



Quaternary Research Association

## **Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Quaternary Research Association held at University of Plymouth on 3rd January 2018 at 16:00.**

The President, Professor Neil Glasser, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 48 members of the Association (and 3 non-members):

James Allard, Rob Barnett, Laura Basell, Clare Boston, Becky Briant, Eleanor Brown, Jane Bunting, Chris Clark, Caroline Clason, John Cooper, Alastair Curry, Bethan Davies, Darren Davies, Kim Davies, Josie Duffy, Geoff Duller, Kevin Edwards, Ella Egberts, Jeremy Ely, Andy Emery, Yiman Fang, Trevor Faulkner, Mick Frogley (minutes), Ralph Fyfe, Roland Gehrels, Neil Glasser (Chair), Michael Grant, Madeleine Hann, Mark Hardiman (non-member), Jo Hornsey, Jack Lacey, Harry Langford, Emma Lewington (non-member), Stephen Livingstone, Neil Loader, Marie-France Loutre (non-member), John Lowe, Sven Lukas, Jan Mangerud, Danny McCarroll, Derek McDougall, Adrian Palmer, Kirsty Penkman, Sean Pyne-O'Donnell, Tom Roland, Jim Rose, Danielle Schreve, Abi Stone, Margarita Tsakiridou, Jesse Woodbridge and Giles Young.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Bridgland, Steve Brooks, Stewart Campbell, John Hiemstra, Jon Lee and Barbara Silva.

### **2. Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</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 that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

### **4. President's report**

The President began his report by thanking the organisers of the 2017 ADM (held at Durham University) for putting together such a professional and positive experience for all attendees; he also thanked Pete Coxon for his stewardship as President over the previous three years. The President further commented on the financial health of the Association and outlined his commitment to making more efficient use of reserves to better fund the activities of the QRA.

**a. Honours and awards.** As part of the 2017 AGM (held during the ADM), the outgoing President had awarded the James Croll Medal to Ian Shennan and conferred Honorary Memberships on Tim Atkinson, Mike Hambrey and Mike Tooley. Full citations had been published in *Quaternary Newsletter (QN)* 141.

**b. Conservation issues.** The President reported that he and the Vice-President had contributed an article to *Earth Heritage Magazine* on behalf of the Association to mark the beginning of formal support for this publication by the QRA (*see also agenda item 6j*).

**c. JQS matters.** The President informed the meeting of a potential conflict of interest in that he is a current editor for *Quaternary Science Reviews*, whilst also now being the Executive Committee's formal representative on the editorial board of *JQS*. However, he undertook to act in the best interests of the Association and, as part of his new role, had already attended his first *JQS* editorial board meeting and subsequently signed the new contract with Wiley. The President commented on the positive ongoing relationship with Wiley and their support of what he perceived is one of their 'flagship' journals. The volume of submissions to *JQS* remains healthy (*see also agenda item 6c*); in addition, a new editor is being actively sought for January 2020 onwards, when the current editor is due to step down.

**d. Deceased members.** The President reported that several members had sadly passed away. Jenny Gladstone and John Hollin had both died in 2016 but the Association had been unaware of this fact at the last AGM; an obituary for the latter had appeared in *QN* 143. Honorary members Keith Barber and John Catt had both passed away in 2017, as had Mary Penny (benefactor of the Association and wife of the late Lewis Penny, founding member of the Quaternary Field Studies Group). An obituary for Keith Barber had been published in *QN* 142 and an article about Mary Penny in *QN* 143; an obituary for John Catt will appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*. The President called for a brief silence by way of remembrance.

**e. QRA Executive Committee.** The President noted several personnel changes to the Executive Committee. Postgraduate Representative Laura Crossley completed her term of office in September and been replaced by Kristy Holder (Swansea), who had been voted in at the Royal Holloway Postgraduate Symposium. Clare Boston (Meetings), Bethan Davies (Publicity), Andrew Finlayson (Ordinary Member), Mick Frogley (Secretary), Jonathan Lee (Publications) and Barbara Silva (Outreach) were also completing their terms of office at this AGM; the President thanked all outgoing committee members on behalf of the Association for their considerable efforts on the Executive.

**g. INQUA 2019.** The President reiterated the Association's support for the forthcoming INQUA Congress, being held in Dublin in 2019 and emphasized that the QRA should play an important contributory role. Discussions had already been held with the organisers (chaired by Pete Coxon) and possible 'co-badging' and/or 'code-sharing' of normal 2019 QRA field trips with INQUA had been discussed (subject to insurance matters being resolved). The President also encouraged members to actively engage with the Congress by proposing sessions by the 31 March deadline.

## 5. Honorary Members of the QRA

The President announced that Steve Brooks had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status. This nomination was accepted unanimously by the membership; a full citation will appear subsequently in a forthcoming issue of *QN*.

## 6. Annual Report of the Secretary

**a. Membership.** Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1274** (Table 1).

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change (16–17)
Ordinary Members	581	602	598	636	656	615	682	+67
Postgraduate Members	331	343	344	368	358	289	369	+80
Unwaged/Retired Members	149	141	145	146	147	134	137	+3
Honorary members	28	29	31	35	38	38	41	+3
Institutional members	29	29	37	29	26	21	22	+1
Corresponding members*	19	20	19	23	23	23	23	0
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>+154</b>

**Table 1.** Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2017. \*Includes copyright members

Subscriptions for 2017 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 membership, the Executive Committee once again thanked Val Siviter for all the hard work she does for the Association, notably with regard to management of the membership database.

