



Landscape Research Group Ltd

Directors' Report, 2012

Landscape Research Group Ltd:
a company limited by guarantee (Registered No: 01714386) and registered charity
(Registered No: 287160)

23 April, 2013

Approved by the Board of Directors: 10 May 2013
Approved by the Annual General Meeting: 23 May 2013

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the thirtieth period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2012. The company (referred to below as "the Group" or "LRG") was incorporated on 12th April 1983 as a company limited by guarantee (registered number 1714386). The objects for which the Group is established are:

"to advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields".

The Group is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (number 287160). It is also recognised as a Charity by HM Revenues and Customs for taxation purposes.

2. DIRECTORS, BANKERS, AUDITORS AND SECRETARY

Directors who served during the year were:

Mr Paul Tabbush	(Chair**, from 16 May 2012)
Prof. Tim Collins	(Vice Chair**; and acting Coordinator, Education and Training*)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary**; and Treasurer**)
Prof. Nathalie Blanc	[Director to 12 June 2012]
Prof. Catherine Brace	[Director to 15 October 2012]
Dr David Cooper	[Director from 17 October 2012]
Dr Chris Dalglish	(Coordinator, Research and Policy* from 6 December 2012) [Director from 17 October 2012]
Prof. Laurence le Dû-Blayo	(Coordinator, International and Outreach Activity* from 6 December 2012) [Director from 21 September 2012]
Mr Graham Fairclough	[Director from 17 October 2012]
Mr John Gittins	
Mr Peter Herring	
Prof. Peter J. Howard	(Coordinator, International Activity to 6 December 2012) [Director to 31 December 2012]
Dr Anna Jorgensen	(Associate Editor) [Director from 19 October 2012]
Dr Antonia Noussia	
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	
Prof. Hannes Palang	
Dr George Revill	[Director to 12 June 2012]
Mr Gareth Roberts	(Coordinator, Events Activity*)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> *)
Dr Susanne Seymour	
Prof. Ken Taylor	(Associate Editor)
Dr Ian H. Thompson	(Chair to 16 May 2012; and Consulting Editor)
Dr Emma Waterton	(Coordinator, Website Activity*)
Dr Kathryn Yussof	[Director to 16 January 2012]

The posts shown with a double-asterisk (**) are the Officers of the Group who, together with the Activity Coordinators shown with an asterisk (*), comprise the Group's Executive (all as at 31 December 2012).

Of the nineteen Directors at 31 December 2012, twelve are British. The seven other Directors hold citizenship as follows: Prof. le Dû-Blayo holds French citizenship; Dr Noussia holds Greek citizenship; Prof. Palang holds Estonian citizenship; Prof. Collins and Prof. Olwig hold United States citizenship; and Dr Waterton and Prof. Taylor hold dual British/Australian citizenship.

Bankers are: Lloyds Bank plc, 34 Moorgate, London EC2R 6PL.

Reporting Accountants are: Hepburn and Co, 89A The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QE.

The Company Secretary is: Dr Steven Shuttleworth, 4 Gwyns Piece, Lambourn, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 8YZ.

3. BOARD AND EXECUTIVE

(i) Board of Directors

The Board met on three occasions during 2012, on 16 May, 21 September and 6 December. During the year three email decisions were made separately from decisions at Board meetings, relating to approval of the draft Directors' Report 2011, appointing new Directors following discussions at the Annual General Meeting 2012, and approving recommendations in the Treasurer's and Editor's report to the Board meeting on 21 September (requiring ratification because that meeting was inquorate).

(ii) Role of the Executive

The Executive is responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the Group, except insofar as they are delegated to other Directors; for coordinating the work of all activity groups; and for formulating and recommending on all issues of strategy and policy to the Board. The Executive comprises the four Executive Officers of the Group, namely the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary. In addition, the Officers are supplemented by the Coordinators responsible for delivering the Group's activities, that is the Editor of *Landscape Research* and the five Coordinators for other activities. The Executive's Chair is the Chair of the Board, since 16 May 2012 Paul Tabbush.

(iii) Business Strategy and related Board decisions

Last year's report noted that during 2010 and 2011 the Executive and Board had continued to work on implementing the decisions that resulted from a two-day facilitated 'away-day' event in October 2009 in relation to key issues that affect the long-term direction of the Group, focusing on tasks that had not yet been brought to completion. As ever, the time-pressures on individual Directors (who undertake their roles in a purely voluntary capacity) have proved problematic. However, the new arrangements are now well-established and have enabled delivery of a fuller range of activity in 2012 than has previously been possible, continuing the trend that was initiated in 2011.

