



Quaternary Research Association

**Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Quaternary Research Association held at the RGS-IBG, London on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 18:40 hours.**

The President, Professor Dan Charman chaired the meeting, which was attended by 56 members of the Association:

Peter Allen, Ian Candy, Emma Pearson, Eleanor Brown, Jon Merritt, Clive Auton, Jim Rose, Barbara Silva, Alix Cage, Matthew Burke, Derek Fabel, Chris Clarke, Richard Waller, Jane Hart, Mick Frogley, Danielle Schreve, Abi Stone, Christine Lane, Wim Hoek, John Lowe, Richard Chiverrell, Mark Bateman, Will Fletcher, Michael Cullum, Mary Edwards, Sarah Davies, Robert McCulloch, Eileen Tisdall, Eline van Asperen, Rachel Lamb, Chris Darvill, Sven Lukas, Kathryn Adamson, Timothy Lane, Natasha Barlow, Eleanor Maddison, Sarah Woodroffe, Catherine Jessen, Siwan Davies, Pete Coxon, David Evans, Derek McDonogall, Helen Roberts, Geoff Duller, Monika Knul, Erin McClymont, Harry Langford, Richard Preece, Simon Lewis, Ceri James, Nicole Sanderson, Zoe Thomas, Mark Grosvenor, Andrew McMillan  
Dan Charman (Chair), Peter Langdon (minutes).

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The President welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Emrys Phillips, Mary Gagen, Julia McCarroll, Tom White, John Gordon, Jonathan Lee, Antony Long, Graham Jardine, Mary Penny, James Scourse, Steve Juggins.

**2. Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. President's report**

The President thanked a number of individuals who have made excellent contributions to the QRA throughout his time in office. In particular he thanked those members who were also stepping down from office: Peter Langdon (Secretary), Ian Candy (Publications Secretary) and Mary Gagen (Ordinary member). In addition he thanked the work Peter Allen has done as Treasurer, Richard Waller as Publicity Officer, and Eleanor Brown/Emrys Phillips for their work on organising the meetings.

**5. Honorary Members of the QRA**

The President announced that four members had been nominated by the Executive Committee for Honorary Member status: John Andrews (Colorado), Clive Auton (BGS), Andy Carrant (NHM), and John Matthews (Swansea). These nominations were accepted unanimously by the membership and were announced the following day at the meeting with a citation that will subsequently appear in QN.

## 6. Annual Report of the Secretary

This report covers the period January – December 2013.

### a. Membership

Total membership of the Association stands at **1174**, and this continues the upwards trajectory over the last 5 years.

Census date Category	29/3/07	01/01/08	01/01/09	21/12/10	19/12/11	29/12/12	27/11/13	Change (11-12)
Ordinary Members	562	573	545	575	581	602	598	-4
Postgraduate Members	223	269	269	275	331	343	344	+1
Unwaged/Retired Members	131	137	140	145	149	141	145	+4
Honorary members	16	19	22	28	28	29	31	+2
Institutional members*	36	41	33	29	29	29	37	+8
Corresponding members	14	14	16	19	19	20	19	-1
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>+10</b>

\*Includes copyright member

In terms of global QRA membership, the UK has 1030 members, with 100 from the rest of Europe, and 44 from the Rest of the World. Subscriptions for 2013 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. The institutional membership rate is £35. On behalf of the QRA I would like to thank Val Siviter for all the hard work she does for the Association, notably with management of the membership database, despite problems with the website.

### Honorary Members

Three distinguished scientists were elected as Honorary Members of the Quaternary Research Association at its AGM, held at the University of Newcastle in January 2013; John Gordon (SNH), John Lowe (RHUL) and Jon Merritt (BGS). Citations were published in *Quaternary Newsletter*, number 129 (February 2013). A list of Honorary Members of the QRA can be found on the website.

### b. Meetings

- i) **Annual Discussion Meeting: Leads and lags: correlation, comparison and causation** 2-4<sup>th</sup> January 2013.  
Organisers: Steve Juggins, Takeshi Nakagawa, Emma Pearson (Newcastle University)  
Report: *Quaternary Newsletter* 130 (June 2013)
- ii) **Field Meeting: Monadhliath Mountains, Central Highlands, Scotland** 16-21<sup>st</sup> April 2013.  
Organisers: Clare Boston (Exeter), Sven Lukas (QMUL), Jon Merritt (BGS Edinburgh)
- iii) **Field Meeting: Quaternary of the Chilterns and Site Conservation** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013.  
Organisers: John Catt (UCL), Julian Murton (Sussex), Eleanor Brown (Natural England)
- iv) **18th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**, 28-30<sup>th</sup> August 2013.  
University of Southampton.  
Organisers: Kim Davies, Helen Mackay (Southampton).
- v) **Field meeting: Quaternary of Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire** 17-20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.  
Organisers: Lynda York, Bethan Davies, David Roberts, David Bridgland, David Evans, Colm Ó Cofaigh