#### *Honorary Members*

Three distinguished scientists were elected as Honorary Members of the QRA at its AGM, held at the University of Durham in January 2017: Tim Atkinson, Mike Hambrey and Mike Tooley. Citations were published in *Quaternary Newsletter* 141 (February 2017). A list of Honorary Members of the QRA can be found on the Association's website (qra.org.uk).

#### **b. Meetings**

##### **i) Annual Discussion Meeting**

*Quaternary engineering geology: implications for glaciated and periglaciated terrains*

Durham University, 4–7 January 2017

Organisers: David J A Evans, Julian Murton, David Giles, Chris Martin

Attendees: 96. Report: *QN* 142 (June 2017)

##### **ii) Field Meeting**

*The Quaternary of the North Pennines*

Middleton-in-Teesdale, 11–14 May 2017

Organisers: David J A Evans

Attendees: 30. Report: *QN* 143 (October 2017)

##### **iii) QRA Short Discussion Meeting**

*Developments in Quaternary Entomology and Environmental Reconstruction (with special recognition of the academic contributions of Steve Brooks)*

Natural History Museum, London, 1 June 2017

Organisers: Peter Langdon, Kimberley Davies, Stefan Engels, Martin Hall

##### **iv) Joint QRA/SLaCC Meeting: Third Conference**

Liverpool and Liverpool Bay, 6–8 September 2017

Organisers: Jason Kirby, Andy Plater, Christine Hamilton

##### **v) Field Meeting**

*The Quaternary of the Vale of Pickering and Environs*

Scarborough, 8–11 September 2017

Organisers: Paul Lincoln, Laura Eddey, Ian Matthews, Mark Bateman, Adrian Palmer

##### **vi) Joint QRA/GA Overseas Field Meeting**

*The Quaternary of the Yellow River and Environs*

Lanzhou University, China, 10–18 September 2017

Organisers: Hu Zhenbo, Wang Xianyan, Pan Boatian, David Bridgland, Jef Vandenberghe

##### **vii) 22nd Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

Royal Holloway, University of London, 11–13 September 2017

Organisers: Angharad Jones, Ash Abrook, Dave Arnold, Julian Martin, Lizzy Peneycad, Rachel Devine

Attendees: 46

Report: *QN* 143 (October 2017)

##### **viii) Joint QRA/GLWG Field Meeting**

*Glaciation of the area around Nairn and Forres, Scotland*

Grantown-on-Spey, 26–29 October 2017

Organiser: Jon Merritt, Clive Auton, Emrys Phillips and Callum Firth

The QRA also **co-sponsored** two meetings in 2017: (i) the SISAL working group of PAGES meeting *Toward a Global Synthesis of Stable Isotope Records from Speleothems*, held at University College Dublin in June (organized by Laia Comas Bru, Michael Deininger and Sandy Harrison); and (ii) the

Stable Isotope Mass Spectrometry User Group (SIMSUG) meeting held at BGS Keyworth in July (organized by Melanie Leng, Carol Arrowsmith, Hilary Sloane, Andi Smith, Chris Kendrick and Jack Lacey).

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2017 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held at Durham University by Chris Burn (Carleton, Canada) entitled *Inherited landscapes and infrastructure stability: the case of the Dempster Highway, western Arctic Canada*.

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. QRA Grants and Awards

During the 2016-17 financial year, **£30,840.40** was awarded by the QRA to 47 of its members under its standard awards schemes. Full details are provided in the Awards Officer's report (*agenda item 8*).

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

### d. Publications

#### *Quaternary Newsletter*

3 issues: 141 (Feb 2017), 142 (June 2017), 143 (October 2017)

Editor: Dr Abi Stone (Manchester)

#### *Journal of Quaternary Science*

Volume 32: containing 80 research papers across eight issues, two of which were themed.

Issue 2, *The Quaternary of the North Sea Basin*, was edited by Emrys Phillips and David Hodgson and arose from the 2015 QRA Annual Discussion Meeting held in Edinburgh. Issue 6 consisted of the SHAPE (Southern Hemisphere Assessment of Palaeoenvironments) volume that arose from a session held at the 2015 INQUA meeting in Japan. This was edited by Andrew Lorrey and Rewi Newnham.

Editor: Professor Geoff Duller (University of Aberystwyth)

### QRA Field Guides

Three new field guides were published: *The Quaternary Landscape History of Teesdale and the North Pennines* (Evans), *The Quaternary of the Vale of Pickering* (Lincoln, Eddey, Matthews, Palmer & Bateman) and *The Quaternary around Nairn and the Inverness Forth* (Merritt, Auton & Philips), each produced to accompany QRA field meetings held in 2017.

See the Publications Secretary's report for further details (*agenda item 9*).

