



The
Geological
Society

Annual Review 2009

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 a 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.
- Continue developing active promotion and selling of the Lyell Collection, especially to North American and European libraries
- Continue to develop engagement with government and other policy-makers
- Implement new Chartership validation arrangements
- Develop the meetings programme to engage emerging communities working in new or rapidly evolving disciplines
- Market the Society more effectively
- Launch a *Friends of the Geological Society* scheme
- Launch a *Schools Affiliate* scheme

In January 2009 the Society's Council set, as specific aims for the year, to:

- Conduct a review of Regional Groups governance
- Develop a Lifelong Learning Plan
- Add new sets of content to the Lyell Collection



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Facing the world

From the President



In the *Annual Review 2008* I called my introduction *Going Public*. If any phrase could be said to sum up what the Society's Strategy document means, that is it. The Strategy calls upon us to address ourselves to Parliament, government, industry, media, and directly to the general public itself. It enjoins us to bear, at the forefront of our minds and at all times, the fact that as a registered charity, we exist to serve the public good. This means turning our attentions outward, to all our differing publics, and restructuring what we do to ensure that public benefit is both well served, and amply demonstrated.

In 2009, we began to make real progress in addressing our different audiences. We made great strides in promoting Earth science education, in responding to Government inquiries, bringing the geoscientific perspective to the attention of opinion formers on important topics – many of which are rapidly becoming the defining issues of the age. Climate change; radioactive waste disposal; the looming energy and commodities gaps, as natural resources begin to pass their peak of production; skills shortages in key areas; innovative information delivery – all these issues (and more) have in some way been addressed by various aspects of the Society's work in 2009. You will read about these activities in this new, slimmed-down Annual Review, which I commend to you. If you wish to know about things in greater detail, please visit www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2009.

We have begun the process of mapping where we, as a distinctive and powerful voice for geosciences, fit into the future of those sciences, both nationally and internationally. We aim to be an authoritative and reliable commentator, while recognising that we will always be adding our perspective to that of others, in what we hope will be a complementary way. Building on the extensive groundwork that we have already laid in fields of government and media relations, as well as education, we have set about defining our own, distinctive voice.

When I cross the Society's threshold today, I sense a completely different atmosphere from the one I remember from my previous spell as an Officer. Visitors – many of whom are accustomed to gauging the atmosphere in various UK learned societies – have noticed it too, so I am convinced it is true! There is a palpable sense of purpose, a new vibrancy. One senses, as ever, a justifiable interest and pride in our history; but also, an eagerness to embrace the future, and to develop new ways of engaging new audiences in the powerful and increasingly relevant story that we as Earth scientists have to tell.

In this report, for example in the section about our professional activities, you will read much about "remodelling". That, I feel, is a keyword for what has been

a wholesale refashioning that, over the last decade, has revitalised the entire Society. As this is the last Annual Review in which I shall address you as your President, I should record my thanks to all of those on Council, especially the Officers and of course the Executive Secretary and staff, who have helped me during my Presidency; and to say how proud I am to have played my part in this enterprise.

Lynne Frostick

Council membership

President:	Prof Lynne Frostick
Vice Presidents:	Dr Iain Bartholomew; Prof Susan Marriott; Dr George Tuckwell
Secretaries:	Prof Philip Allen; Prof David Manning; Dr Jonathan Turner
Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs:	Prof Edward Derbyshire
Treasurer:	Prof Andrew Fleet

Council members – trustees of the charity – during the year were:

Prof P A Allen ^{1,4,7}	Prof J Ludden ²
Dr I D Bartholomew ^{1,2,4}	*Mr P C Maliphant ⁵
*Mr M Brown ²	Prof D A C Manning ^{1,4,5}
~Mr A M Carbray ^{3,5}	*Prof S Marriott ^{1,4,5}
~Prof M G Culshaw ^{1,4,5}	Prof J D Marshall ⁶
Dr M Daly ²	*Prof S Monro ²
Prof E Derbyshire ^{1,2,4}	~Dr M O Rivett ^{5,6}
Prof A J Fleet ^{1,3,4,6}	~Dr N W Rogers ^{1,3,4,6}
Prof C M R Fowler ⁷	Mr G Tuckwell ^{1,4,5}
Prof L E Frostick ^{1,2,4}	Dr J P Turner ^{1,4,6}
Dr R Herrington ^{3,7}	*Prof D J Vaughan ^{3,6}
~Prof R E Holdsworth ⁶	*Mr N R Walton ⁶
*Dr R Hughes ³	~Prof A B Watts ^{1,4,7}
Dr A Law ⁴	~Prof R S White ^{1,2}
Prof A R Lord ^{2,7}	Dr R A W Wood ⁷
*Dr J P B Lovell ⁴	

* New members elected at the AGM on 3 June 2009
~ Council members who retired at the AGM 3 June 2009

Membership of Standing Committees

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



Serving the public

From the Executive Secretary

This year our printed *Annual Review* has shrunk – the second year in succession that it has done so. Last year's *Review* placed much of its source material online only, and this year we have gone even further in that direction. We have done so to help make this document shorter and more readable; not only in the hope that more of our Fellows and Friends (whose numbers grew by 1% to 9777 in 2009) will read it; but that visitors and those who write for information will find it useful too.

