



The  
Geological  
Society

# Geology matters

## Annual Review 2014



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
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- 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 2014 the Society's Council had, as specific aims for the year, to:

- Finalise a science strategy for the Society
- Agree a science communications strategy
- Agree a library strategy
- Raise awareness of geologically important sites and the need to protect them
- Strengthen the Society's links with geoscientists working in academia

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# Geology matters

## From the President



Surely nobody who belongs to this Society can doubt that Earth sciences matter. Ever since we were founded, our purpose has been to bring the practitioners of our science, academic and non-academic, together and to foster progress in both our understanding of the Earth and the application of that knowledge for the benefit of society as a whole.

But, while that might be our strategy, our tactics have had to evolve as the context in which we operate has changed. Getting those tactics right, of course, is what ensures that we stay relevant to the needs of society, and through that, to the needs of our members, both actual and potential.

I believe that we join a Society like this for more than personal and professional reasons – important though those reasons are. We join because we feel that more can be achieved collectively than individually. By acting together, we become able to influence more people than we could acting alone. While this does not absolve us from personal responsibility, it offers the hope that there is greater strength in numbers.

This is especially important because of the way in which society has changed. In the midst of Industrial Revolution, nobody could doubt that minerals, energy and construction underpin everything, and that understanding the subsurface – the *'whatever is under the Earth'* of our Horatian motto – is the key to unlocking its hidden riches for everyone's benefit.

This remains true; but, in a post-industrial society, it is much more difficult for people to grasp intuitively. Moreover, we now know that the exploitation of Earth resources that we have enabled also lies behind a gathering climate crisis – whose resolution is also our scientific responsibility. As context changes, we must keep up, individually and collectively.

So I commend the *Annual Review 2014* to you, as it explains some of ways – both traditional and innovative – in which we have promoted the message that 'geology matters'. Meetings and conferences, though directed at wider audiences, have explored such topics as the communication of 'contested geoscience' (climate change, radioactive waste disposal, etc.).

We have addressed political and business leaders on shale gas – an immediate issue facing Britain today, falling squarely within our remit. We have produced publications, such as *Geology for Society*, launched in Cardiff at a meeting on *Geology and the Welsh Economy*. And, not neglecting cultural and recreational issues, we have used new media to engage a broad public in our '100 Great Geosites' initiative.

Everything that we do, although aimed at fulfilling our charitable remit towards the good of society as a whole, depends on and is driven by you the Fellowship, and your

changing needs. We must therefore try to understand who we are, and whether we are recruiting from the most diverse possible pool of talent. This is why we signed the Science Council declaration on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, and why, using the information now being collected, we will continue to break down barriers to recruitment, as well as understanding, wherever they may exist.

David Manning

### Council membership

**President:** Prof David Manning

**Vice Presidents:** Dr Mike Armitage; Mr David Cragg; Mr David Jones

**Secretaries:** Mrs Natalyn Ala; Prof Al Fraser; Dr Colin North

**Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs:** Prof Alan Lord

**Treasurer:** Dr Adam Law

Mrs Natalyn Ala<sup>1,3,4</sup>; Dr Mike Armitage<sup>1,2,7</sup>; ~Prof Rob Butler<sup>2,7</sup>; \*Dr Nigel Cassidy<sup>6,7</sup>; Prof Neil Chapman<sup>1,6</sup>; Dr Angela Coe<sup>5,6</sup>; Mr Jim Coppard<sup>4</sup>; Mr David Cragg<sup>1,4</sup>; Mrs Jane Dottridge<sup>5</sup>; Mr Chris Eccles<sup>4</sup>; Dr Marie Edmonds<sup>1,6,7</sup>; Prof Al Fraser<sup>1,6,7</sup>; ~Mrs Tricia Henton<sup>1,3,4</sup>; \*Mr David Hopkins<sup>4</sup>; Mr David Jones<sup>1,4</sup>; Dr Adam Law<sup>1,3</sup>; ~Prof Richard Lisle<sup>5</sup>; Prof Alan Lord<sup>1,2,3,7</sup>; Prof David Manning<sup>1</sup>; Dr Brian Marker <sup>0BE</sup><sup>5</sup>; Dr Gary Nichols<sup>5</sup>; \*Prof David Norbury<sup>2,7</sup>; \*Dr Colin North<sup>1,3,5</sup>; \*Mr Keith Seymour<sup>4</sup>; ~Mr David Shilston<sup>1,3</sup>; Dr Lucy Slater<sup>6,7</sup>; ~Dr Jonathan Turner<sup>1,3,5</sup>; Mr Michael Young<sup>2,7</sup>

