

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 4 June 2014

The President confirmed that the Bye-laws in Section 9 relating to meetings had been observed. Under Paragraph 9.10, non-Fellows could be present but may not vote.

1. APOLOGIES

Noted.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2013

These were agreed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Two scrutineers were appointed for the ballots for Council and Officers, and Fellows were asked to vote for the new Council for 2014/15.

4. BALLOT FOR COUNCIL

The Ballot for Council was declared open.

5. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President said that this was his last Annual General Meeting as President and it was an opportunity to look back at what he had hoped to achieve and to review progress.

A priority was to ensure the continuing health of the 'pipeline' of education and professional development, on which there is a reliance to produce the next generation of geologists, from nurturing the excitement of primary school-aged children and their families through to Chartership and beyond. There has been much activity in these areas but the President highlighted two in particular - the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival which he attended in 2013 and 2014 and the Geoscience Education Academy for secondary school teachers which was held annually at Burlington House with the generous sponsorship of BP.

Another priority was to develop stronger links between the Society and its Regional Groups, and to build on the innovation of these groups. The Schools Geology Challenge and Early Careers Competition both started as Regional Groups initiatives and the national finals of each are now held at Burlington House each year.

The advances the Society has made in supporting the education and training 'pipeline', and its broader outreach and policy work, are rooted in a sound understanding and development of our science, through the Society's innovative conference programme, excellent publications and wonderful library.

The President said he was delighted that during his tenure, the Society has for the first time developed a Science Strategy which was agreed by Council at its meeting in April.

The Society also continued to strengthen and broaden Chartership and its accreditation activities, vital tools for the formation of the next generation of professional geologists. The advances made at home make the Society an increasingly attractive partner for overseas organisations and it continued to play a leading role internationally. A highlight in 2013 for the President was to visit Hong Kong where the Regional Group goes from strength to strength.

The President was delighted to announce an initiative agreed by Council at their April meeting which was the creation of a new status of Associated Society. This will provide a framework for kindred organisations which wish to work with the Society, whether in relation to publishing activities, joint meetings, matters of professional development, education, or communication with policy-makers and the wider public. Initially overseas organisations with which the Society already has a relationship, through Memoranda of Understanding or Mutual Reciprocity Agreements, will be invited to become Associated Societies. Over time, it is hoped this status will be taken up by suitable organisations in a wide range of countries, who may value the opportunity to learn from the experience the Society has built as the world's oldest national geological society.

SECRETARIES' REPORTS

External Relations

Prof Alan Lord, Secretary Foreign & External Affairs, reported on the following topics:

Towards a Science Communications Strategy. A next step for the External Relations committee, working with the new Science & External Relations committee, is to develop a Science Communications Strategy which will build on the Science Strategy.

Geology for Society. Aimed at policy and decision-makers as well as the wider public, 'Geology for Society' outlines the importance of geology to our society. It was well-received, including in Europe where partners in the European Federation of Geologists have agreed to translate it into their language.

Climate Change Statement. This was reviewed and found to be fit for purpose. An addendum was issued to provide an update on recent research.

Launch of ReFINE (Researching Fracking in Europe). The Society gave its support to this initiative, a consortium of university research teams seeking to investigate, from a neutral point of view, the issue of shale gas and oil exploitation using hydrofracturing and its potential risks. The launch event was held at Burlington House in November.

The Society made 18 responses to departmental consultations and parliamentary enquiries, many with collaborators (for example, British Geological Survey, Committee of Heads of University Geoscience Departments,

Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain, British Geotechnical Association). The Society's input, which is only given from a position of knowledge, is taken seriously and has an impact on matters ranging from nuclear waste disposal to NERC governance. Over a number of years the Society has built a reputation as a trusted source of independent authoritative advice, and increasingly government departments and parliamentary committees make direct approaches for assistance. This has led to a constructive relationship with politicians and policy-advisers.