The QRA also co-sponsored 3 events in 2012:

- i) **Holocene Climate Change** 4-5<sup>th</sup> April 2013.  
Geological Society, Burlington House, London  
Organisers: Dan Charman (Exeter) & others

- ii) **RESET meeting – When Europe was covered by ice and ash** 6-8<sup>th</sup> June 2013.  
British Museum, London  
Organiser: Nick Ashton
- iii) **12<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Subfossil Chironomids** 10-12<sup>th</sup> June 2013.  
Beaulieu Hotel, New Forest  
Organisers: Peter Langdon (Southampton), Steve Brooks (NHM)  
Report: *Quaternary Newsletter* 131 (October 2013)

The **John Wiley Lecture** for 2013 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held by the University of Newcastle by Prof. Thomas Blunier (Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen) on “*Leads and Lags from an Ice Core Perspective*”.

The **QRA Lecture** for 2013 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held by the University of Newcastle by Prof. Paula Reimer (Queen’s University Belfast) on “*Towards a 50ka bona fide terrestrial radiocarbon calibration curve*”.

The Executive Committee extends its thanks to the many people who organised meetings, supported the meetings through their participation, and who reported on these activities in *QN* for the information of the wider membership.

#### c. Publications

##### *Quaternary Newsletter:*

3 issues: 129 (Feb 2013), 130 (June 2013), 131 (October 2013)  
Editor: Dr Sven Lukas (Queen Mary, University of London)

##### *Journal of Quaternary Science* ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1099-1417](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1099-1417))

Volume 28, 8 issues, containing 78 research papers (including 12 rapid communications)  
Editor: Professor Antony Long (University of Durham)

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

Two field guides were published in 2013: *The Quaternary of the Monadhliath Mountains and the Great Glen* (Boston, Lukas & Merritt) and *The Quaternary of Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire* (Davies et al) were produced to accompany QRA field meetings in 2013.

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

**d. QRA Grants and Awards**

During 2013, **£30,400** was disbursed by the QRA to 58 of its members under its awards schemes. This is a significant increase from previous years, and reflects both the increased value of the NRWA and QRF schemes (both increased to £1000 in 2013) as well as an increase in the number of applications. The full list of successful applicants is given overleaf.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>		<b>No. funded</b>	<b>Total monies requested (£)</b>	<b>Total monies awarded (£)</b>	<b>% funded<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>NRWA</b>	Jan	6	6	£6,250	4930	73
	May	10	9	9065.23	6430	71
	Sept	5	5	4080	3430	84
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19395.48</b>	<b>14790</b>	76
<b>QCF</b>	Jan	12	12	4947.4	4080	81
	May	6	4	2726	1650	61
	Sept	6	5	2287	1720	75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9960.4</b>	<b>7450</b>	75
<b>QRF</b>	Jan	4	3	3930	2560	65
	May	4	2	3700	950	26
	Sept	7	6	5000	3850	77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12630</b>	<b>7360</b>	58
Subtotal	<b>60</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>41985.88</b>	<b>29600</b>	70
<b>ADM 13</b>	0		0	0	0	
<b>FM 13</b>	0		0	0	0	
<b>Bishop</b>	2		1	£1,600	800	
<b>RLAHA</b>	2		1	–	–	
<b>QUB_C14</b>	6		4	–	–	
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>43585.88</b>	<b>30400</b>	70

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

**Special grants**

The **Bill Bishop Award** was awarded to Jessamy Doman (Yale University) to support research on hominin evolution in East Africa.

Four **QRA-<sup>14</sup>CHRONO** radiocarbon dating awards have been made, to Thorger Enge (Plymouth University), Mark Stevenson (Nottingham University), William Dickens (British Antarctic Survey) and Katie Loakes (Loughborough University).

The **QRA-RLAHA Luminescence Dating award** was made to Emiko Kent (Plymouth University).

No applications were received in 2013 for the **Postgraduate Meetings Awards (PMA)**. These are available to support postgraduate attendance at QRA Meetings (Field Meetings of the Annual Discussion Meeting). Applications are welcomed to all awards rounds (15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> September).

### **QRA Prizes**

Mr Andrew Finlayson (British Geological Survey) has been awarded the Lewis Penny medal.

