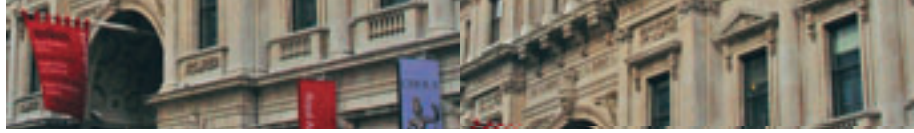




The
Geological
Society

Annual Review 2011

Serving Science
& Profession



The Society's aim

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 2011 the Society's Council had, as specific aims for the year, to:

- Establish a series of 'Frontiers' meetings aimed at emerging research communities
- Promote the 'case for geoscience', addressing its economic and societal value, and current and future skills needs
- Develop and start to deliver an implementation plan based on recommendations of the 2010 Library Review
- Review services and communications to early-career geoscientists
- Broaden the range of Corporate Affiliates



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Working with others



From the President

Let us compare two rooms central to the business of our Society. We commonly occupy the Lower Library at Burlington House in a throng, following lectures and during conferences. There aren't many better places for a gathering of animated geologists. Meetings apart, the Library is peaceful, at its best late in the day as Piccadilly calms down a little, and scholarship rules.

That links us to the second room, a warehouse in Unit 7, Brassmill Lane, Bath, heart of William Smith country and engine room of Publishing House sales. All our books and journals are there, ready for dispatch. A walk through its stacks is quite an experience; the intellectual wealth, obvious. Less obvious is the *material* wealth, generated through ready public access to that body of science. Yet how much is the origin of this wealth understood outside our tribe?

That question has recently moved centre-stage in our Society's affairs: do policy-makers and others know how important rocks are? Following the *Anthropocene* meeting at Burlington House in May 2011, we made the leader pages of *Nature*: "Geologists are used to dealing with heavy subjects...does human impact on the planet deserve to be officially recognised?"

Then *The Economist* put the Anthropocene on its cover. *Agence France-Presse* emphasised one dilemma we had discussed: what if we scholars, using our properly strict criteria for identifying divisions of geological time, were to deny epochal status to the time in which we live? Would this not encourage those who find it convenient to deny our deleterious environmental impact?

So what if it did offer that unwarranted encouragement? Are we not a diverse group, used to disputing among ourselves how to interpret the messages coming to us from rocks? Yes; but we should still be ready to combine forces to make stories from the geological record public when they bear on matters of practical significance. First we must agree that the story is clear beyond reasonable doubt. In 2011 we built on that firm ground with a statement on Rare Earth Elements, drafted by a group drawn from a range of organisations important to our Fellows.

In 2011 we also combined forces in new ways. Letters went to Whitehall and Westminster on university funding and other matters over three signatures: Mary Fowler (Chair, Committee of Heads of University Geology Departments), John Ludden (Director, British Geological Survey) and mine, united in promoting a common message.

In this we were greatly assisted by many Fellows, and by our robust code of conduct - which says pretty directly that if you don't know what you're talking about, please be quiet. Our unity, and modesty in the face of questions we cannot answer, is, I hope, beginning to gain our public statements real purchase.

Those statements are polished in Burlington House by Society staff, buffed like cut slabs of Hertfordshire Puddingstone. Elsewhere staff are working with schools, Regional and

Specialist Groups, conferences and lectures, organising our first-ever Poetry Day... It may be routine for outgoing presidents to thank the staff of any old organisation for their work. Routine won't do here.

There is a rare energy and spirit about these staff, from Bath warehouse to Piccadilly mansion. My heartfelt thanks to all, and my very best wishes to David Shilston, Council, the Fellowship and staff, for the vivid times that lie ahead.

This isn't *any* old organisation.

Bryan Lovell

Council membership

President:	Dr Bryan Lovell OBE
Vice Presidents:	Mr Paul Maliphant; Prof Susan Marriott; Dr Colin Summerhayes
Secretaries:	Prof Philip Allen; Mrs Tricia Henton; Dr Jonathan Turner
Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs:	Prof Alan Lord
Treasurer:	Dr Adam Law

Prof P A Allen^{1,4,7}; Miss S Brough³; Mr M Brown^{2,3}; Prof R W H Butler²; *Mr D J Cragg⁶; ~Dr M C Daly²; ~Prof A J Fleet^{1,3,4,6}; *Prof J E Francis⁷; *Prof A J Fraser²; Dr S Gibson⁵; *Mrs M P Henton^{1,4,5}; ~Dr R Herrington^{1,3,7}; Dr R Hughes³; Dr A Law^{1,4}; *Prof R J Lisle⁶; Prof A R Lord^{1,2,4,7}; Dr J P B Lovell^{1,4}; ~Prof J N Ludden²; Mr P C Maliphant^{1,4,5}; ~Prof D A C Manning^{1,4,5}; Prof S B Marriott^{1,4,5}; Prof S K Monro OBE²; *Mr D T Shilston⁴; Dr C P Summerhayes^{1,2,4,7}; Professor J H Tellam¹; ~Dr G W Tuckwell^{1,4,5}; Dr J P Turner^{1,4,6}; Prof D J Vaughan^{3,6}; Mr N R G Walton⁶

* New members elected at the AGM on 8 June 2011
~ Council members who retired at the AGM 8 June 2011

Membership of Standing Committees

¹ Elections; ² External Relations; ³ Information Management; ⁴ Finance and Planning; ⁵ Professional; ⁶ Publications; ⁷ Science.

Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are elected by ballot of Fellows present at the Annual General Meeting from a list of candidates shortlisted by advisory ballot. 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

The Audit Committee reports directly to Council. Members of the Audit Committee are: Mr C D Bulley, Mr D W Fenwick (Chair), Dr A Law, Prof J D Mather, Prof D G Murchison, Dr T J Palmer, Mr M H Pattinson.



Extending the Society's reach

From the Executive Secretary

The President's theme for this year's Annual Review is *Working with others*, and we have done so while continuing to deliver the 10-year strategy agreed by Council in 2007.

The specific aims for 2011 are listed on page two. Let me deal with these briefly:

- In November we held the first of what is planned to be a series of 'Frontiers' meetings aimed at emerging research communities (pp 10-11).
- We have worked with others, in particular the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Committee of Heads of University Geoscience Departments (CHUGD), to promote the 'case for geoscience' to policy-makers, funders and others, addressing its economic and societal value, and current and future skills needs (pp 8-9). Our advice on matters of 'science for policy' is increasingly respected and sought by Parliament, government and the media. Starting in 2011, we have also paid renewed attention to all stages of the 'skills pipeline', in conjunction with partners from academia, government and industry.
- We have begun to develop and deliver an implementation plan based on recommendations of the 2010 Library Review (pp 12-13).
- We have started to review services and communications to early-career geoscientists. At our Careers Day in Keyworth, for example (pp 8-9), we conducted a survey of student impressions of the Society. Led by President designate David Shilston, a focus group of nine undergraduate and postgraduate students discussed the image of the Society in the student sector, and how we can improve and better communicate our services to students. Some findings – such as worries over cost – came as no great surprise; but the session also confirmed that we do need join up the Society's Regional Groups and University Representatives. It was also apparent that first-year undergraduates in particular appreciated our offer to help them build a professional network during their years of study.

To broaden and diversify the range of Corporate Affiliates, in July we hosted an evening seminar entitled *Between a Rock and a Hard Insurance Market*. Organised by our Development and Funding Committee, this took advantage of informal links between some Fellows and underwriters at Lloyds of London. The audience, numbering about 100, heard from Prof Richard Swarbrick (Ikon Science) about 'Understanding the rocks, fluids and pressure'; Julia Ross (Tullow) on 'Well drilling integrity in challenging environments', Richard Higgins (Lloyd & Partners) on 'The role of the broker in insuring drilling operations', Richard Palengat (AEGIS) on 'A guide to the energy underwriting process' and, pulling this together, Maurice Kenton (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert LLP) spoke about

'Legal and regulatory considerations'. The Society is indebted to the speakers, as well as to Ikon Science Ltd. and Tullow Oil plc for their support.

More generally, during 2011 membership continued to grow. Mid-year Fellowship figures, from which all non-payers have been removed, indicate a year-on-year rise of 2.4% (1.6% in 2010). Overall membership in July 2011 stood at 10,172. The number of Fellows achieving Chartered status in 2011 also rose, by 2.0% - reaching 2,339 in mid-year, an increase of 45 CGeols over 2010. Fellows entitled to use the Chartered Scientist designation (CSci) numbered 220, while 313 CGeols held the title of European Geologist (EurGeol).

In September 2011 we breathed new life into a former initiative by the Institution of Geologists, known as the *Distinguished Geologists Memorial Trust*. The object of this Trust is to help the development of young professionals under the age of 30, particularly those in industry, by contributing to travel costs or towards broadening their skills and experience. Originally established by the IG with monies donated in memory of Sir Peter Kent, Dan Ion and Robert H Cummings, this Trust acknowledges the significant contribution of these distinguished Fellows to the science and profession of geology, both in the UK and internationally.

International cooperation in seeking to benchmark the title of Chartered Geologist against the professional titles of other organisations has paid dividends. Some time ago we concluded mutual recognition agreements with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) to recognise one another's professional titles (pp 10-11), and we are exploring the possibility of similar agreements with Geoscience Canada and the Geological Society of South Africa.

Twenty-eleven was the first full year of operation for our revised criteria and procedures for electing Honorary Fellows. Election to Honorary Fellowship now places greater emphasis on extending the Society's international and interdisciplinary reach.

Internationally, the Society has taken a leading role in working with others – especially in developing the concept of a Global Geoscience Initiative, and in helping to shape the strategic role of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

The year 2011 has seen the Society extend its reach considerably, with a coherence that augurs well for the future of geoscience in the UK.

Edmund Nickless



Public voice

A strategic aim of the Society is to be the respected public voice of geoscience within the UK.