\* New Council members elected at the AGM on 4 June 2014

~ Council members who retired at the AGM on 4 June 2014

### Standing Committee Membership

<sup>1</sup> Elections; <sup>2</sup> External Relations; <sup>3</sup> Finance and Planning; <sup>4</sup> Professional; <sup>5</sup> Publications & Information; <sup>6</sup> Science; <sup>7</sup> Science & External Relations.

### Co-opted members

On 25 September 2014 Council agreed (Reg. R/G/12) to co-opt Mr Graham Goffey as Treasurer-designate and Mrs Tricia Henton as Society Diversity Champion.

### Audit Committee

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

# A quiet revolution

## From the Executive Secretary



Annual Reviews are by their very nature retrospective; but for me, this one is particularly so because it is also valedictory. The Executive Secretary's report in *Annual Review 2015* will be written by other hands.

Our chosen theme this year, *Geology matters*, as the President has indicated, is capacious enough to include a wide range of the Society's activities in an area we might broadly define as 'outreach', which has moved centre-stage since 1997. Then, a reforming President, Richard Hardman, set about transforming the Society into one that was more modern in outlook and more externally facing.

The Society always prided itself on its scientific activities: its journals, its meetings, its Specialist Groups (an innovation Council initially opposed) and the Special Publications that now arise from their cutting-edge conferences. Since 1991, and joining with the Institution of Geologists, we have also acted as a professional body (a challenge with which other formerly purely scientific societies have also grappled).

However, both these activity areas, *servicing science and profession* as our strapline has it, were things we did for ourselves because we as Earth scientists felt the need. Now, while progressing our science and fostering best practice both fall clearly within our charitable remit (both contribute demonstrably to the public good), only after 1997 did we begin to take meaningful steps towards other, broader goals.

Richard Hardman initiated reforms over the whole range of our activities, all designed to make us more effective and responsive to the changing demands our Fellowship were making of their national Society. Central to those was the need for public and political outreach. Here we were beginning from a much lower baseline, in an area where our Fellowship (of professional geoscientists) had much less experience and relevant expertise to offer.

This was what drove the need to – in the terms of the time – 'professionalise' the staff. This was hardly the revolution many then believed it to be. We had long employed professional accountants and librarians. Was it really so different to employ professional administrators, database managers, press officers, journalists, web editors or educationalists, who could use their special talents and experience to further our Fellows' wider aims? It seems remarkable now that we could have doubted it, which itself is perhaps a measure of how far we have come.

Thirty years ago, in the *Annual Report 1984*, the Society boasted that its Fellowship had broken through 6000 (only just – it stood, after almost 180 years, at 6002). By 1998, we had reached a reported 8815 (of whom we believed 369 were 'in arrears' with their dues!). Our present figures (which are also, I am happy to report, a good deal more accurate than they used to be) suggest that at the year-end you, the Fellowship, now number over 12,000. We have doubled in size in the last 30 years. Moreover, our average age still stands in the early-to-mid 40s, suggesting that we remain relevant to the needs of young Earth scientists.

Central to this (after sound financial management, without which there can be nothing) has been achieving visibility, and communicating effectively with all our audiences, internal and external. We used to be very bad at this. Now we are much better. We are also highly international, with a worldwide membership. Partly this reflects our excellent science, and the way we use new technology to make it globally available. But it also reflects our increasing traditional involvement with sister societies the world over, as exemplified by the conference *Sustainable Resource Development in the Himalaya* last June.