Last year's report also noted that the Board recognised the need to review progress on these arrangements and to consider the next stages of strategic development for the Group, and that work on this had started. As the Group continues to remain financially sound and is expanding its activity, the problems of Board and Executive capacity become ever more acute – not just in terms of time availability but also of succession planning given the age profile of Directors. The Board agreed that key matters for resolution therefore include:

- the issues of consolidation, gradual expansion, focused vision, and the balance between a publication-led and a networking organisation;
- the longer-term need for a staffed organisation, and how to finance that;
- the likely requirement for more financial support for the editorial team to continue the expansion of *Landscape Research*, to which priority will increasingly need to be given;
- the impact of the resultant likely extra costs of journal production limiting ability to implement the ambition to expand other activity, unless income is significantly increased; and that
- the need to appoint replacements for the Chair and the Networking and Outreach Activity Coordinator, and to appoint a successor Editor of *Landscape Research* to enable appropriate transition arrangements by the time the existing Editor stands down at the end of 2013.

The Board has made good progress in addressing these matters.

A successor Chair was identified and agreed in late 2011 to take effect from the 2012 Annual General Meeting. Paul Tabbush as the incoming and then elected Chair initiated a number of discussions which have led to the agreed retirement of some Directors and the appointment of new ones, selected to maintain the wide range of disciplinary interests and other skills that are required of charity trustees to deliver the multi-disciplinary objectives of the Group.

The structure of the various networks that deliver the Group's activities has been reviewed and slightly re-focused. The need for Events, Website Management and Journal (*Landscape Research*) Coordinators has been confirmed. However, the former Networking and Outreach Activity network is to be re-focused on Education and Training Activity (including prizes, research and public relations), with the need for a student representative acknowledged; the development of International Activity is to be expanded to cover International and Outreach Activity; and the need for development of Research and Policy Initiatives as a new area of activity has been agreed. Coordinators for five of these six Networks were confirmed or newly appointed, including two of the new Directors taking on such a role, with effect from the December Board meeting; and an acting Coordinator was agreed for the remaining network until a candidate comes forward and is appointed (see 'Events, Research And Networking Activities' below). The continued desirability of publishing *Landscape Research Extra* was confirmed as an important adjunct to these six Activity Networks.

Very good progress has been made in relation to issues affecting *Landscape Research*. Following discussions in late 2011 and early 2012, the Board agreed following its September meeting that Anna Jorgensen (currently an Associate Editor) will succeed Maggie Roe as Editor with effect from Volume 39 (formally from January 2014, although in practice there will be a transition during 2013 when much of the work to prepare the Volume 39 issues takes place).

This appointment will require significant changes to the support arrangements that underpin production of the journal. There are two aspects to this which Steven Shuttleworth as Treasurer and Company Secretary, with support from the Editor and Editor-designate, has addressed during 2012.

The first relates to the Publishing Agreement with Taylor and Francis Ltd (T&F), which – among other things – provides the Group with an 'editorial costs contribution' and a 'royalties payment' which together represent the bulk of the Group's income. The current Agreement was concluded in 2006 as a re-negotiated version of the original 1999 Agreement, starting 1 January 2007 as a '7 year + 7 contract' – in other words, it runs from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2014, and is then automatically extended for a further 7 year period unless either party gives 12 months notice of intention to terminate. Thus, if either party wished to terminate the current Agreement at the end of 2013, it had to give notice by 31 December 2012. T&F stated that they regard *Landscape Research* as a very successful and respected journal, which they very much wished to keep as part of their journals portfolio, and therefore that they did not wish to terminate the Agreement. The Board agreed about the success of the arrangement, and considered that the disadvantages of seeking an

alternate publisher or indeed reverting to direct publishing were greatly outweighed by the advantages of retaining the current arrangements, suitably updated. Accordingly the Board decided to continue the Agreement for a further seven years to December 2021.

The second key support arrangement that underpins production of the journal is the Editorial Agreement made with Newcastle University (NU). The current version came into effect in 2010, being updated from the original 2004 version, and was due to expire in December 2012. Following Maggie Roe's decision to remain as Editor during 2013, this Agreement was extended by mutual agreement for a further year.