### 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 in the past.

The QRA currently supports one research group, SLaCC, which completes its three-year period of funding at the end of 2018. The aim of the **Sea Level and Coastal Change Research Group** (SLaCC) is to draw together scientists from the UK and NW Europe that are actively researching sea-level and coastal changes and the impact of sea-level change on the coastal environment, in the past, present and future. They organise annual meetings to discuss sea-level and coastal change over a range

of time and spatial scales but with particular relevance to vulnerable coastal communities within the UK and NW Europe. Their third meeting was held in September 2017 in Liverpool and Liverpool Bay (jointly with the QRA) and a report will appear in a future issue of *QN*. More information can be found at: [dur.ac.uk/geography/slacc/](http://dur.ac.uk/geography/slacc/)

New proposals for research groups are invited at any time and may be discussed with the Secretary in the first instance. 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, as our Outreach and External Liaison Officer, Barbara Silva has been pro-active in pushing forward our activities on this front.

##### *QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize*

Thirteen entries were submitted this year. The winner of the 2017 prize was Carole Roberts (University College London) for her thesis entitled *A multiproxy study investigating ecological responses to acidification in Easedale Tarn, English Lake District, since the early 19th century*. An abstract of the winning dissertation will be published in a forthcoming issue of *QN*.

The judges also commended highly the work of two other students: Callum Ellis (Durham) for *The dual role of subglacial and subaqueous sedimentation in the formation of a Late Pleistocene drumlin, Kanrawer, western Ireland*; and Yi Thong Koh (Queen Mary) for *The finer, the better? Investigating the influence of sampling resolution on ostracod-based palaeoenvironmental reconstructions in Middle Pleistocene (Marine Isotope Stage 11) lacustrine sediments at Marks Tey, Essex, UK*.

The Association wishes to thank examiners Martin Kirkbride and Will Fletcher, and to acknowledge the continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS for the administration of the prize.

##### *QRA Outreach Award*

The QRA encourages its members and others to promote and foster engagement between Quaternary science and a wide and diverse audience. In support, we maintain an annual Outreach fund from which grants are awarded. This year we contributed funding towards *Virtual Glaciers*, an innovative interactive, virtual fieldwork resource being developed by Derek McDougall (Worcester) that supports the teaching in schools about glaciers, both past and present, and their associated geomorphological impacts. Derek has been asked to present his project at the Geology Society's Janet Watson Meeting (2018 theme: *Managing Big Data in Geoscience*) and to run a workshop for teachers at the Geographical Association annual conference in March 2018. A poster was also on display at the 2018 QRA ADM.

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

#### **g. Executive Committee**

Seven members of the Executive Committee completed their terms of office:

- September 2017: Laura Crossley (Postgraduate Representative)
- January 2018: Clare Boston (Meetings), Bethan Davies (Publicity), Andrew Finlayson (Ordinary member), Mick Frogley (Secretary), Jon Lee (Publicity) and Barbara Silva (Outreach).

The Executive Committee extends its thanks to all these individuals on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the running of the Association throughout their periods in office.

We welcomed a new postgraduate representative on to the Executive Committee in September, Kristy Holder (Swansea), who will represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years. In addition, Stewart Campbell had to step down temporarily from being Conservation Officer for personal reasons; the Executive was therefore pleased when Eleanor Brown (Natural England) agreed to take over these duties in the short term.

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

Postgraduate events continue to be an important component of the activities of the Association. The Annual Postgraduate Symposium series continued, with the 2017 event being held at Royal Holloway in September. The meeting was a success and a full write-up of the event has already appeared *QN* (issue 143, October 2017). Postgraduate interests are represented on the Executive Committee by two members, who are elected at the Annual Postgraduate Symposium (both posts last for two years). The PG representatives also maintain the social media accounts of the Association.

#### **i. Publicity**

This year has seen continued development of the functionality and content of the new website, including further improvements to the online bookstore; further upgrades are in the pipeline. Our Publicity Officer, Bethan Davies, is thanked for continuing to oversee the website improvements. Members also now receive mailshots to their email accounts approximately once a week: relevant announcements should be sent to the Publicity Officer for circulation ([publicity@qra.org.uk](mailto:publicity@qra.org.uk)).

#### **j. Conservation**

Recognition of the value of conserving Quaternary sites is vital both for the field-based research and education that are essential to advance the science, and also for the wider benefits for the environment and society. The QRA and its members already carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, as well as offering practical support and in working with local groups. The role of QRA Conservation Officer on the Executive Committee ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to present the QRA's position on conservation issues. Some of the most important initiatives in 2017 have included:

- i) The Quaternary Research Association is pleased to announce it is now one of the partners and sponsors of *Earth Heritage – The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine* ([earthheritage.org.uk](http://earthheritage.org.uk)). *Earth Heritage Magazine* is a free-to-download publication produced twice a year by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales, the Geologists' Association and the QRA, with major contributions from GeoConservationUK and others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. QRA members can receive email notifications of new issues by following the instructions on the *Earth Heritage Magazine* homepage. QRA members are also encouraged to suggest articles or news items for *Earth Heritage Magazine* by contacting the Conservation Officer who represents the QRA on the editorial board.
- ii) The QRA has renewed its support for the refreshed Scottish Geodiversity Charter 2018-2023, and the Conservation Officer represented the QRA at the Charter launch event at *Our Dynamic Earth* in Edinburgh on 16 November 2017. The QRA will set out how its meeting, research, conservation and outreach activities contribute to the delivery of the Charter, and together with the other 81 signatories we look forward to supporting the Scottish Geodiversity Forum on delivering their emerging action plan for geodiversity in Scotland.