Prof Alan Lord
Secretary, External Affairs

In recent years, the Geological Society has made real progress in ensuring that parliamentarians, government officials and other decision-makers have access to policy-relevant geoscience, and give it due consideration in policy-making. The Shell Lectures and other ventures have engaged a broader public in thinking about the vital role of geoscience in their lives. This work gathered pace during 2011.

We made submissions to parliamentary inquiries and departmental consultations on a variety of topics, including shale gas (on which we also gave oral evidence), energy security, public perception of risk regarding energy infrastructure, disposal of radioactive waste, contaminated land, the peer-review system, and practicals and fieldwork in school science. The Society's reputation for

speaking only on matters in which it has relevant expertise means that increasingly we are being approached directly by policy-makers for advice on policy-relevant science.

In November 2011, the Society published a briefing document on Rare Earth Elements. Following the model established with the 2010 Climate Change Statement, this Rare Earth statement was drafted by an expert group chaired by Professor Paul Henderson, with External Relations Committee and Council overseeing the process. We also invited guests from government, regulators, industry NGOs and other scientific societies to the closing session of November's joint conference (with AAPG) on carbon capture and storage (CCS). This reflected on the science that had been explored by experts during the previous two days, and its relation to regulatory, political and economic barriers to commercial-scale deployment of CCS. This type of meeting exemplifies the way in which our efforts to communicate relevant geoscience to policy-makers and other non-geologists build upon the excellence of our science programme.

This work is valuable not only in making sure that geoscience is accorded its rightful place in making policy, but also in drawing to the attention of policy-makers, funding bodies and others to our science's wider economic and societal value. During 2011 we made the 'case for geoscience' more explicitly, in the face of major changes currently underway at all levels of education, from school to postgraduate level. The Society is working with others to ensure that the value of geoscience is recognised – in generating economic prosperity, meeting society's resource needs, and tackling key policy challenges – and that decisions being made now do not jeopardise the supply of essential skills.





The Society is not alone in recognising these risks, in wanting to play its part in ensuring they are addressed. We have worked closely with the Committee of Heads of University Geoscience Departments (CHUGD) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) to develop lines of argument based on evidence that we all agree is established beyond reasonable doubt, rather than special pleading. Before publication of the Higher Education White Paper and subsequently, communications in the name of all three organisations were sent to ministers and shadow ministers, parliamentary committees, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). These addressed support for the teaching of higher-cost, strategically important subjects at undergraduate level; changes to the system of student control numbers; withdrawal of Research Councils' support for taught Masters programmes; and the threat to national capability in areas such as micropalaeontology, which are economically vital but where the total number of trained personnel required is small. The Society also made a joint submission with the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) and the British Geophysical Association (BGA) on the funding of taught Masters courses in petroleum geoscience.

We are working with the Earth Science Teachers Association, the Royal Geographical Society and others regarding the place of Earth science in the new National Curriculum for England.

Feedback from funders and policy-makers suggests that two aspects of our communications are proving particularly persuasive. First, the geoscience community is speaking with a united voice. Second, our arguments are based on *sound evidence*.



An early priority for our newly formed Geoscience Skills Forum (pp 10-11) is to develop the evidence-base further, looking particularly at the skills requirements of various sectors of industry. This work will be crucial in informing the Society's

work at all stages of the 'skills pipeline': from outreach and careers advice to school pupils; through undergraduate and postgraduate education; to CPD, pathways to Chartership and other aspects of professional formation.



Education – securing the future

The Society interacts with education at all levels, from primary to university. We now help with training in companies as well: helping to excite and enthuse, providing support, accrediting courses, and supplying careers guidance.



Building on the established success of Earth Science Week in the US, under the stewardship of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), the Society organised the UK's first Earth Science Week from 10 - 17 October 2011. On the theme 'Our Ever Changing Earth', we developed a varied programme of activities and resources designed to engage young people and the public in learning about the natural processes that shape our planet. These included the Society's inaugural Poetry Day, bringing together professional poets and geologists, which has led to the publication of a collection of geological poetry by the Society (see www.geolsoc.org.uk/geopoetry and www.geolsoc.org.uk/poems). We also ran a poster competition for schools, organised jointly with the PESGB, on 'The Story of Oil', and an introduction to 'Geocaching' (hide and seek using GPS).

During Earth Science Week we ran a daily blog, posted online lesson plans, highlighted careers in Earth science,

organised free lectures for schools and for Friends of the Geological Society, provided online virtual learning kits, and offered the chance to download a phone app via the Science Council's 'Hidden Science' initiative (which focused on Earth science for the month). Regional and



school-specific activities were also coordinated through the website.

In March, the Society played its part in the UK's first Climate Week, bringing geological evidence for climate change to a wider audience. Pupils at schools belonging to the Society's Schools Affiliate Scheme were invited to design a poster interpreting the Society's November 2010 Climate Change Statement, and we were delighted with the high quality of the entries.

In the 11-14 category, the judging panel awarded joint first place to Rebeka Bacon/Asia Pruchiewska, and Yuvraj Singh/Raj Dhunna – all from The Highfield School (Letchworth, Hertfordshire). The winner in the 15–18 category was Sam Bailey from King Edward VI Grammar School (Chelmsford, Essex).