Two James Croll medals have been awarded in 2013:  
Professor John Lowe (Royal Holloway, University of London)  
Professor Mike Walker (University of Wales, Lampeter)

The QRA award winners for 2013 are listed below:

#### **New Research Workers Award (NRWA)**

Name		Institution	Project title	Awarded (£)
Kathryn	Boulden	University of Cambridge	Carbon and nitrogen isotopic analyses of cattle and sheep bone collagen from Mount Pleasant and Marden, Dorset.	500
Martin	Brader	Durham University	Lateglacial to Holocene relative sea-level changes and the deglaciation of northwest Iceland	800
Frederick	Draper	University of Leeds	Fieldwork campaign in Amazonian Peru	750
Thierry	Fonville	University of Southampton	Running an XRF for lake sediment analysis	800
Adam	Griggs	Swansea University	Constraining rapid climatic events in the North Atlantic; a tephrochronological and micromorphological approach	780
Ana	Prohaska	University of Oxford	Fieldwork campaign in Crater Lakes in the Philippines	800
Bola Lydia	Akinyemiju (nee Ojedele)	Manchester University	Fieldwork in Troms, Norway	500
John	Balfour	Aberystwyth University	Geophysical investigation of Tregaron Bog and Tregaron moraine, Mid Wales	600
Eliza	Cook	Swansea University	Geochemical Characterisation of New Tephra Horizons in the Greenland Ice Cores (NEEM, NGRIP and GRIP) by LA-ICP-MS	850
Sebastian	Gibson	Cambridge University	The Pleistocene History of the Birmingham District	300
Helen	Mackay	University of Southampton	Fieldwork in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada	840

Laura	McHardie	University of Aberdeen	Geochemical analysis: Energy-dispersive Miniprobe Multielement Analyser (EMMA)	840
Spyridoula	Pappa	Royal Holloway University of London	Climate, diet and migration: reconstructing Late Pleistocene carnivore adaptations through stable isotopes and morphology	840
Christophe	Snoecke	Oxford University	Mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland	840
Rhys	Timms	Royal Holloway University of London	Testing regional synchronicity of abrupt climatic transitions in Scotland during the last glacial-interglacial transition.	820
James	Blaikie	University of Stirling	Palaeoecological reconstruction of rapid Late Glacial - Holocene environmental change for Patagonia, southern South America	£930
Michaela	Ecker	Oxford University	2 million years of palaeoenvironment and climate change: A case study from the interior of South Africa	£800
Penny	Jones	University of Cambridge	Climate change, water stress and agriculture at Harappa, 2600-1900 BC	£800
James	Macpherson	University of Cape Town	Laboratory analysis for stable carbon isotope measurement from sediments.	£400
Elizabeth	Watson	University of Leeds	Developing a tephrostratigraphy for southern Britain.	£500
<b><u>Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)</u></b>				
Edward	Fleming	University of Birmingham	EGU General Assembly 2013 Vienna	420
David	Giles	University of Portsmouth	8th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology	400
Anna	Godlewska	Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland	8th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology	310
Naomi	Holmes	University of Northampton	12th International workshop on subfossil chironomids	320
Harold	Lovell	Queen Mary University of London	EGU 2013, Vienna	280
Eleanor	Maddison	University of Durham	The 12th Workshop on Subfossil Chironomidae	200
Danni	Pearce	University of Worcester	European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 2013, Vienna	340
Benjamin	Petrick	Newcastle University	European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 2013, Vienna	380
Paul	Preston		Congresso Muge 150 (the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Mesolithic Shell middens), Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal.	290
Benedict	Reinardy	Granada, Spain	European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 2013, Vienna	380
Keziah	Stott	Keele University	3rd International Scelerochronology Conference, Caernarfon, Wales	380
Paul	Trainor	Queens University Belfast	UCL short course "Numerical analysis of biological and environmental data"	500
John	Carson	University of Edinburgh	Third International Meeting on Amazonian Archaeology (III Encuentro Internacional de Arqueologia Amazonica), Quito, Ecuador.	430
Jonathan	Cripps	Simon Fraser University, Canada	CANQUA/CGRG Biennial Meeting, Edmonton, Canada	450
Gina	Moseley	University of Innsbruck	Estimating rates and sources of sea-level change during past warm periods, Rome, Italy	390
Anthony	Stuart	Durham University (Visiting Professor)	11th International Mammal Conference (IMC11) University, Belfast	380
Anne	Bridle	University of the West of England	QRA Annual Discussion Meeting, Royal Geographical Society, London	260

Ed	Garrett	Durham University / Northumbria University	1. Seismological Society of America Annual Meeting, Anchorage, Alaska 2. IGCP 588 5th International Conference, Anchorage and Cordova, Alaska	420
Julia	McCarroll	University of Gloucestershire	INQUA ECR Inter-Congress Meeting, Wollongong, Australia	400
David	McCarthy	University of St Andrews	FORAMS 2014, the International Symposium on Foraminifera	450
Milos	Rydval	University of St Andrews	World Dendro - 9th International Conference on Dendrochronology in Melbourne, Australia	450