- iii) The QRA continues to liaise with other geological organisations on conservation matters through our membership of the Geological Society's Geoconservation Committee.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

## **7. Treasurer's report**

This report covers the period 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. The financial activity of the Association remained stable and healthy, and was comparable to previous years (Table 2).

### **a. Income**

In total, our income from subscriptions and book sales amounted to £19,453.49. This comprises £11,250.37 from membership subscriptions paid via standing order, £1,204.90 from book sales paid by cheque, and £6,998.22 from subscriptions and book sales paid for online through our website via the Stripe payment system. The Association continues to receive a significant amount from Wiley as a profit-share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science (JQS)*, which totalled £45,399.00, and royalties from the Publisher's Licensing Society amounted to an additional £894.85. The Royal Society contribution towards the UK's membership of INQUA was £6,257.45, which continues to support the UK as a top-level INQUA contributor. The Treasurer has responsibility for administering a fund from Wiley for the *JQS* Editorial Board, which is ring-fenced for use on *JQS* expenses (honoraria, meeting expenses). The payment for 2017 of £15,000.00 was brought forward into financial year 2016/2017 and so, together with the payment for 2016 of £14,000.00, the total payment from Wiley amounted to £29,000.00. Overall, the Association's working income (subscriptions, book sales, royalties) for financial year 2016/2017 was £65,747.34, and total income was £104,231.65.

### **b. Expenditure**

Day-to-day running costs have decreased from £20,140.81 to £16,055.77, which is primarily due to a reduction in printing and postage costs following the transition to digital distribution of *Quaternary Newsletter*. Our budget to support activities through grants, awards, and sponsorship increased to £32,370.40 from last year's total of £29,082.62. The UK subscription to INQUA for 2016 was £12,920.98. Overall expenditure for 2016/2017 was £80,465.05.

### **c. Year-End Financial Status**

At the end of July 2017, we held:

£89,093.23	in our HSBC Community Account
£40,533.94	in our HSBC Money Manager Account
£82,057.39	in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
£27,501.93	in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account

We started the 2016/2017 financial year with £215,419.89 and ended with £239,186.49. As always, the Treasurer will aim to break-even within the financial year. Ring-fenced budgets within our holdings are around £136,000 (Bill Bishop Award, INQUA fund, Lewis Penny Medal, unexpected liabilities fund). This leaves approximately £103,000 to carry forward into financial year 2017/2018. Projected income for next year is around £107,000 from publisher's royalties (£66,000), *JQS* Editorial Board (£15,000), subscriptions and book sales (£20,000), and Royal Society INQUA support (£6,000). To balance the higher working income derived from the renegotiated Wiley *JQS* contract, and following discussion at the 2017 AGM, the Executive Committee agreed in May 2017 that spending on awards will increase (*see agenda item 8*). In addition, around £10,000 of funding will be made available for new prestige and geoconservation awards. The Treasurer and Awards Officer will continue to monitor the amount of funding set aside for awards. Looking to 2019, the QRA's financial position means that reserves are available to provide important funding opportunities for the upcoming INQUA Congress in Dublin.

#### d. Auditing

The finances have not yet been audited and were submitted to the AGM subject to approval by the external auditor.

**Table 2** Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's account for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Subscriptions	£11,494.46	£12,141.07	£11,250.37
Book sales	£1,648.40	£1,925.00	£1,204.90
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£7,762.98	£9,324.05	£6,998.22
Subs/book sales (PayPal payments)	£2,321.43	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Subs/Book Sales</b>	<b>£23,227.27</b>	<b>£23,410.12</b>	<b>£19,453.49</b>
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£46,213.00	£44,055.00	£45,399.00
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£10,921.22	£2,730.91	£894.85
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£5,037.38	£5,480.00	£6,257.45
Surplus on Meetings	£1,492.75	£2,044.88	£1,809.84
Bank refunds	£0.00	£1,809.80	£1,080.00
Advertising	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
ADM income (Eventbrite)	£30,135.00	£0.00	£0.00
ADM refund	£7,199.85	£0.00	£0.00
Returned awards	£1,800.00	£1,150.00	£0.00
Donations	£317.57	£317.57	£317.57
Interest Received	£28.33	£27.76	£19.45
Transfer (from HSBC bond)	£35,430.17	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>£138,575.27</b>	<b>£59,115.92</b>	<b>£55,778.16</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)</b>	<b>£13,794.40</b>	<b>£14,000.00</b>	<b>£29,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£175,596.94</b>	<b>£96,526.04</b>	<b>£104,231.65</b>
<b>WORKING INCOME</b>	<b>£78,040.06</b>	<b>£70,196.03</b>	<b>£65,747.34</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£3,636.00	£4,760.00	£2,936.00
Newsletter postage	£5,102.28	£6,099.18	£3,055.07
Admin support	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,000.00
Postage & stationery	£0.00	£394.48	£455.34
Executive Committee Costs	£2,140.90	£1,784.39	£2,424.62
Insurance premium	£1,040.33	£1,102.76	£1,184.74
<b>Total Running Expenditure</b>	<b>£17,919.51</b>	<b>£20,140.81</b>	<b>£16,055.77</b>
Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£8,982.32	£6,417.00	£1,553.00
Printing (other)	£26.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Publications Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,008.32</b>	<b>£6,417.00</b>	<b>£1,553.00</b>



