (RIDE)</i>	1350
Lorna Linch	University of Brighton	<i>The micromorphology of periglacial ramparted depressions</i>	1400
Aayush Srivastava	University of St Andrews	<i>Environmental change along the River Dee from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Neolithic Periods</i>	420
¹⁴CHRONO			
April Howden	Liverpool John Moores University	<i>Understanding the retreat of the North American Ice Sheet</i>	3 dates
Mai Walker	Durham University	<i>Building an environmental model and assessing possible human impact through palynology at Loch Nan Eala, North-west Scotland</i>	3 dates
Olivia Shepherd	Manchester Metropolitan University	<i>Reconstructing the paleoenvironment in Northwest England, using lipid biomarker analysis.</i>	3 dates
Annie Murray	University of Southampton	<i>Dating the greening of the Sahel during MIS3</i>	3 dates

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY (EDI) WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Vice President informed members that the new EDI working group (sub-committee) had met twice (22nd September and 18th November 2021) and had held numerous smaller meeting on specific topics. Three strands had been determined for focus: *Policy*; *Change in Culture* and *Specific Actions*, with the aim of building up to the QRA ADM in 2025 with a 'gold standard' of inclusivity. A draft EDI Policy had been developed which was outlined to members.

Specific Actions include:

- *Look at the images on the website and investigate the policy wording for fieldtrips and conferences.* The sub-committee had investigated the images and these are fine, but had noted that future website updates or major re-designs must be subject to continued scrutiny in relation to EDI objectives. The group are currently working on an ADM and Field meeting guide, which includes the 2019 INQUA Code of Conduct. A QRA Code of Conduct is planned which will be based on the RGS version.
- *Data collection in order to establish a base line for future improvements.* This has been completed and was enabled for the Sheffield ADM meeting (Jan 2022).
- *Caring support* – Caring costs will now be an eligible cost within all the QRA grants. The value of the grants will be increased to make this feasible.
- *Positive action for better inclusion from unrepresented groups* – The sub-committee will investigate ways that the QRA could support the “pipeline” by funding (in part) national EDI postgraduate initiatives.

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY

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

a. QRA Book Publications: Two new guides were published in 2021:

- **Technical Guide:** *A Practical Guide to the Study of Glacial Sediments* (2021). Evans, D. & Benn, D. (Eds).
- **Field Guide:** *The Quaternary of the West Grampian Highlands* (2021), Palmer, A., Lowe, J. & Matthews, I. (Eds).

b. Book Sales and Stock: Book sales in 2021 totalled 272, compared to 136 in 2020. The current book stock held by Val Siviter is *ca.* 3220 (compared to 2877 in 2020) and includes both Field and Technical Guides.

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

d. Postage costs: A small increase in P&P charges was implemented in 2021 due to rising costs. Import tax/duty now also has to be paid on books sent overseas. This cost needs to be paid by the recipient.

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

The QRA and its members carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, offering practical support and working with local groups. The QRA Conservation Officer (conservation@qra.org.uk) supports and encourages these, as well as promoting the QRA's position on conservation issues. Some of the initiatives in 2021 included:

a. The QRA's continued support for *Earth Heritage*, *The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine* (www.earthheritage.org.uk). Issue 55 was published in 2021 and Issue 56 is about to be published. This free-to-download publication is produced twice a year by the *Geologists' Association (GA)*, the QRA, *Natural England*, *Natural Resources Wales* and *NatureScot*, with major contributions from others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. QRA members can suggest articles and news items to the Conservation Officer and receive email notifications of new issues by subscribing on the *Earth Heritage Magazine* homepage.

b. Liaison with geological organisations and input into conservation policy matters. The conservation officer had liaised regularly with geological organisations on conservation matters through membership of the *Geological Society of London's Geoconservation Committee*. The President had also responded to a Defra consultation on *Local Nature Recovery Strategies*. In 2020 the President wrote in support of an *International Geodiversity Day*. This has now been endorsed by UNESCO and will take place on 6 October 2022. The Conservation Officer will plan the QRA's contribution to this event.

