

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 6 June 2018**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Noted.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2017**

These were agreed.

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**

Bill Gaskarth and Ted Nield were appointed as the scrutineers for the ballots for Council and Officers.

#### **4. BALLOT FOR COUNCIL**

The ballot for Council was declared open and Fellows were asked to vote for the new Council for 2018/19.

#### **5. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2017**

##### **THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President said 2017 was an interesting and varied year.

The revised ten-year strategy was published early in the year. A three-year rolling business plan was agreed by Council in November 2017 and it is working well as a useful tool which shapes staff work plans and progress is kept under review by the standing committees and Council. In addition, the Secretaries report in turn at each Council meeting.

There was a wide range of conferences held in 2017's Year of Risk. The celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the theory of plate tectonics took place in October, a fantastic three day science meeting accompanied by widespread press coverage.

A personal highlight, and very enjoyable, was a 'Grand Tour' of the Regional Groups, including Hong Kong and Belfast, to deliver the President's annual lecture. Attendance varied from 110 to 15. The Regional and the Specialist Groups are the backbone of what the Society does and it is important to go out to those who are less able to come to Burlington House. There was also an excellent new Fellows event in Manchester.

The Society has a good relationship with University Geoscience UK. The school ambassadors' scheme with STEM Learning was relaunched and is going very well.

The Publishing House had another successful year with a record number of full text downloads from the Lyell Collection (1.2million), which demonstrates how well respected and useful it is.

There were a record number of votes cast for the new Council and the President thanked the nine candidates who stood for election and those who voted.

The President reported on some business plan highlights. The Public Lectures at Burlington House continue to be very well attended and as reported last year these are being taken on the road. The first, delivered by the President, was in Aberdeen in February 2018.

There will be the first Fellowship Survey for about ten years during 2018, and the President urged everyone to take part.

An early career geoscientists network will be launched by the end of 2018.

The Secondary Schools Teachers Academy, an annual event, has been so successful that it is intended to do similar for Primary schools.

A key challenge continues to be the tenure of Burlington House about which the Treasurer will report in more detail.

The Society set out on a path of cultural change around Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in 2014 when it signed up to the Science Council / Royal Academy of Engineering diversity progression framework. The Society has also worked with the American Geosciences Institute to develop guidance on harassment and bullying. We ran a training session for university departments applying for (or renewing) Athena SWAN status which was well received and will be repeated. During 2018 there will be an audit of accessibility to Burlington House.

## **SECRETARIES' REPORTS**

### ***Professional***

John Talbot, Vice President Chartership, reported in place of Katherine Royse who was indisposed due to illness.

Fellowship numbers continued to grow and in July 2017 there were 12,409 Fellows, up 1.0% from July 2016. Events for new Fellows at Burlington House and in Manchester were well received and will be repeated.

The number of Chartered Geologists increased to 2719 in July 2017, up 1.9% from July 2016. There was continuing uptake in a wide range of sectors, including oil and gas.

The Society continued to offer Chartered Scientist (through the Science Council) and admitted by far the largest number of European Geologists of any international association of the European Federation of Geologists.

There was the first Chartership Audit since 2011. The Panel found high standards had been maintained and issues from the last Audit addressed. There is scope to improve communications around diversity and inclusion but there were no instances of discrimination. John Talbot thanked Bill Gaskarth, Chartership Officer, for his support.

The Society accredits 36 company training programmes, 175 undergraduate and 11 MSc degree programmes including some overseas.

### ***External Relations***

Sarah Gordon, Secretary for Foreign & External Affairs, said the Society responded to a wide area of inquiries and policy consultations during 2017. This included a significant response to the Industrial Strategy green paper which covered, amongst other things, the importance and value of mined materials in developing new technologies and the need for UK-wide and regional investment in geoscience skills. Since publication, the Society has continued to engage especially with regard to raw materials, and in the 2018 Year of Resources a wide range of different events are being held to address these challenges.

The Society works closely with University Geoscience UK not only in the area of teaching but also student fees and reinforcing the vital role of fieldwork. It is also vital to carry on planning for the UK's departure from the European Union and the Society has linked into a wide range of issues including workforce mobility and European student fees.

On the global geoscience stage, the Society plays a leading role in the European Federation of Geologists. About 40% of those holding the European Geologist title are from the UK, and the Society continued to play an active part in the governance of the organisation. UK geoscientists are among the largest cohorts attending the annual European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, which this year attracted almost 15,000 attendees, and the Society continued its increasingly active part in convening sessions.

The Society continued to play a leading role in the International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS), the main international body for Earth sciences, in a variety of ways and the UK, in association with the United States and China, holds the most roles.

The Year of Risk provided many opportunities to build relationships with many sectors, for example one of the conferences was held in partnership with the Institute of Risk Management and Imperial College.