As I say farewell after 18 years, I would be highly remiss were I not to acknowledge the invaluable work of all my professional colleagues on the staff, past and present, and of those many volunteers who serve on Council and its committees with whom it has been my honour to work. The Society could not have achieved what it has, grown the way it has, and could not look forward with the confidence it now has, without the application of your special skills to the challenges we face. Thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund Nickless'.

Edmund Nickless

# 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.



Ghosts of the Museum – visitors to the library learn to draw fossils.

**The professional geoscience community needs no convincing that geology matters. Our authority when making this case to others rests on the Society's unique status as a forum in which geoscientists from across academia, industry and government share and debate high-quality cutting-edge research findings and their practical application.**

The Society's thriving programme of book and journal publishing is an essential element of our work to communicate the latest geoscientific research within specialist communities and more widely, helping to advance understanding of our planet for the benefit of all. The world of scholarly publishing continues to change rapidly, and our Publishing House, together with the many authors, editors and others who work with us, keeps fully abreast of this evolving landscape. Innovations during 2014 included the launch of the new Millennium Edition of *Geofacets* for Geological Society Fellows. Geological Society books were included in the newly launched GSW (GeoScienceWorld) eBook collection. Provision of free access to the Lyell Collection (our integrated online publications platform) to higher education institutions in developing countries continued in 2014, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Schlumberger.

The Society also provides leadership in this changing world. Our Code of Publishing Ethics has been revised to encourage sustainable sampling and data collection. In doing so, we are leading the way in setting best practice among other geoscience publishers globally. If those who carry out irresponsible rock coring find themselves unable to publish research findings based on such sampling, these damaging practices will be significantly reduced.

Council agreed a new strategy and collection development policy for the library during 2014. Several new initiatives are underway to broaden access to the riches of our library collections. An open day for Corporate Affiliates provided an introduction to the physical and digital collections, and to the services we offer. The library's first public engagement event marked the centenary of the start of the First World War with a restaging of Lt Col Tannatt Edgeworth David's 1919 lecture on 'Geology at the Western Front' – the 2014 version being delivered by Col Edward Rose. An equally popular event resurrected the 'Ghosts of the Museum', returning what is now the Upper Library to its original purpose for one evening, with a fossil drawing class delivered by Ted Nield.

Our programme of scientific meetings took a significant step forward in 2014, with the agreement of a new science strategy for the Geological Society. A novel aspect of the strategy is to set a cross-cutting annual theme as a focus to stimulate conference proposals, foster links within the Society and more widely, and shape our work to communicate our science (and why it matters) to policy-makers, those in education and the wider public. The Annual Review for 2015 will report on the Year of Mud, and 2016 is to be the Year of Water. Our Specialist Groups are at the heart of our science strategy, which lays the foundations for improved engagement on the part of Council, through its Science Committee, with the groups and the communities they represent.

Conferences held during 2014 illustrated how geology matters to populations around the world, to meet our energy and other resource needs sustainably and to understand and mitigate the risks associated



Delegates from around the world meet to discuss Sustainable Resource Development in the Himalaya.

with natural hazards. These included the first two Geological Society conferences to be held in Asia. With the Institute of Energy Research and Training, University of Jammu, and others, we held a conference in Leh, Ladakh, India on Sustainable Resource Development in the Himalaya. Earth scientists from the Himalayan nations and around the world came together with social scientists, development practitioners, policy-makers and community representatives to discuss the challenges of developing resources for the benefit of the communities and nations to which they belong, while also addressing local and global environmental impacts and the threats posed by natural hazards, in context of rapid population growth and changing land use. Schools programmes before and after the conference focused on the geoscience underpinning crucial issues affecting local communities.

