

# **Edinburgh Geological Society**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**7.00 pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Online using Zoom**

### **Present**

Tom Challands (Chair) and 91 members

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alison Tymon, Beverly Bergman, Evelyn Davidson and Alison Wright.

### **1. Minutes of AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (re-arranged from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic)**

These can be viewed on the Society's website, and were accepted as a true record.

### **2. Annual Report**

This had been sent to all members and is also available on the Society's website.

### **3. President's Report**

Tom Challands welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that he was proud of our achievements despite all the challenges which covid-19 pandemic had brought. He particularly wanted to thank Graham Leslie for putting together such a good winter lecture programme and to Angus Miller for his behind the work in delivering these.

His report on the past year is contained in the Annual Report for 186<sup>th</sup> Session (2019-20), in which he gave a full review of the Society's activities over the past year, and it is available to view on the Society's website.

There were a number of things he wanted to highlight including;

- Holding 4 field excursions (for limited numbers) in late summer with covid measures in place. Thanks to Ian Kearsley for arranging these and for our leaders, many of whom also delivered

Friday virtual events (which meant more people could experience them). The long weekend excursion took place as usual in September to Ayrshire.

- The Clough Medal was awarded to Prof Kathy Wheeler (University of Edinburgh). The Clough Memorial Award to Dr Stephen Brusatte (University of Edinburgh).
- Grants awarded during the year came to £3,880 covering 5 projects. The Clough & Mykura fieldwork grant totalling £960 were also allocated. A number of these projects were not able to proceed because of covid restrictions. One grant has been deferred and will be taking place shortly.
- The Society allocated £5k to the establishment of SGT which is now flourishing. In addition, we also gave £5k to Lyell Notebooks appeal organised by the University of Edinburgh – which has preserved the books of their archives.
- We put up three new interpretation boards during the year.
- The Scottish Journal of Geology received the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of submissions this year since 2016. A very commendable effort. Fellows who wished to publish their research were encouraged to do so.
- Geoconservation – has suffered a slow year understandably. One thing that we will need is more volunteers to review the status of 200 sites across the region. If you can spare some time, then please contact the LBGC section of our website.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Christian Ranken wished to highlight a few points around the accounts:

- She highlighted some differences in the way that Grants (& Donations) now considered in this report under one heading, this was a suggestion from the Independent Examiner.
- The accounts show a deficit for the year of around £4,253 was mainly due to covid factors.
- Investments were also affected by the pandemic and these stood at £93,980 at the end of reporting year (mainly due to market poor performance and thankfully has now recovered somewhat).
- Total assets (including reserved funds) stood at £124,504 at the end of year, this compares with sum last year of around £139k. It is expected that markets make take a year or two to bounce back fully.
- Our net assets over the longer term are still showing a slight upward trend.

Tom Challands thanked Christian and noted that membership numbers remains strong and rising, which bodes well for the future.

## 5. Election of Council Members

Nominations to Council had been published on the website. None of the posts had more than one nominee so no vote was required and the list of Council members below was accepted unanimously

<b>Position</b>	<b>Elected 2020</b>	<b>Elected 2021</b>
President	Tom Challands	Tom Challands
Vice-President	Emrys Phillips	Emrys Phillips
Vice-President		
Immediate Past President	Robert Gatliff	Robert Gatliff*
Honorary Secretary	Neil Mackenzie	Neil Mackenzie**
Assistant Secretary (Annual Report)	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Richard Buxton	Neil Mackenzie (temp)
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Angus Miller (Acting)	Euan Mitchell
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Excursions Secretary	Ian Kearsley	Ian Kearsley
Assistant Secretary (Excursion Bookings)	David Graham	David Graham
Chair of Promotion and Coordination Group	Robert Gatliff	Robert Gatliff
Assistant Secretary (GeoConservation)	Mike Browne	Mike Browne
Assistant Secretary (Clough Awards)	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Publications)		Patrick Condon
Assistant Lecture Secretary (Fellows Night Coordinator)	Christopher Lofthouse	Christopher Lofthouse
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Archivist	Christine Thompson	Christine Thompson
Ordinary Member	Con Gillen	Con Gillen
Ordinary Member	Daryl Sawyer	Daryl Sawyer
Ordinary Member	Stuart Monro	Rachel Walcott
Ordinary Member	Euan Mitchell	Stuart Monro
Ordinary Member	Rachel Walcott	Angela Mathis
Ordinary Member		
Scientific Editor	Romesh Palamakumbra/Heather Stewart	Romesh Palamakumbra/Heather Stewart
Scientific Editor	Tom Challands	Tom Challands
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathearn)	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathearn)

\* To also be Chair of FPC \*\*To act as Asst Sec (Mins) - temp

The President paid tribute to Richard Buxton (Assistant Mins Secretary) who has stood down after many years in this role. He also thanked Phil Stone for his efforts over many years making Edinburgh Geologist such a robust publication.

## **6. Plans for 2021**

- The excursions programme planned to start slightly later in July and August 2021. The long excursion usually held in May, had been postponed until 2022 (10-16<sup>th</sup> May). The destination remained the Isle of Man.
- The lecture programme would re-start in the autumn but at this stage it was too early to say if the Grant Institute would be available.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Frank Rennie asked if more virtual field trips were planned. Tom handed over to Ian Kearsley who explained that physical events were being planned. We may consider virtual events if the circumstances meant that we cannot hold physical events.

The Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.30 pm and Tom Challands introduced the evening's speaker, Dr Heather Stewart (BGS Edinburgh), who gave us a lecture entitled **"Exploring the Underworld: The geomorphology and sediments of subduction trenches"**.