In 2011 we launched the Society's Higher Education Network (HEN), with an inaugural conference in Leeds. HEN brings together those



Dr Bill Gaskell
Chair, Accreditation Panel



researching and teaching in the Higher Education sector to develop and discuss best practice in areas of shared interest, including geoscience pedagogy and curriculum

development, development of teaching skills, and securing research grants.

An important role of the Society in tertiary education is the accreditation of degree programmes. Almost all UK undergraduate geoscience programmes are now accredited, and increasingly this status is being sought for taught Masters degrees. Two MSc programmes from the University of Portsmouth were accredited in 2011 (Engineering Geology, and Geological and Environmental Hazards). Graduates from accredited Masters programmes are eligible to apply for Chartership a year earlier than those with non-accredited degrees.

St Andrews University re-established a Department of Earth Sciences, decoupling the previously merged departments of Earth Sciences and Geography. The recently accredited BSc in Geosciences was renamed Geology and was re-submitted, to ensure continuing accreditation.

Hong Kong University successfully applied for the accreditation of its undergraduate degree programme in Earth Science. It was the third overseas university to do so, following the University of the West Indies and King Abdulaziz University (Saudi Arabia).

Up-to-date information on all degree programmes accredited by the Society is available at www.geolsoc.org.uk/accreditation.

In 2011, the Society also began to offer accreditation of employment-based training schemes. Accredited

Company Training Schemes will represent a partnership between the Society and participating companies. They will deliver structured training and mentoring for early career geologists, designed to ensure that they develop the competencies necessary for Chartership. This initiative is a crucial stage in the Society's strategic involvement with professional development of Earth scientists from schools to boardroom and senate.

In Hong Kong in 2011, some 60 young geologists attended meetings with the Chartership Officer arranged by their employers or the Hong Kong Regional Group, to discuss Chartership eligibility. Considerable interest was expressed in the accreditation of company training schemes and a number of companies (including the Hong Kong Government Geotechnical Office) are planning to submit schemes, with one application already received.

The Geological Society joined forces with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IoM3) to create a UK Register of Ground Engineering Professionals (UKRoGEP). Applicant for entry onto the register are required to have CGeol, CSci or CEng status.

RoGEP enables clients and other engineering practitioners who are likely to bring the greatest value to a project. Registration will demonstrate an individual's technical competence, professional attitude and experience. All Registrants are bound by the Code of Conduct of their host body, and required to undertake and record appropriate Continuing Professional Development.





Serving science & profession

Although the Society began life as a scientific organisation in 1807 and organises over 100 scientific meetings every year, it also encompasses a wider, professional role.



Tricia Henton
Professional Secretary

The Professional Committee is principally responsible for supporting geoscientists through each stage of their professional formation, from undergraduate education to postgraduate training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD), whether in academia or industry, and attainment of Chartership. The new validation process for Chartership is now well-established. The number of Chartered Geologists is growing steadily (p 5), and we are seeing some success in diversifying the uptake of Chartership across different sectors.

Our involvement at each stage of development of skills (and the so-called 'skills pipeline') means that Professional Committee is well placed to identify and respond to the needs of 'users' of geoscience skills in both academia and industry, and to act as an interface with universities as primary (though not sole) 'suppliers'. The Society's scheme for accrediting degree programmes, historically at Bachelor level but increasingly at postgraduate level, serves this purpose, as well as being an important element of individuals' professional development.

During 2011, Council considered how to respond to the concerns in some industries about difficulty in



Prof Philip Allen
Science Secretary

recruiting suitably skilled personnel. This concern comes at a time when significant changes to higher education funding and policy are underway (pp 6-7) that could jeopardise supply of geoscience skills. Fortunately UK university departments have historically taken an interest in the professional careers of their graduates; in future these departments will be required to provide employment data to

prospective and existing students. We are considering with CHUGD how we can work together on this matter.

The Society has established a Geoscience Skills Forum (GSF), to support the needs of academia, industry and individual professional geoscientists. Anecdotal evidence for skills shortages in industry is rife, but reliable data are harder to find. So GSF's initial priority is to gather data, working with partners from academia and various industry sectors. Armed with more reliable evidence, we will be better placed to argue the 'case for geoscience' to policy-makers and funders; to identify points in the pipeline requiring particular attention; to provide students with advice on careers, and the choices they will need to make along the way; to ensure that degree accreditation serves employers' needs; and to support university departments in delivering relevant employability data to students.





Establishing the equivalence of professional qualifications across national boundaries is important for securing geoscientists' mobility, and the Society has agreed with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland to recognise each other's professional titles, and to fast-track applications from already validated candidates. Discussions continue with the American Institute of Professional Geologists and Geoscience Canada with a view to concluding similar agreements.

The Society has also forged new international links through its meetings programme. For the first time, the Geological Society organised a session jointly with the Geological Society of America (GSA) at the April 2011 European Geosciences Union meeting in Vienna, examining 'teleconnections' (far-field links) in sedimentary source-to-sink systems, particularly their perturbation by climatic and tectonic mechanisms. We organised a Pardee Symposium at the GSA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis on Arthur Holmes and his legacy in geochronology. Closer to home, we hosted a joint conference with the AAPG at Burlington House on carbon capture and storage (CCS). The next in this new series of meetings will be held at Burlington House in January 2013. The Geological Society also worked with sister societies, including the Mineralogical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, to deliver a major interdisciplinary conference on geological disposal of radioactive waste.