<b>JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)</b>			
Editors' honoraria	£12,050.00	£9,000.00	£9,000.00
Exec. INQUA costs	£1,241.77	£0.00	£0.00
Board meeting travel	£1,295.01	£2,040.02	£2,107.84
<b>Total JQS Editorial Board Costs</b>	<b>£14,586.78</b>	<b>£11,040.02</b>	<b>£11,107.84</b>
<b>Grants/Awards/Support</b>			
NRWA	£6,700.00	£10,560.00	£9,711.00
QRF	£7,910.00	£8,805.00	£12,895.00
QCF	£7,230.00	£5,598.50	£5,311.00
PGMA	£393.00	£0.00	£190.00
Outreach Award	£1,500.00	£750.00	£1,750.00
Undergrad dissertation prize	£250.00	£500.00	£250.00
ADM Poster prizes	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£23,650.00	£1,649.12	£0.00
C14 bursaries	£504.00	£0.00	£1,263.40
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£173.54	£220.00	£0.00
Postgraduate Conference	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
Sub-group support	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
<b>Total Grants/Awards/Support</b>	<b>£50,160.54</b>	<b>£29,082.62</b>	<b>£32,370.40</b>
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£23.60	£6.00	£24.00
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£1,256.38	£269.45	£0.00
Meetings expenditure	£3,500.00	£2,554.06	£3,690.96
Catering (meetings)	£3,061.92	£290.40	£962.80
INQUA subscription	£11,170.17	£0.00	£12,920.98
Web Site costs	£3,636.00	£510.00	£660.00
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00
Medals - striking/engraving	£38.40	£36.48	£19.44
ADM costs (venue hire)	£23,466.75	£0.00	£0.00
RGS Archives	£0.00	£0.00	£939.86
<b>Total Other Expenditure</b>	<b>£46,153.22</b>	<b>£3,866.39</b>	<b>£19,218.04</b>
Swets	£175.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bank charges	£139.00	£268.28	£160.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£138,142.37</b>	<b>£70,815.12</b>	<b>£80,465.05</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>£37,454.57</b>	<b>£25,710.92</b>	<b>£23,766.60</b>

## 8. Awards Officer's report

**a. Standard awards.** During the 2016-17 financial year, **£30,840.40** was awarded by the QRA to 47 of its members under its standard awards schemes (Table 3). The Awards reporting period has been revised for the AGM to mirror the financial year (September 2016 to August 2017); there is consequently some repetition from the September 2016 round in Table 3 compared with the report provided at last year's AGM. Some monies have yet to be taken up and some payments were made in the financial year 2017-18; the totals in Table 3 will therefore not tally completely with the monies appearing in the accounts. The full list of successful applicants is given in Table 4.

**Table 3.** Summary of standard awards for the 2016-17 financial year.

Fund	No. of applications		No. funded	Total monies requested (£)	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded <sup>1</sup>
NRWA	Sept '16	2	2	£2,000	£1,700	85
	Jan '17	4	4	£3,993	£3,500	88
	May '17	5	5	£4,741	£4,511	95
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£10,734</b>	<b>£9,711</b>	<b>91</b>
QCF	Sept '16	3	3	£1,500	£1,350	90
	Jan '17	2	2	£978	£928	95
	May '17	6	6	£2,973	£2,273	77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£5,451</b>	<b>£4,551</b>	<b>85</b>
QRF	Sept '16	7	7	£6,884	£6,250	91
	Jan '17	10	8	£9,015	£6,605	73
	May '17	3	3	£2,820	£2,270	81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>£18,719</b>	<b>£15,125</b>	<b>81</b>
Subtotal		42	40	£39,904	£29,137	84
PMA 16-17		1	1	£190	£190	100
Bishop		0	-	-	-	-
Short-course		3	3	-	£1263.40	100
QUB_C14 <sup>2</sup>		3	3	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>£35,094</b>	<b>£30,840.40</b>	<b>88</b>

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

**Discussion.** The Awards Officer noted that the number of applications for the Postgraduate Meetings Award (PMA) remained low. There followed some discussion in which members suggested a variety of potential strategies to improve application rates, including the possibility of adopting a rolling deadline. The Awards Officer assured members that this issue would remain under review and that the opinion of the postgraduate community would be sought via the representatives on the Executive Committee.

**b. Increase in value of awards.** Following discussion at the 2017 AGM, the Executive Committee agreed to raise the value of selected standard awards. The increase in limits for the QCF (from £500 to £750) and the NRWA and QRF (each from £1000 to £1500) is applicable from the September 2017 round onwards and so falls outside the new reporting period. Similarly, the value of the Outreach Award was also increased from £750 to £1000 (also applicable from the September 2017 round onwards). The Treasurer and Awards Officer continue to monitor the amount of money set aside for awards on a round-by-round basis.