#### **Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)**

Lorna	Linch	University of Brighton	Characterising the style and intensity of ploughing by iceberg keels in diamictic sediments:	850
Abi	Stone	University of Oxford	Fieldwork: "Rainfall in the Desert Sand"	880
David	Thomas	University of Oxford	Establishing the Late Quaternary evolution of the linear dunes of the Namib Sand Sea.	830
David	Evans	Durham University	Quaternary geology of the Duck Hawk Bluffs, southwest Banks Island, Arctic Canada: a re-investigation of a critical terrestrial type locality for glacial and interglacial events around the Arctic Ocean	500
Adrian	Palmer	University of London	ITRAX $\mu$ -XRF Scanning of the annually-laminated section of the MIS11 deposits at Marks Tey, Essex.	450
Sallie	Burrough	Oxford University	Dating the desert: a question of biology vs geology.	475
Simon	Carr	Queen Mary University of London	Sedimentary evidence for the glaciation of Lundy Island	600
Gill	Plunkett	Queen's University Belfast	Trace Element Analysis of Late Holocene Tephra from Greenland Ice Cores	900
Thomas	Roland	University of Southampton	Holocene tephrochronology in Southern Patagonia: development and incorporation of a cryptotephra framework	840
Jennifer	Stanford	Swansea University	Investigating the composite signal of Heinrich Event 2 at Eirik Drift, South of Greenland	850
Lynda	Yorke	Bangor University	Why understanding the Lateglacial sequences in the Vale of Clwyd, North Wales is important for reconstructing UK-wide deglaciation	660

#### **Postgraduate Meetings Award (PMA) for field meetings**

No applicants in 2013

#### **Bill Bishop Award**

Jessamy	Doman	Yale University	"The tempo and mode of changing diversity in Late Miocene East Africa - illuminating the environmental backdrop of early hominin evolution"	£800
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#### **QUB <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Award**

Thorger	Enge	Plymouth University	Expression of changes in land use due to colonization in the buried soils and river discharge deposits along the Cape Fear River flood plain, North Carolina, USA.	
Mark	Stevenson	Nottingham University	Terrestrial Vegetation Shifts – Arctic Carbon Cycle	
William	Dickens	British Antarctic Survey	Establishing the age of a new high-resolution marine climate record from sub-Antarctica	
Katie	Loakes	Loughborough University	Quaternary palaeolimnology and environmental change in the South Wollo highlands, Ethiopia	

#### **QRA-RLAHA Luminescence Dating Award**

Emiko	Kent	Plymouth University	Tectonic geomorphology, faulting and seismic hazard in Western Turkey	
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#### **e. Research Groups and Study Groups**

The Research Group scheme is designed to provide a small quantity of start-up funding over a three year period for specialist Quaternary research groups, with the aim to bring research communities together, foster communication and provide an opportunity for new research projects to be formulated. The scheme has launched a number of significant research collaborations. The QRA currently supports two research groups - GLWG and TIQS, both of which have run meetings within 2013:

**Glacial Landsystems Working Group (GLWG):** GLWG is an informal working group which aims to act as a catalyst for research on palaeoglaciological reconstructions, focusing specifically on landform/sediment associations and their application to glaciated landscapes. The group organises a range of field meetings at various locations in glaciated Britain.

[http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/qec/research\\_groups/glwg/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/qec/research_groups/glwg/)

**Tephra in Quaternary Science (TIQS):** Recent developments in tephrochronology have heralded a new wave of research initiatives that utilise it to tackle significant scientific issues which, hitherto, have been unachievable with the traditional dating techniques. This group brings together individuals and groups with wide-ranging expertise in order to promote cross-group collaborations for optimising and advancing tephrochronology.

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/geography/research/environmentaldynamicsgroup/tephrainquaternaryscience/>

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

Study Groups were established with the purpose of enabling small groups of researchers to be associated with the QRA. Study Groups do not receive any funding from the QRA. Anyone interested in forming such a group should contact the Secretary.

#### **f. Outreach**

As a registered charity outreach is an important part of our activities and Barbara Silva has been continuing the good work as our Outreach and External Liaison Officer. The outreach web pages are in the process of being improved and updated within the new website and will contain tabs linking to talks and events, educational resources, useful websites and sponsorship.

#### **QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize**

This year there were nine entries which are currently being marked. An abstract of the winning dissertation will be published in a forthcoming *Quaternary Newsletter*. The Association wishes to thank the examiners Valerie Hall and Colin Whiteman, and the continuing support of Catherine Souch, Lucy Allen and others at the RGS for the administration side of the prize.

#### **Geological Society of London Quaternary Award Recipients**

This year there were three recipients:

Lyell Fund - Siwan Davies

Lyell Medal – Paula Reimer (QRA nomination)

Wollaston Medal - Kurt Lambeck

#### **QRA Outreach award**

This was awarded for the first time in 2013, with £1200 awarded to Georgina King & Julie Durcan for following project (summarised below):



Project title: Dating Climate Change website (e.g. [www.datingclimatechange.org](http://www.datingclimatechange.org))  
Collaborators: Dr Georgina King (University of Lausanne)  
Dr Julie Durcan (University of Oxford)  
Professor Geoff Duller (Aberystwyth University)

**Project outline:**

Funds were awarded to support the design and publication of a geochronological outreach website. This website will initially focus on luminescence dating, with the potential to expand to other chronological techniques (such as radiocarbon dating, tephrochronology and U-series dating). The aim of the website is to appeal to a broad audience, from the general public/amateur enthusiast to members of the luminescence dating community.

