

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Geological Curators' Group.  
National Museum Wales, Cardiff.  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Mike Howe, Isla Gladstone, Tom Sharpe, Alan Howell, Nigel Larkin, Nigel Monaghan, Mick Stanley, Will Watts, Patrick Wyse Jackson.

**2. Acceptance of the minutes of the 44th AGM held at National Museum Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin.**

Acceptance proposed: Cindy Howells. Seconded: Emma Bernard.  
**Agreed.**

**3. Matters arising.**

None.

**4. GCG Annual Report.**

This is the second year of reporting in this format, although this 2018 version differs in format from that 2017. A copy is sent to all registered delegates. Matthew Parkes thanked Sarah King for compiling the report. The following is a brief overview of the sections covered in the Annual report.

**4.1. View from the Chair. Matthew Parkes.**

Matthew Parkes gave an overview of GCG work over the past year.

**Website.**

Simon Harris has consolidated changes to the GCG website started last year. This, and work done by Sarah King on our archive of records, policies and processes, will support Committee work and allow GCG to keep a better record of how and why certain actions and decisions have been made.

**Resources.**

We now expect to finish a revised "Advice booklet" for geology students and their supervisors very soon. The original drafts have undergone major revisions and redesign by Hilary Ketchum.

**Organisation.**

Sarah King has worked hard to produce the materials for today's AGM. She has also been looking after GCG governance, Liaison with the Geological Society, Charity Commission compliance and duties organising Committee meetings. Thanks also to Alex Peaker and Emma Bernard for their work on a social media policy.

**Accounts.**

GCG Finances are currently healthy, helped by Rachel Walcott keeping control and upgrading our capacity with card readers. Money taken at meetings in such ways goes towards increased activities and campaigning.

**Publications.**

*Coprolite* has evolved into a shorter pdf format. This notice of meetings and events is being issued regularly. Email version saves GCG expenditure on printing and postage. Other former elements of the newsletter are now being delivered in the form of two blogs: "*News from the sector*" covers all sorts of information, whilst the general GCG blog carries more reflective or discursive discussions. Thanks to Emma Nicholls for work on all of these publications.

**Collections.**

Loss of posts and closures are an ever-present threat. GCG will continue to support curators and collections in individual cases, but these plans often only become public knowledge when

effectively signed off. It is our belief that advocacy on behalf of collections and curators before they are under threat is the best use of our capabilities.

### **Programme.**

I thank Zoë Hughes for developing our 2018 programme and her work on developing an interesting schedule of meetings for 2019.

### **Geological Society.**

Our relationship with the Geological Society is constructive and we contribute to the Science Committee's works and policy in different ways. Dr Sally Thompson attends most of our meetings and acts as a liaison between the Society and GCG.

### **Relationships with the wider world.**

We are looking at better communications with SPNHC, but have a good relationship with NatSCA. Whilst Isla Gladstone (GCG/NatSCA representative to both committees) was on maternity leave Emma Nicholls fulfilled this role. We hope Isla will be managing a new project, jointly submitted by GCG and NatSCA to Arts Council England for funding.

I have attended meetings of the Geoconservation Committee of the Geological Society, and hosted their Annual Gathering in Dublin this year. Nigel Larkin, conservator and member of ICON, has briefed GCG on relevant matters throughout the year, as well as working with Cindy Howells to deliver GCG's joint meeting the Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC) at the SVPCA meeting in Manchester in November.

Emma Bernard has been attending the Earth Science Education Forum (ESEF) for GCG. The Arts Council England previously hosted a meeting of Subject Specialist Networks, and the groups involved have been active in developing a continuing network. GCG hope to play a more active role in this network in future. We aim to have a permanent representative on board soon.

## **4.2. Accounts.**

The year ended in a profit of £3672. PayPal has been popular and is being used by our international members so the US Dollar account has been closed. We still operate the Euro account, although it includes operational fees, as this can be used by Matthew Parkes in Dublin for *Geological Curator* related expenditure. The Euro account will be reviewed in the coming year to determine the best costs for GCG. Donations towards various costs added £1340 to the accounts. Thanks to auditors Andy Ross and Neil Clark. Thanks also to Tiffany Adrain who took care of the US GCG account for many years from Iowa.

## **4.3. Membership and Networks.**

### **4.3.1. Membership and reach.**

There has been a real rise in new subscriptions due to the ease of registering and paying on our new website. Membership currently stands at 269.

### **4.3.2. Correspondence and networks.**

We continue to meet annually with the Geological Society and now have representation with ESEF. We had representation at the Munich Mineral Show (October), in an effort to broaden our networks in mineralogy. Our joint bid to ACEs Subject Specialist networks fund is called "*Realising the potential of natural sciences collections in a changing climate*". The result of the bid should be known within the next week. The GEO-CURATORS JISCmail list still attracts enquiries and requests to send messages about disposals, jobs and general queries.

## **4.4. Events and participation.**

The 2017 winter seminar and AGM was held 14-15<sup>th</sup> November at the NMI, Collins Barracks, Dublin, entitled "Making the most of a move". Both talks and workshops got positive feedback. Compared to 2017, GCG was back to a full annual programme of three well-attended events.