One of the things that our visitors now see is the renamed Janet Watson Lecture Theatre, dedicated in May 2009 (p11). And they will also notice three new artworks – a portrait in oils of Janet Watson, by Alice Hesketh; a charcoal sketch for that portrait, and a photograph of our current President, Lynne Frostick, presented by the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering & Technology on her becoming one of the Centre's "Women of Achievement" for 2009. Paying tribute to two of our notable female Fellows has gone at least some way, we hope, towards acknowledging the great and increasing contribution of women to the development of our science.

The year 2009 saw the appointment of Dr Bill Gaskarth as Chartership Officer. This has greatly assisted the remodelling of our chartership validation procedures, and has brought early benefits in the increased number of candidates now coming forward (p8). We also enhanced the scrutiny process by introducing the annual scrutineers' training and induction day (p8), and extended our accreditation scheme for university degree courses to the Middle East for the first time (p13).

In March 2009 we welcomed a new Regional Group (p14) – the Solent Regional Group – whose area stretches from the New Forest in the west to Bognor Regis in the east, taking in Winchester and the Isle of Wight. The new Group's first Chair and Secretary were Amanda Lane and Wendy Fergusson and I should like to congratulate them on an excellent first year in operation. Regional groups do much to strengthen links between the academic and industrial wings of our subject, and our Society. Such academic-industrial partnerships were a feature of some of our more successful collaborative ventures in 2009 – for example, the Engineering Group's London Basin Forum, which held its first open meeting in October, and the Petroleum Group's new evening discussions, which grew out of the very successful debates strand of 2009's VIIth Petroleum Geology Conference (p9). This return to controversy was a notable success of 2009.

Controversy is, of course, popular; "to see the Fellows fight", being one of the major draws of our 19th Century activities. The public has been coming in increasing numbers through the portals of Burlington House. They

come to our Shell Lectures (p6), which now routinely run twice on their appointed days to accommodate as many as possible of those who wish to come and learn about modern Earth sciences. We are making all these lectures (and many more) routinely available for free viewing on our website, so that those unable to attend in person do not need to miss out completely on the experience. The legacy of our Bicentenary continues to have its effect, as the Shell-sponsored University Lecture Series draws increasingly large crowds from host and neighbouring institutions, all across the UK.

During 2009 we spent much time organising and preparing for public exhibitions. In the year that our most famous painting, *The Examination of the Piltdown Skull* by James Cooke, went on loan to the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany, for a Darwin Bicentenary-related show, we look forward to the exhibition *Sir John St. Aubyn – The Secret Life of a Collector* (covered extensively in *Geoscientist*, currently on tour and due to open in Burlington House in 2011) and welcome *Darwin in Westminster*, opened to the public in March 2010.



Those who visit the building for these events, or to see the William Smith Map, can now purchase a completely revised and updated second edition of *Handsome Accommodation*, the official guide to the Society's Apartments. Now illustrated in full colour, this excellent book, revised by Sarah Day from the original by Ted Nield, and incorporating contributions from the late John Thackray, Eric Robinson and many others, is on sale at reception for £3.50.

As you read this *Review*, I hope you too will get a sense of a very full year in which our seemingly diverse activities have been directed towards known objectives – ultimately derived from our Strategy, and set forth in the shorter term in our business plan. This sense of direction and purpose, which the President (and visitors) have sensed, derives, I believe, from a structure and continuity in our work that nevertheless allows us to remain flexible enough to respond to shocks (like the economic downturn) and yet creative enough to seize those unforeseeable opportunities that life is for ever throwing in our path.

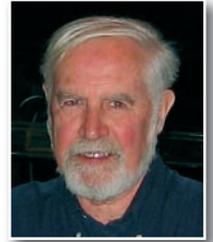
Edmund Nickless



Public voice

The strategy of the Society is focused on being the respected public voice of geoscience within the UK.

Prof Edward Derbyshire
Secretary, External Affairs



The Society's External Relations Committee has during 2009 focused clearly on those outward-facing matters that are its particular responsibility, taken a strategic overview of relationships with other bodies and given a lead to other committees in developing and managing these relationships.

2009 saw significant staffing changes, recognising Council's commitment that communication with external audiences (policy makers, the media, education and 'citizen scientists') should be at the heart of all we do. Ted Nield has moved completely into his role as Editor of *Geoscientist*, while Sarah Day, (Earth Science Communicator), now conducts media relations – assisting with media inquiries and promoting Society activities – alongside other writing and outreach duties. Nic Bilham has returned full-time as Head of Strategy and External Relations (particularly policy development and government relations). Judi Lakin has returned to join Joanna Mears in sharing an expanded full-time Education Officer post.