2017 was the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the Geoscience Teachers Academy and the 8<sup>th</sup> will be held soon.

The Society's in-house education activities thrived during 2017 with record levels of attendance at the National Schools Geology Challenge and Early Careers Award finals so much so that 2018 will see the separation of these two finals into separate events. This success was possible because of a wide level of partnership including with the Regional Groups.

The annual celebration of the geology of the UK and Ireland, Earth Science Week, took as its theme 'Our Restless Earth' to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of plate tectonic theory. As well as a thriving programme of events on home soil, the week is becoming increasingly international and associated activities were organized in India, the Democratic Republic of Congo and by the Hong Kong regional group – and others.

In addition, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of plate tectonic theory, 2017 saw the launch of the Plate Tectonics Stories Project, a set of online resources. There was also a competition to illustrate the theory in any media with a wide range of entries submitted including a ballet piece. It has proved a great piece of outreach for our science.

The monthly public lectures continue to be a great success and it is very pleasing that they are going out to the regions.

The Society participated in New Scientist Live and will be there again in 2018 in collaboration with the British Geological Survey.

There was an increase in the Society's social media presence and there are now 39,000 Twitter followers (+5,500), there were 12k Facebook 'likes' (+1.4k) and there is now Instagram.

### **Science**

Marie Edmonds, Secretary Science, said the Science Committee is responsible for delivering the Science programme and for the past three years this has been achieved by the use of 'themed' years:- Mud (2015); Water (2016); Risk (2017); Resources (2018); Carbon (2019); Life (2020) ...

The response to this initiative is very pleasing and brings together many people including the Specialist Groups and organisations overseas. It allows a lot of cross cutting science which informs our conference strategy. There is a very exciting programme in 2018 and 2019 will link with the last year of the Carbon Observatory. Conference ideas are welcome for the Year of Carbon and Year of Life.

The William Smith Meeting in 2017 celebrated 50 years of Plate Tectonics. The lecture theatre was full for three days and the event was seen online, including overseas, with an audience of over 600.

The annual meeting of Specialist Group chairs and representatives is now well established and there was an excellent day of discussions, which also gave an opportunity to hear their concerns.

Over the next year or two, the Society will be considering how best to administer its research grants and funds with a view to enhancing how we make the best use of them.

The 2017 Year of Risk was very successful and brought together a wide range of colleagues. Among the conferences held were:

- Managing Risks across the Mining and Oil & Gas lifecycle
- Sharing an Uncertain World: Lessons in managing risk
- Building Resilience in Geohazards
- Ground-related Risk to Transport Infrastructure
- Evolution of Flooding and Flood Risk
- The Future of Contaminated Land Risk Assessment (Janet Watson meeting which focuses on early career geoscientists)

Other conferences were:-

- Sticking together: microbes and their role in forming sediments (Lyell meeting)
- Factory Earth (Fermor meeting)

Marie Edmonds said it was an honour to serve as the Society's Science Secretary. She thanked all the members of the Science Committee and its reporting committees for their contributions and the Specialist Groups. She thanked the staff, in particular Georgina Worrall, Head of Events, and Nic Bilham, Director of Science & Communications, for his service. She wished her successor, Dr Alex Whittaker of Imperial College, every success.

### **Publications**

Colin North, Secretary Publications, said the Society's Publishing House had another successful year which was good not only because of the revenue it brings but also the dissemination of science.

The Lyell Collection is highly regarded around the world and there were over 1.2 million full-text downloads, an increase of 49% on 2016. He commended those who started this pioneering project. The new Lyell Collection website was launched in 2017 on the JCore platform, in collaboration with HighWire, our online hosting partner. This will keep the site fresh and accessible from any device. A lot of hard work goes into these developments, and Colin North thanked all those involved.

Book production was very successful with 25 books published. The Society's publications are considered exemplary in how they are compiled and are highly regarded around the world.

The Society was delighted to join with colleagues from the University of Portsmouth for the EG50 conference, celebrating 50 years both of engineering geology at the university and of our Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology. Eddie Bromhead is stepping down as Chief Scientific Editor and is being succeeded by Jane Dottridge. Colin North thanked them both for their service.

The Library is central to many of the Society's activities and is a fantastic facility. A lot has been happening but perhaps the most significant achievement in 2017 was the launch of the Dan McKenzie Archive website, a key element of the plate tectonic celebrations. Colin North thanked the Library staff for pulling this together.

A lot of other archive work is underway and in 2017 the new online catalogue was launched providing access to the Society's archive collections catalogue and going back over 200 years. The Picture Library was relaunched and now includes a print-on-demand service.

A Library inventory was completed during which over 8,000 volumes were preserved and 3,000 duplicate items withdrawn. It also allowed for the repair of shelving.