The main part of the Agreement provides for NU to employ an Editorial Assistant to support the Editor, for which the Group reimburses the University's costs. The second part provides for the Group to make an annual contribution to NU's landscape research programme in recognition of the considerable time spent by the Editor on editing the journal, the 'true' cost of which could not be met by a small charity, and NU accepting that in turn it gains considerable indirect benefit from being the host institution for a respected international refereed academic journal. However, when the Editorship changes host institution from NU to Sheffield University (SU) in 2014, the NU Agreement will then lapse and need to be replaced by Agreement(s) with SU reflecting the new circumstances. A number of discussions have identified a way forward, which will all need to be concluded in 2013.

The key issue to be resolved concerns future arrangements for editorial support. The Board agreed that there would be considerable disadvantages to changing the Editorial Assistant, Crista Ermiya; and the fact that the Editor-designate and Assistant would be in separate locations is not an obstacle to smooth working, given that much of the editorial process is web-based. SU confirmed that they are happy with that approach (ie did not consider as a matter of principle that the Assistant should be based at SU). Discussions then took place with NU to explore the possibilities for the Assistant remaining in their employ under some sort of secondment arrangement, which idea NU have declined. As a result, further discussions have taken place with the Assistant, who has confirmed that she wishes to remain in the role and is willing to do so on a self-employed basis. This will be progressed when Crista returns to work in April 2013, following maternity leave.

The second issue to be resolved will be to negotiate an arrangement with SU, similar to that with NU of an annual contribution to SU's landscape research programme in recognition of the Editor-designate's time. However, this approach needs to be discussed further; and clearly SU may have a different view about both the details of the approach and the amount that is acceptable to them.

A related but additional issue is that the other members of the editorial team also do a considerable amount of work which the Board considers should, ideally, also be recognised. The Board is minded to adopt a similar approach with the editorial team members' institutions to that adopted for the Editor, subject to their views and affordability.

Fourthly, it will then be necessary to re-negotiate the terms of the Publishing Agreement with T&F. They recognise and accept that the 7-year extension should not automatically roll forward unchanged from the current arrangements. The Treasurer has had preliminary discussions to identify areas where change might be desirable, including addressing the various points discussed above that relate to journal production support.

To 'feed in' to all the above discussions, the Board has given considerable thought to the implications of the "open access publishing" arrangements for academic papers that will come into effect in the United Kingdom shortly and elsewhere in due course. As a result of Government policy, there is a clear drive for publicly-funded research to be freely available – which potentially means by accessing journal papers without subscription payment. T&F and other academic publishers have worked closely together and with learned society publishers such as the Group and with research funding bodies, to develop an approach which reconciles the potential conflicts between Government policy,

the commercial realities of the publishing business, and the specific needs of learned societies. The Board is satisfied that the approach developed by T&F and other publishers should be supportive of the financial or other needs of the Group, as far as can be judged at this early stage of developing new arrangements.

Finally, the Board has considered the need for better ways of carrying out its business, given that much discussion takes place between formal meetings and that the Board is geographically dispersed so that some Directors contribute mainly by 'correspondence'. To date, these discussions have taken place as 'email conversations', but over time it has become clear that this method has considerable disadvantages (such as no means of safely storing the 'historic record' of discussions, or accidental omission of relevant colleagues from the conversation). After discussion at the Board, Tim Collins investigated possible solutions, following which the Board has adopted Basecamp as a means of sharing documents and tracking discussions. After some 'teething' problems, which were related to individual browsers, this system appears to be working well for most Board members.

The Administrative Assistant remains Pauline Graham, who provides support to the Chair and the administrative and other support that is necessary for the smooth working of the Board and its meetings, as well as managing membership subscriptions and day-to-day financial processes under the supervision of the Treasurer. The Board wishes to thank her for her continued excellent support.

(iv) Honorary Life Membership

No Honorary Life Members were appointed during 2012.