### c. New awards.

- A new **Geoconservation Award** has been approved by the Executive and will be available from 2018 onwards. Awards will normally be made up to £1000, although larger requests will be considered. The scheme is open to individuals and organisations to deliver site-based and off-site Quaternary geoconservation, including site clearance, maintenance and recording, conservation through museums, organisation of events and meetings on the theme of Quaternary geoconservation, preparation of material for conservation audits and site selection, and the development and dissemination of guidance and good practice materials on Quaternary geoconservation. There will be two deadlines annually: 1 March and 1 September, although urgent applications will be considered throughout the year. For further details and an application form please contact the Conservation Officer (conservation@qra.org.uk).
- A prestigious **QRA Award** with an upper limit of £5000 has been approved by the Executive to support an outstanding application of scientific excellence for fieldwork expeditions and/or innovative laboratory-based projects. Normally, only one application will be supported during each calendar year. The deadline for applications will be 15 September annually; the successful proposal will be announced at the following AGM. At the discretion of the Awards Panel more than one application may be supported in any calendar year. Further details will be made on the website in the New Year.

**Table 4.** Successful award recipients in 2016-17.

Name	Institution	Title	Awarded (£)
<b>New Researcher Workers Award (NRWA)</b>			
Adam Bermingham	<i>University of Northumbria</i>	Determining the legacy of long-term anthropogenic impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Belize	785
Jerushah Jardine	<i>University of East London</i>	Peat pool pattern change in response to external pressures	800
Ardinel Lovell	<i>University of Newcastle</i>	Determining the controls on glacier change in the Annapurna and Manaslu region of Nepal	900
Julian Martin	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	The influence of ice-dammed palaeolakes in controlling the late Pleistocene to Holocene extent and dynamics of Monte San Lorenzo outlet glaciers in Patagonia	996
Melissa Menderova	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Mammuthus</i> in Europe: early evolution and origin	900
Robyn Pinder	<i>University of Aberystwyth</i>	A new chronology for the Middle Stone Age site of Florisbad, South Africa, using luminescence dating	860
Zoe Roseby	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Reconstructing the deglacial history of Anvers Palaeo-Ice Stream Trough, western Antarctic Peninsula.	900
Juliet Sefton	<i>Durham University</i>	Improved sea-level estimates from mangrove swamp records	910
Anne Stefaniak	<i>Nottingham Trent University</i>	Evaluating the roles of debris supply and ice dynamics in supraglacial lake formation in the Italian Alps	960
Paul Weber	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	Ice marginal processes and retreat dynamics of the plateau icefield Øksfjordjøkelen, northern Norway	900
Stephen Zhang	<i>University of Bristol</i>	<i>Mammuthus</i> in Europe: early evolution and origin	800
<b>Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)</b>			
Benjamin Bell	<i>University of Manchester</i>	SIMGSUG 2017 – (Stable Isotope Mass Spectrometry User Group), Nottingham	273
Clare Boston	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	EGU 2017	500
Martin Brader	<i>Durham University</i>	EGU 2017	450
Julie Durcan	<i>University of Oxford</i>	15th International Conference on Luminescence and Electron Spin Resonance Dating, Cape Town, South Africa.	400

Nicholas Felstead	Swansea University	El Hombre Temprano en America (8 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium "Early Man in America"), Mexico City	450
Geraint Jenkins	University of Aberystwyth	15th International Conference on Luminescence and Electron Spin Resonance Dating, Cape Town, South Africa	400
Angharad Jones	Royal Holloway University of London	SVP 2017 77th Annual Meeting, Calgary, Canada	400
Lauren Shotter	University of Portsmouth	PAGES Open Meeting, Zaragoza, Spain	478
Rachel Smedley	University of Keele	15th International Conference on Luminescence and Electron Spin Resonance Dating, Cape Town, South Africa	400
Aayush Srivastava	University of Oxford	9th International Conference on Geomorphology (9th ICG), New Delhi, India	400
S. Tarlati	Ulster University	AGU Fall Meeting 2016	400
<b>Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)</b>			
Rob Barnett	University of Exeter	Field and laboratory work on marine cores at the University of Quebec	1000
Louise Best	University of Durham	Relative sea-level constraints from isolation basins on the Isle of Skye	700
Marianne Ecker	University of Toronto	Excavation of archaeologically-rich gravels in the Northern Cape Province, South Africa	800
Althea Davies	University of St. Andrews	Herbivore abundance using coprophilous fungal spores	800
Bethan Davies	Royal Holloway, University of London	Timing of a Late Glacial readvance of the Monte San Lorenzo Ice Cap, Patagonia: implications for southern hemisphere mid-latitude palaeoclimate	900
Michelle Farrell	University of Hull	A pilot study of pollen preservation in Ghar Dalam Cave, Malta	800
Steven Gale	University of Sydney	Dating the sediments of Crater Lake Lanoto in Samoa, SW Pacific	790
Darren Jeffers	University of Oxford	Long term trends and extremes in Eastern Mediterranean Cyclones during the Holocene	800
Neil Loader	Swansea University	Assessing the potential of native Scots Pine for isotope-supported dendrochronology	690
Harold Lovell	University of Portsmouth	Using GPR to characterize the 3D architecture and genesis of the Brampton Kame Belt	937
Julian Murton	University of Sussex	High resolution sediment analysis of loess at Pegwell Bay, Kent	900
Stephanie Mills	Plymouth University	Outburst flood magnitude and frequency in Iceland	800
Sayantani Neogi	University of Cambridge	Geoarchaeological research at Mimi Cave, Nagaland, India	800
Eric Portenga	University of Michigan	Erosion response to the arrival of humans and anthropogenic fires in Australia	820
Rick Schulting	University of Oxford	Characterising strontium isotope variation along the Suwanee River, Florida	750
Ellen van Asperen	University of Durham	Identifying grazing impacts in the palaeoecological record	888
Martin van Haardenbroeck	University of Southampton	Application of dual $\delta^{13}\text{C}/\delta^{15}\text{N}$ analysis on plant and animal remains, Lochan nam Fear, Scotland	1000
Rob Westaway	University of Glasgow	Casewick Middle Pleistocene site	950
<b>QRA-14CHRONO Centre Radiocarbon Dating Award</b>			
Amy McGuire	University of Cambridge	Abrupt change in the Quaternary record of north-west Greece	3 dates
Matthew Nichols	University of Southampton	Late Pleistocene variability of Mediterranean Outflow Water: regional to global implications	3 dates
Dael Sassoon	University of Manchester	Land cover change and restoration of ancient woodlands in North Wales	3 dates
<b>Postgraduate Meetings Award (PMA)</b>			
Freya Hosfield	Durham University	QRA Field Meeting: The Quaternary of the Vale of Pickering and environs, Scarborough	190