**Target audience:**

Datingclimatechange.org will appeal to students of all ages, amateur enthusiasts of archaeology and climate research, and will also provide an essential research tool for luminescence dating specialists. The website will comprise four main parts:

- (i) an outreach section which explains the importance of accurate chronologies for past climatic changes and archaeological finds,
- (ii) a section which describes what optically stimulated luminescence dating is, and how it works,
- (iii) a section which describes how the environmental dose rate is calculated and
- (iv) the DRaCulator which is a luminescence dose rate calculator similar to CRONUS which has been designed for cosmogenic nuclide dating. DRaCulator allows the non-dating specialist to calculate their own dose rate and to understand how this calculation is made, as well as the importance of the dose rate in the calculation of a luminescence age.

**Project outputs:**

- The website, which will be maintained and updated by the project collaborators. It is anticipated that other geochronologist may wish to contribute to part (i) of the website, and part of the coding that has been discussed with our programmer Stefan Senk, is that the code is easy to update and amend. The DRaCulator section will also be updated as advances are made in the calculation of environmental dose rates/factors are revised.
- A journal article for the DRaCulator component of the website (target journal *Quaternary Geochronology*)
- Review of the project submitted to *Quaternary Newsletter*
- Submission of an abstract for a paper at the 14th International Conference on Luminescence & Electron Spin Resonance Dating (July 2014, Montreal)
- Contribution to the Climatica website on Luminescence dating and the climate change

**g. Executive Committee**

Four members of the Executive committee complete their terms of office in January 2014.

Professor Dan Charman (President)  
Dr Peter Langdon (Secretary)  
Dr Ian Candy (Publications Secretary)  
Dr Mary Gagen (Ordinary Member)

The Executive Committee extends great thanks to both for their hard work and significant contributions they have made to the running of the Association throughout their periods in office.

We also welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in September 2013, Chris Darvill (University of Durham), who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years.

#### **h. Postgraduate activities**

Postgraduate activities continue to be an important part of the activities of the Association. The QRA postgraduate symposium held at Southampton University at the end of August 2013 and attracted 40 delegates, both UK based and international. Feedback on the quality of the talks and meeting overall was excellent. A write up will appear in QN in 2014. Next years meeting will be held at Exeter University. Postgraduates are represented on the Executive Committee (two positions, both lasting two years) and make an important contribution to the Executive on behalf of the postgraduate community. Currently they run the QRA Facebook and Twitter accounts.

#### **i. Publicity**

Despite the overall improvements in functionality of the QRA website there have been some longstanding problems, hence a range of options have been explored over 2013 regarding a redesign and future hosting of the website. A small working group within the Executive Committee took this forward, and the new website is currently being designed. Feedback on mock ups will take place in early 2014, with the new website planned to be launched a few months later. Other discussions related to publicity have been ongoing in 2013, particularly related to developing better links with the marketing and advertising groups within the Geological Society of London and RGS-IBG, both of whom we are affiliated with.

#### **j. Conservation**

The Conservation Officer, John Gordon, has undertaken a range of activities to forward the understanding and raising awareness of the importance of Geoconservation to Quaternary Science:

- i) The QRA are now represented on Geological Society's Conservation Committee, which will meet 3-4 times a year.
- ii) The QRA has signed up to the Scottish Geodiversity Charter and joined the discussion forum. This will give the QRA members access to a wider range of more visible activities with which to engage.
- iii) The QRA has responded to the Scottish Government consultation on Marine Protected Areas.

#### **k. QRA Archive**

John Catt has done an excellent job in administering the QRA archive, currently held at the RGS-IBG, while writing the History of the QRA book. Key documents have now been scanned, and the secretary now has a complete electronic archive of QRA documents held at RGS-IBG, minus field and technical guides, and QN. These will be scanned during phase 2 of developing the electronic archive, under the guidance of the incoming secretary.

The Secretary's report was accepted by the membership.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

This Report covers the period 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012

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### **a. Introduction**

The Association's financial activities have been generally comparable to previous years, although there has been an increase in expenditure on Awards. However, the QRA's finances remain healthy and stable.

### **b. Income**

Income from membership subscriptions, paid directly into our main accounts, was £12,055.00 and is similar to that of 2011-12. This figure is again an under-representation of our income from subscriptions as members increasingly choose to pay electronically via our PayPal account. For the same reason, income from books sales (£969.90) is a significant under-representation. Because of minor difficulties taking control of the PayPal account earlier in my tenure, this income will appear as a windfall on the 2013-14 account. The PayPal account at 31st July 2013 stood at £16,488.62.

Royalties from Wiley rose from £44,386 to £45,057, a further pleasing and welcome increase.

Banking interest remains similar to previous years at £42.27.

The £30,000 invested in a fixed-term bond has yielded interest of £3,220.45, although this valuation would only be realized if the money was withdrawn immediately. This yield therefore cannot be shown as income on the account for the 2012-13 financial year.