4. EDITORIAL ACTIVITY: *LANDSCAPE RESEARCH*

(i) Role of the Editorial Board

The Editorial Board is responsible for producing *Landscape Research* on behalf of the Group's Board of Directors, and ensuring the journal maintains standards appropriate to a respected international academic journal; and for formulating and recommending on related issues of strategy and policy to the Executive Committee. It comprises the Editor and Associate Editors of *Landscape Research*; two other Board members not directly involved in *Landscape Research* production, responsible for ensuring that the editorial approach to the journal meets the Group's wider charitable objectives; and on an ex officio basis the Chair and Treasurer of the Group. The Editorial Board is also empowered to co-opt up to two additional members from the main Board as it sees fit, to add to the breadth of its expertise, and a representative(s) from Taylor & Francis Ltd. The Chair of the Editorial Board is the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2012, Maggie Roe.

In 2012 the Editorial Board has not needed to meet, since the key issue of concern to it, progressing changes to the support arrangements that underpin production of the journal, has been dealt with by the Treasurer/Company Secretary (see 'Business Strategy and related Board decisions' above).

(ii) *Landscape Research*

Feedback from various sources demonstrates that *Landscape Research* continues to be a respected international journal, and that the Publishing Agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd continues to be effective. In this respect, 'impact factor analysis' continues to show that special issues have a good record for download access, and impact is encouraging on a five-year analysis. Three special issues are planned for 2013, and more are planned for 2014 and beyond. As noted in last year's report, the expansion of the journal to six issues clearly responded well to the growing number of submissions received and the demand for space for quality research papers, with a large number of submissions received and a high rejection rate of papers. This led to a 'backlog' of papers awaiting publication, but this problem has been alleviated to considerable degree by using the *iFirst* system which allows

papers to be published on the Web as soon as they are copy-edited, even though formal publication in the journal then follows later. However, there is continuing pressure for publication and the Editor is exploring with T&F whether it is feasible to increase the number of pages of each issue or to increase the number of issues per year in response to this.

As already noted, issues related to the longer-term publication of *Landscape Research* are discussed under 'Business Strategy and related Board decisions' above.

Six issues of the journal (comprising Volume 37) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue was a General Issue containing six papers plus an editorial broadly connected by the theme of understanding the impacts of landscape change on both the intangible and material landscape, of the continued need to explore ways to bring together qualitative and quantitative information, and the need to develop new theoretical understandings in landscape. As the editorial noted, material heritage and landscape memory lead to many dilemmas of both understanding and future management, and as such the inevitability of landscape change reflects matters acknowledged by the European Landscape Convention. The papers included the first of a series of commissioned review papers, offering an interpretation ('ten tenets') and critical analysis ('six questions') to guide future research agendas in landscape urbanism. The other papers were: an assessment whether preferences for landscapes are due to cultural determinants or innate reflexes that point to our evolutionary background; a study of farmers' preferences for tidy agricultural landscapes, based on a cross-cultural study between Germany and Scotland; a proposed landscape metric which includes measures for understanding place values based on social perceptions of landscape; an exploration of how collective memories of place have framed contemporary planning conflicts in the countryside, based on housing issues in rural Ireland; and a critical review of the literature on militarized landscapes (ie landscapes that are partially or fully mobilised to achieve military aims). The issue also contained five book reviews.
- (ii) The **April** issue was a Special Issue guest-edited by Jo Vergunst and Arnar Arnason on 'routeing landscapes', that is ethnographic studies of movement and journey. The first paper provided an introduction to the issues affecting study of the experience of landscape based on movement (rather than in stasis). In particular, the paper considered how journeying can be both a mode of dwelling and integral to the relationship between stability and instability in landscape, and how the political aspects of landscape (such as access, administrative designations and land use conflict) are affected by the experiential landscape (such as perception of time, way-finding and identity). Five papers then considered the significance of hiking practices in wilderness landscapes, with reference to the role of the Norwegian Trekking Association in nationalising hiking practices in Norway; the impact of and local responses to the rise of the environmental movement and agri-environmental schemes on farmed landscapes practices in Orkney, Scotland; an exploration of the significance of the term 'road' in anthropological discussions of mobility, based on ethnographic research in Siberia; a study of the perceptions of car commuters and the bonds they develop with their routes; and a study of the perceptions of walkers and the bonds they develop with the routes through which they travel, based on a comparative study of attitudes in modern Iceland and northern Ireland, and in nineteenth century France.
- (iii) The **June** issue was a General Issue containing seven papers on varied topics. They included an appraisal of the conflicting 'paradise-like' and 'hell-like' concepts that underlie perceptions of wilderness and their implications for management and conservation practices, based on research in a Netherlands national park; the potential role of ruins and derelict land in the development of green space, based on a case study of ruins related to a former railway in

southern Sweden; land ownership and property rights in the Adirondack Park of New York State, United States; the effectiveness of boundary structures in limiting residential encroachment into urban forests, based on fieldwork in southern Ontario, Canada; an assessment of coastal scenery in Andalusia, Spain, and the role of scenic evaluation as a tool for landscape planning and management; the potential for conserving natural capital by managing landscape/environmental features as a source of income for the local population, based on fieldwork in a valley in the Trentino, Italy; and the use of the 'variable classification method' of assessing natural landscapes as a model for large-scale forestry planting designs
The issue also contained five book reviews.