'Working with others' has been vital to the success of our science programme, not only in joining forces with other organisations, but also in nurturing connections and



areas of innovative research within the geoscience community, and fostering systems and problem-solving approaches to geoscience. Two meetings in May 2011 brought together geoscientists from diverse disciplines. The first of these meetings explored the co-evolution of 'Life and the Planet' throughout Earth history. The second meeting examined human impact, and the possibility that our signature in the geological record will be sufficient to define



the Anthropocene as a new epoch. The latter meeting has helped shape the debate over the Anthropocene, both in the specialist community of stratigraphers, and in the media (p 4).

The year 2011 also saw the first of our 'Frontiers Meetings', which aim to bring together researchers in emerging areas of geoscience that may not be well served by our established Specialist Groups. These meetings are designed particularly for early-career researchers. Registration is free, and the lead-time is kept short, to respond as quickly as possible to current research trends. This is an opportunity for scientists with no previous experience of convening conferences to get involved. The first meeting, '*The Coupling of Tectonics and Surface Processes*', was enthusiastically received by its 100-plus attendees, and closed with a lively discussion of a 'living slide' of topics for further research, compiled during the day.

*Tricia Henton, Professional Secretary
Prof Philip Allen, Science Secretary*



Innovation in geoscience information

The Society is a geoscience publisher of global stature, and proud custodian of one of the great geological libraries of the world. Innovation in both is the key to their continued success.



Dr Jonathan Turner
Publications Secretary

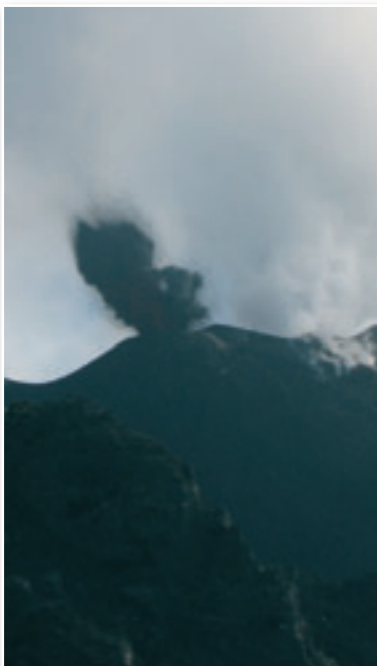


Dr Richard Hughes
Chair, Information Management Committee

A primary mission of the Geological Society is to publish and disseminate high-quality geoscience information among its Fellowship and the wider geoscience community. But the nature of that information and the demands of consumers are changing rapidly. The growth of electronic publishing means that publishers are hosting book and journal content, and delivering it to readers directly, along with associated services to 'add value' to this content. Electronic publishing is thereby encroaching on libraries'

traditional role, while libraries are acting as aggregators and service providers for electronic content. In our case Fellows can now access 80 online journals offsite through our library – a service for which more than 1100 are registered.

In this changing environment, management of the Society's Library and Publishing House were brought together under Neal Marriott (in the new role of Director of Publishing, Library and Information



Services) late in 2011. An early priority is to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Library Review. This recognised the Library as a prime resource of the Society, in monetary value as well as scholarship, the management and use of which must continue to evolve.

The Society's map collection is a case in point. It contains c. 40,000 geological map sheets, many of which are ageing, and some of which are irreplaceable. Access to these maps has been limited by their paper format. Yet their potential value to individual and corporate users is high. During 2011, we launched a pilot scheme to scan key map holdings, focusing initially on the East African Rift Valley. This will be a major project in 2012, and will serve several purposes: to preserve for future generations a unique world-class resource that remains vulnerable while in paper form only; to enable wider use of the collection by providing digital access online; and, where maps are of commercial interest, to generate additional income to support library development.

Another theme of the Library Review was the continuing need to work with other geoscience libraries, particularly those of BGS and the Natural History Museum (NHM). Cooperation among these institutions is a great asset to the UK geoscience community. For this and many other aspects of the Library's success, the Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Sheila Meredith, who retired as Chief Librarian at the end of the year after 24 years' service.

The year 2011 was another successful one at the Publishing House, both scientifically and financially. Alongside our journals, 21 new book titles contributed to a surplus from publishing of £539k, enabling the Society to undertake many of the activities documented in this Review. The *Lyell Collection* continues to thrive as the global point



of access to our publications, with subscriptions up 20%, and full text downloads up 5% on 2010, now totalling in excess of 4.3 million since its inception in

2007. Geological Society publications continue to perform strongly within *GeoScienceWorld*, the online consortium of geoscience publishers of which we are a founding member. Subscriptions to *GSW* increased during the year, and exciting developments are planned for 2012, including adapting its journal sites for delivery to mobile devices – a rapidly expanding medium for consumption of published science.





