

9. Annual Report of the Publications Secretary 2022

A. QRA Book Publications

(i) One new field guide was produced by the field trip organisers and published this year; 6 copies sold so far (sales for one month only):

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

B. Planned Publications

The Wester Ross field guide (ed. Colin Ballantyne) is now complete; quotes for printing have been obtained and the guide will be sent to the printers this month.

C. Reprints of guides

Three out-of-print guides were reprinted, at 50 copies each, and are now on sale. They are:

- Quaternary of the Lake District
- Quaternary of Teesdale and the North Pennines
- Glacitectonics Technical Guide.

Since October, a total of 9 guides have been sold, lower than hoped. It is unlikely we will reprint further guides.

D. Book sales and stock

Book sales so far this year have totalled 271 (to the start of December), like 2021(272 books sold). This included 129 guides in October and November, during the book sale.

Current stock is c.3189, compared to c.3220 in 2021. The new administrator, Lucy Englehart, is intending to undertake a full stocktake soon and further book sales are planned to reduce storage space needed.

E. Postage issues

Changes to postage requirements, related to the introduction of bar codes and misunderstandings about this requirement in other countries, have meant that the administrator has had to stop sending books overseas, as the franking machine could not produce bar codes. However, we have now switched to using Parcelforce and this issue should be resolved. Postage abroad will resume once the new website is active; a warning that recipients will be required to pay for any import duties will be prominent on the new website.

F. Online availability of QRA publications

The possibility of making field and technical guides and older issues of Quaternary Newsletter available on the website as downloadable, searchable pdfs has been investigated. After obtaining quotes from three companies, the most cost-effective approach to scanning results in the destruction of the book spine (3p per page vs 49p for b&w; 7p vs 85p per page for colour). After discussion at the Executive Committee, we have decided to proceed with destructive scanning where unwanted copies of QN and the guides are available. Progress is as follows:

(i) Quaternary Newsletter:

The administrator, Val Siviter, has kept a single copy of each issue from issue 23. However, we are reluctant to destroy these, as this is effectively the QRA's archive, so are looking for donations of past issues from members.

Issues from 2013 on (No. 129) were already available as pdfs. So far, issues 54 to 126 (excepting 66, 116, 120, 123) have been added to the online document archive at www.qra.org.uk/documents, using the Publications Secretary's old copies.

We are therefore asking members to donate unwanted copies of issues 1 to 55, 66, 116, 120, 123, 127 and 128, if possible.

(ii) Field and Technical Guides:

Due to issues with copyright, it is not currently possible to proceed with selling guide pdfs online unless permissions have been obtained explicitly, as there is a risk that guides may contain diagrams that had previously been published elsewhere. However, the Executive Committee have discussed the possibility of making older guides available for free download from the website and have concluded that under the concept of fair dealing (i.e. whether the copyright owner would suffer a financial loss, and whether the amount of work used is reasonable and appropriate), this should not present a copyright issue for the QRA. Accordingly, it has been agreed to try to make guides printed prior to 2010 available to download in pdf form.

Copies of many older guides are available in the book store and these have been supplemented by the purchase of guides left by the late Prof. John Catt to the Hertfordshire Geological Society. We are interested in obtaining spare copies of out-of-print guides, particularly from the early 1990s, 1980s and 1970s. If any members have guides they would like to donate for scanning, they should contact the publications secretary in the first instance.

Cathy Delaney

Publications Secretary

6th December 2022