- (iv) The **August** issue was a General Issue including a special section guest-edited by Mattias Qvistrom and Kirsten Valentine Cadieux on spatial order, scenic landscapes and sprawl, plus four other substantive general papers.

The special section included an introduction reviewing the significance of the hybrid landscapes at the urban edge, and the role of peri-urban studies at the interface between landscape and planning history; an assessment of the significance of landscape protection and regional planning in dealing with the contested landscapes of urban sprawl, based on a study in Scania, Sweden; a study of the significance of road construction in Belgium 1925-1940 in engineering the rural idyll in peri-urban landscapes; and an exploration of the role of regional planning in the Netherlands in the 1950s in shaping the distinction between urban and rural spaces.

The issue's other papers were: an assessment of the distinctive model for national park management adopted in Cairngorms National Park, Scotland, and its role in addressing the contested views about the purpose and future management of the park; a study of the roles of milk trestles in country life in Estonia, and how these functioned to prolong traditional perceptions and activity behind the ideological layers of Soviet landscapes; an appraisal of the effectiveness of implementing the measures proposed in Local Landscape Plans in Germany; and a study of the usefulness of using local place names for mapping the distribution of vanishing historical landscape features, with reference to the agras field system of Galicia, Spain.

- (v) The **October** issue was a General Issue containing five papers on landscape assessment and modelling. These were: an evaluation of the effectiveness of the differing types of therapeutic environment in a 'healing garden' in helping patients recover from stress-related diseases; a study of the value of an inventory approach to the assessment of 'main traditional landscapes' in Sicily, Italy, and the implications of differences in the eight types identified for future landscape management; a study of magnitude and significance in landscape change and a proposed index for quantifying it, based on fieldwork in Madrid, Spain; the use of the 'K-complexity Model' to evaluate the algorithmic structural complexity of landscape developed from fieldwork in the Pendeli Mountains, Greece, and its value in geography, landscape ecology and landscape management; and the use of the 'Landscape Degradation Model' to improve the consideration given to rural landscape planning issues in environmental impact assessments in Japan.

- (vi) The **December** was a General Issue including a special section guest-edited by Henrik Vejre, Jorgen Primdahl and Lone Kristensen on landscapes and commons with particular reference to experience in Denmark, plus two other substantive general papers.

The special section included an introduction reviewing the significance of cultural landscapes in general, their ownership and use, and the implications of access and other rights to the use of landscape, and the limitations of mainstream planning and management solutions in dealing with the conflicts between landowners and others with legal interests in the landscape. The supporting papers addressed the revitalisation of common use in the management of modern multi-functional landscapes; the role of farmers' management of hunting rights in managing landscape change; and the role and influence of farm advisors on farmers' decisions regarding multi-functional landscape commons.

The issue's other papers were: an exploration of individuals' attitudes and preferences towards traditional farm landscapes, and impact on their willingness to pay for the protection and conservation of such landscapes, based on survey in Ireland; and a short study of the impact of rapid urbanisation, in terms of landscape degradation and its safety implications for the karst geological mountain region of Jinan city, north China.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research's* Editor (Maggie Roe), Consulting Editor (Ian Thompson) and Associate Editors (Ken Taylor, Anna Jorgensen and Tom Mels), Book Reviews Editor (Mick Atha) and Assistant Editors (David Jones, Sam Turner and Vera Vincenzotti). As noted above, their work has led to a continued increase in the number of papers originating from areas outside Europe, and to the related development of special and theme issues.

The Board also wishes to thank three colleagues who stood down from their roles at the end of 2011 or during 2012 – former Associate Editors Catherine Leyshon and Kenneth Olwig, and former Member of the International Editorial Advisory Board (and also a former Editor) Paul Selman – for their significant contribution to the journal's development over the past ten years.

The Editorial Assistant remains Crista Ermiya, who provides the administrative and editorial support that is necessary for the smooth production of the journal. Crista took maternity leave from April 2012 (returning in April 2013), and her post has been filled on a temporary basis by Rosemarie Gilbert (who was in fact Crista's predecessor). The Board wishes to thank both for their excellent support.

(iii) Research project, University of Newcastle

As noted above, one element of the Editorial Support Agreement negotiated with the University of Newcastle in 2007 was the provision of a grant (now £4,400 annually) to promote landscape-related research at the University. This grant was provided to recognise, in a notional way, the large amount of time spent by the Editor in producing the journal.

The grant continues to be used in two main areas: support for research student development and for development of research themes, in particular implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC), green infrastructure planning, new cultural landscapes and heritage values. The funding continues to support individuals to attend conferences and seminars, particularly to give papers that furthers their own research and that of the University's Landscape Group, with the aim of encouraging further research projects and/or publications.

In 2012, the funding was used for a variety of research-related activities. These were: sending a Masters research student (Montse Ferres) to attend a workshop at the ISPA conference in July 2012; to allow Vera Vincenzotti (Assistant Editor) to attend the HERA Joint Research Programme in March 2012; to allow Ken Taylor (Associate Editor, based in Australia) to visit Newcastle in July 2012 as part of a visit to Europe, to discuss book publication and journal issues; and to provide partial funding for Maggie Roe to present the *Conclusions of the 12th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC)* in Thessaloniki, Greece on 2-3 October 2012.

The support arrangement requires the individuals to provide a short report on the activity and/or the paper presented. In this context, a special issue of *Landscape Research* containing a paper based on Maggie Roe's work on the ELC is due for publication in December 2013.

5. EVENTS, RESEARCH AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

(i) Coordination of Activity

As noted in previous years' Reports, new arrangements for developing and promoting events, research and networking activity in all areas other than publication of *Landscape Research*, came into effect during 2010. As discussed above, these arrangements were refined during 2012. The Coordinators for the various activity networks (as redefined) during 2012 were:

- delivery of Events - Gareth Roberts;
- development and active management of the Website - Emma Waterton;
- promotion of Education and Training Activity (including prizes, research and public relations) - Tim Collins (on an acting basis);
- development of International Activity and Outreach - Peter Howard, succeeded by Laurence le Dû-Blayo from December 2012; and
- development of Research and Policy Initiatives – Chris Dalglish from December 2012.

In addition, a key events, research and networking activity remains the production of *Landscape Research Extra*, of which Bud Young continues as Editor although now retired as a Director.

The Board is pleased to report that these new arrangements continue to work well, and significant activity has been successfully undertaken in 2012 as summarised below.

(ii) Events

The Group, via Coordinator Gareth Roberts, organised or contributed to four events during the year, discussed in turn below. These were:

- sponsoring a research seminar organised by German members of the Group (in Erkner, Germany, 26 to 27 April 2012);
- organising and sponsoring a session at the conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (in Gothenburg, Sweden, 5 to 8 June 2012);
- sponsoring a symposium organised by Newcastle University (in Newcastle, on 11 to 13 July 2012); organising and co-sponsoring a field trip/seminar in the Snowdonia/Eryri National Park Snowdonia Field Study Event (based at Blaenau Ffestiniog, 21 to 23 September 2012); and
- holding a public lecture (in London, 6 December 2012).

This level of event activity was higher than that anticipated at the start of the year or undertaken in 2011. Linked to the emerging programme for 2013 and 2014, it continues to give confidence that the new arrangements for promoting event activity are now progressing well.

The Group agreed to support a seminar on *New Energy – new energy landscapes – new perspectives for landscape research?* which was arranged by German members of the Group and held in Erkner, Germany, by providing both financial support and enabling the attendance of two UK-based members (vera vicenzotti and Baerbel Francis) and a Director (Peter Howard). About 30 academics and practitioners came together to discuss the challenges that arise from the landscape changes caused by renewable energies. In Germany, this is driven by 2011 legislation which aims to phase out the use of nuclear power by 2022 and to implement ambitious targets for the use of renewable energy. The discussions focused on exploring some of the reasons for resistance among citizens to landscape change, particularly to wind turbines but also biomass crops such as maize. A report outlining the discussions on these themes and preliminary conclusions is presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 62, which includes a web-link to the German language network site. The network aims to publish the papers delivered in Erkner.