**10th May.** "*Pyrite oxidation: where are we now?*". Workshop. NHM.

**25-26<sup>th</sup> July.** Moulding and casting workshop. BGS, Keyworth.

**18-19<sup>th</sup> September.** “*Collectors, Collections and the Geology of South-West Britain*”. Joint with HOGG. Bath Royal & Literary Scientific Institute, Bath.

We thank all hosts, facilitators and contributors to our events this year, without whom GCG would not be able to run its programme.

#### **4.5. Publications.**

##### **4.5.1. *The Geological Curator.***

In 2018, one part of the *Geological Curator* was published (Vol. 10, Number 9) in October. It carried three papers and an account of the 2017 Brighton medal presentation to Graham Worton. The second part for 2018 should appear after the AGM. For 2019, we are looking at three thematic sets covering material from the two GCG events in 2018, as well as the 2017 AGM on collections moves. We thank all contributors and referees for our 2018 issues.

##### **4.5.2. *Coprolite* newsletter.**

*Coprolite* has been published since 1990, and has had three issues a year, giving 83 up to the end of 2017. Emma Nicholls was elected Newsletter Editor at the end of 2017 and the start of 2018 saw a change in format (see above).

#### **4.6. Collections support.**

##### **4.6.1. Collections monitoring.**

Collections monitoring is an important part of the work of GCG. A number of collections have been affected by threats and funding cuts.

**Torquay Museum** escaped a devastating cut from Torbay Council. Funding is now guaranteed at current levels until April 2020.

**Hampshire Cultural Trust** restructured with the loss of several subject specialists.

**Kingston University Earth and Marine Sciences department** is being closed over the next two years, with the disposal of 70 years worth of geological teaching materials, some being rehomed at BGS and the NHM.

**BGS** is now an issuing agent for IGSNs (International Geosample Numbers) which would make UK collections more easily accessible at an international level.

##### **4.6.2. Care of Collections.**

As reported above, the pyrite decay workshop was a success. Videos of the talks are available to GCG members on the website.

SPPC in Manchester was attended by 30-40 delegates. The 2019 meeting will be held on the Isle of Wight.

Plans are being made for a two-day conference of fossil marine mammals in May 2019. This will be in the Etches Collection, Dorset.

September 2019 will see a visit to Edinburgh for a meeting on geological fakes and forgeries.

#### **4.7. Online activity.**

##### **4.7.1. Website.**

Newly launched GCG website includes a number of new features. This year we hope to continue to add information to the site. There are still significant amounts of historic data to be scanned and indexed for inclusion.

##### **4.7.2. Blog.**

Emma Nicholls has worked to ensure that at least three new articles are posted each month throughout 2018. Blog posts saw a 400% increase in views on previous years, showing blogs are a popular format for disseminating information within our sector.

##### **4.7.3. Social media.**

We have developed a social media policy. This is available on the GCG website. We are represented on Facebook in two ways: as a group and a page (both called Geological Curators' Group). All content is posted to both, with posts typically reaching 2000-3000 people every week.

We have 1068 Twitter followers (@OriginalGCG), and JISCMail ([GEO-CURATORS@JISCMail.ac.uk](mailto:GEO-CURATORS@JISCMail.ac.uk)) has 276 members.

#### **4.8. Outreach and profile.**

We scaled back our physical attendance at outreach events in 2018 in order to maximise the use of GCG funds in promoting ourselves and our events. We now have full colour postcard sized fliers that are suitable to put out at various events, and a supply of branded tote bags. We will continue to investigate avenues of promotion and revenue to ensure that GCG remains sustainable while delivering on its aims. Please let us know if you would like fliers to promote GCG at any events you attend or organise. If you know of organisations that might like to sponsor a GCG event please also get in touch.

### **5. Election of Committee and Auditors for 2019.**

#### **5.1. Committee.**

Will Watts is to step down from Committee but will continue in a voluntary, advisory role. GCG will benefit from his expertise.

Lil Stevens (NHM) and Pip Brewer (NHM) have been co-opted for archive support and Journal Editor transition respectively.

Hilary Ketchum has become an Ordinary member of Committee.

These changes have to be agreed by the AGM.

**Proposed: Emma Bernard, Seconded: Alex Peaker.**

**Agreed.**

All other potholders remain as detailed on the agenda.

**Proposed Emma Nicholls. Seconded: Zoë Hughes.**

**Agreed.**

#### **5.2. Auditors.**

**Neil Clark and Andy Ross have agreed to take on this role.**

**Agreed.**

Chairman thanked the previous auditors, Caroline Buttler and Christian Baars, for their assistance in previous years.

### **6. Any other business.**

#### **Friends of Crystal Palace dinosaurs.**

The charity set up to promote the long-term conservation of the statues, and the larger site, has made a request to GCG for a donation to help fund an access bridge. Committee have agreed a sum of £250, but needs the agreement of the AGM.

Question from Matt Williams (Bath) regarding ownership of the dinosaurs. Park ownership is with Bromley Council.

**Donation of £250 agreed.**

### **7. Date and venue of next meeting.**

Venue and date to be confirmed after next Committee meeting. Possibly venues: Cambridge or Liverpool.

Theme to be decided later.

Meeting ended 17.08.