We also co-organised a one-day symposium on tsunami deposits and risks at the Geological Society of Japan's annual meeting,

followed by a three-day field excursion by Japanese and UK scientists. The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation generously supported the participation of three UK speakers. A further conference in 2015, to be hosted by the Geological Society, will again bring together Japanese and UK researchers, and will be preceded by a field visit to the Shetland Islands to assess evidence of the tsunami associated with the prehistoric Storegga slide.

Closer to home, we worked with Global Event Partners to present the highly successful Shale UK conference, providing a state-of-the-art view of the geology of shale gas to a diverse audience of industry decision-makers, policy-makers, regulators, community representatives and others. As well as drawing on expertise on resource exploration and production from the hydrocarbons industry, the conference also featured hydrogeologists, engineering specialists and regulators, who presented a geological view of the environmental impacts and management of shale gas extraction.



9347  
library enquiries

247  
GSL books included in the GeoScienceWorld ebooks collection

655,878  
full-text downloads from the Lyell Collection in 2014, up 9% on 2013

# Geology for the benefit of all

Our aim is to ensure that parliamentarians, government officials, other decision makers and opinion formers have access to high-quality policy-relevant geoscience.

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The Pierhead Building, National Assembly for Wales – the venue for ‘Geology and the Welsh Economy’.

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Geology for Society – raising awareness of the importance of geoscience for policy-making.

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**A major new report entitled ‘Geology for Society’, launched early in 2014, sets out many of the ways in which geology matters to society, from protecting human life and the environment to delivering resources (energy, minerals and water), underpinning vital infrastructure and services, and facilitating economic growth.**

The publication of ‘Geology for Society’ is the culmination of sustained work over recent years to nurture relationships with officials and parliamentarians, and to raise awareness of the importance of geoscience in informing a wide range of areas of policy-making. The report can only provide a brief

overview of all these areas – supporting it is an online portal ([www.geolsoc.org.uk/geology-for-society](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/geology-for-society)) which gathers together briefing documents, consultation responses, articles from *Geoscientist*, audio-visual content such as recordings of past London Lectures, and more. The initiative is aimed primarily at officials and politicians at all levels of government, as well as the wider public. It has also been popular with Fellows, as a valuable resource for those wishing to engage others in discussion about the many ways in which their science benefits humankind.

It is fitting that ‘Geology for Society’ was launched in Cardiff, at an event which celebrated the vital role which both the Regional and Specialist Groups play in the life of the Geological Society. ‘Geology and the Welsh Economy’, held in the Pierhead Building, was the first ever event hosted by the Geological Society on the National Assembly for Wales’ estate. Organised by the Southern Wales Regional Group, it was also part of the 50th birthday celebrations of the Engineering Group, and incorporated the Southern Wales heat of the National Schools Geology Challenge. Over 100 guests, including Assembly Members, government officials and those from universities, regulators, consultancies and local schools, heard about the past, present and future role of our science in Wales’ economic development, and our role in addressing challenges such as urban growth and regeneration, building a low carbon future and adapting to environmental change.

We continue to cooperate with other scientific societies to represent the scientific community at parliamentary events in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. The Society also hosted its own event in the Westminster Parliament



in December, at which many of our Corporate Affiliates were represented.

'Geology for Society' also provides a renewed focus for collaboration on communicating policy-relevant geoscience in Europe. With the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and its national associations, we have been working to translate a European version of the report into other languages. It is intended to launch the European version in 12 languages (including English and Welsh) at the European Parliament in Brussels during 2015. The Society also agreed to participate, along with other national associations, in two EFG-led research projects under the Horizon 2020 framework – INTRAW, looking at opportunities for international cooperation with regard to raw materials, and KINDRA, to create a knowledge inventory for hydrogeological research.

The Society devotes considerable effort to preparing responses to parliamentary inquiries and consultations by government departments and agencies, producing briefing notes and organising discussion meetings, and through these activities builds sustained relationships with policy-makers so that we are seen as a trusted and authoritative source of information on matters in which our community has expertise. Such activity focuses largely on a few topics which are the subject of ongoing public and political discussion, and where geoscience has a vital role to play in informing debate.

