

## Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Geological Curators' Group

Held as a virtual meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 3pm



### 1. Apologies for absence

Steve Tunnicliff and Sue Turner

### 2. Acceptance of the minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> AGM held at the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge

Minutes had been previously circulated in electronic form. It was proposed that they be accepted without modification. Proposed: **Anthony Morgan**. Seconded: **Cindy Howells**.  
Agreed following a show of electronic hands.

### 3. GCG Annual Report for 2020

The Annual Report had been circulated to members electronically on 7 November 2020. A minor alteration to the accounts sign-off was circulated in the morning of 30 November 2020. Questions and comments were invited since the Annual Report had not been signed off yet. As chair, **Sarah King** read some highlights from the report covering the activity since the last AGM:

This was Sarah's first year as chair and the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has made it a very difficult one, with many museums facing staff cuts and closure. Please contact GCG for advice or letters of support for your collections. GCG was founded in 1974 and was first registered as a charity in 1986. This year has seen preparation to move GCG to CIO status, reform it into a modern framework and increase transparency. Links have been made with SSN consortium and we have a new representative Duncan Murdock on GSSC.

**Simon Harris** was thanked for his continuing work on maintaining the GCG website and extra support hosting virtual meetings and training events.

**Zoë Hughes** was thanked for organising online events during this difficult year.

**Emma Bernard** was thanked for keeping everyone informed and organising our regular committee meetings.

**Pip Brewer** has been reforming the Geological Curator journal in her role as editor.

**Rachel Walcott** (Treasurer): No surplus from workshops this year due to lockdown. Some expenditure working towards CIO status. The Euro account has been closed. Many thanks to **Andy Ross** and **Sherri Donaldson** for auditing the accounts. Gift aid registry will be applied for next year. Graphs of annual surplus have been included in the report. No questions were raised.

**Cindy Howells** (Membership): Subscriptions for 2021 can now be paid on the website. Please check that you do not have a standing order before paying. Please check your personal details on the website, especially email address.

**Emma Bernard** (Secretary): There was one last minute update to the report to reflect a change in auditors.

**Zoë Hughes** (Programme Secretary): We need your feedback and ideas for events, especially mineral-related events. We need hosts and venues for events going forward. Please contact committee members through <https://www.geocurator.org/committee>

**Pip Brewer** (Journal Editor): We are looking for submissions for the journal, especially articles related to mineralogy. Please feel free to email me to discuss your ideas.

**Emma-Louise Nicholls** (Blog and Newsletter Editor): Please send blog entries to [blog@geocurator.org](mailto:blog@geocurator.org) Emma will be stepping down as newsletter editor but continuing as blog editor.

**Alex Peaker**: The ThumbsUp leaflet is being updated with current guidelines and new design. Now waiting for sponsorship before distribution.

**Mike Howe** (Collections Officer): Deals with collections under threat, strategic development, digitisation and collections advocacy. Digitisation is the area likely to receive funding in the future, it is a more sustainable approach, reducing the need to travel.

**Simon Harris** (Webmaster): The activities of GCG have been enabled this year via the BGS Zoom account. Many thanks to Daniel Lockett for completing digitisation of full-text indexing of the journal – this is now on the website [www.geocurator.org/journal/search](http://www.geocurator.org/journal/search) (please log in as a member). An online training event may be held to guide people through the search process. Printed back issues are available, see annual report for instructions on ordering. Asking only for a donation to cover postage costs.

**Sarah King** (Chair): thanked all committee members for their work this year and welcomed Lil Stevens back after her maternity leave.

#### 4. Vote on the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) conversion

Moving to CIO status means less financial risk to Trustees. The constitution is available online. The constitution was written by the Charity Commission and some minor changes were made by GCG following legal advice. Anonymous votes were held by electronic poll (non-members were moved to the virtual waiting room for all voting sessions).

Poll 1 – inclusion of the clause of dissolution to the current GCG constitution 39 votes, 97% voted “yes”.  
Poll 2 – agree to dissolution of current charity 296050 and conversion to CIO status. 40 votes, 95% voted “yes”.

**John Nudds** raised some points relating to the conversion to CIO status: the apostrophe has been ignored; membership fees should actually be just a subscription to the journal; senior officer posts should not be forced out after 3 years because they are difficult to fill. **Sarah King** replied that the meaning of membership will be discussed by the committee, trustees can be re-elected so they can serve for 6 years, but it is important to gain fresh ideas and impetus. **Roy Starkey** – a limit on time served may actually encourage people to serve because they will feel less trapped. **Simon Harris** – you don’t need to be a trustee to help out with the committee. **Emma Bernard** – you can shadow roles with a view to taking over in subsequent years. **Roy Starkey** – need to avoid issues encountered by the Russell Society. **Philip Hadland** – need to make people feel okay to retire from roles. **John Nudds** – the roles were not filled-out in the constitution. **Sarah King** – committee was waiting until vote had been passed and legal conversation is complete regarding liability and financial considerations. **Emma Bernard** – the Geological Society has no issues with the new constitution, the issue of liability has put people off joining the committee in the past. Please approach members of the committee to join or learn more.

#### 5. Election of Committee Members for 2021

**Lu Allington-Jones** as new Newsletter Editor. **Simon Harris** and Pip **Brewer** nominated. No objections.  
**Rob Lowther** elected to Ordinary member. **Alex Peaker** and **Sarah King** nominated. No objections.  
**Hillary Ketchum** returning as Ordinary Member. **Sarah King** and **Emma Bernard** nominated. No objections.  
Election of auditors for next year: **Sherri Donaldson** and **Andy Ross**. Proposed by **Emma Bernard** and seconded by **Alex Peaker**.  
Vote to accept Committee members who are not changing roles: 100% “yes”

- **Chair:** Sarah King (*York Museums Trust*)
- **Secretary:** Emma Bernard (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Treasurer:** Rachel Walcott (*National Museums Scotland*)
- **Membership Secretary:** Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)
- **Programme Secretary:** Zoë Hughes (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Journal Editor:** Pip Brewer (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Blog Editor:** Emma Nicholls (*Horniman Museum and Gardens*)
- **Newsletter Editor:** Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Collections Officer:** Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Web Officer:** Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Ordinary Member:** Alex Peaker (*Dinosaur Isle*)
- **Ordinary Member:** Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)
- **Ordinary Member:** Hilary Ketchum (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)

- **Co-opted Member:** (archive support): Lil Stevens (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Co-opted Member:** (Conservation Officer): Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)

Help is needed for many roles such as supporting the website, hosting meetings, accounts, charity commission. Please contact the Committee if you are interested.

6. Any other business

**Emma Bernard:** There have been many questions regarding providing mixed virtual and in-person events even after the pandemic is over. This will be discussed over the coming year. Virtual events are good for attracting international attendance, but there is a great risk of losing revenue if the in-person part is poorly attended (venue and refreshment costs).

**Simon Harris:** any help with virtual meetings gratefully received.

7. Date and venue for next Annual General Meeting

No venue has yet been set for the next AGM. It is likely to be held in Liverpool or Oxford. Thank you to **Zoë Hughes** for organising today's talks.

The meeting closed at 16:30

Lu Allington-Jones  
01/12/2020

Signed as a true record of events	Date
<i>Dr Sarah King</i> Chair	30/11/21