Education. The Schools Affiliate Scheme has nearly 200 member schools. Earth Science Week in October sought to stimulate involvement of other organisations on the theme of 'Geology outside'. The theme for 2014 is 'Our Geoheritage' and it is hoped that an even wider range of national and local groups will get involved. Nearly 700 students attended Careers days held in Edinburgh and at BGS Keyworth. Sponsorship is still being sought for the very successful London lectures but meanwhile these continue with funding by the Society. The Friends of the Geological Society scheme prospered with several events held for members.

The Geoconservation committee, an important element of relations with devolved administrations, was relaunched under the chairmanship of Prof Rob Butler. An exciting project was launched during 2014 to identify and raise awareness of 100 Great Geosites in the UK and Ireland.

International. The Society continued to try to influence international affairs. The International Union of Geological Sciences appointed the New Activities Strategic Implementation Group (NASIC) to take forward their initiative 'Resourcing Future Generations' and this is chaired by Edmund Nickless. There were growing links with Europe by attending meetings and working with the European Federation of Geologists and the European Geosciences Union. The Society supported student development through the organisation, Geology for Global Development. We are grateful to our Corporate Affiliates for their continuing support and in particular Schlumberger for making it possible for the Lyell Collection to be accessed free by approved institutes of higher education in selected lesser developed countries.

Prof Lord acknowledged the help of Nick Rogers and Rob Butler as the chairs of the Education and Geoconservation committees respectively, and Colin Summerhayes for his work on the climate change statement; and the staff, especially Nic Bilham, Sarah Day, Joanna Mears, Judi Lakin and Florence Bullough.

Science

Prof Al Fraser, Secretary Science, said it had been an exciting year and the approval of the Science Strategy, on which he reported at the last AGM, was a major move forward. The aims are to actively promote geosciences; advance understanding of the geosphere; facilitate communication to geologists and non-geologists; and highlight the value of geosciences to society. The Society has always received excellent proposals for meetings but historically has been almost entirely reactive. Council wishes to develop a stronger proactive element to the science programme led by the Science committee and Specialist Groups.

Two 'maps' have been identified:- a *Subject map* based on our Specialist Groups which are grouped into 'families' through which they are now represented on the Science committee; and *Societal Challenges map* based on the main topics addressed in 'Geology for Society' and to be developed through our Science Communications Strategy.

A more focused and strategic role for the Science committee is being developed. A vital part of that role is to build stronger links with and between the Specialist Groups who have a vital part to play in developing the detail of the Science Strategy and delivering it. This interaction has been looked at and each member of the Science committee will be allocated to a group of Specialist Groups to allow better transfer of information.

An innovation is the introduction of 'themed' years, the primary vehicle for delivering the proactive aspect of the Society's science programme. 2015 will be Year of Mud and it is planned that 2016 will be the Year of Water. Themes are intended to be cross-cutting, and to embrace fundamental areas of research as well as economically and societally important applications. Excellent and varied meeting proposals have already been received for the Year of Mud, some of which will undoubtedly result in thematic sets of journal papers or groundbreaking Special Publications as a permanent legacy of the Year. Plans are being developed for outreach and educational activities around the theme of mud.

Professional

Mrs Tricia Henton, Secretary Professional Matters, said there are over 2.4k Chartered Geologists over a growing range of sectors including mineral exploration and some from oil and gas. Contaminated land continues to be a major growth area. There were over 40 applications for the 20+ year validation route, setting a positive example and demonstrating the value of Chartership to their peers and by example to junior colleagues. An agreement was reached with the American Institute of Professional Geologists for mutual recognition of the Chartered Geologist and Certified Professional Geologist titles which will be of benefit to certain of the Fellowship. The designation 'Chartered Scientist' is a valuable alternative title for those whose home institution is the Society but whose work spreads beyond geosciences and 'European Geologist' increases mobility across Europe and more widely.