Public engagement is very important and the Library is actively engaged in making use of our assets. Events included 'F is for Fake' and 'The Colours of Geology', done with colleagues around the courtyard which is an excellent way of engaging the public. Colin North also commended the interesting displays in the Lower Library.

Colin North said it was a very successful year and he thanked the staff in the Publishing House and the Library.

## **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Graham Goffey said he has been in post for three years. The Society's finances are still in good shape with income and expenditure very much in line with 2016. Income was £5.77m (£5.75m 2016, £5.5m 2015) with expenditure of £5.55m (£5.56m 2016, £5.2m 2015). There was an 'operating' surplus £0.22m (£0.19m 2016).

The Society's two main sources of income are from Fellowship fees and from Publishing. The staff of the Publishing House are doing sterling work which is very much appreciated. There was a lower rate of growth in Fellowship and there is work to be done to see why.

Council sets a target for free reserves and presently this is around 85% of target. The aim is to get it to 100%, however free reserves are in the range set by Council.

A new accounting system is in place but Graham Goffey said he was embarrassed to report that the CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, which has proved more complex than envisaged, is not in place but expected to be in July. The tangible effect on Fellows is the logging of CPD.

Council has talked for a long time about strengthening finances and income streams. There was a piece of work done in 2017, which indicated there is scope to increase philanthropic income and the Society is appointing a Head of Development.

Another study was how to use Burlington House better and an emerging theme was that we need to put more emphasis on using the space more flexibly. Rooms will therefore be equipped with furniture that is more flexible so they can be used more intensively. The use of the building is important with regard to the situation with the lease. The Courtyard societies continue to work together to bring the situation to a conclusion, and in this regard the President hosted a lunch of all the societies which was very positive and there is a commitment to construct a way forward. Graham Goffey asked Fellows, however well intentioned, not to make individual representations with their local Members of Parliament or to make any attempts to lobby.

## **6. GEOSCIENTIST**

In accordance with the new Terms of Reference for *Geoscientist*, Peter Styles, Editor in Chief, gave his report. He said he had stood on the podium of the Lecture Theatre many times but it was his first and last appearance as Editor in Chief of *Geoscientist* because he was stepping down after six years and 65 editions. He had greatly enjoyed his time in the role and thanked the Editorial Board for their keen review of major articles and for covering the gaps. He thanked Ted Nield, who is retiring as Editor after 21 years, for being a stalwart and entertaining colleague. He wished his successor, Amy Whitchurch, and Ted Nield all the best.

The Terms of Reference also require the appointment of the Editor in Chief to be confirmed and accordingly the appointment of Dr Andy Fleet was confirmed. The President thanked Peter Styles and Ted Nield and said he was very pleased to welcome Andy Fleet to the role.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM FELLOWS**

There was a question about the extent of the financial threat to the Courtyard societies of the lease situation. Graham Goffey said there is no immediate or medium term threat and the situation is under active review with the other societies.

Alan Lord said he asked last year about plans to improve IT provision at Burlington House and the Publishing House. Richard Hughes said there has been a lot of progress but there is some way to go. There was a malware attack and although no data were lost it was disruptive and underlined concerns. There was an independent audit of the system following this attack, which included penetration testing to understand vulnerabilities. Some recommendations have already been implemented but there is some way to go with the small number of staff employed in IT. The new Director of Finance & Operations will look at staffing.

The President was asked what is the biggest challenge facing the Society and replied probably encouraging younger Fellows and academics to join. The latter is 15 – 20% which is too low. Work is needed to achieve a better balance.

The Accounts for 2017 were approved by Council on 18 April 2018 and the Budget for 2018 on 22 November 2017. The meeting RECEIVED these two items.

## 8. REPORT OF SCRUTINEERS ON THE BALLOT FOR COUNCIL

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

Mr Thomas Backhouse, Mr Andrew Bloodworth, Mr John Booth, Dr Jason Canning, Ms Lesley Dunlop, Mr Graham Goffey, Dr Sarah Gordon, Prof James Griffiths, Dr Naomi Jordan, Prof Chris King, Dr Robert Larter, Dr Bryne Ngwenya, Dr Colin North, Dr Sheila Peacock, Mr Nicholas Reynolds, Prof Nicholas Rogers, Dr Katherine Royse, Mr Keith Seymour, Miss Jessica Smith, Dr Helen Smyth, Prof Robin Strachan, Mr John Talbot and Dr Alexander Whittaker

The ballot for Officers then took place.

## 9. FELLOWSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019

Since 2015 the annual increase in Fellowship Fees has been set with reference to the prevailing annual rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) when proposals are considered for the following year in March and April. The rate of CPI for January 2018 was 3.0%. Inflation has been rising slowly but steadily since mid 2017 and current economic predictions are for this to continue and that the costs of providing services to Fellows in 2019 will reflect this. It is an established principle that the fee should cover the cost of services provided.

