

Edinburgh Geological Society
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
7pm Wednesday 25th January 2017, Grant Institute

Present

Stuart Monro (Chair) and 36 members as listed in the attached Attendance Sheets

Apologies

Apologies were received from Alison Tymon, Barry Tymon, Bob Morley, Alistair Lings, David Taylor, Bob Gatliff and Mike Browne

Minutes of Previous Meeting 27th January 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record by all present

President's Report

The President welcomed everyone, and reported that when he took over as President a year ago, he found a society that was certainly "on the move" thanks to his predecessor, Christine Thompson. There was in place a Strategic Plan which was both innovative and challenging, and several aspects of that plan have already been implemented. We now have a part-time paid Promotion Secretary in Angus Miller who is actively raising the profile of the Society in several ways including a new Newsletter, and shortly a much-improved website. We have also tried to recognise and reward Environmental Science students in School, and the Society has instigated a prize for the top student in Higher Environmental Science in Scotland. This year there were two joint prize winners: one from Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld and another from Perth High School.

An excellent winter programme of 10 lectures in the 2015-16 session still continues, and has attracted very high attendances. The President paid tribute to the hard work of Graham Leslie and his colleagues and former colleagues in BGS, and the other speakers who contributed to such an excellent programme.

The closure of Murchison House meant that Fellows' Night took place in the new Lyell Centre, the colocation for both BGS and part of Heriot Watt University. We were very grateful to Bob Gatliff and Tom Wagner for showing us around the new facility, and to Beverly Bergman for organising a very successful social event.

The summer excursion programme too was very successful with three Saturday and four Wednesday evening excursions. Thanks were due to all who contributed to this part of the programme, and especially to Anne Burgess who organised the Long Excursion to North Yorkshire and to Christine Thompson who organised the long weekend excursion to Oban.

The Society's publications continue to flow, though some challenges are faced by the editors of the *Scottish Journal of Geology*, caused by the move of authors to more "high impact" journals – more of this can be read in the Annual Report. Some of our most popular publications are the excursion guides which appeal to a wide audience – the *Geology of Eigg* is now out and a reprint has been done of the important *Geological Excursion to the North-West Highlands of Scotland*.

The President paid tribute to Phil Stone, the editor of the *Edinburgh Geologist*, who never fails to produce an edition in which all of us can find articles which are both informative and stimulating. He looked forward to presenting Phil with the Society's Clough Medal later in the year.

The Society continues to support and take an active interest in the work of the Lothian and Borders GeoConservation Group, and the President was delighted to welcome Mike Browne back on Council as Assistant Secretary (GeoConservation).

Christian Ranken has done a sterling job in coming to grips with our various funding strands, and our solid financial position enables us to be more adventurous in stimulating public interest in geology and in the advancement of geological knowledge. Gift Aid is an important addition to our funds and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this if their personal circumstances allow.

The President paid tribute to Beverly Bergman, who is standing down as Secretary after five years of service in that role. She had given great service to the Society during that time, and all members joined with the President in wishing her well and thanking her for her service to the Society.

The President welcomed two new members to Council – Con Gillen and Anastasia Polymeni. He reported that we still struggle to find office-bearers to take on key positions which have a heavy work-load, especially in the roles of Secretary and Excursions Secretary, but we are determined to find ways of sharing these roles so that the commitment is less.

In conclusion the President stated his gratitude for the support of all Council members in the past year, all of whom have contributed to the success of the Society, and he looked forward to building on that in the coming year. He also wanted to acknowledge and thank the Grant Institute and the Lyell Centre for their support in the past year. In particular, he wished to thank the membership who support both the lecture and excursion programmes.

Treasurer's Report

Christian Ranken took members through the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30th September 2016. The Society's activities were maintained at a similar level to that of previous years. The surplus on revenue account was £8,665 compared with a deficit of £1,435 in 2014/15; this included a generous donation to the Restricted Funds of £10,000 from the Estate of the late Alison Mykura. Donations also included £500 from British Biotech and £225 from Dynamic Earth.