The most innovative externally focused initiative of 2009 was the *Friends of the Geological Society* scheme. This is a legacy of the Shell London Lecture series, and a testament to Council's conviction that the Bicentenary should result in long-lasting change and growth. So successful was the inaugural season of lectures in 2007 that Shell agreed to continue its sponsorship for a further three years. The lectures have gone from strength to strength, and we now regularly host two 'performances' of each. Some regular attendees, who did not qualify for Fellowship, expressed the wish to maintain a continuing association with the Society, and the Friends scheme was the result. We look forward to seeing this addition to our community grow significantly during 2010 (www.geolsoc.org.uk/friends).

During 2009 the Education Committee developed a *Lifelong Learning Plan*, aimed at interested laypersons. Work to put this plan into action is already under way. We also launched a series of podcasts (www.geolsoc.org.uk/podcasts),

including reports on the Shell London Lectures and other material that we hope will be welcomed. Also launched in 2009 and aimed at a similarly broad audience, is the *Ask a geologist* facility (www.geolsoc.org.uk/askageologist). This has proved very popular and many answers to questions are now published on the site.



Prof Bill Hartmann (Planetary Science Institute) gives an animated presentation about Mars at the British Science Festival

A particular highlight of our 2009 media activities was the impressive range of print, online and radio coverage obtained for a paper in the *Journal of the Geological Society* on the oldest known fossilised spider's web – timed to coincide with Halloween. The Society also engaged with broader audiences through a wide range of events, including *Big Bang*, aimed at encouraging school pupils to think about careers in science and engineering, and the *British Science Festival*. Here the Society ran successful sessions on the geology of Mars and the legacy of Charles Lyell, while Ted Nield was one of three invited speakers at a special session on C P Snow, 50 years after publication of *The Two Cultures*.

As the learned and professional organisation for UK Earth scientists, the Society is well placed to act as a trustworthy and transparent



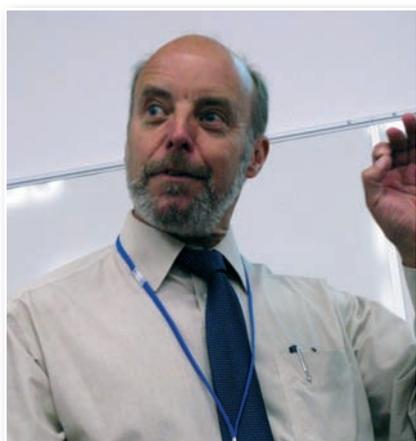
Audience at a Shell London Lecture gets a new perspective



YES1 – Edmund Nickless and the Young Earth Scientists in Beijing

communicator of policy-relevant Earth science, and to facilitate dialogue between diverse groups. The Society continued active involvement in the *Managing Radioactive Waste Safely* programme, working with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. In November we gathered together a varied group, including government officials, senior

oil industry figures, representatives of “green” NGOs and other scientific societies, social scientists and interested laypersons, to hear Dr Bryan Lovell (President-designate), lead a debate on the challenge to



Dr David Norman (Sedgwick Museum) at the British Science Festival

the oil industry posed by climate change, and the industry’s role in addressing it (particularly through Carbon Capture and Storage). Through these activities and others – such as the Executive Secretary’s membership of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee’s Programme Subcommittee – the Society has brought Earth science nearer the fore of the UK public policy agenda.

2009 was the last of the United Nations’ International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) triennium. This major initiative was particularly successful in outreach, especially in developing countries with no history of such

activity. Discussions are under way about what lasting legacy might emerge from IYPE. One contender was the first *Young Earth Scientists Congress*, held in Beijing, which the Society supported, and whose success was a tribute to the talent and energy of the young geologists who organised it.

A permanent record of UK involvement in IGCP 2004 to 2007, completed during 2009, highlighted UK scientists’ continuing distinguished contribution. The Society has also continued to engage with IUGS, and to encourage it to reform its governance, communicate more effectively with national committees and work more closely with IUGG.



Dr Jim Secord (Darwin Correspondence Project)

Creating and growing a network of companies that employ or rely on geoscience professionals for some of their activities is a critical part of our outreach. In 2009 the Corporate Affiliates’ Committee pushed for more environmental and engineering-based companies to join our Affiliates network, as well as banks, insurance brokers and legal companies. Despite the recession, the number of Corporate Affiliates of the Society remained stable at 64 (see p19).



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.



Prof David Manning
Professional Secretary

Promoting meetings and conferences at the cutting edge of our subject is the Society's "core business"; but today's Geological Society also has a role in supporting working professional geoscientists in their essential work, finding and producing raw materials and energy, and ensuring the safe and efficient construction of public infrastructure.

The purpose of the Society's Professional activities (coordinated by the Professional Committee, but extending also into the work of the Education Committee) is to ensure that Chartered Fellows remain at the forefront of good professional practice throughout their careers, thus maintaining the competitiveness of industries reliant on geotechnical expertise, promoting environmental responsibility and, crucially, contributing to the enhancement of public safety and quality of life.