### **c. Expenditure**

Day-to-day running costs have increased from £16,784.14 to £21,228.30, mostly due to payments for four editions of QN appearing in this financial year (a cheque issued in July 2012 was not cashed until early August). The cost of running the Executive (travel, room hire) was £2,648.11 (£1,502.69 last year), which is approximately 3.9% of total expenditure. This increase includes some additional travel costs for Executive members to attend meetings on behalf of the QRA, and also reflects the current distribution of the Executive, many of whom travel significant distances.

Our usual support activities through grants, awards and sponsorship was budgeted at c.£21,000, but such was the number of high-quality applications for awards this year that an overspend of c.£7,000 was authorized, with a total of £27,909.10 awarded. It is not yet clear whether this increase in applications will be a continuing trend, so careful monitoring of awards expenditure will be required in 2013-14.

### **d. Bank Errors**

Bank errors made by the Bank of Scotland have been mostly repaid with the exception of £347.86, and fraudulent activity should have now ceased. Moving the accounts to another bank has been seriously considered, especially as Bank of Scotland have still not transferred control of the accounts to the current Treasurer despite considerable efforts on our part. However, moving to another bank would require all subscriptions paid by standing order to be individually reinstated by members, making such a transfer extremely difficult.

### **e. Income vs Expenditure**

Running income (£12,055.00) against running expenditure (£21,228.30) shows a deficit, mostly due to slightly increased postal costs and hidden running income in the PayPal account. However, our running costs in relationship to membership income remain reasonably stable and I propose that we do not need to increase the subscription fees.

Quaternary Research Association (Registered Charity No. 262124)

Income and expenditure on Treasurer's Account for 1 August 2012 - 31 July 2013.

	£ 2010 - 11	£ 2011 - 12	£ 2012 - 13
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions	15362.80	12998.65	12055.00
<b>Total Running Income</b>	<b>15362.80</b>	<b>12998.65</b>	<b>12055.00</b>
Book sales	3253.95	1688.85	969.90
<b>Total Publications Income</b>	<b>3253.95</b>	<b>1688.85</b>	<b>969.90</b>
Surplus on Meetings	500.00		1563.80
Interest Received on Treasurer's + Publications accts	44.62	53.55	42.27
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	4292.00	5414.00	5500.00
Publisher's Royalties Received	43055.00	44386.00	45057.00
Donations	346.44	346.44	383.43
Other Income	338.98	200.00	1060.00
Exceptional Item		85500.00	
Exceptional Item		6886.86	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>48577.04</b>	<b>142798.85</b>	<b>53606.50</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>67193.79</b>	<b>157486.35</b>	<b>66631.40</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Newsletter & Circular printing	6259.26	2640.40	5857.40
Newsletter postage		3928.74	344.71
Admin support	6000.00	6000.00	6000.00
Postage & stationery	191.79	2023.31	5637.40
Executive Committee Costs	1637.72	1502.69	2648.11
Insurance	630.00	689.00	740.68
<b>Total Running Expenditure</b>	<b>14718.77</b>	<b>16784.14</b>	<b>21228.30</b>
<b>Publications Account</b>			
Printing	5485.00	4725.00	3095.00
Bank charges	529.19	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Publications Expenditure</b>	<b>6014.19</b>	<b>4725.00</b>	<b>3095.00</b>
<b>Grants/Awards/Support</b>			
Grants			
NRWA	7165.00	6175.00	11465.00
QRF	6450.00	3680.00	3900.00
QCF	3155.00	1835.00	7084.00
PGMA	0.00	1701.00	220.00
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress, Australia	18449.00	1027.85	0.00
C14 bursaries	641.25	0.00	1212.00
Lewis Penny Award	244.70	591.40	236.00
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award (Inc. bank transfer fee)	800.00	800.00	800.00
Croll Medal (Travel)	0.00	49.80	128.30
Postgraduate Conference	0.00	500.00	613.80
Sub-group support			
IBIS	0.00	0.00	0.00
GLWG	0.00	0.00	500.00
TQIS	500.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>37484.95</b>	<b>16360.05</b>	<b>26159.10</b>
<b>Outreach</b>			
Undergraduate Dissertation Award	650.00	250.00	250.00
S. Senk	0.00	0.00	500.00
Other	586.97	1644.95	0.00
	<b>1236.97</b>	<b>1894.95</b>	<b>750.00</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>			
Geol. Assoc.	0.00	0.00	500.00
Geol. Soc. London	0.00	0.00	500.00
Other	1000.00	1250.00	0.00
	<b>1000.00</b>	<b>1250.00</b>	<b>1000.00</b>
<b>Total Grants/Awards/Support</b>	<b>39641.92</b>	<b>19505.00</b>	<b>27909.10</b>
Refund/reimbursement	140.00	105.00	19.39
Meetings expenditure	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
INQUA subscription	0.00	11164.59	11253.67
Web Site costs	10557.38	4330.00	600.00
Other expenditure	241.93	358.80	0
Medals - striking/engraving	5664.00	1460.16	2976.48
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>16603.31</b>	<b>18418.55</b>	<b>15849.54</b>
<b>Bank errors</b>	<b>1879.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>78858.11</b>	<b>59432.69</b>	<b>68081.94</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS(+)/DEFICIT(-)</b>	<b>+ 11664.32</b>	<b>+ 38053.65</b>	<b>-1450.54</b>
<i>T. White</i>			