The event in Gothenburg was on *Re-Theorising Heritage* and was arranged as the inaugural conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies. The conference had over 500 delegates, and presented 360 papers delivered in 62 themed sessions. The Group, through Emma Waterton and David Harvey, co-organised and sponsored one of these themed sessions, on *Landscapes of Heritage and Heritage Landscapes*. This was one of two landscape-themed sessions, adding six strong contributions to the eighteen conference papers focused on landscape aspects of heritage. The session was very well-attended, with the lecture room filled to capacity with over 50 attendees. It opened with an introduction to the Group and to *Landscape Research*, including showcasing the new website, allowing the Group to profile itself to a wide audience (see 'International Activity' below). The session aimed to showcase the growing interest in both 'heritage' and 'landscape' as categories of scholarship, identity, experience and performance, as well as for purposes of entertainment, commerce and policy engagement. The six papers generated a lively and interesting range of discussion points. A report outlining the discussions on these themes and preliminary conclusions is presented in *Landscape Research Extra 62*, and it is intended that the six papers will be developed for publication in *Landscape Research*, subject to the usual refereeing procedures.

The Group also agreed to co-sponsor a conference on *The Ethics and Aesthetics of Architecture and Environment*, held by the International Society for Architecture and Philosophy at Newcastle University. The originally planned focus for the conference was to bring together architects and philosophers to consider the aesthetics of architectural design issues. As a result of the Group's sponsorship, this focus was widened to include a second strand on *Landscape and the Environment* organised by Ian Thompson. The conference attracted a wide range of architecture and landscape architecture academics and environmental philosophers as intended, but also practising artists, art theorists and art historians. It therefore brought together disciplines which might not normally mingle, and proved successful in stimulating a sharing and provoking of ideas and potential collaborations, which is of course central to the Group's objective of promoting an inter-disciplinary approach to landscape research. The landscape sessions were very well-attended, and a report on the conference will be published in *Landscape Research Extra 64* (in January 2013), and feature on the website. It is hoped that a special issue of *Landscape Research* featuring papers developed from conference presentations can be published, subject to the usual refereeing procedures

The two-day field meeting *Sublime Snowdonia* in September 2012 held in Snowdonia/Eryri National Park focused on understanding what we mean by the concept of sublime in landscape, where it can be found, and how important is it in this day and age. The subject of the sublime was an important philosophical concept in the late Eighteenth Century 'Age of Enlightenment', but is little (or at least not often explicitly) referenced in current landscape research. The meeting was organised by Gareth Roberts on behalf of the Group, and was run as a residential course convened by the Snowdonia National Park's Field Studies Centre at Plas Tan y Bwlch, and was jointly sponsored by the Group in partnership with the Field Studies Centre and the Snowdonia Society. Two dozen professionals, academics and amenity society members gathered to discuss issues of landscape perception and its relevance to contemporary sustainable landscape management and decision-making. Key themes for discussion were: How do 18th Century ideas influence land management in the context of the National Park's iconic landscape? How can we best maintain cultural and emotional associations such as wildness, solitude, inspiration and contemplation, that are widely recognised as important and are all qualities to be experienced in sublime landscapes? How can we ensure that the outcomes from management plans to conserve tranquility contribute to this aim? A report outlining the discussions on these themes will be published in *Landscape Research Extra 64* (in January 2013), and a full report is featured on the Group's website.

The final event of the year was the organisation by Antonia Noussia of a public lecture by Prof. Peter Howard, Dr Emma Waterton and Dr Ian Thompson on *Landscape and Human Destiny*. The event was hosted by the Landscape Institute, and included a reception after the lecture. It was attended by over 80 people and very well-received. Prof. Howard spoke on *Clashing Concepts*, Dr Waterton on *Landscapes of Everyday Encounter* and Dr Thompson on *A World in Crisis*, the three themes

together presenting personal perspectives on the perception and study of landscape that underpin the themes in their recently published book *Companion to Landscape Studies*. The lecture was videoed and is available for viewing on the Group's website (as is the 2011 lecture by Prof. David Lowenthal, *Eden to Earth Day: Landscape Restoration as Mission and Metaphor*).