Our recent books included significant Memoirs, *Neoproterozoic Glaciations*, the culmination of a major UNESCO/IUGS International Geoscience Programme project (IGCP 512); and *Arctic Petroleum Geology*, authored by scientists from across the circum-polar nations, building on symposia at the Oslo 2008 International Geological Congress. Both constitute seminal contributions to debates of international importance, and epitomise our strategic aim of serving both science and profession. Journals continued to perform strongly, with notably high rejection rates reported by the *Journal of the Geological Society*, *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology* and *Petroleum Geoscience*. These high rates of rejection are a setback for some of those eager to publish with us, but are a sure sign of scientific quality and a healthy level of competition among authors of submitted manuscripts.

We embarked on an innovative partnership with Elsevier in 2011, with the launch of the Lyell Collection module of their *Geofacets* web-based geographic search tool. Primarily aimed at the oil and gas industry, this provides access to 45,000 maps from our books and journals, the majority of them tagged with georeferenced coordinates. Early uptake has been encouraging, with higher than expected royalties for the Society, and the potential to increase pay-per-view income from the Lyell Collection significantly.

Since November 2011, the books in the Society's series have been included in the Thomson-Reuters Web of Science Book Citation Index. More good news is that the 2014 REF will use Elsevier's Scopus for provision of citation data. Scopus has included Special Publications for some time, and EGSPs and Memoirs will soon be added. Fellows whose prospects for professional advancement are influenced by such measures will be delighted: they will compare their record of citation before and after these changes with particular pleasure. Even more good news is that an innovation developed during 2011 is to be launched for Special Publications at the start of 2012, and for other book series and journals during the year: a new publish-ahead-of-print system. *Online First* makes individual papers available through the Lyell Collection as soon as they are published, in advance of the publication of the full volume (see <http://sp.lyellcollection.org/online-first>). Following the introduction of free colour figures in 2010, these developments have helped generate a large number of high-quality book proposals, halting the recent downward trend in book commissioning.

None of this would be possible without our many reviewers, editors, and of course authors, whose contribution it is a pleasure to acknowledge. The year 2012 promises further change, and a range of exciting developments in our library and Publishing House as we seek to optimise the geoscience community's use of our unrivalled information resources.

Jonathan Turner
Publications Secretary

2011 in figures...
• >10,000 enquiries handled by Library staff
• > 600 map enquiries
• 750 maps loaned
• 215 new books by purchase, gift and exchange
• 1,146 Fellows registered for Athens passwords, of which
• 290 were new users and
• 17,906 papers were downloaded
• 5 volumes restored under 'Sponsor-A-Book' Appeal
• 56 donations from Fellows and Friends to 'Sponsor a Fish' appeal
• £5,400 raised towards the Agassiz illustrations' restoration
• 13 'Open Day' tours of Burlington House for 500 people



Activities in the regions

The Society exists to promote geosciences throughout the whole of the UK – combining the initiatives of its Regional Groups, and national initiatives that are increasingly taking place outside London

Posters, presentations, prizes

March was a month of competitions for schools at the Society. Education Officer Joanna Mears reports on events in London and South Wales.



On 22 March, the Southern Wales Regional Group (SWRG) held their second annual Schools Geology Competition at Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Five schools entered the competition, this year's theme being 'Your Geological Hero'. Each school submitted a poster reflecting the achievements of their chosen hero, followed by presentations defending their choice. However after excellent presentations from all teams, the quick-fire quiz decided the overall winner.

For the second year in a row, Society Vice-President Paul Maliphant – who devised the competition – presented the trophy to Whitchurch High School. Each team member received a year's free Junior Candidate Fellowship. Building on plans laid during 2011, 2012 will see the Schools Geology Challenge, pioneered by the Southern Wales Group, go national for the first time, with a final event held in Burlington House.

Careers Days



In February 2011 over 200 students from across northern Britain gathered at *Our Dynamic Earth* in Edinburgh for a one-day conference to explore career opportunities. A run of 10 talks largely by early-career scientists and a Q&A session chaired by Stuart Monro supported

an exhibition by employers, societies and an array of university departments promoting higher degree programmes.

Maureen Traquair of OPITO, the Oil and Gas Academy, outlined the career opportunities in the sector, before a series of presentations by early career scientists. Employment in the UK oil and gas industry is highly dispersed, with relatively few in the major corporations compared with smaller oil companies, consultancies and service providers. This was reflected in presentations by Hannah Suttill (BP), Adrian Rankin (Fugro Robertson), David Tierney and Dan Campanile (Getech), Pat Coole (Neflex) and Jenny Ellis (Midland Valley Ltd.).

Presentations by Charlotte Vye (BGS) and Alex Brasier (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre) covered research careers. Final talks provided a glimpse of engineering geology. Sarah Walker (Scotland Transerv) and Jessica Smith (Transport Research Laboratory) spoke of their work helping keep Scotland's transport network working. The event, run under the auspices of the Society and PESGB, was sponsored by BP and Fugro Robertson.

