



Quaternary Research Association

# CIRCULAR HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2020

## 1. Quaternary Newsletter

Given the challenging circumstances associated with Covid-19, it has unfortunately not been possible to produce an issue of *QN* this month. We are hoping to produce a bumper issue in November - please do send on any items (articles, reviews, meeting reports etc) to the editor, Sarah Woodroffe ([newsletter@qra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@qra.org.uk)). Thanks.

## 2. QRA Executive Committee Nominations

Three members of the QRA Executive Committee will complete their terms of office in January 2021. The following positions will become vacant: **Meetings Officer**, **Outreach & External Relations Officer** and one **Ordinary Member**.

Nominations for **any** of these posts are invited from members and should reach the Secretary ([secretary@qra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@qra.org.uk)) by **30 August 2020**. Candidate nominations must be supported by two existing members of at least one year's standing. Details of the nominees will be published in the October Circular. If more than one person is nominated for each post a ballot will be arranged.

## 3. Call for Nominations for QRA Medals and Honorary Membership

The QRA sponsors several prizes in recognition of excellence in the field of Quaternary research. The **Lewis Penny Medal** is awarded to a young or new research worker who has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the Quaternary stratigraphy of the British Isles. Our senior award, the **James Croll Medal**, is awarded to a member of the QRA who has not only made an outstanding contribution to the field of Quaternary science, but whose work has also had a significant international impact. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Awards webpage ([qra.org.uk/prizes/](http://qra.org.uk/prizes/)); the deadline is **15 September 2020**.

Nominations for **Honorary Membership** will also be considered by the Executive Committee in the autumn. Honorary Membership of the QRA is bestowed on individuals who have given distinguished and career-long service to Quaternary science and/or effective contributions to the activities and development of the QRA itself, and who are on the cusp of professional retirement or who have recently retired. *Nominations are welcome from any QRA member, though we ask that the nominees are NOT informed that their names have been put forward: we want awards to be a pleasant surprise!* Please make suggestions to the President, Simon Lewis ([president@qra.org.uk](mailto:president@qra.org.uk)), the Secretary, Helen Roe ([secretary@qra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@qra.org.uk)) or the Awards Officer, Kathryn Adamson ([awards@qra.org.uk](mailto:awards@qra.org.uk)). A current list of Honorary Members can be downloaded from the members' area of the QRA website.

## 4. QRA Awards: [qra.org.uk/grants-awards-prizes/](http://qra.org.uk/grants-awards-prizes/)

The next deadline for QRA Awards applications is **15 September 2020**. In this round we welcome applications for the following schemes: **New Research Workers Award (NRWA)**, **Postgraduate Quaternary Conference Fund (PQCF)**, **Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)** and the **Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)**. Eligibility criteria and application procedures are detailed on the Awards webpages. *If you have any queries about the awards please contact the Awards Officer, Kathryn Adamson ([awards@qra.org.uk](mailto:awards@qra.org.uk)).* For details of the QRA's **Geoconservation Award** see Section 7 below.

## 5. QRA Outreach: Undergraduate Dissertation Prize: [qra.org.uk/prizes/](http://qra.org.uk/prizes/)

The QRA, in association with the RGS-IBG, would like to recognise the achievements of undergraduates in Quaternary science by awarding the QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (£250) for a thesis demonstrating flair and originality. This prize is open to any undergraduate enrolled at a British or Irish university; membership of the QRA or RGS-IBG is not a requirement for entry. The submission deadline is **15 September 2020**; further details can be found on the QRA website ([qra.org.uk/prizes/](http://qra.org.uk/prizes/)). The winner will be announced at the AGM in January 2021 and the abstract of their dissertation published in an issue of *Quaternary Newsletter*.

## 6. QRA Outreach Fund: [qra.org.uk/outreach/](http://qra.org.uk/outreach/)

The QRA encourages its members and others to promote and foster engagement between Quaternary Science and a wide and diverse audience. In support, we operate an **Outreach Fund** from which grants of up to £1000 are awarded. Larger requests may also be considered.

***We would particularly welcome applications at the present time that will aid in the delivery of virtual fieldwork or laboratory-based activities (e.g. developing or collating online resources that have the capacity to bring Quaternary science to a broader audience).***

For more details, please contact the Outreach Officer, Kimberley Davies ([outreach@qra.org.uk](mailto:outreach@qra.org.uk)). The next deadline is **1 September 2020**.

## 7. QRA Geoconservation Award: [qra.org.uk/geoconservation/](http://qra.org.uk/geoconservation/)

QRA members and organisations who deliver and promote the conservation of our Quaternary geoheritage are invited to apply for the **QRA Geoconservation Award**. Grants will normally be up to £1000, although larger requests will be considered. Awards are open to individuals and organisations to deliver conservation projects, activities and organise conservation themed events, as well as share good practice on Quaternary geoconservation. Please contact the Conservation Officer, Eleanor Brown ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) for details. The next deadline is **1 Sept 2020**.

## 8. Calendar of QRA Meetings: [qra.org.uk/meetings](http://qra.org.uk/meetings)

Further details of forthcoming meetings are available from the QRA website.

### **Aug 2020 QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

Hosts: University of Chester

Contact: Dale Tromans and organisers ([d.tromans@chester.ac.uk](mailto:d.tromans@chester.ac.uk))

Details: 26–28 August 2020

*This meeting will be hosted online due to Covid-19. Registration is now open - please see QRA website for details.*

### **Jan 2021 QRA ADM 2021 - Landscapes of Change: Past, Present and Future Perspectives**

Hosts: University of Portsmouth

Details: 6-8 January 2021

Contact: Clare Boston and organisers ([QRA2021@port.ac.uk](mailto:QRA2021@port.ac.uk))

*Further details on the format of the meeting will be announced in due course.*

### **Sept 2021\* Nature and Timing of the Deglaciation of the Scottish Highlands**

Location: Fort William, Scotland

Contact: Adrian Palmer ([a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk))

Details: Early September 2021 (final dates TBC)

*\* postponed from September 2020 due to Covid-19.*

If you have any suggestions for meetings, workshops, or other activities - particularly events that can be hosted online, or in compliance with social distancing regulations - please contact the Meetings Officer, Becky Briant ([meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)) or the Secretary, Helen Roe ([secretary@qra.ac.uk](mailto:secretary@qra.ac.uk)) - ***we would be delighted to hear from you!***

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This flier identifies key upcoming activities within the QRA. Further details can be found on the QRA website. For any enquiries regarding QRA activities please consult [qra.org.uk](http://qra.org.uk) or contact the Honorary Secretary: Helen Roe ([secretary@qra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@qra.org.uk)), Geography, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN.