



The
Geological
Society

Broadening Horizons

Annual Review 2015



Serving Science & Profession

The Society's aims

The Geological Society of London was instituted in 1807 for the purpose of “investigating the mineral structure of the Earth”.

In 2007, Council adopted a 10-year strategy, the principal objectives of which are:

- To be the respected public voice of geosciences in the UK
- To provide lifelong professional support to geoscientists
- To recognise and foster innovation in the geosciences
- To show leadership in the geosciences community nationally and internationally
- To promote geoscience education
- To communicate geoscience research and practice
- To assure high professional standards for the benefit of society.

From January 2015 the Society's Council had, as specific aims for the year, to:

- Implement the Society's new science strategy and science communication plan
- Focus these activities through our Year of Mud
- Develop our careers information resources and schools support
- Develop and promulgate a European edition of 'Geology for Society'
- Work to strengthen the diversity of the geoscience community.

Contents

From the President: Broadening horizons	4
Council membership	4
From the Executive Secretary: A changing Society	5
Enhancing knowledge and understanding	6
Geology at home and abroad	8
New audiences	10
Serving science and profession	12
From the Treasurer: Securing our future	13
Society finances 2015	14
Corporate Affiliates – Acknowledgements	15

Broadening horizons

From the President



Back in January 2015, I stood at a lectern in the Geological Society's Lecture Theatre and launched the first of our themed years – the Year of Mud.

As I said in that talk, mud represents both an end and a beginning – the end of the cycle of erosion and transport, and the beginning of new materials, of value to society.

In many ways, 2015 has been a year of endings and beginnings. In October, we welcomed a new Executive Secretary, Sarah Fray, and bid farewell to Edmund Nickless, who has been at the helm for the past 18 years. On behalf of the whole Society, I would like to thank Edmund for all he has done for us, and to welcome Sarah.

Our public lecture series is now in its tenth year, and in that time our audience has expanded – from one evening lecture per month, to a talk repeated to an afternoon crowd, recorded for a YouTube audience, and streamed live for anyone who wants to join in online.

The first of our themed years, too, has reached a broader audience than we could have anticipated. It began with an editorial in *Nature*, and an interview with BBC World Service's *Science in Action* – firm, familiar ground for a learned society such as ours. It closed, almost exactly a year later, featuring as the lead in an article by Anna Pavord in the *Independent's* gardening section. What better evidence that geology underpins our lives in unexpected, fundamental ways?

Our horizons have broadened geographically, as well. In the Geological Society's early days, a suggested move to South Kensington was considered radically adventurous. Communication was limited to our nearest neighbours, and members were almost exclusively London based.

Now, of course, we have members across the world, and are always striving to form links with international bodies. For me personally, the Year of Mud stretched all the way to Kuala Lumpur, where in January this year I was fortunate enough to be involved with 'Mud – the musical' – a production in the National Theatre drawing on Kuala Lumpur's mining history, early economic activity and extractive industry.

Our report 'Geology for Society' is now published in 14 languages, and was launched at the European Parliament in June 2015. Our Arthur Holmes meeting, one of the mainstays of the Society's meetings calendar, was run jointly with the Geological Society of Japan, closing with a reception at the Japanese Embassy.

It has been an enormous pleasure to work with the Society, its Fellowship, staff and supporters, to work towards our shared goals. Horizons, of course, are never reached – there is always new territory to explore. In handing over to my successor as President, Malcolm Brown, I wish him the best of luck on his own journey.