Central to the concept of professionalism are education, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and the validation of individuals (as Chartered Geologists, entitled to use the postnominal CGeol) and of university courses (as satisfying the requirement for climbing onto the first rung of the ladder of professional formation, which leads ultimately to Chartership).



Prof Philip Allen
Science Secretary

One of the major changes in this area of work during 2009 was remodelling the systems for processing applications for Chartered Status. The most visible changes have been logistical. Interviews are now held at regional venues on advertised dates, guaranteeing to candidates that – subject to timely submission, their interview (and if successful, their election) dates are fixed.

Behind this there has also been a shift in the process of appointing, training and supporting Chartership scrutineers. This has involved an active recruitment campaign, enhanced training and networking. As a result, the number of applicants for Chartered Status continues to grow.

Considerable effort has gone in to revising and clarifying the guidance and paperwork associated with applications more robust and simpler to follow. Chartership is most popular among Engineering Geologists, Geotechnical Engineers, Contaminated Land Specialists and Hydrogeologists, whose employers recognise its value. These practitioners work alongside Chartered members of other institutions, and as such need parity of status. Other constituencies within the Society, particularly academia and the hydrocarbon sector, are not

taking up CGeol in similar numbers. In 2010 we plan to promote CGeol to these constituencies. We need to work with these and other groups to ensure that Chartership provides real benefits for them, their employers and through the enhanced services they provide, the public at large.

To show our commitment to geoscience-based industries, in 2009 the Society supported an Industrial Bursary scheme at Portsmouth University to assist the training of engineering geologists. Eight bursaries are on offer, one from the Society and seven from industry. The Industrial Alliance Bursary Scheme (ABS) for the Portsmouth BEng (Hons) Engineering Geology & Geotechnics (sandwich) is aimed at boosting recruitment to at least 25 graduating students per year, halting a recent downward trend.



Led by Nick Koor, other staff involved are Dr Malcolm Whitworth, David Giles, Andrew Poulson, Nick Walton and Dr Andrew Gibson. Nick Koor said: "The scheme aims to increase the pool of talented, employable engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers in the UK, and forge stronger links between the department and the ground engineering industry." Sponsors gain access to the best students and have an input into curriculum development.



As a learned body, the Geological Society appreciates that no scientific knowledge is ever a closed book. In all applied aspects of our work, the forefront developments of science have a bearing on the applied, requiring a need for updating – and for debate. Controversy was always central to the Society's early meetings, and in 2009 it was boosted at the 7th *Petroleum Geology Conference* in Westminster, attended by over 700 people in March-April.



Dr Bryan Lovell
President Designate



Dr Ian Gibson
former chair, Parliamentary
& Scientific Committee

An innovative part of this highly successful meeting was a series of topical discussions covering subjects such as "peak oil", the future of national oil companies, and whether exploration in the North Sea was over.

Environmental Geochemistry Poster Competition, whose winners were announced in October. The meeting, celebrating the collaboration between Imperial College and Anglo American, was hosted by President Designate Dr Bryan Lovell, Dr Ian Gibson

Society's desire to raise the profile of geoscientific issues in the broadest possible arena.

The Petroleum Group is one of the Society's most active, reflecting the crucial role that geosciences play in the exploration and production of the commodity upon which the world depends. The Petroleum Group convened five major conferences during 2009, on cutting-edge research aspects of the science and art that is finding hydrocarbons, with a view to updating explorationists' skills and brainstorming new ideas. In this way, forefront geoscientific research, allied to the best professional practice, bring untold benefit to consumers worldwide.



Voting at PGC7

These debates, each culminating in a show of hands, were so popular that the Petroleum Group has now extended the concept into a regular feature of its meeting calendar, encouraging fresh thinking and innovation.

These qualities were also much in evidence during another collaborative venture, the *Anglo American*

(former Chair of the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee), and Baroness Jenny Tonge (House of Lords Lib Dem Spokesperson for Health) who presented the prizes. The meeting was also attended by Doug Naysmith MP, the immediate past Chair of P&SC. This coming together of academics, industrialists, students and Parliamentarians symbolises the



Baroness Jenny Tonge presents the first prize to Theresa Mercer (Hull University) in the *Anglo American Environmental Geochemistry Poster Competition*



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.



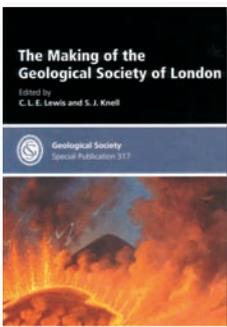
Dr Jonathan Turner
Publications Secretary



Dr Richard Hughes
Chair, Information Management Committee

The Geological Society's Publishing house has become established as a major force in Earth science publishing, whose revenues are essential to supporting the Society's continuing work towards the public good. But the world of publishing is changing radically, and meeting its challenges is a major task facing all publishers.

However, with journal and Lyell Collection revenue significantly ahead of budget, book sales on-budget (and ahead of 2008) and a Publishing House surplus of just over £289,000, Society publishing has come through the year very well. We continue to publish two GSL-owned and two co-owned journal titles – along with three on behalf of smaller societies. The *Journal of the Geological Society* achieved its highest ever impact factor (just under 2.8). The Lyell Collection, which makes the Society's publications available online, continues to grow with some 20 new book titles (and one DVD) added in 2009.



Our Special Publications continued to attract favourable reviews from corporate and individual purchasers around the world, who praise them for their scientific content and high production values. Highlights of 2009 undoubtedly included *The Making of the Geological Society* edited by Cherry Lewis & Simon Knell, and *Global Neoproterozoic Petroleum Systems* edited by Jonathan Craig & colleagues – the latter a superbly successful integration of fundamental

and applied Earth system science. A healthy number of titles are in hand for 2010, but sustaining the current rate of SP publication remains a major challenge. The number of new proposals being accepted has been in decline for around two years, and we are pursuing several new initiatives to reverse this trend.

The Lyell Collection, now in its third year, continues to grow in content and functionality, providing the global geoscience community with instant access to an ever-widening range of published material dating back to 1811. At the end of 2009 the Lyell Collection had attracted 79 institutional subscriptions to the full collection, including four sales of global licence deals to corporations (worth more than single subscriptions). New developments included the launch, on the enhanced hosting platform, of three new sites – *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*, the *Scottish Journal of Geology* and the *Petroleum Geology Conference* book series. Plans to launch the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* and *Petroleum Geoscience* in 2010 are well advanced. We are also seeing the first pay-per-view accesses to the *Petroleum Geology Conference* series site. The archival volumes (PGCs 4, 5 & 6) available free to Fellows as part of the Books Archive.



GeoscienceWorld, the publishing consortium of six scientific societies which the Society co-founded in 2004, continues to provide the Society and its publications with enhanced visibility in the USA and Europe, as well as in emerging markets like China, India and Brazil. During 2009 GSW worldwide subscriptions increased to 327 (an increase of 25 in 12 months).



Despite a price freeze in 2010, GSW is budgeting for growth in subscription income, and is considering options to strengthen its marketing in Europe and South America. Director of Publishing Neal Marriott is GSW Board Vice-Chair, and Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary) sits on its Advisory Council – so the Society enjoys strong communications with GSW as it goes through a period during which significant decisions will need to be taken.

The Publishing House itself is continually innovating its work practices. In 2009, more titles were processed using the *AllenTrack* online submission system. For authors, this means greater convenience and transparency, while editors benefit from enhanced project planning, avoiding production bottlenecks and, ultimately, delivering a faster and more efficient service.



The Society's world-famous library saw its spending on journals grow in 2009 (though largely due to higher prices and poor exchange rates). This resource is now being increasingly accessed by Fellows all over the world, especially since 2009, when the Library negotiated remote access to an additional 21 electronic journals, bringing the total to 61. This is a valuable new service, particularly to people based outside the UK. By the end of the year 685 Fellows had registered for passwords and 18,697 full text articles were downloaded.



Library Assistant Michael McKimm with some rare volumes in need of conservation

As a result of increased journal costs the book-purchasing budget had to be cut, and so a fresh appeal was made to Fellows to donate their recently published books. Council agreed in September 2009 to a thorough review of Library acquisitions, to help decision-making about the Library and its future budget. In order to market the Library more effectively we redesigned a suite of leaflets covering all aspects of our services.

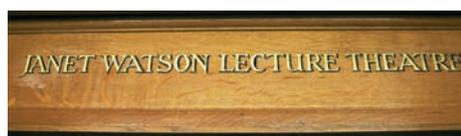
The number of items borrowed by Corporate Affiliates' staff continued to grow, as did the number of interlibrary loan requests – though photocopying requests fell. Staff from Getech and Cairn India were provided with a personal introduction to the Library's services. We are keen to encourage this, as it enables affiliated companies to benefit more fully from our services. The Library also welcomed a number of visitors from other organisations, including The Zoological Society of London, National Botanic Garden of Belgium, CASP and the EuroGeoSurveys Group.

The Society's first minute-book was digitised and sample pages will be made freely available for viewing on the website. Library staff also helped to create an exhibit



Women geologists pay homage to the Society's first woman President

honouring the Society's first Woman President Janet Watson on the occasion of the renaming of the Janet Watson Lecture Theatre, in May 2009.



Our *Sponsor-a-Book* scheme went from strength to strength, conserving and repairing a total of nine antiquarian volumes in 2009, with assistance from generous donations by Fellows and Corporate Affiliates. The restored books were displayed in the Lower Library later in the year.

2009 in figures...
12,000 enquiries handled by Library staff
650 enquiries about maps
278 enquiries to the Archive
800 maps loaned
170 items added to the collection
624 records added to the database of books, maps and serials
40,300 records in total
£14,312.00 from the Fermor Fund spent on material relating to Precambrian geology and ore deposits



Education – securing the future

The Society interacts with education at all levels, from primary to university; helping excite and enthuse young people, providing support to teachers, accrediting degree courses, and supplying careers advice and guidance.



Young scientists learn to steer the seismic train at *Big Bang*.

The Society's annual Careers Day 2009 was held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, and was attended by 400 Earth science students from across the UK. They were able to visit the stands of 38 exhibitors drawn from academia and industry. At the event, the Society encouraged students to join the Society as Candidate Fellows, who may now upload CVs to the Society's on-line CV-search service. This new facility, together with access to the library and networking opportunities, has continued to prove a vital incentive to recruitment. The event was sponsored by Atkins, BP, ExxonMobil and Hess.

The Society started to develop its *Lifelong Learning Initiative* by providing links on the website to short courses for amateur geologists and launching the new *Friends of the Geological Society* scheme, following requests from many who attended the Shell Lecture series to

become part of the Society's work. The scheme has proved extremely popular since launching in June, with nearly 200 people registering interest. The scheme is only available to those who do not qualify for Fellowship.

The Society, together with *Rockwatch*, the young geologists' club, hosted a *Children's Conference* in February. Six schools from across



Earth Science Communicator Sarah Day discusses energy issues with pupils from Bishop Douglass School

London were invited to participate and work towards understanding the issues surrounding climate change, energy and the environment. This enabled us to open our doors to a group of young people who would not normally have an opportunity to visit Burlington House. Plans are underway to run a similar event in 2010.

In March 2009, the Society was represented at *Big Bang*. Over three days at the QE2 Conference Centre, Westminster, nearly 5000 young people and over 1500 teachers, politicians, exhibitors, sponsors and members of the science and engineering community, witnessed the UK's biggest single celebration of science and engineering. Schlumberger kindly lent the Society its "Seismic Simulator", which enabled people to experience earthquakes for themselves and proved very popular.

The Society's education officers continued their outreach work during 2009 and, in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Westminster Archives and the Linnean Society, celebrated our historic links with Charles Darwin, whose 200th birthday fell in 2009. The project consisted of many varied activities involving local schools – including workshops on rocks and soils, posters, the creation of a tapestry, *Darwin – the Opera* and an animated story.

The Society recognised the following students and teachers for achieving the highest exam pass marks in geology at "A" Level in 2009: Under the WJEC Board: Catherine Matthews (Stockton Riverside College) and her teacher Mr Ed Anderson. Under the OCR Board:



Jack Judd (Bishops Wordsworth's School) and Mr Stuart Smallwood (Head Teacher, Bishop Wordsworth School) and Mrs Frances Stratton (South Wiltshire Girls' Grammar).

Higher education



Dr Bill Gaskarth
Chair, Accreditation Panel

The Society offers an accreditation service for University degree programmes in geology, through a process managed by Accreditation Officer Dr Colin Scrutton and Chair of the Accreditation Panel, Dr Bill Gaskarth. As well as providing a form of quality assurance to prospective degree candidates, holders of qualifications from accredited programmes can be confident that by the time they graduate, they will have satisfactorily completed the early stages of professional formation, on the road to Chartered Status (CGeol).

The Society now accredits 149 first degree programmes from 26 university departments in the UK and abroad, including for the first time in 2009, the Middle East. The Society also accredits four taught Masters degree programmes from two UK departments.



Dr Bill Gaskarth, Professor Peter Styles and Dr John Powell on an Accreditation Panel visit to Jeddah.

To ensure that standards are maintained, a course's Accreditation must be renewed periodically; and in 2009 for the first time, institutions were allowed to apply for reaccreditation up to a year in advance. This allows departments to avoid the danger that the apparent imminent expiry of its accreditation might discourage applications. The University of the West Indies' Petroleum Geoscience Unit, which together with King Abdulaziz University's Faculty of Earth Sciences (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) is one of the Society's two overseas accredited departments, was the first to take advantage of this new arrangement.

For taught MSc programmes, the accreditation period was changed from five to six years, in line with a change in the NERC funding cycle. The Panel also continues to monitor the progress of the Bologna initiative and the actions taken by accredited institutions to make their programmes "Bologna compliant". The purpose of the Bologna Process is to harmonise academic degree and quality assurance standards throughout Europe.



Regional and national leadership

“Making geologists acquainted with one another” was one of the earliest purposes of the Society from its inception in 1807. That role continues through the activities of its Specialist and Regional Groups.



Kimmeridge Bay, Dorset.

New regional group

2009 was notable for the creation of a new regional group. The Solent Regional Group staged its first event, a field trip to the Isle of Wight, in April and held a further five events at its twin venues of Southampton and Portsmouth universities. Wendy Fergusson, Secretary of the Group, said: “Our committee is a mix of industry, public sector and academia, a cross-section that has been reflected in attendance at our events this year. The topics, chosen to be of local interest as well as classic geology, have attracted good attendance at each event from both within and outwith our ‘core’ area.”

The Group, held seven meetings during the year on topics ranging from dinosaurs on the Isle of Wight to the hydrogeological management of landfill sites and the geological storage (sequestration) of carbon dioxide. It also followed the lead of the Society in reaching out and building bridges with other cognate groups in the region.