Almost all UK undergraduate geosciences programmes are now accredited by the Society as are a growing number of MSc programmes. The graduates of accredited programmes are able to apply for Chartership a year earlier than those with unaccredited degrees. Mrs Henton thanked Dr Bill Gaskarth, Chartership Officer, for his work.

A recent innovation is the accreditation of in-house company training schemes. There are now nine and progress is being seen on work started four or five years ago. RPS Energy is the first company from the oil and gas sector to have its training scheme accredited.

Diversity, equality and inclusion are a priority for Council and Mrs Henton has been appointed to act as Diversity Champion, a role in which she will continue when she steps down from Council. The Society, through Edmund Nickless

who sits on their Board, is doing a lot of work with the Science Council which will culminate in a 'charter'.

Mrs Henton said it was her last report as a member of Council and an Officer. It had been a privilege to serve the Society and she thanked present and past Presidents for their support, as well as fellow members of Council and Officers, the staff, particularly Mohammed Jahangir, Fellowship Services Manager, and Stephanie Jones, PA to the Executive Officer, for their support. She thanked Bill Gaskarth for his support and Edmund Nickless for the skill and dedication with which he leads the Society.

Publications

Dr Jonathan Turner, Secretary Publications, said it was another successful year with many highlights but he had selected a few to mention.

Geofacets-GSL Millennium Edition, developed with Elsevier during 2013 and launched on 1 January 2014, enables Fellows to explore for map content within Society publications. It has been very successful and is most pleasing to use.

GeoScienceWorld, the online publications platform established by the Society together with six North American society publishers, approved an eBook project in 2013 which will launch in 2014 with around 700 titles being made available.

In April 2013 the Society implemented a new Open Access publishing policy to comply with Research Councils UK requirements, to remain attractive as a publisher to authors receiving RCUK funding, and to try to anticipate other developments in a rapidly changing landscape. The policy was widely praised for its clarity and fairness and has been emulated.

The past year saw the first fruits of our publishing agreement with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research with the publication of two book volumes:- *Antarctic Palaeoenvironments and Earth-Surface Processes* (SP381) and *Antarctica and Supercontinent Evolution* (SP383).

The Burlington House bookshop was opened in the Library in April and has been a great success. A wide range of Society publications and selected titles from other publishers are available for purchase.

Athens remote access is being taken up by an increasing number of Fellows, and the Library continues to grow the number of journals available through this route. But the facility is being under used and Fellows are encouraged to subscribe. *Nature* has just been added.

A pilot project to digitise our collection of maps of Malawi was successfully completed. Permission was secured from the Republic of Malawi to digitise these holdings for preservation purposes; the 120 map sheets in the collection were scanned with the kind support of the British Geological Survey, and metadata created for each map.

Prof Dan McKenzie generously donated his working papers on Plate Tectonics. A working group was appointed to consider how best to preserve and present this archival material, a project made possible by the kind sponsorship of BP,

BG Group, BHP Billiton and Hess. The archive is being developed to be available on line.

A strategy for the Library for the period 2014 – 2019 was developed during 2013 and approved by Council in 2014.

Dr Turner stepped down from Council today. He wished his successor, Dr Colin North, well. He thanked Neal Marriott and colleagues at the Publishing House and in the Library with whom it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Dr Adam Law, Treasurer, reported on a good year with the achievement of a financial surplus of over £540k. He said this figure may be a little misleading and is in part a product of how the Society is required to show its financial results in the formal annual accounts.

The Publishing surplus continued to be vital to the financial health of the Society and was over £600k despite the risks and challenges. He thanked Neal Marriott, Director of Publishing, Library & Information Services, and his team in Bath and London for their continued efforts.