The Society's UK Careers Day was held this year at BGS in Keyworth, Nottingham on 7 December and was attended by almost 400 students from a variety of UK universities. The exhibition was again sold out, with representatives from both universities and industry. The main programme was as popular as ever, with students reporting that they enjoyed the variety of industry-focused and more academic talks, and were encouraged by the number of younger speakers. Reed Energy also provided CV writing workshops for the first time and these were well received by the attendees. The Society would like to thank all the conference sponsors for their support.

Exhibitors: Royal Holloway, University of London, Newcastle University, Imperial College London, University of Leeds - School of Earth & Environment, University of Leicester, University of East Anglia, Manchester University, University of Derby, Open University, Fugro Robertson Ltd, Neflex Petroleum Consultants Ltd, Centrica Energy, GSL, Environment Agency, BGS, Hess, Micromine, Atkins, Anglo American, BP plc and Reed Energy.

Speakers: David Shilston, President-designate, The Geological Society of London; Katherine Ryder, BPI; Tracey Pollard, Environment Agency; Alexandra Boorer, Coffey Geotechnics Ltd; Tim Lucks, SRK; Jo Venus, Leeds University; Colin Summerhayes, Scott Polar Research Institute.



Staying on course

From the Treasurer

In my first report as your Treasurer, it is good to be able to tell you that the Society has returned a surplus of £371k for the year ending December 2011. This surplus was achieved despite the uncertain national economic climate and was dependent on meeting some challenging income targets set by the 2011 budget, which was originally designed to merely break-even. This surplus enables us to invest more in the support of a wide range of educational, and outreach activities, development of professional services, as well as beginning to fulfil its revised reserves policy.

A critical source of income for the Society is our Publishing House. Meeting the challenges of an ever-changing digital world head-on, Neal and his team achieved a surplus of just over £539k, significantly greater than the budget target. This occurred through increased journal sales and online revenues. In his report to you (pp 12-13), Jonathan Turner provides more detail on this success.

The Society's investments performed better than budgeted by around £20k, thanks to the wise recommendations of the Investment Committee. Our success was in part due to the injection of £1m cash to the investment portfolio. The Society is highly dependent on income from its investments and the additional monies were used preferentially by our Investment Managers, UBS, to buy corporate bonds that pay good coupons. The Society has not been immune to the volatility of stock markets during 2011 and the market value of our investments fell by 2.6%. However this fall is unrealised and the valuation should recover as the global economy strengthens in coming years. In addition, a number of successful conferences at Burlington House, most notably those run by the Petroleum Group, generated larger than expected surpluses, again around £20k greater than budgeted.

Through the coming year, the Society will still face a number of challenges, and there will be some exciting changes. With no sign of an end to market turmoil, we will need to husband the Society's investments carefully. Achieving the Society's revised reserves position will not be easy. Following the appointment of Neal Marriott as Director of Publishing, Library and Information Services, the Society continues to search for better ways to manage and disseminate its information both to Fellows and the greater geoscience community: this will benefit our financial position.

Finally, I am sure it will please many of you to learn that the Society is set to make greater use of its endowments for the furtherance of our science. These include the Fermor Fund, which, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its establishment, will enable the Society during 2012 to offer grants totalling up to £25k to assist research in the subjects specified by Lady Fermor including ore genesis, planetary geology and Precambrian research.

Such a pleasing result is one of many achieved by the Society under the watchful eye of my predecessor, Andy Fleet. I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Society, for his diligent and enthusiastic service to us all over the last five years – I have quite a reputation to live up to! However, Andy's task would have been all that more difficult without the hard work and support of all the Society's staff during the budgetary process, and in its monitoring and implementation.

Adam Law



Summarised financial statements

Balance sheet at 31 December 2011 – Group

	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed assets		
Intangible assets: Website costs	56,982	–
Tangible assets: Heritage assets	14,453,311	14,332,247
Other assets	761,066	951,139
Investments: Listed and unlisted	5,044,640	4,197,716
Portfolio cash	37,090	14,247
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,353,089	19,495,349
Current assets		
Stocks: Finished goods	286,752	225,747
Debtors	454,277	648,569
Cash at bank and in hand	1,486,158	1,833,155
Held by specialist and regional groups	160,372	133,998
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,387,559	2,841,469
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	493,815	420,120
Deferred income	1,602,477	1,533,154
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,096,292	1,953,274
Net current assets	<hr/>	<hr/>
	291,267	888,195
Net assets	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,644,356	20,383,544
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted funds: General purposes	2,592,198	2,425,580
<i>Designated</i>		
Specialist and regional groups	214,431	178,159
Revaluation reserve	13,291,276	13,291,276
Burlington House Redecoration Fund	–	240,730
Burlington House Buildings Fund	330,000	–
Bicentenary Project Funds	123,390	194,642
Lyell Centre Fund	85,920	90,873
Bicentennial Outreach Fund	175,000	175,000
Alan and Charlotte Welch Fund	199,237	199,237
Restricted income funds	3,632,904	2,474,556
Endowment funds	–	1,113,491
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,644,356	20,383,544
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 11 April 2012

Dr Bryan Lovell (**President**)

Dr Adam Law (**Treasurer**)