As reported in last year's Annual Review, in 2013 UK Government undertook a review of the siting process for a Geological Disposal

Facility (GDF) for higher level radioactive waste. The Society urged the Government to give relevant geoscientific considerations greater prominence and to improve communication of this geoscience, alongside other technical and social factors, in the early stages of the volunteer-led siting process. The July 2014 White Paper announcing the revised siting process promises to do just this, and tasks Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) with carrying out national geological screening over the next two years to inform local communities' decision-making. The Geological Society has been asked to establish an independent review panel to review the draft guidance to be developed by RWM and its subsequent application. We are also working with government and other societies and academies to establish a mechanism to allow local communities and other stakeholders to access independent third party views on contested technical statements made within the process.

Other priority areas for our 'geology for policy' work are shale gas (much in the public eye during 2014) and carbon capture and storage (CCS). Together with radioactive waste management, these topics were the focus for a novel conference on 'Communicating Contested Geoscience', bringing together those working in government, natural and social science academics, representatives from industry, and specialists in science communication and public engagement to discuss the challenges of effective communication of geoscience to non-specialists to empower the public to engage in informed debate and decision-making.



16  
responses to policy  
consultations

8  
GSL conferences and  
events attended by  
policy-makers

14  
events at which  
'Geology for Society'  
was promoted

# Reaching out

Geology matters to everyone, whether they know it or not, and geologists have a responsibility to say so.

The geological baking community rose to the challenge of the Great Geobakeoff 2014.



**As well as being of immense practical value, geology can inspire wonder at the world about us, and plays an important part in our culture and heritage. The Geological Society is finding innovative ways to reach and inspire new audiences.**

The UK and Ireland feature some of the most diverse and beautiful geology in the world, spanning most of geological time, from the oldest Pre-Cambrian rocks to the youngest Quaternary sediments. During Earth Science Week in October, The Geological Society of London and partner organisations, including the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, celebrated this unique geoheritage by launching a list of 100 Great Geosites ([www.geolsoc.org.uk/100geosites](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/100geosites)).

The launch of the list was the culmination of months of engagement with professional and amateur geoscientists, school and university students and the wider public. Over 400 sites were nominated via social media, and more than 1400 people participated in the vote for the 'people's favourite' in each of 10 categories. The launch was extensively covered by the BBC – online, on TV and on regional and local radio – as well as by many national and local newspapers and websites, and local groups held events celebrating geosites, such as a tour of the 'Stones of

Durham Cathedral', Lochaber's 'Rock Safari' and urban geology walks in London.

As well as documenting the rich variety and stunning beauty of our nations' geology, the 100 Great Geosites initiative raises awareness of the many ways in which geoscience and the geosphere underpin and enrich our lives – from enjoyment of landscapes and recreational activities to provision of resources, delivery of vital services, support for infrastructure and generation of economic growth – which often go unnoticed by much of the population. It highlights the importance of protecting and conserving scientifically and culturally important sites, and encourages communities to take pride in the geology of their area. We partnered with Esri UK to produce an interactive online map of the sites, and a phone app will be launched in 2015, among other plans to make further use of our 100 Geosites resources.

Perhaps the only Geological Society initiative whose impact on social media rivaled that of the 100 Great Geosites project was the Great Geobakeoff. Readers of our blog were challenged to bake as many geologically themed cakes as they could in a four-week period. Challenges ranged from a simple sandstone layer cake, to classic formations such as Durdle Door and Giant's Causeway,

**27,000**

Facebook 'likes' and Twitter followers

**408**

nominations for the list of 100 Great Geosites

**10**

public London Lectures

to the 100-point challenge – to recreate the *Velociraptor*-hatching scene from *Jurassic Park* in edible form. The results, shared via the #geobakeoff Twitter hashtag, were extraordinary. Not only did the geological baking community complete all the suggested challenges – they also produced a wonderful array of original creations, ranging from geological features of all kinds to scenes of applied geoscientists at work. A Geobakeoff Schools Special also ran during Earth Science Week. As well as bringing pleasure to those who followed the competition (and, we hope, to those who baked and ate the cakes), the Geobakeoff also reached new audiences and challenged preconceptions about geology and geologists.