<b>Radiocarbon Short Course, University of Oxford</b>	
Charlotte Slaymark	<i>University of Glasgow</i>
Juliet Sefton	<i>Durham University</i>
Kristy Holder	<i>Swansea University</i>
<b>James Croll Medal</b> Jan Mangerud ( <i>Bergen</i> )	
<b>Lewis Penny Medal</b> Stephen Livingstone ( <i>Sheffield</i> )	

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

The Awards Officer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

## 9. Publications Secretary's report

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

### a. New and upcoming titles

Three new Field Guides were published during 2017 relating to Field Meetings held during the year: (1) *The Quaternary Landscape History of Teesdale and the North Pennines* (Evans); (2) *The Quaternary of the Vale of Pickering* (Lincoln, Eddey, Matthews, Palmer & Bateman); and (3) *The Quaternary around Nairn and the Inverness Firth* (Merritt, Auton & Phillips). Feedback on all three had been extremely positive. A fourth Field Guide, *The Quaternary of the Yellow River, China* (Bridgland *et al.*), which was produced for the FLAG field meeting in 2017, will be made available for free download as a PDF in the near future. Currently there is one Field Guide in production for August-September 2018: *Glacial Landsystems of SE Iceland: Quaternary Applications* (Evans).

### b. Book sales and stock levels

Book sales were strong during Q1 and Q2 but levelled-off during Q3 and the early part of Q4. The final sales figure for 2017 is 458 volumes, well above average (350) for the past 8 years. Excess book stock (older and non-selling Field Guides) held at Royal Holloway has now been destroyed (recycled). The current book stock held by Val Siviter is *c.* 2,675 volumes (both Field and Technical Guides), which represents a reduction in holdings since 2014 of 31%.

### c. Out of print publications

The QRA holds digital copies of the majority of Field Guides. However, due to ongoing issues surrounding legacy IPR, it has not been possible to make these freely available to members. Upgrading the IPR on these publications is not financially viable. The Publications Secretary continues to assess the extent of the issue and the possibility of removing 'offending figures' from relevant publications before making them digitally available. This will be ongoing through 2018.

### d. Change of Publication Secretary

The outgoing Publications Secretary recorded his thanks for the support and help of numerous individuals on the Executive Committee, especially Val Siviter, Mick Frogley, Richard Waller, Bethan Davies and Clare Boston.

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

## 10. Circular: Member consultation

The role of the Circular has diminished in recent years as an increasing amount of Association business has moved online. Currently, the Circular is prepared three times a year by the Secretary and then distributed in physical format to around 100 members who continue to receive hard-copy QNs. It is also posted online, both as a PDF and as a website blog page, and it is also distributed via the weekly email-shot. All of the information that it carries is already made available to members immediately via email / website routes, meaning that announcements do not have to wait until the Circular is published. The question therefore arises as to whether the Circular is still worth producing.

The Executive has sought the guidance of members on this issue (via the October 2017 Circular, as well as via website blog and email routes) with a view to taking comments to the next (Spring 2018) committee meeting for further discussion. Members at the AGM were also invited to comment.

Discussion. Members expressed a variety of views with regard to how useful the Circular was as a stand-alone document. Many regarded it as unnecessary given the frequency of QRA email alerts. Indeed, an informal show of hands revealed the predominant view that the Circular in its current form had served its purpose. However, some members pointed out that the periodic grouping of important announcements, even when disseminated by email, meant that information was more likely to be read properly rather than being treated as spam. Other members noted that some Association business was more appropriate for inclusion in a Circular-type email than some other information (for example, PhD advertisements). One suggestion was to group Association business emails periodically – perhaps monthly, in a similar fashion to the PAGES news emails – and label that communication as the Circular; other information could be distributed weekly, as at present. The Publicity Officer pointed out that information and announcements were submitted in a piecemeal fashion, meaning that phased dissemination could be difficult (especially as some news items were of an urgent nature). There was also the issue of duplication of effort (information being made available via the web and by email alert) and the time required to administer the entire process.