Summarised financial statements

Consolidated Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2011

	Unrestricted Income Funds	Restricted Income Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2011	Total 2010
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and expenditure</i>					
<i>Incoming resources</i>					
Donations, legacies, gifts and similar incoming resources	4,753	6,028	–	10,781	12,964
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Publications income	2,065,416	–	–	2,065,416	1,990,116
Conferences and events	814,972	–	–	814,972	684,613
Fellowship income	1,361,714	–	–	1,361,714	1,302,672
Bicentenary Activities	–	–	–	–	–
Investment income and interest	53,383	166,543	–	219,926	191,098
Activities for generating funds:					
Hire of rooms	85,651	–	–	85,651	68,598
Catering	164,442	–	–	164,442	178,194
Total incoming resources	4,550,331	172,571	–	4,722,902	4,428,255
<i>Outgoing resources</i>					
Costs of generating funds					
Investment management costs	4,904	15,301	–	20,205	20,762
Catering	140,814	–	–	140,814	152,808
Charitable expenditure					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Publishing activities	1,554,141	–	–	1,554,141	1,477,306
Conferences and events	914,288	3,085	–	917,373	918,336
Fellowship services	1,649,371	26,009	–	1,675,380	1,642,223
<i>Governance costs</i>	44,151	–	–	44,151	38,375
Total charitable expenditure	4,161,951	29,094	–	4,190,045	4,076,240
Total resources expended	4,307,669	44,395	–	4,352,064	4,249,810



Summarised financial statements

Consolidated Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2011 *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Income Funds	Restricted Income Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2011	Total 2010
	£	£	£	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	242,662	128,176	–	370,838	178,445
Transfer between funds	–	1,113,491	(1,113,491)	–	–
Net incoming resources (resources expended)	242,662	1,241,667	(1,113,491)	370,838	178,445
Profit/(loss) on investment assets	(26,707)	(83,319)	–	(110,026)	179,607
Gains on heritage assets	–	–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds	215,955	1,158,348	(1,113,491)	260,812	358,052
Fund balances brought forward at 1 January 2011	16,795,497	2,474,556	1,113,491	20,383,544	20,025,492
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2011	17,011,452	3,632,904	–	20,644,356	20,383,544

All amounts relate to continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

Full accounts (with notes) are available to view and download at www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2011



Summarised financial statements

Independent Auditors' statement

We have examined the summary financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2011 set out on pages 16 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised annual report in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement within the Annual Review with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Report.

We also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements of material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Our report has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and for no other purpose. No person is entitled to rely on this report unless such a person is a person entitled to rely upon this report by virtue of and for the purpose of the Charities Act 1993 or has been expressly authorised to do so by our prior written consent. Save as above, we do not accept responsibility for this report to any other person or for any other purpose and we hereby expressly disclaim any and all such liability.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 'The auditors' statement on summary financial statement in the United Kingdom' issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Trustees' Report.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Report of the Geological Society of London for the year ended 31 December 2011.

BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor
Epsom
United Kingdom
13 April 2012

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127)

Corporate Affiliates

The Society extends its sincere thanks to all its Corporate Affiliates:

Platinum: BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd; Chevron North Sea Ltd;

Gold: BG Group plc; BHP Billiton International Services Ltd; CGGVeritas Services UK Ltd; ExxonMobil International Ltd; Hess Ltd; NDA; Rio Tinto Mining and Exploration Ltd; Statoil (UK) Ltd; Total E&P UK Ltd.

Silver: Anglo American Plc; Cairn Energy plc; Centrica Energy Upstream; ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd.

Bronze: Afren plc; Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (UK); ATP Oil & Gas (UK) Ltd; Baker RDS; C & C Reservoirs Ltd; Citrus Partners LLP; CNR International (UK) Ltd; Dong E&P (UK) Ltd; ENI UK Ltd; EOG Resources United Kingdom Ltd; E.ON Ruhrgas UK North Sea Ltd; ERC Equipoise Ltd; Fairfield Energy Ltd; Fugro Robertson Ltd; Fugro; NPA Gaffney Cline & Associates Ltd; GETECH; GWP Consultants; Hannon Westwood Associates; Hardy Oil & Gas Plc; Ikon Science Ltd; Lafarge Aggregates Ltd; Landmark Eame Ltd; Lynx Information Systems Ltd; Maersk Oil North Sea UK Ltd; Micromine; Nautical Petroleum Plc; Neftex Petroleum Consultants; Nexen Petroleum U.K. Ltd; OMV (UK) Ltd; Ophir Energy Company Ltd; Petrofac Energy Developments UK Ltd; PGS Exploration Ltd; Premier Oil Plc; Premier Oil Norge AS; Ramboll UK Ltd; Rock Deformation Research Ltd; RPS Energy; RWE Dea UK Ltd; Sasol petroleum International (pty) Ltd; Schlumberger Evaluation & Production Services Ltd; Senergy Ltd; Sterling Energy UK Ltd; Tullow Oil Plc; John Wiley & Sons Ltd; Valiant Petroleum Ltd.

If your organisation would like to find out more about the benefits of becoming an Affiliate, please contact steve.whalley@geolsoc.org.uk.

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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Geological
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