Says Fergusson: “We staged a joint meeting with the Southern Geotechnical Group of the ICE and as part of our AGM in December, and held a geologically themed photographic competition which used on-line voting via the Geological Society website. Nineteen entries were received with localities varying from the south coast England to New Zealand, Iceland and western North America.

Derby day

The Society’s Careers Day (see p12) which puts students in touch with potential employers and higher degree courses, is a national initiative that has run successfully for many years. However, many employment opportunities for geologists are local, and this is where a regional careers day can be of great benefit. Several regional groups of the Society run such events, one of the most ambitious being the East Midlands Regional Group.

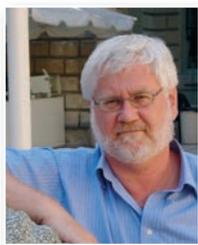
Following two months’ planning and preparation the Group facilitated an Earth Sciences Careers Day at the University of Derby with Dr Peter Jones (University of Derby). This event was very well supported by professionals from the East Midlands and the Yorkshire Geology Group. The standard of presentations was once again very high and the event generally well received by students and staff, for whom it also provided valuable networking opportunities. Careers Day was rounded off with an excellent presentation on gypsum and gypsum mine working, delivered by Dr Noel Worley.

Wild Wales

Sarah Day (Earth Science Communicator) paid a visit to the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff to attend Gwyddoniaeth a’r Cynulliad “Science and the Assembly”, now in its fifth year. This event provides opportunities for scientists and members of the Assembly to develop links and included a series of scientific presentations in the Wales Millennium Centre, and an exhibition by scientific organisations in the Senedd. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Science and Health”, which included a surprisingly large amount of geology.



The Welsh Senate building, Cardiff



Against all odds

From the Treasurer

All the work undertaken by the staff in 2008 in preparing the 2009 budget, highlighted in my report last year, together with careful monitoring of spending and income by the Management Team throughout the year, not only ensured the Society's financial stability in 2009 but provided an overall performance well ahead of budget, with a deficit of about £18,000 against a budgeted deficit of £298,000.

This performance was again due to contributions and savings from across the Society. Despite the financial climate, Fellowship numbers (and therefore income) held up, and support from Corporate Affiliates was only slightly down. Meetings and Events received a profit share of £71,000 from the 7th Petroleum Geology Conference held in March. This windfall was not included in the budget, but it reflected an immense amount of hard work by the Conference Office team in contributing to the PGC's organisation. Fellowship, Corporate Affiliate and Meetings income and costs will continue to be carefully monitored in 2010 and future years as the national and global economies try to re-establish some form of health.

Income from investments, at £169,608, was slightly more than had been included in the cautious investment budget for the year, but was still well short of the ongoing target of £200,000 per annum. Our investment managers, UBS, in dialogue with the Society's Investment Panel, have been readjusting the investment portfolio with a view to closing the gap in future years.

The Publishing House had an excellent year, weathering the uncertainties in the demand for electronic access versus the continuing wish for printed copy. It achieved a surplus of £289,383 – just over double the budgeted surplus of

£143,663. This is a significant achievement, given that the uncertainties of the publishing world go beyond those of the financial climate. It provides some confidence that we can manage these uncertainties going forward; but their very nature can leave us no room for complacency.

As planned during the year we have used reserves to achieve progress of the Society's business plan that flows from its strategy. You can read about some of this work in the President's review and elsewhere. Despite this our free reserves at the close of the year stand at £1,329,661, £169,197 up on the previous year and somewhat above the maximum free reserve sufficiency declared in the Society's Reserves Policy. This has in significant part been due to the way some of our cash investments have been handled this year. We intend to expend these "excess" reserves during the next year in fulfilling the Society's charitable aims.

Prof Andy Fleet



Summarised financial statements

Balance sheet at 31 December 2009 – Group

	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets: Heritage assets	14,214,503	14,026,018
Other assets	1,173,906	1,375,855
Investments: Listed and unlisted	3,965,981	3,265,092
Portfolio cash	100,296	917,588
	<hr/> 19,454,686	<hr/> 19,584,553
Current assets		
Stocks: Finished goods	210,499	232,820
Debtors	572,595	618,009
Cash at bank and in hand	1,588,376	958,653
Held by specialist and regional groups	135,142	134,580
	<hr/> 2,506,612	<hr/> 1,944,062
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	516,734	510,536
Deferred income	1,419,072	1,465,390
	<hr/> 1,935,806	<hr/> 1,975,926
Net current assets/(liabilities)	570,806	(31,864)
Net assets	<hr/> 20,025,492	<hr/> 19,552,689
Unrestricted funds: General purposes	2,084,185	1,746,649
<i>Designated</i>		
Constituted and regional groups	189,203	194,642
Revaluation reserve	13,291,276	13,208,312
Burlington House Redecoration Fund	285,918	335,573
Bicentenary Project Fund	310,437	468,907
Lyll Centre Fund	128,615	187,846
Educational Outreach Fund	175,000	175,000
Alan and Charlotte Welch Fund	199,237	199,237
Restricted income funds	2,297,200	1,972,102
Endowment funds	1,064,421	1,064,421
	<hr/> 20,025,492	<hr/> 19,552,689