**f. Year-end financial status**

At the end of July 2013, we held

£ 34,233.93 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account,  
£ 22,489.05 in the Bank of Scotland Publications Account,  
£ 36,344.68 in our HSBC Community Account,  
£ 60,419.17 in the HSBC Manager's (savings) Account and  
£ 30,000.00 in an HSBC bond

We started the 2012-13 year with £185,285.23 and ended with £183,486.83. Because the interest generated by the HSBC bond will not be finalized until it matures, I have excluded it from the total income for this financial year. This, combined with the hidden income from subscriptions and book sales paid into the PayPal account, means that the account shows a slight deficit of £1,450.54.

Ring-fenced sums within our holdings include £15,254.52 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Awards, £85,500 for INQUA delegates, £5,000 for the Lewis Penny Medal and £30,000 to meet any unexpected liabilities. This leaves c.£50,000 to carry forward, in addition to an anticipated income of £60,000 derived from subscriptions, book sales and royalties. Anticipated expenditure is £18,000 for running costs, £12,000 INQUA subscription and £25,000+ for grants/awards/support, which falls within anticipated income.

**g. Auditing**

The finances have been audited internally by Ms Josie Allen and have been independently examined by Mr Andy Eggleston.

**h. Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012**

## **QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

**Registered Charity No. 262124**

### **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2013**

#### **ASSETS**

<b>31-Jul-12</b>	<b>31-Jul-13</b>
<b>Bank accounts</b>	
£22,143.36 Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	£34,233.93
£21,519.15 Bank of Scotland Publications Account	£22,489.05
£51,245.82 HSBC Community Account	£36,344.68
£60,376.90 HSBC Manager's (Savings) Account	£60,419.17
£30,000.00 HSBC Investment Account	£30,000.00
<b>£185,285.23 Total bank accounts</b>	<b>£183,486.83</b>
<b>Other assets</b>	
£0.00 Bank error to be refunded	£347.86
<b>£185,285.23 TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£183,834.69</b>

#### **LIABILITIES**

£6,287.90 Uncashed cheques - grants (not included in income and expense)	£6,445.00
<b>£6,287.90 Total liabilities</b>	<b>£6,445.00</b>
<b>£178,997.33</b>	<b>£177,389.69</b>

#### **NET ASSETS**

£78,242.81 Unrestricted	£76,635.17
£100,754.52 Restricted	£100,754.52
<b>£178,997.33 TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>£177,389.69</b>

The investment of £30,000 is currently showing and unrealised gain of £3220.45.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the membership.

## **8. Publications Secretary Report**

### **a. QRA Field Guide production 2013**

Two field guides were produced in 2013 (see below). Both of these were produced in the traditional QRA style (published and printed as an A5 book). These were produced to accompany the May and September meetings:

Boston et al. (2013). The Quaternary of the Monadliath Mountains and the Great Glen. QRA Field Guide. QRA, London.

Davies et al. (2013) The Quaternary of Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire. QRA Field Guide. QRA, London.

The finished field guide from last year's Iceland field meeting is also completed and is now available to buy in A4 format:

The Iceland field guide ("Holocene tephrochronology and its application to southwest Iceland", Chris Caseldine and James Scourse)

### **b. QRA Field Guide production 2014**

Currently no field guides are in production.

### **c. Technical Guides update**

No new guides have been produced this year but several are still in production. The "Chironomids" guide has now sold out and a reprint of the 1st edition is currently in production.

### **d. History of the QRA**

This was submitted to the publishers in the Middle of November and will be published on 10th January 2014.

### **e. Digitisation**

All of the out of print field guides (all pre-1991 and the 2000 Norfolk and Suffolk guides) have either been digitised or being digested (completed by the end of January 2014). Once this is complete these will be available to the web manager to begin making them downloadable. The day field meeting "The Quaternary History of the Chilterns" (Saturday 11th May) was supported by a field guide which has been supplied to the QRA as a pdf (no official publication was produced). This has been supplied to the web manager and will be uploaded onto the website as part of the uploading of all other Field Guide pdfs.

### **f. Sales**

A list of field guide sales is available. Sales for field guides drop off markedly after a year or two of publication. Sales of existing stock at this meeting are an aim to reduce the stock of hard copies that the QRA holds.

The Publication Secretary's report was accepted by the membership.