The President thanked the membership for useful discussion and undertook to bring these comments and concerns to the next Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION: Executive

## 11. Meetings Officer's Programme

The Meetings Officer outlined the programme of meetings currently confirmed for 2018 onwards:

### 2018 Meetings

#### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting**

3–5 January *Data/Model Inter-Comparison in Quaternary Research*

Venue: Plymouth University

Organisers: Stephanie Mills, Caroline Clason, Neil Roberts, Ralph Fyfe, Nicki Whitehouse, Matt Telfer, Anne Mather, Tim Daley and Jessie Woodbridge

Contact: caroline.clason@plymouth.ac.uk

#### **QRA Co-sponsored Meeting**

8–12 January *Paleochronology Building Workshop II*

Venue: Campeche City, Campeche, Mexico

Organisers: Maarten Blaauw, Andrés Christen, Marco Aquino Lopez, Paula Reimer

Contact: maarten.blaauw@qub.ac.uk

### **Joint QRA/GLWG Overseas Field Meeting**

31/8– 8/9      *Glacial landystems of SE Iceland: Quaternary applications*  
Venue:          Reynivellir, SE Iceland  
Organisers:    David JA Evans (Durham)  
Contact:        d.j.a.evans@durham.ac.uk

### **QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

22–24 August  
Venue:          University of Glasgow  
Organisers:    Charlotte Slaymark  
Contact:        c.slaymark.1@research.gla.ac.uk

## **2019 Meetings**

### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting**

January        *Environmental Change: Pace, Magnitude and Impact*  
Venue:          Chester University  
Organisers:    Graham Wilson, Katherine Welsh, Phillip Marren and Amanda Williams  
Contact:        graham.wilson@chester.ac.uk

### **QRA Field Meeting**

April/May      *LGM landscapes and Holocene responses in Anglesey*  
Venue:          Anglesey  
Organisers:    Lynda Yorke, Emrys Philips  
Contact:        l.yorke@bangor.ac.uk

## **2020 Meetings**

### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting**

January        *Quaternary Earth System processes and feedbacks: challenges for society*  
Venue:          University of Leeds  
Organisers:    Karen Bacon, Natasha Barlow, Ruza Ivanovic, Christian Maerz, Paul Morris, Graeme Swindles  
Contact:        n.l.m.barlow@leeds.ac.uk

Discussion. It was noted that the programme of Field Meetings for 2018 and 2019 was currently light; a call for proposals sent out over the summer had not yet yielded any additional offers. The Meetings Officer suggested that the significant effort of organizing a Field Meeting (including the non-trivial task of putting together a Field Guide) may be discouraging members from coming forward. It was stressed that the Association would be happy to consider smaller-scale, one-day events (e.g. short field or discussion meetings) or other events of a ‘non-standard’ format. Members were also encouraged to consider QRA co-sponsorship for meetings that they may be organizing outside the Association: details are available via the QRA website, with two deadlines annually (1 March and 1 September).

Further details about future QRA meetings can be found at: [qra.org.uk/meetings](http://qra.org.uk/meetings)

## **12. Potential joint meetings with a BES Special Interest Group**

Jane Bunting (University of Hull) spoke to this item, seeking support from the QRA for potential future joint meetings with a Palaeoecology Special Interest Group (SIG) within the British Ecological Society (BES). A small group of palaeoecologists within the BES have received permission for a trial year for the SIG, a period in which they need to demonstrate that there is genuine interest from the wider community for such a group. Evidence of this kind would enable the SIG to access the support

of the BES for workshops and small meetings. The 2016 QRA Short Discussion Meeting on palaeoecology (held in Cardiff) had already showed that there was interest among QRA members for palaeoecologically-focused events. The membership agreed that future joint meetings would be relevant to a wide number of QRA members (*see also discussion under agenda item 11*) and was happy to SUPPORT this initiative.

### 13. Award of Prizes and Medals

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2017:

**a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize.** Carole Roberts (UCL) for her dissertation entitled *A multiproxy study investigating ecological responses to acidification in Easedale Tarn, English Lake District, since the early 19th century*.

**b. Lewis Penny Medal.** Stephen Livingstone (University of Sheffield).

**c. James Croll Medal.** Jan Mangerud (University of Bergen).

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

### 13. Election of new Executive Committee members

The following people have been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Nominations were published in the October 2017 Circular. No other nominations were received by the closing date and so the following were duly elected:

*Secretary:* Helen Roe (QUB)

*Meetings:* Becky Briant (Birkbeck)

*Publicity:* Tom Roland (Exeter)

*Publications:* Katherine Selby (York)

*Outreach:* Kimberley Davies (Plymouth)

*Ordinary:* John Hiemstra (Swansea)

### 14. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 17:40.

Minutes taken by Dr Mick Frogley (Secretary)

January 2018