Our monthly public London Lectures continued to attract large audiences, at Burlington House and online, to hear about a wide range of topics, from radioactive waste disposal and shale gas extraction to salt tectonics and the geology of meteorites.

The Society's education programme reaches out not only to those who will be the next generation of trained geoscientists but to all young people, who deserve the chance to learn about how their planet works, stimulating their appreciation of the world around them and equipping them as well-informed 21st Century citizens. Our ever-popular Geoscience Education Academy, once again generously sponsored by BP, helped science and geography teachers develop their skills and confidence in communicating geoscientific concepts and content in the classroom. We continued to argue for the inclusion of Earth science content in core science subjects in the new National Curriculum for England, as the review of the Key Stage 4 curriculum was finally completed.



A teacher at our Geoscience Education Academy examines a sand sample.

The final of the National Schools Geology Challenge, held at Burlington House on the same day as the final of the Early Careers competition, provided a great opportunity for talented A-level students to meet postgraduate students and recent graduates employed in industry. Both events are the culmination of others run across the country by our Regional Groups. Careers days at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire and at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh once again attracted hundreds of students. The case we have made with others in recent years for the vital role played by high-quality MSc training in geoscience and some other disciplines bore some fruit with the Government's decision to extend availability of student loans to those aged under 30 embarking on MSc programmes. We will continue to play our part to ensure that national capacity to deliver such training is maintained.



100 Great Geosites in the UK and Ireland, launched in Earth Science Week 2014.

# Serving science and profession

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



Participants in FUGRO Hong Kong's GSL-accredited training scheme, with their mentors.

**A strong, well-trained and diverse geoscience workforce, adhering to the highest professional standards, will be essential to economic growth and to meeting the societal challenges of the coming decades, across the UK and globally.**

A new Northern Ireland Regional Group was established in 2014. Its active meetings programme is open to all, and Fellows from south of the border are warmly welcomed, as are members of other Earth science organisations. The new Regional Group has strong links with existing organisations, including cross-border and all-Ireland bodies, whose work it aims to support and complement. It is already engaged in public engagement activities, and contributes to the Learned Societies and Professional Bodies Forum, which provides advice to the All Party Assembly Group on Science and Technology at Stormont. The inaugural meeting of the Group featured a lecture by Prof Paul Younger on 'Geology and the low-carbon economy', and attracted a diverse audience including senior Government representatives.

In October, the Geological Society signed the Science Council's Declaration on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. This marks a strengthened commitment to ensure that geoscience, and the educational, academic and professional support services provided by the Society, are open to all, both in the interests of equality and in order to maximise the pool of highly talented and qualified geoscientists whose skills can be put at the service of society in future. Putting the principles set out in the Declaration at the heart of our activities will be a priority in the coming years.

Council agreed in 2014 to establish a new status of Associated Society. This will provide a common framework for those organisations, especially overseas, with which we have an existing relationship through, for example, a Memorandum of Understanding or Mutual Recognition (of professional qualification) Agreement. In future, this status may also be of mutual value when we are approached by organisations wishing to establish new relationships with us.

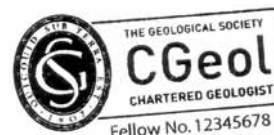
Other initiatives aimed at strengthening and broadening the support we provide to professional geoscientists included the establishment of a Mining Club at the Geological Society; and development of a new model of joint working with the Committee of Heads of University Geosciences Departments, to take effect from 2015, consolidating the close working relationship between our two organisations in recent years to improve support to students and academics in the university sector.

Twelve companies have now had their training schemes accredited by the Geological Society, and 2014 saw the Society accredit degree programmes at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman – the third university in the Middle East to achieve this. Work to enhance our CPD course endorsement scheme, and to consider how it might be linked to accreditation structures, is also underway.