The main source of income continues to be membership subscriptions, supplemented by Gift Aid tax refunds although Gift Aid for 2016 had not yet been claimed. Other important sources are sales of the Society's publications which remain fairly steady year on year, and income from the Society's investments which had increased during the year, due in part to a strong rise in world markets, reflected in a rise in the FTSE All Share Index. Income from excursions is used to meet the costs of the excursions.

New major expenditures during the year were £1,194 for storage costs and £976 remuneration to the Promotion Secretary.

A number of Grants were made during the year and included a contribution towards interpretation boards for the Northwest Highland Geopark, the annual contribution toward Rocks for Schools, the PalAlba Group (fieldwork on Skye), the Lochaber Geopark Association, Dynamic Earth, Gairloch High School for six clinometers and our contribution towards the rebuilding of the vandalised Witchcraig Wall.

The Treasurer concluded by summarizing that the Society's finances were healthy.

Report on Promotional Activities

Christine Thompson reported that in 2015 Council had approved a Strategy for EGS for the following five years which would bring about a step change in its public-interest activities. A key component in the implementation of the Strategy was the appointment of a Promotion Secretary who would:

1. Raise the Society's profile;
2. Promote its publications; and
3. Publicise its events and initiatives.

Of eight candidates, Angus Miller was outstanding and was awarded the contract, which was signed in June, 2016. Since then Angus has worked to a programme agreed with the Steering Group, reporting to the SG and Council at regular intervals.

Key achievements/work in progress so far are as follows:

- New on-line membership application process (23 new members since September plus those who printed off and posted the form) and a new membership leaflet.
- Newsletter to replace the billet: 1st had the complete lecture programme and 2nd (due late February 2017) will have the complete excursion programme in good time for members' diaries. Angus Miller was largely responsible for the excursion programme.
- Promotional "stalls" at Craigmillar Castle event (Historic Scotland), Earth Science Teachers' Association Annual Conference and GeoConservation Annual Gathering at BGS Lyell Centre.
- Partnership with Edinburgh International Science Festival to run three coach trips to Siccar Point in April 2017 (volunteers needed).
- Major revitalising of the website with voluntary technical and design input by new member, Gordon Lang. Due to go live in February 2017.
- Meeting of local and national interested parties to discuss future promotion of, and access to, Siccar Point.

Amendment to Laws

Annex A to the laws states:

“Senior Fellows. Ordinary Fellows *of more than one year’s membership* who have attained the age of 60 may opt to become Senior Fellows on giving proof of their age to the Membership secretary. The annual subscription payable by Senior Fellows shall be one half of the ordinary annual subscription, but they shall not be eligible to receive free copies of the Scottish Journal of Geology.”

It was proposed to delete the words in italics (‘of more than one year’s membership’) in order to admit new members of qualifying age direct to Senior Fellowship. This was approved unanimously by the membership.

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.

President	Stuart Monro
Vice-President	Robert Gatliff
Vice-President	Emrys Phillips
Immediate Past President	Christine Thompson
Honorary Secretary (Acting)	Andrew Rushworth
Assistant Secretary (Acting)	Barbara Clark
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Richard Buxton
Treasurer	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Barbara Clark
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie
Excursions Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Secretary (Excursion Bookings)	Alison Tymon
Assistant Secretary (Planning and Finance)	Andrew Rushworth
Assistant Secretary (Geoconservation)	Mike Browne
Assistant Secretary (Clough Awards)	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Publications)	David Stephenson
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron
Librarian/Archivist	<i>Vacant</i>
Scientific Editors	Maarten Krabbendam
	Tom Challands
Ordinary Members	Richard Smith
	Chris Lofthouse
	Con Gillen
	Anastasia Polymeni
	<i>Vacant</i>
	<i>Vacant</i>
Independent Examiner	J. Cordery (Gibson McKerrel Brown)

The President welcomed the new members of Council and members appointed to new office

Any other Business

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 7.35 pm and members then heard a lecture given by the President, **Professor Stuart Monro, entitled “Scotland’s Timelords – Hutton and Beyond”.** .