Donations and legacies distort the underlying position and over £200k of the surplus was the result of donations, notably a legacy from Stephen John Mills and a gift from the Cambridge Arctic Shelf programme in memory of Robert Scott. The Society is very grateful for this generosity and that of many Fellows who leave bequests to the Society. Council regularly reviews the use of gifts and legacies to ensure that they are appropriately recognised and that they are used effectively, for example to support younger people to develop and foster an interest in geology through online educational resources and the provision of small grants to early career researchers. It all helps the Society go the extra mile to support its next generation.

Excluding these bequests the Society's financial performance was similar to 2012. With provision for the maintenance of the fabric of the Grade II* listed London apartments and the Library purchase budget, the Society returned an underlying surplus of around £55k.

Dr Law thanked the staff and also the Fellows who volunteer their time.

Prof Duncan Murchison, former Treasurer of the Society, died in 2013. He was an indefatigable supporter of the Society and took on the role of Treasurer at a very difficult time. He worked tirelessly, but also with great humour, and when he stepped down from the role he handed over a much healthier state of affairs to Prof Andy Fleet. He is remembered with great affection and admiration by all those who worked with him and knew him.

6. COMMENTS FROM FELLOWS

At the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Society with the professional body, Peter Warren wished to thank all those for what had been achieved in bringing the academics and professionals together.

Sheila Peacock, also a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, said they are marking their bicentenary in 2020 by establishing an outreach and engagement fund of £1m to support astronomy and geophysics projects. They are looking for partner groups to deliver the agenda. Edmund Nickless said the Society will be pleased to work with the Royal Astronomical Society and conversations have started.

7. REPORT OF SCRUTINEERS ON THE BALLOT FOR COUNCIL

The President called upon the Scrutineers to read their report on the ballot for Council. Thirty-five votes were cast with no abstentions or spoilt papers. The following Fellows were duly elected to Council:

Mrs Natalyn Ala, Mr Mike Armitage, Dr Nigel Cassidy, Prof Neil Chapman, Dr Angela Coe, Mr Jim Coppard, Mr David Cragg, Mrs Jane Dottridge, Mr Chris Eccles, Dr Marie Edmonds, Prof Al Fraser, Mr David Hopkins, Mr David Jones, Dr Adam Law, Prof Alan Lord, Prof David Manning, Dr Brian Marker OBE, Dr Gary Nichols, Prof David Norbury, Dr Colin North, Mr Keith Seymour, Dr Lucy Slater and Mr Michael Young

The ballot for Officers then took place.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2013 AND APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR 2014

Dr Peter Warren proposed acceptance of the accounts for 2013 and the budget for 2014. Mr Ivan Hodgson seconded the motion, which was passed *nem con*.

9. FELLOWSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015

Following the principles agreed in previous years, Council reviewed the latest estimates of the total costs of Fellowship, and the most recent measures of inflation. These considerations inform rather than dictate the overall percentage increase in fees.

The annual increase in the Consumer Price Index at the end of February 2014 was 1.7%. It was recommended that the fees for 2015 be increased by an average of 1.7% overall on the basis that it is better to make small annual adjustments, given that the subscription income lags behind inflation, rather than risk the possibility of significant future subscription increases to meet the costs of providing Fellowship services.

It was proposed that there should be no increase to the Junior Candidate Fellow and Candidate Fellow fees recognising that they are the future of the Society and we must attract and retain them,

As reported last year, Chartership validation and annual registration fees no longer cover the full cost of providing those services and it was agreed at the Annual General Meeting in 2013 to raise the validation fee incrementally over a

three year period to £85 (2014), £95 (2015) and £100 (2016) and the annual registration fee to £35 (2014), £42 (2015) and £48 (2016).

The following subscriptions for 2015 were agreed *nem con*:

	2015 £
Junior Candidate Fellows	10.00
Candidate Fellows	15.00
Candidate Fellow full course fee	40.00
27 and under	70.00
28-33	130.00
34-59	198.00
34-59 (Overseas)	152.00
60-69	99.00
70+	68.00
Concessions	70.00
Full time postgraduate MSc	28.00
Full time postgraduate PhD	41.00
Joint Fellow supplement	58.00
CGeol supplement	42.00
Chartership validation fee	95.00

10. DEATHS

Fellows received a list read by the President of those Honorary Fellows and Fellows whose deaths had been reported since the last Annual General Meeting. These names are attached at Annex A.