**11,606**  
Fellows in mid-2014

**2495**  
Chartered Geologists  
in mid-2014

**12**  
accredited company  
training schemes



Chartered Geologists can now use a personalised logo featuring their Fellowship number.

# Securing our future

From the Treasurer



Geology matters, of course, to each and every one of us. From outreach to those who know little about our science, to the education of politician and public alike, the Society assists those who wish to ensure that geology does indeed matter. To do so, however, we must ensure that the Society has sufficient resources, both human and financial.

Over the previous year, as the UK and European economy has struggled still, your Society has provisioned well, and the outturn for the year, as shown in the accounts included with this review, has been pleasing indeed. Despite a reduction in our incoming resources relative to 2013, the Society's performance has been strong, with an overall surplus generated of £541,364, which is a slight increase on last year's surplus of £534,835. With provisions for library purchases, reserves and other commitments, this figure is reduced to £47,914 – still, however, an admirable achievement.

Much of this result is led by Neal Marriot and the staff of our Directorate of Publishing and Information Services, which returned an overall surplus of circa £400,000, well ahead of budget. Neal and his team have again done exceptionally well, buffeted as they continue to be by the winds of change in the scientific publishing world. The financial performance of your Society enables us to continue support all of those activities that ensure everyone knows geology matters, including provision of research grants, the funds for which Council has agreed to increase year on year. This includes the continuation of the London Lecture Series, despite the withdrawal of our historical sponsor. In addition, and as I reported last year, our legacy funds are more actively used in the support of research and education, particularly for younger or pre-career geologists. This is particularly pleasing for me on a personal note, as it feels not too long ago that Wendy, our indefatigable librarian, supported me through one of Trevor Greensmith's notoriously tricky essay assignments when I was still an undergraduate.

Although it is encouraging that the results of the Society's financial performance can be used to assist in such ways, we must also be wary of the future. As I write, the lease on your Society's apartments is being negotiated for the coming decadal term, and the outcome of these negotiations is far from certain. It would be prudent, you'll agree, to ensure adequate provision is made for these negotiations, and the results of them. We have indeed done so for the coming year, setting aside some of the 2014 surplus for this very purpose.

Your Society has completed the reorganisation of the senior management and its structure with the appointment of Jonathan Silk as Director of Finance and Operations. Jonathan is transforming financial reporting, organisation and operational support within the Society, and I wish him continued success with his endeavours in the coming years. The completion of this reorganisation is timely, as, in his last report to us all, Edmund Nickless has announced his retirement as Executive Secretary. Edmund is, of course, irreplaceable, but Edmund's successor will find the role of Executive Secretary is supported by a management team that is second to none.