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 21 April 2010

Prof Lynne Frostick (**President**)

Prof Andrew Fleet (**Treasurer**)



Summarised financial statements

Consolidated Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2009

	Unrestricted Income Funds	Restricted Income Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and expenditure</i>					
<i>Incoming resources</i>					
Donations, legacies, gifts and similar incoming resources	7,717	–	–	7,717	22,986
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Publications activities	1,858,102	–	–	1,858,102	1,682,219
Conferences and events	618,721	–	–	618,721	749,425
Fellowship services	1,282,111	–	–	1,282,111	1,237,369
Bicentenary initiatives	–	–	–	–	6,138
Investment income and interest	86,380	83,228	–	169,608	233,095
Activities for generating funds:					
Hire of rooms	94,727	–	–	94,727	100,682
Catering	169,778	–	–	169,778	144,243
Total incoming resources	4,117,536	83,228	–	4,200,764	4,176,157
<i>Outgoing resources</i>					
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>					
Investment management costs	4,669	8,506	–	13,175	21,642
Catering	137,320	–	–	137,320	139,450
<i>Charitable expenditure</i>					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects:					
Publishing activities	1,568,719	–	–	1,568,719	1,475,146
Conferences and events	855,892	–	–	855,892	939,726
Fellowship services	1,596,327	13,501	–	1,609,828	1,507,440
Bicentenary initiatives	–	–	–	–	20,375
<i>Governance costs</i>	34,722	–	–	34,722	37,310
Total charitable expenditure	4,055,660	13,501	–	4,069,161	3,979,997
Total resources expended	4,197,649	22,007	–	4,219,656	4,141,089



Summarised financial statements

Consolidated Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2009 *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Income Funds	Restricted Income Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	£	£	£	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	(80,113)	61,221	–	(18,892)	35,068
Transfer between funds	–	–	–	–	–
Net incoming /(outgoing) resources	(80,113)	61,221	–	(18,892)	35,068
Gains/(loss) on investment assets	144,854	263,877	–	408,731	(841,775)
Gains on heritage assets	82,964	–	–	82,964	–
Net movements in funds	147,705	325,098	–	472,803	(806,707)
Fund balances brought forward At 1 January 2009	16,516,166	1,972,102	1,064,421	19,552,689	20,359,396
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2009	16,663,871	2,297,200	1,064,421	20,025,492	19,552,689

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/annualreview2009

Summarised financial statements

Independent auditor's statement

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Geological Society of London.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual review in accordance with applicable law.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements within the annual review with the full financial statements and 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 misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

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 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and trustees' report of the Geological Society of London for the year ended 31 December 2009.

BDO LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Epsom, United Kingdom.

21 April 2010

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

Corporate Affiliates



Dr Iain Bartholomew
Vice President & Chair, Corporate
Affiliates Committee

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

Afren plc; Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (UK); Anglo American Plc; AngloGold Ashanti Ltd; ATP Oil & Gas (UK) Ltd; Baker RDS; BG Group Plc; BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd; BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd; Cairn Energy India PTY Ltd; C & C Reservoirs Ltd; Centrica plc; CGG Veritas; Chevron North Sea Limited; Citrus Partners LLP; CNR International (UK) Ltd; ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd; Desire Petroleum Plc; Dong E&P (UK) Ltd; ENI UK Ltd ; EOG Resources United Kingdom Ltd; E.ON Ruhrgas UK ; Equipose Solutions Ltd; ExxonMobil International Ltd; Fairfield Energy Ltd; Furgro Robertson Ltd; Fugro NPA; Gaffney Cline & Associates Ltd; GWP Consultants; GETECH; Hannon Westwood Associates; Hardy Oil & Gas Plc; Hess Ltd; HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd; Hunt Oil Company; Ikon Science Ltd; Lafarge Aggregates Ltd; Landmark Eame Ltd; Lynx Information Systems Ltd; Maersk Oil North Sea Ltd; Marathon Oil UK Ltd; MND Exploration & Production Ltd; Nautical Petroleum Plc; Neflex Petroleum Consultants; Nexen Petroleum U.K. Limited ; Noble Energy (Europe) Limited; NDA; OMV (UK) Ltd; Ophir Energy Company Limited; Petro-Canada UK Ltd; Petrofac Energy Developments Ltd; PGS Exploration Ltd; Premier Oil Plc; Premier Oil Norge AS; Ramboll UK Ltd; Rio Tinto Mining & Exploration Ltd; Rock Deformation Research Ltd; RPS Energy; RWE Dea UK Ltd; Schlumberger Evaluation & Production Services Ltd; Senergy Ltd; Shell UK Exploration & Production Ltd; Statoil (UK) Ltd; Sterling Energy UK Ltd; Total E&P UK Ltd; Tullow Oil Plc; Valiant Petroleum Ltd; Venture Production plc; John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

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

Acknowledgment

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.



The
Geological
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