c. Advising on conservation matters notified by QRA members. Advice was provided to a member on a minerals planning application affecting a local Quaternary site. Members are encouraged to consult the QRA Conservation Officer if conservation advice on Quaternary sites in the UK is required.

d. The QRA Geoconservation Award. No awards were made in 2021, although several enquiries were received. Two Geoconservation Award funded projects from 2019 were completed and articles on their outcomes published in *Earth Heritage Magazine*. Herne Bay Museum received funding for curating Palaeolithic and Pleistocene collections from sites in Kent, whilst Pitstone Quarry SSSI at College Lake Nature Reserve, Marsworth, received funding for an interpretation panel, a new section and path installation as noted under *Item 5f* above (this project also received a QRA Outreach Award). Two further projects in receipt of a QRA Geoconservation Award are ongoing.

The 2022 application deadlines for the QRA Geoconservation Award are 1 March and 1 September. Please contact the Conservation Officer (conservation@qra.org.uk) for further details and an application form.

11. QRA MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2022-2023

a. Forthcoming meetings in 2022

(i) Field Meetings

QRA/Quaternary Engineering Research Group Field Meeting 2022: *The Quaternary Engineering Geology of the West Cumbria region.*

Date: 17th-20th March 2022.

Location: Santon Bridge, West Cumbria

Organisers: Nick Smith, Chris Coleman and Paul Fish (Jacobs), Jon Merritt and Emrys Phillip.

Contact: jwm@bgs.ac.uk

(ii) 27th Annual Postgraduate Symposium - 2022

Date: TBC

Location: Sheffield Hallam University/Online (TBC)

Organiser: Sarah Walton

b. Forthcoming meetings in 2023

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: 25th-28th May 2023

Location: Kinlochewe Hotel and Bunkhouse

Organisers: Colin Ballantyne and Doug Benn.

Contact: ckb@st-andrews.ac.uk

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

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

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

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

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.

12. 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 2021 Circulars and deadlines announced. No other nominations has been received for the posts so the following were duly elected:

Vice President: Dave Roberts (Durham)

Honorary Secretary: Adrian Palmer (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Awards Officer: Will Fletcher (University of Manchester)

Publications Secretary: Cathy Delaney (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Conservation Officer: Michael Dempster (Northern Ireland Environment Agency)

13. HONORARY MEMBERS

The President announced that Dave Horne, Kevin Edwards and Pete Coxon 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*.

14. AWARD OF PRIZES AND MEDALS

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2021/2022:

a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize - 2021:

Slyvie Hogson Smith (University of Cambridge) for her thesis entitled '*Reconstructing the global climate effects of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Samalas, 1257 AD*'. Runners Up: Tom Garrod (University of Sheffield), Catherine Dorey (University of Nottingham) and Jack Crouch (Royal Holloway, University of London).

b. Outstanding Paper in *Journal of Quaternary Science* by an Early Career Researcher - 2021:

Francesca Pasquetti (PhD candidate, University of Pisa). Title: '*On the chronology of the Mediterranean sea-level highstand during the Last Interglacial: a critical review of the U/Th-dated deposits*'. Special commendations were received by Marina Morlock and Alejandro Cisneros de León.

c. Quaternary Research Award - 2021:

Tim Lawson and Tim Atkinson for a project entitled '*Speleothem dating and the onset of ice-sheet deglaciation in NW Scotland*'.

d. Lewis Penny Medal - 2022:

Ben Chandler (University of Nottingham).

e. James Croll Medal - 2022:

Paula Reimer (Queen's University Belfast).

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

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting started at 3.30 pm and ended at 5.30 pm

Minutes taken by Helen Roe (Secretary)

2 February 2022

Updated 5 December 2022