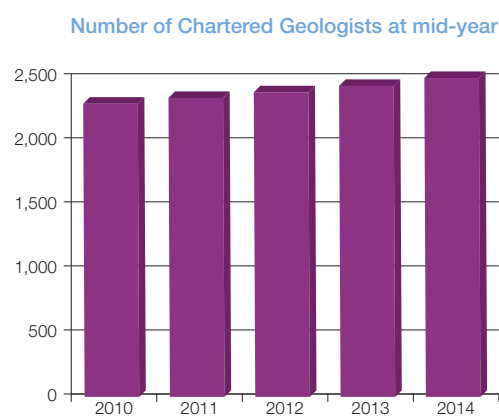
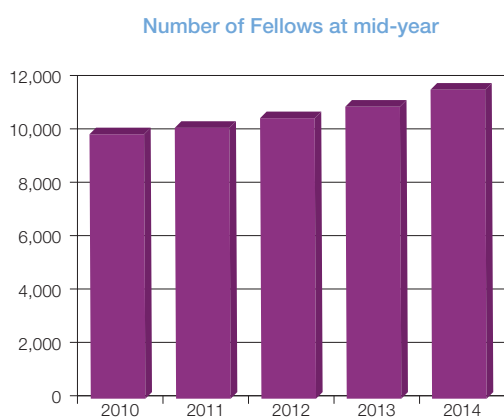
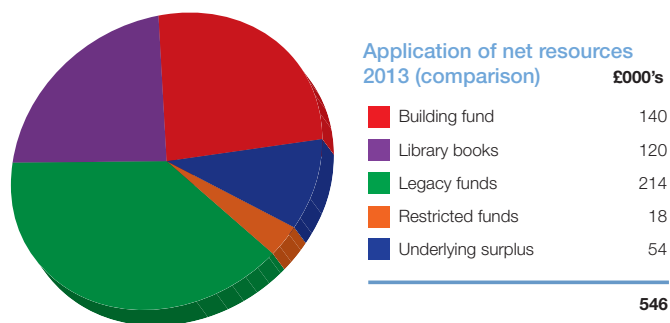
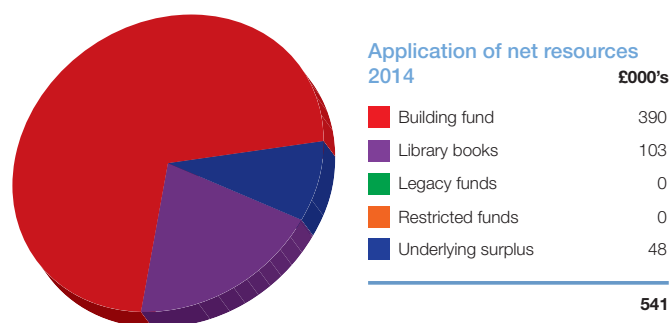
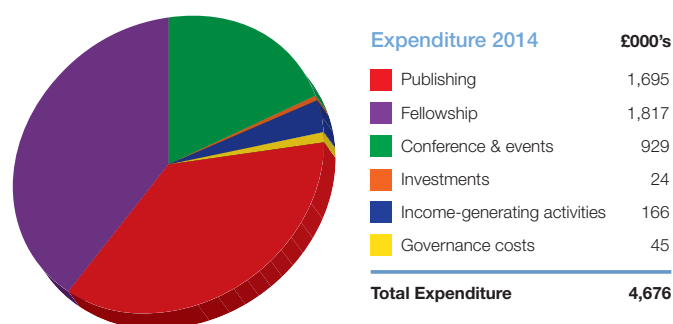
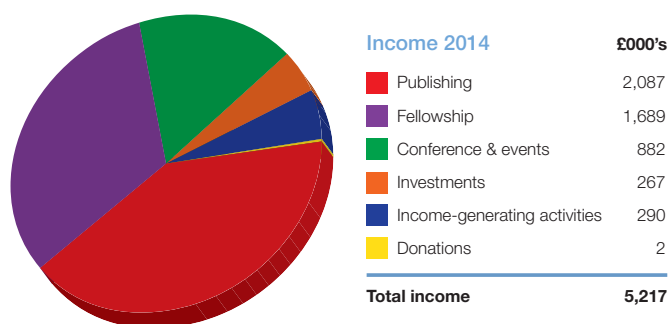
It is my last year as your Treasurer, and thus my last report to you. With Mr Lamont's green shoots firmly established, I look forward to watching the Society's fortunes bloom in the coming years, and wish my successor, Graham Goffey, every success with what is a challenging, but very enjoyable role. I would also like to thank all of those Fellows who have quietly given up their time to sit on the committees that steer your Society's finances, investments and sponsorship, without whom the role of Treasurer would be nigh on impossible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by 'LAW'.

*Adam Law*

# Society finances 2014

The full financial report and accounts, and a PDF of this Review, may be downloaded at [www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2014](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2014)



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The Society extends its sincere thanks to all its Corporate Affiliates

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In addition to the companies listed above, the Society wishes to record its sincere thanks to all the companies, universities and other organisations that allowed their staff the time and resources to participate in voluntary Society activities.



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