At its meeting on 18 April 2018 Council agreed to recommend to the Fellowship subscription rates for 2019 which equate to an average increase of 3.0% (a maximum increase of £6 on 2018 rates). In addition, it is proposed to amend the Joint Fellowship Supplement, which has previously been a flat rate for the second payer irrespective of membership class, so that a discount of 35% across all classes is applied to both payers instead.

There was a question about the subscription for those with 50+ years membership for which the subscription is waived but was not shown on the list. Nic Bilham said this zero subscription will continue and this will be shown on the list next year.

There was comment that it is a complex structure compared with other organisations. Richard Hughes said the Fellowship survey will inform a review of categories and allow the Society to understand better the relevance of what the Society offers.

Might the Society consider free membership for students? There are also many PhD supervisors who are not Fellows. Malcolm Brown said we do not offer enough to retain their membership and ways of making membership more attractive will be considered with the review of categories.

The following subscriptions for 2019 were AGREED:

	2019	<i>Total members as at June 2018</i>
	£	
Junior Candidate Fellows	10.00	202
Candidate Fellows	15.00	556
27 and under	74.00	1293
28-33	138.00	1323
34-59	210.00	4383
34-59 (Overseas)	161.00	849
60-64 (pre-2016)	105.00	271

60-64 (new)	138.00	500
65-69	105.00	793
70+	72.00	798
Full time postgraduate MSc	30.00	141
Full time postgraduate PhD	43.00	253

## 10. DEATHS

The President read a list 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

The meeting APPROVED the appointment of RSM UK as the Society's Auditors.

## 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-two votes were cast, with no abstentions or spoilt papers. The following were duly elected:

President	Prof Nicholas Rogers
Vice Presidents	Mr John Booth
	Mr Nicholas Reynolds
	Mr Keith Seymour
	Mr John Talbot
Treasurer	Mr Graham Goffey
Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs	Dr Sarah Gordon
Secretaries	Dr Colin North
	Prof Katherine Royse
	Dr Alexander Whittaker

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

## 14. VOTE OF THANKS

The President welcomed Nick Rogers as the 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:

Mr Rick Brassington  
Mr Malcolm Brown

Miss Liv Carroll  
Dr Marie Edmonds  
Mrs Tricia Henton  
Dr Jennifer McKinley  
Prof Christine Peirce

The President thanked the staff for their work and in particular he thanked Nic Bilham for over 20 years' service to the Society and for making a fantastic contribution in various roles. He wished him luck with his PhD.

Nick Rogers thanked Malcolm Brown and said the Society owes him a considerable debt of gratitude. He saw the Society through a critical time and it is now in a much improved position, particularly with the appointment of Richard Hughes with whom Nick Rogers said he is looking forward to working.

#### **15. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The provisional date for the next Annual General Meeting is 6 June 2019.

*Neil Aitkenhead  
Douglas Allenby  
Keith Atkinson  
Simon James Barnes  
Anthony Ian Booth  
Geoffrey Gordon Bowen  
Paul Howard Bridges  
Malcolm Lawrence Brierley  
Michael Brooks  
Douglas Saxon Coombs  
William Vernon Cooper  
Chris Cornford  
Marlan Wayne Downey  
Serge Maurice Lucien Droogmans  
Frederick Weir Dunning  
Anthony Azubuike Elueze  
Charles Henry Emeleus  
Anthony Meredith Evans  
Alfred G Fischer  
Anne Philippa Fuller  
Paul Garrard  
David Robert Gladwell  
Clunie Bryan Gregor  
Anthony Hallam  
John Harrison  
Douglas George Helm  
Derick Leonard Helm  
Edwin James Hesketh  
Malcolm Fletcher Howells  
Leslie Vincent Illing  
Desmond Michael Kelly  
Raymond John Boyd Kenna  
Anthony John Paynter King  
Michael James Laws  
Edward Lynch  
Louis Macchi  
Derek Maishman  
Jeremy Harvey Matthews  
Jonathan McQuilken  
Daniel Francis Merriam  
Anthony Frederic Milward  
Stephen Moorbath  
Michael William Morgans  
Clive Eric John Needham  
Kenneth Davies Nelson  
Kevin John O'Reilly  
Hakuyu Okada  
Eric Arnold Pegg  
Nerys M Rissone  
Colin Shepherd  
Samuel Albert Shingleton  
John Small  
Alan Gilbert Smith  
Howard James Smith  
John Stuart Spring  
Martyn Hugh Thomson*

*Nigel Harvey Trewin  
Gerald J Wasserburg  
Michael John Patterson Welland  
John Brodie Wilson  
David Richard Workman  
Paul Lawrence Younger  
Walter H Ziegler*