David Manning

Council membership

President: Prof David Manning

Vice Presidents: Mr Chris Eccles; Mr David Jones

Secretaries: Mrs Natalyn Ala; Dr Marie Edmonds; Dr Colin North

Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs: Mr Michael Young

Treasurer: Mr Graham Goffey

Mrs Natalyn Ala^{1,3,4}; ~Dr Mike Armitage^{1,2}; *Mr Rick Brassington⁴; *Mr Malcolm Brown¹ (*President designate*); *Miss Liv Carroll^{2,4}; Dr Nigel Cassidy⁶; ~Prof Neil Chapman^{1,6}; Dr Angela Coe^{5,6}; Mr Jim Coppard⁴; ~Mr David Cragg^{1,4}; Mrs Jane Dottridge⁵; Mr Chris Eccles^{1,4}; Dr Marie Edmonds^{1,2,6}; ~Prof Al Fraser^{1,3,6}; *Mr Graham Goffey^{1,3}; *Mrs Tricia Henton²; Mr David Hopkins⁴; Mr David Jones^{1,4}; ~Dr Adam Law^{1,3}; ~Prof Alan Lord^{1,2,3}; *Dr Jennifer McKinley⁵; Prof David Manning¹; ~Dr Brian Marker OBE⁵; ~Dr Gary Nichols⁵; Prof David Norbury²; Dr Colin North^{1,3,5}; *Prof Christine Peirce^{1,6}; *Dr Katherine Royse⁴; Mr Keith Seymour⁴; Dr Lucy Slater⁶; Mr Michael Young^{1,2,6}

* New Council members elected at the AGM on 3 June 2015

~ Council members who retired at the AGM on 3 June 2015

Standing Committee Membership

¹ Elections; ² External Relations; ³ Finance and Planning;

⁴ Professional; ⁵ Publications & Information; ⁶ Science.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are elected by the Fellowship in the Annual General Meeting by ballot of Fellows present on a list of candidates. New trustees are annually invited to an induction day in order to obtain an understanding of the Society's affairs and what tasks they will undertake as a member of Council. They also receive written guidance on their responsibilities as trustees.

Audit Committee

Reporting directly to Council: Dr Adam Law, Mr Chris Bulley, Mr Roger Dunshea, Mr Doug Fenwick (Chair), Mr Nick Hardy, Prof John Mather, Dr Tim Palmer.

A changing Society

From the Executive Secretary



I joined the Geological Society on the 1st October 2015, and found an organisation full of energy and commitment to the promotion of our science. This determination stands as a tribute to the leadership of Edmund Nickless, who retired after eighteen years as Executive Secretary. The changes he brought about are the foundation on which we will build, as the Society continues to evolve over the coming years. We wish Edmund a wonderful and well earned retirement.

Since its foundation over two centuries ago, the Society has changed and grown fundamentally. We are in a period of change – economically, in the public perception of science and technology, of individual and corporate accountability, educationally and in scientific thinking. The Society needs to keep up with these changes, to stay relevant to its Fellows and wider stakeholders, and to remain dynamic, influential and sustainable into the long term.

The Society is a people and knowledge ‘business.’ It is built upon the synergies brought about by a passionate and committed Fellowship; by staff who are engaged in finding efficient and effective outcomes to all we do; and, increasingly importantly, through interaction with a broad range of stakeholders across an international landscape.

Geology is fundamental to every person’s life, every day across the planet – as the theme of our 2014 review stated, ‘Geology Matters’. This year’s theme, ‘Broadening Horizons’, builds upon this, reflecting the changes that have occurred throughout the year and recognising that they will continue. This allows me to both look back to 2015, and to herald some of our upcoming 2016 initiatives.

2015 was the Society’s ‘Year of Mud’. This year long science theme delivered many conferences and 105 scientific meetings, resulting in growing attention and recognition in both traditional and social media. Our influence continued to grow through policy engagement and education work, and our Fellowship increased to just under 12,000. Our Publishing House maintained its leading position in the world of academic publishing, competing successfully against major international publishers. These are just a few examples of the achievements that mark a dynamic, progressive and ambitious Society.

The Society’s first ten year strategy, formulated in 2006, is now coming to a close. A key objective for the year ahead will be to create a new strategy, reflecting not only the science and Society of today, but anticipating that of 2027 – setting our ambitions and direction of travel across the decade, and informing its successors when the time comes.

The new strategy will be a collective activity, and we will be looking to consult with Fellows and others to bring together a strong, ambitious vision.

To broaden our horizons we must engage with increasing effectiveness not only our current Fellows, friends and associates, but many other potential partners and stakeholders. Fundamental to this will be the use of quality data. To this end, 2016 will see the installation of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which will integrate existing systems and data, with all the benefits that brings. Throughout, we will continue to work with our staff to deliver a broader, more ambitious and effective organisation that supports Fellows, the science, and widening public interest.

Finally, all at the Society recognise the current real financial pain within the petroleum/gas sector and extractive industries. Whilst we will continue to keep careful watch on our own revenues during the coming year, we will also keep in mind the many Fellows and geoscientists affected by the severity of this downturn. Maintaining and increasing engagement with the Society, which enables individuals to retain and build personal networks whilst reinforcing skills and knowledge, can be invaluable in such times.

I look forward with relish to the many exciting opportunities and challenges that 2016 will bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Fray'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sarah Fray

Enhancing knowledge and understanding

The Geological Society is committed to disseminating high-quality research to the professional geoscience community, through its meetings, publications and library.

Professor Yasufumi Iryu (President of the Geological Society of Japan) and other delegates at the Arthur Holmes Meeting on Tsunami Hazards and Risks.



For the first time, we identified a scientific theme to run throughout 2015, which we designated our Year of Mud. This prompted proposals for several innovative conferences, meaning that the Year of Mud provided a strong focus for our meetings programme, as well as for many of our wider outreach and education activities.

Mud-related conferences included the Lyell Meeting, our flagship palaeontological event held jointly with other partner organisations in the Joint Committee for Palaeontology, under the title 'Mud, Glorious Mud, and why it is important for the fossil record'. Among others, there was also a conference on the Geology of Geomechanics, a second Shale UK conference, and a wide range of meetings held by Specialist Groups.

During 2015, we also held two William Smith conferences, on the past and future of geological mapping, to mark the 200th anniversary of Smith's map of England and Wales. (See page 10 for details of other events celebrating this milestone.) And in September, the Arthur Holmes meeting was our second joint event with the Geological Society of Japan, on 'Tsunami Hazards and Risks: Using the Geological Record'. A field excursion to Shetland was followed by a day of cutting-edge research presentations at Burlington House, and the event concluded with a reception at the Japanese Embassy hosted by the Ambassador.

Another highlight was the 8th Petroleum Geology of Northwest Europe Conference (PGC), organised jointly with the Energy Institute and the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain. First held in 1974, the latest in this seminal series of



Dr Tom Sharpe explains the 1815 William Smith map to library visitors, as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations.

conferences was scientifically successful and well-attended, demonstrating a continuing appetite to hear about cutting-edge petroleum geoscience research and its application from across industry and academia.

Library services continued to develop during the year, with the introduction of a new e-book collection in March, which has proved popular with Fellows. The collection of e-journals available free to Fellows now stands at over 100. We also took a major step towards digitising our extensive map collection, with the scanning and XML tagging of our African collection of over 3000 sheets. This will help to preserve and secure the valuable information inherent in these maps (many of which are rare) for future generations. Much of the year was taken up with development of a new library catalogue, which launched early in 2016 and is now available online with greatly improved functionality.

Our publishing activities once again thrived in 2015. The Society's journals are now available online in over 1000 institutions worldwide, through the Lyell Collection and GeoScienceWorld. The number of full-text article downloads from the Lyell Collection grew by a remarkable 31% compared with the 2014 figure, to 862,000. The continued financial and scientific success of our publishing operations, in what are challenging times for all but the biggest publishers, results from a great deal of hard work by all our authors, editors and reviewers, as well as the staff of the Publishing House. Not only is the Society represented at a wide range of conferences and other events at which we promote all aspects of our activities – we also continue to innovate with new products and services, and to improve our systems.

In 2015, we adopted a new publication data policy. This promotes the open accessibility, discoverability and preservation of geoscience data, in order to benefit researchers and the public, thereby playing a leading role in setting best practice and complying with the emerging requirements of research funders. Delivering on this new policy, the Society launched its Figshare portal in January 2016, allowing supplementary data to our publications to be accessed and cited more easily, free from restrictions on size and format, and providing authors with usage statistics for their data. The Society encourages authors to submit their full datasets as part of their supplementary material, ensuring open access to these data for other researchers and the wider public.

We introduced a new type of short review paper in the Journal of the Geological Society – the 'Review Focus'. Two of these papers were published in 2015, and these have been well used. We also put in place systems to allow us to bring together and publish thematic 'custom collections' of papers from across our books and journals, and make them available online quickly and easily. A custom collection to mark the Year of Mud brought together significant papers from across a range of relevant specialisms. We were able to respond rapidly following the devastating earthquake in Nepal to bring together relevant research from our publications and to make it freely available to download.

A major project is now underway to replace our online manuscript submission system. This is being progressively rolled out across our journals and book series. Once implemented, it will greatly improve the working experience of our editors, authors and reviewers.

8028
library and archive
enquiries

3206
visitors to the library

862,000
full-text downloads
from the Lyell
Collection in 2015, up
31% on 2014

Geology at home and abroad

Our aim is to raise awareness of policy-related geoscience within the UK Government, and through our work with national and international organisations in the EU and worldwide.

The launch of the European version of Geology for Society at the EU Parliament in Brussels.



Following the launch of Geology for Society in 2014, a European version of the report has been published and translated into 13 European languages. A collaborative effort with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and its national associations, the report was launched in Brussels at the European Parliament on 2 June 2015.

One of the Society's aims over recent years has been to nurture and develop communication with parliamentarians and policymakers both in the UK and EU. Having made considerable strides in our relationships with the UK Parliament, we are now looking to improve these in the EU and internationally. As reported last year, we have been working with our colleagues at EFG to produce Geology for Society in 14 languages in all, as well as updating the text to reflect geoscience related issues across Europe. The full range can be found on our website: (www.geolsoc.org.uk/geology-for-society) .

The report's launch at the European Parliament in Brussels was attended by

representatives of the European Commission's Directorates General of Energy, Environment, Internal Market and Research & Innovation, in addition to representatives of EFG national associations. It is now being used by our European partners in discussion with policy and decision makers in their respective countries.

The Society seeks, where possible, to work with colleagues in organisations both in the UK and overseas. We continue to work to strengthen these partnerships through our Associated Society programme, with the International Association for Promoting Geoethics the most recent organisation to acquire Associated Society status. In the international sphere, we have been working with regular collaborators such as EFG, the American Geosciences Institute and the Geological Society of America. Last year the International Union of Geological Sciences published a report on 'Resourcing Future Generations' resulting from a workshop in Namibia. The Society played a leading role in producing the report and will continue to promote it through our own activities.

2015 was a busy year for submissions to parliamentary inquiries and consultations, particularly in the context of the UK General Election and the subsequent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). As members of the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) and the Science Council, we worked closely with both during the run up to the General Election and the subsequent CSR to raise awareness of the importance and value of science research spending and departmental research budgets.

14
languages for our
'Geology for Society'
report

£4.7
billion real terms cash
settlement for science
spending to 2020

18
responses to policy
consultations



Early career scientists and researchers quiz key political figures at the Royal Society of Biology's Voice of the Future event. Image courtesy of the Royal Society of Biology.

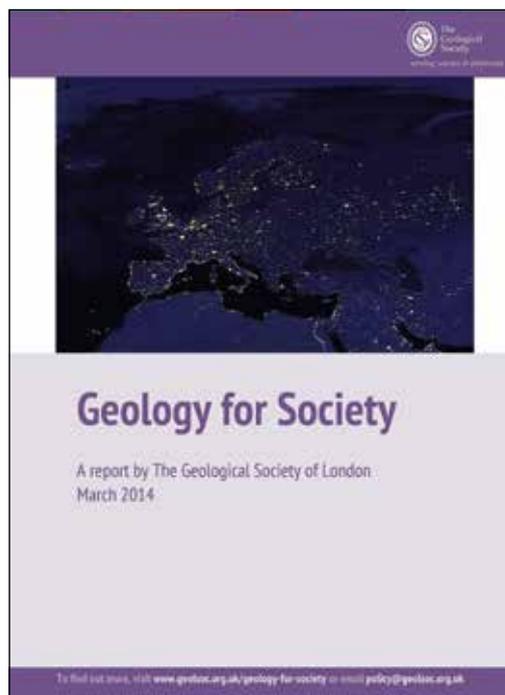
Following the CSR, the science community were pleased to learn that the Government has committed to protecting the £4.7 billion science budget in real terms up to the end of parliament. It is through our own policy work and through working with other organisations that we strengthen the voice of the science community to policy and decision makers.

In March, we sent several representatives to the Royal Society of Biology's annual Voice of the Future event at Parliament – an opportunity for early career scientists and researchers to quiz key political figures about the science policy issues that matter to them.

As part of our ongoing work to support diversity, equality and inclusion in our activities, we hosted a meeting in June on 'Confronting barriers to inclusion – Opening the gate to accessible fieldwork'. This topic is of particular pertinence to the geological community because of the importance of fieldwork in our subject, and the meeting explored the issues surrounding making fieldwork accessible to learners with a diverse range of abilities. We also responded to the government's consultation on 'Disabled students in higher education: funding proposals', raising many of the points put forward at the meeting about the particular requirements of the geosciences.

As reported in last year's Annual Review, the Society is continuing to support the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for radioactive waste. In 2015, at the request of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, we established an independent review panel to review and evaluate the draft guidance for the national geological screening process to be carried out by Radioactive Waste Management Ltd. This will inform the process of identifying a volunteer host community and suitable site or sites for a GDF.

Other priority areas for our policy work in 2015 included the impact of changes in immigration policy and the upcoming EU referendum on skills and research in the UK, as well as responding to the government's plans for changes to quality assessment of teaching in Higher Education. Much of the latter work has been done in collaboration with our partners in University Geoscience UK. Additionally, we responded to a number of inquiries on energy and climate change policy, particularly on priorities for the next Parliament and the withdrawal of funding for the Carbon Capture and Storage competition – all likely to be prevalent themes in 2016 and beyond.



Geology for Society – now available in 14 languages.

New audiences

2015 has been a year of reaching new audiences – both in person and through our ever expanding social media networks.

Honorary Fellow Sir David Attenborough with the newly found William Smith map, and its discoverer, former Archives Assistant Vicky Woodcock.



35,000
Facebook 'likes' and
Twitter followers

119
entries to the 100
Great Geosites photo
competition

9
public London
Lectures

With dramatic landscapes, appealing holiday destinations and visual stories, geology is well placed to appeal to a broad audience. But 2015 has also been a year of celebrating the history of our science, and the stories of those who contribute to it.

2015 marked the 200th anniversary of a much visited object at Burlington House – William Smith's geological map of England and Wales. Of course, ours is not the only copy of Smith's masterpiece – the few that survive are spread far and wide, and we partnered with organisations across the country to celebrate the bicentenary of the first geological map of a nation.

In London, the anniversary year was marked by our History of Geology Group with the unveiling of a plaque at Smith's former residence, 15 Buckingham Street, by Honorary Fellow Sir David Attenborough. Sir David later joined us at the Society for a reception to mark the start of the celebrations.

2015 also saw the news of a recently discovered early edition of the map from our archives. Reported widely in the media, the map, with its perfectly preserved vivid colours, formed the centrepiece for several events at the Society throughout 2015. These included 'The Geologists' House', organised by the Society's Library, introducing visitors to our unique William

Smith collections. Other outreach events held in the Library during the year included 'First Geologist on the Moon' – beaming in Honorary Fellow and Apollo astronaut Harrison Schmitt in a screening of his 1973 lecture at the Society – and 'Delineation of the Stratification of Rocks' – a tutorial on geological sections led by Ted Nield.

Events like this, alongside our ever popular series of monthly lectures – now in their tenth year – bring new audiences to the Society. What was in Smith's day an exclusive club has become a place where any interested member of the public can find out more about geology and its history. It is an audience we hope will continue to grow – an aspiration shared by our neighbours at Burlington House, with whom we have increasingly collaborated throughout 2015.

As well as our annual participation in Open House London – which saw a record 1,384 visitors during a busy Saturday in September – all five Societies took part in a series of tours in association with the Royal Academy's Joseph Cornell exhibition, leading visitors through our archives and collections. An artist fascinated with travel, Cornell and his interest in science was the perfect theme to bring together the six organisations, and we look forward to future collaborations.

Of course, our outreach activities extend far beyond Burlington House. Earth Science Week, an annual celebration of the geology around us, is growing each year, with over 50 events in the UK and Ireland in October 2015. Organised by the American Geosciences Institute in the USA, we have been coordinating the week in the UK & Ireland since 2011. Events ranged from school workshops run by Durham Cathedral, to an open day at National Museum Wales, to georambles and talks organised by the North West Highlands Geopark – it's wonderful to see so many organisations taking part.

During Earth Science Week, our Lower Library was festooned with images from our 100 Great Geosites photographic competition. The results were used to create the Society's first ever calendar, as well as continuing to promote the list of 100 Geosites, launched in 2014. Followers of that project may have already downloaded the mobile app, launched in August. Created by developers Esri UK, the app allows users to carry information about the location and geology of the sites with them, and we hope it will continue to encourage interest in the geology around us in the UK and Ireland.



Education Officer Judi Lakin, and volunteer Fellow Hazel Gibson, delivering workshops to school groups at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival.

Our online audience continues to grow – from the enthusiastic and ever creative participants of the Great Geobakeoff, to our twenty five thousand twitter followers. Media coverage of our journal papers is also growing – the Scottish Journal of Geology's news of a new species of Ichthyosaur discovered in Scotland, and a 'dinosaur disco' in Skye, were particular hits in 2015.

Our Education Department ran a record number of events in 2015 – from workshops for 140 school children at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival in May, to a Sixth Form workshop on the Anthropocene for Earth Science Week, in a Lower Library adorned with a 'washing line of geological time'. Along the way, the finals of the National Schools Geology Challenge and Early Careers competition were held at Burlington House, with a record number of schools in attendance.

2015 saw the launch of 'University Geoscience UK' (formerly CHUGD), bringing together the heads of university geoscience departments. A Joint Higher Education Committee, made up of Geological Society and University Geoscience UK representatives, has also been established. Reform of GCSE, AS and A level continued in 2015, and there was great rejoicing that GCSE and A level qualifications in Geology will remain available for students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – the result of much hard work by the Society, our colleagues at ESTA, the WJEC and OCR exam boards and others.

Serving science and profession

The Geological Society provides support to its Fellows and the wider professional geoscience community, for the public benefit.



Sarah Caven, winner of the 2015 Early Career Award, representing the Northern Ireland Regional Group.

In 2015, we marked 25 years of awarding the title of Chartered Geologist. Since 1990, when the Geological Society took on many of the activities of the former Institution of Geologists, an initial cohort of 608 Chartered Geologists has grown to over 2500.

The appeal of Chartership continues to widen, with increasing numbers of applicants from a variety of employment sectors. The title is now widely recognised and respected in the UK and in other countries. Its success was celebrated at an event in September, attended by many of those who were involved with establishing and developing the title. A series of articles on the importance of Chartership in different geoscience sectors also appeared in *Geoscientist*.

Another legacy of the Institution of Geologists is our Regional Group structure. The Regional Groups play a vital role in providing support to professional geoscientists, including those aiming for Chartership, as well as hosting vibrant programmes of talks and other events. The regional schools competitions and early career awards, culminating in national finals at Burlington House, continue to thrive. Together with many of our Specialist Groups, the Regional Groups also played an active role in the Year of Mud, not least through public engagement activities.

Our commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion in the geosciences is driven by both head and heart. Not only is making our science accessible to all the right thing to do, it is also essential if we are to maximise the pool of skilled and talented geoscientists who will meet society's future needs. In 2015, we invited our Fellows for the first time, on an optional basis, to provide information to allow

us to monitor the diversity of our membership in terms of gender identity, disability, ethnic identity, sexual orientation and religion. We recognise that sharing such information can be a sensitive matter, and it is treated in the strictest confidence. We are very grateful that 1700 Fellows have responded to our request at the time of writing – this will be of great value in ensuring that our services are accessible to all, and that we identify any actual or perceived barriers to inclusion.

Among other initiatives relating to diversity in geoscience, the Society signed up to two consensus statements of the American Geosciences Institute, of which we are a member organisation – one on inclusion of those living with disabilities, and another on ethical conduct.

We greatly value our links with academia and a wide range of industries which depend on geoscience. We have continued to build these links in 2015, through closer partnership with University Geoscience UK, and by working with our Corporate Affiliates (listed on page 15), the City of London Geoscience Forum, and all those companies who have sponsored Geological Society events and activities during the year. We are most grateful to all our supporters.

11,991
Fellows in mid-2015

2592
Chartered Geologists
in mid-2015

25
years of the CGeol
title



CGeol lapel pin,
available to all
Chartered Geologists.

Securing our future

From the Treasurer



From a financial perspective, a 2015 net income surplus of £235k was significantly below the 2014 outturn of £694k, despite increased Fellowship numbers and income from the Society's Publishing House. The Conference Office maintained a high level of activity, with thousands of geoscientists attending conferences and events throughout the year, whilst the London Lecture series and events such as 'The Geologists' House' continued a theme of broadening outreach to a wider public.

However, the depressed natural resources industries and weakening stock markets meant a substantial reduction in income from the Society's investments and from events such as those run by the Petroleum Group (-50%) and the Corporate Affiliates programme (-20%). Whilst the Publishing House's print sales declined as expected, earlier investment in online platforms continued to deliver tangible results. Use of the Lyell platform increased and 2015 saw the first income from a new online initiative, the GeoScienceWorld Ebooks. The Society's scientific publishing activities under Neal Marriot and his dedicated team do a fantastic job in disseminating geological science to a global audience, and continued investment by the Society in the Publishing House is critical to maintaining its leading publishing position.

Revised accounting practices during 2015 allowed the Society to amend the accounting treatment of its so-called 'heritage' assets – primarily its holdings of books and periodicals, which were valued at £14,782k in 2014. The revised balance sheet value in this category is £1,003k and the removal of these illiquid and difficult-to-value assets has allowed a much clearer picture of the Society's financial position.

In recent years, it has become apparent that certain of the Society's information technology systems are no longer fit for purpose; in particular the accounting and Fellowship services systems. The Society has commenced a substantial investment programme to renew and upgrade these systems in order to improve the service to Fellows and to allow more effective working by Society staff.

Fellows will be aware that the facilities within Burlington House underpin the Society's activities of education, outreach and dissemination of science. My predecessor

advised last year that the Burlington House lease was under renegotiation. Owing to irresolvable differences between the 'Courtyard Societies' (including the Geological Society) and the landlord, a formal arbitration was subsequently commenced regarding aspects of the lease. As I write, the conclusion to this arbitration is awaited. The outcome is uncertain and, without doubt, some of the possible outcomes may threaten the Society's medium-term tenure of these apartments. This is a matter which will be of no little concern to Fellows and to which the Council of the Society is devoting considerable attention as it develops its strategy for the next 10 years.

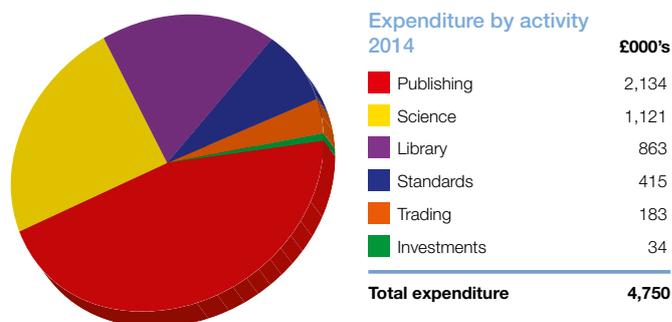
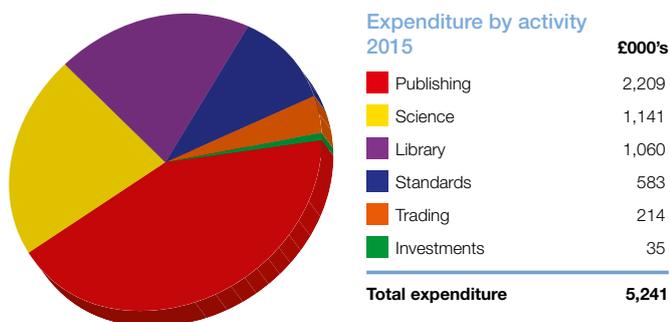
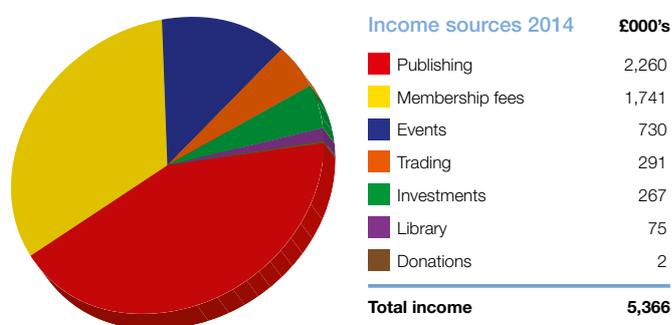
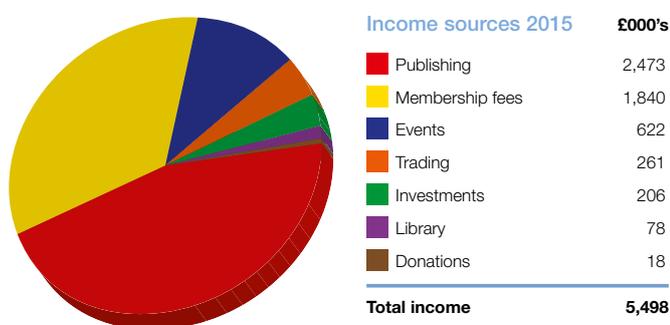
The Society has an ambitious programme of scientific engagement, outreach, research and education which is funded through surplus income generated by the activities mentioned above. The continued ability of the Society to generate surplus income also allows Council to continue to limit increases in Fellowship fees. However, Fellows should be aware that this year's outturn underlines the extent of the Society's reliance on the natural resources industries and on the Publishing House's ability to generate surplus income, whilst developments in the online publishing world demand continued investment by the Society. This vulnerability was addressed during 2015 by Council's approval of a revised financial strategy, which places considerable emphasis on increasing the Society's reserves and on diversifying and increasing income. These themes will be developed in the Society's strategy for the next 10 years, which will need to see the development of new income streams to allow the Society to pursue its core charitable activities and to seek to assure its continued tenure of Burlington House. The Society's loyal staff and the many Fellows who willingly volunteer their time, together with the library, meeting and conference facilities at Burlington House are key to everything the Society will be able to achieve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Goffey'.

Graham Goffey

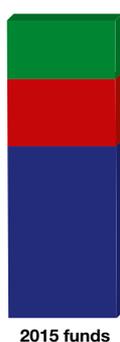
Society finances 2015

The full financial report and accounts, and a PDF of this Review, may be downloaded at www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2015



2015 funds £000's

Endowment funds	1,802
Restricted income	2,078
Unrestricted income	5,300



2014 funds £000's

Endowment funds	1,861
Restricted income	2,089
Unrestricted income	4,995



Corporate Affiliates

The Society extends its sincere thanks to all its Corporate Affiliates

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

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The Geological Society

The Geological Society
Burlington House
Piccadilly
LONDON W1J 0BG

T: +44 (0)20 7434 9944 (Office)

F: +44 (0)20 7439 8975

E: enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk

T: +44 (0)20 7432 0999 (Library)

F: +44 (0)20 7439 3470

E: library@geolsoc.org.uk

W: www.geolsoc.org.uk

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