## **9. Meetings Officer's Programme**

### **2014 Meetings**

#### **January 2014. ADM: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the QRA**

Venue: RGS, London

Organisers: Dan Charman (Exeter), James Scourse (Bangor), Antony Long (Durham), Danielle Schreve (RHUL), John Catt (UCL) and Catherine Souch (RGS-IBG)

Contact: Dan Charman [D.J.Charman@exeter.ac.uk]

Details: 7<sup>th</sup> –9<sup>th</sup> January 2014

#### **August/September 2014. QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

Venue: University of Exeter

Organiser: Nicole Sanderson

Contact: nks202@exeter.ac.uk

#### **October 2014: The Quaternary of the Lower Thames**

Venue: The Green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea, Essex

Organiser: Peter Allen, David Bridgland

Contact: [peter.allen6@virgin.net](mailto:peter.allen6@virgin.net)

Details: 4 – 5 October 2014 TBC. 1 day conference, 1 day field meeting. Joint QRA meeting with the Essex Field Club and the Geologists' Association.

### **2015 Meetings**

#### **January 2015. ADM: The Quaternary Geology of the North Sea and adjacent areas**

Venue: TBC (Edinburgh or Manchester)

Organisers: Emrys Phillips (BGS); Carol Cotterill (BGS); Margaret Stewart (BGS); Mads Huuse (Manchester University); David Hodgson (University of Leeds); Simon Carr (Queen Mary University of London)

Contact: Emrys Phillips ([erp@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:erp@bgs.ac.uk))

Details: Dates TBC, January 2015



**Spring 2015 TBC. Field Workshop: Palaeogeography and dynamics of glacial processes in north-central Poland: sedimentary and geomorphic signatures.**

Joint Meeting with the Association of Polish Geomorphologists (AGP)

Venue: Department of Biology and Earth Science, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun

Organisers: Matt Strzelecki, Dave Evans (Durham), Wojciech Wysota (Torun)

Contact: [m.c.strzelecki@durham.ac.uk](mailto:m.c.strzelecki@durham.ac.uk)

Details: Dates TBC, spring/early summer 2014. 1 day workshop, 3 days field meeting.

**New Meetings Proposals**

QRA meetings are organised for QRA members by QRA members with support from the QRA Meetings Officer. We aim to have a varied meetings programme which reflects the needs and interests of QRA members. Our flagship meetings are the Annual Discussion Meeting (which is usually held over 2 or 3 days in early January) and the QRA Postgraduate Symposium. Annual Discussion Meetings are centred on a key scientific theme and draw national and international interest, with keynote speakers from around the world. Otherwise the format of QRA meetings is very flexible - they can take the form of

- a single or multi-day field meeting;
- a half, one or multi-day indoor workshop or conference;
- a combined workshop and field meeting.

**QRA meetings can also help deliver outreach (including pathways to impact plans) or communicate new research related to the conclusion of RCUK grants.**

**The QRA also supports meetings arranged by Quaternary specialist groups or former QRA subgroups.**

Field meetings are usually held in the UK or Europe, and indoor meetings can be on any Quaternary topic or area of the world. We also help to run, and participate in, meetings abroad. We simply ask that QRA meetings are open to all and are not invitation only. Organisers of QRA meetings can apply to the QRA for financial support. To propose a QRA meeting, please contact the Meetings Officer for a proposal form. Approval for QRA meetings proposals is given by the QRA Executive Committee at their meetings in April and September.

The QRA also co-sponsors meetings run by other associations where the content of the meeting is of interest to QRA members. Again we ask that meetings are open to all and not invitation only. We usually co-sponsor two meetings per year. To apply for co-sponsorship, please contact the QRA Meetings Officer for an application form. We have two deadlines a year, on 1 March and 1 September, and decisions about co-sponsorship are made by the QRA Executive Committee. For further details about co-sponsorship, please see the meeting pages on the QRA website.

**So if you have a bright idea for a meeting or workshop or would like to offer to lead a field meeting please contact the QRA Meetings Officer Dr Eleanor Brown ([eleanor.brown@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:eleanor.brown@naturalengland.org.uk)).**

To discuss any outreach ideas please contact the Outreach Officer Dr Barbara Silva ([pollenbird@hotmail.com](mailto:pollenbird@hotmail.com)).

Further details about future QRA meetings can be found on the QRA web site at <http://qra.org.uk/>

## **10. Election of new Executive members**

The following people have been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Nominations were published in the June 2013 Circular. No other nominations were received by the closing date and so the following were duly elected:

President:	Pete Coxon (Trinity, Dublin)
Secretary:	Mick Frogley (Sussex)
Publications Secretary:	Jonathan Lee (BGS)
Ordinary Member:	Emma Pearson (Newcastle)

## **11. Any other business**

The new President, Pete Coxon, took the chair and formally thanked the outgoing President for all his hard work and for organising the 2014 ADM.

The meeting finished at 19:30 hours.

Minutes taken by Dr Pete Langdon (Secretary)

7<sup>th</sup> January 2014