11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

BDO Stoy Hayward was re-appointed as the Society's auditors for the coming year.

12. REPORT OF SCRUTINEERS ON THE BALLOT FOR OFFICERS

The President called upon the Scrutineers to read their report on the ballot for Officers. Thirty-eight votes were cast, with no abstentions or spoilt papers. The following were duly elected:

President	Prof David Manning
Vice Presidents	Mr David Cragg
	Mr David Jones
Treasurer	Dr Adam Law
Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs	Prof Alan Lord
Secretaries	Mrs Natalyn Ala
	Prof Al Fraser
	Dr Colin North

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14. VOTE OF THANKS

David Shilston welcomed David Manning as President. He also welcomed the new members of Council and thanked the continuing members of Council.

He thanked the Officers for the enormous amount of work they do.

He thanked the Committees, Specialist Groups, Regional Groups and Joint Associations for their sterling work during the year. He also thanked the Corporate Affiliates, the sponsors of Society events and the organisations who allowed their staff to participate in the committees and activities of the Society.

He thanked the retiring members of Council for their diligence and hard work during their terms of office. Retiring members of Council were:

Prof Rob Butler
Mrs Tricia Henton
Prof Richard Lisle
Dr Jonathan Turner

(Mr David Shilston also retired from Council)

The President thanked the Executive Secretary for his leadership of the staff and through him conveyed his thanks to all the staff. He was grateful to Ted Nield for his speech-writing services.

(The Annual General Meeting over-ran and there was not an opportunity for Alan Lord, Secretary Foreign & External Affairs – and senior Officer – to thank the outgoing President. Subsequent to the meeting, Prof Lord wrote to David Shilston on behalf of the Society and Council to thank him for his period of service.)

15. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A provisional date for the next Annual General Meeting of 3 June 2015 was agreed.

Richard John **Aldridge**
David Kenneth **Bailey**
John **Baker**
Frederic Gladstone **Bell**
Trevor Terence **Bestow**
John Myles **Bowen**
Gordon **Chambers**
Michael John **Cottrell**
John Peter **Crook**
Eugene Paul **Daly**
John Barry **Dawson**
Philip Simon **Doughty**
Richard Allen **Downing**
Thomas **Fails**
Bryan **Fairfax**
Edward Howel **Francis**
Peter Lovat **Fraser** of Carmyllie
David Alfred **Gray**
David Henry Thomas **Hammonds**
Rosemary Lynn **Hargreaves**
Robert Henry **Hoare**
David Michael **Hobson**
Jonathan David **Holroyd**
Neil Frederick Charles **Hudson**
John Hewett **Hull**
Edward **Irving**
Maurice **Jacque**
Kenneth Alan **Joysey**
Geoffrey Arthur **Kellaway**
Norman **Kitz**
Robert William O'Brien **Knox**
Gaynor Eluned **Leaver**
George Gallie **Leckie**
Betsy Ann **Little**
Gerald Joseph Home **McCall**
George Cowie **McCallum**
James Matthew **Miller**
William Stewart **Moffat**
Duncan **Murchison**
Stanley Lewis **Page**

David Gwyn **Roberts**
Richard John **Robinson**
Geoffrey Robert **Robson**
Howard **Rose**
Adolf **Seilacher**
Dorian Glen Whitney **Smith**
Peter Murray **Spencer**
Arthur Michael Marshall **Spurr**
David Barnard **Thompson**
Alec Francis **Trendall**
Hemmo Jan **Veenstra**
Ewart Albert **Vincent**
Martin Andrew **Whyte**
John Humphrey Armstrong **Willis**
Peter **Ziegler**