Other event-related activity during the year has focused on progressing events for 2013 and beyond. The major event planned for 2013 is a seminar on *Journees du Paysage* (to be held jointly with the University of Rennes 2 and other partners, in Brittany in June 2013). Also planned for 2013 are a symposium on *Medieval Perceptions of Landscape* (to be held jointly with the Medieval Settlement Research Group, in Falmouth in April 2013) and the third public Annual Lecture (in December 2013). Events currently planned for 2014 are a two-day seminar/field event on the *Sublime Industry of Landscape* to be held in Cornwall (originally planned for 2013, but re-scheduled), and preliminary planning is underway for an event to celebrate the tercentenary of 'Capability' Brown sometime between 2014 to 2016.

Regrettably, the proposed international conference on *Changing Mediterranean Identities and Landscapes* planned as a collaboration with the University of Malta, referred to in last year's Report, is not taking place.

(iii) Website and Information Activity

Last year's report noted that major progress had been made in 2010 and 2011 to enhance the website, completely re-designing it and adding much of the planned new content. This progress, again led by Emma Waterton, continued in 2012. A key aspect has been initial work to migrate the website from its previous to a new 'host' and server, including related work to re-configure the site to the new domain settings that will result, which will be implemented in January-February 2013. This step has been taken because we have experienced difficulties with the current web-host in terms of instability of their systems (which has particularly affected the Student Awards Scheme – see below), their planned resultant upgrading of their systems which they cannot guarantee will not compromise our website, and concerns about value for money. This work is being undertaken with specialist support, to enable a smooth transfer. In addition, initial work has now been completed to enable web-based payments; the Treasurer has set up a PayPal account, and this will be activated (after some trials) once the website has been migrated to the new web-host.

As noted in last year's Report, a key issue in future will be ensuring the website is kept up-to-date. This has been achieved successfully during 2012 (for example with new pen-portraits of Board members, updates to news items and events, and the addition of new issues of *Landscape Research Extra*, links to videos of the annual Lectures, reports of events and copies of the Annual Directors' Reports), which augurs well for the future.

(iv) Education and Training Activity

(a) The Annual Student Awards Prize Scheme

The Group has organised a prize scheme for student dissertations that contribute to the understanding of landscape issues, since 2000. The scheme was originally started on a small-scale basis to continue the work originated by the Nan Fairbrother Memorial Trust, which transferred its assets to the Group when the Trust was wound up (see Directors' Report for 1998).

As noted in last year's report, the Board had decided that it was appropriate in future to be more specific and diverse about the range of awards and to include PhD theses. To facilitate the judging process, it was also decided to include in the website upgrade mechanisms to enable the nomination, submission and judging process to take place online (to date, everything has been undertaken by mail and by reviewing 'original theses'). This change was implemented in 2012 but

unfortunately was not without problems. First the functionality of the online system was affected by the failure of the web-server (caused by problems with the web-host system, referred to above), a problem now resolved as a result of considerable effort by Tim Collins as Activity Coordinator working with the website developer. Second, it has not proved possible to secure sufficient thesis readers with the range of expertise required to review all the theses submitted.

In 2012 six submissions were received for work completed in 2011, from students at five institutions, for all prizes. The judges were Tim Collins and John Gittins. Only one award was made, a first prize of £350 to Anthony Rogers (Sheffield Hallam University) whose Master's thesis was entitled *An Investigation into Perceptions of Coaststeering in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Amongst Participants in Other Forms of recreation*. A report outlining the dissertation is presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 63.

At the end of the year a total of thirteen entries were received in relation to the competition for theses completed in 2012, comprising six entries for the undergraduate prizes, three for the Masters prizes, and four for the PhD prize, from students at eight institutions. Eight readers have been identified but others are still required for some fields. Any prizes awarded will be reported in next year's Report.

The first set of invitations inviting entries for the 2013 Awards (ie for dissertations completed during 2012) will be issued in June 2013.

(b) Other Education and Training Activity

As indicated above, the Board agreed at its December meeting the need to re-focus the work of the former Networking and Outreach Activity Network to address education and training. However, no appointment was made to fill the resultant new role of Education and Training Coordinator (overseeing dissertation prizes and liaising with the student representative). Tim Collins agreed to discharge the role until a candidate comes forward and is appointed.

(v) International and Outreach Activity

As noted in previous years' reports, the Group's profile as a leading institution in landscape policy and research circles has become widely appreciated and understood across Europe. LRG is now an accredited observer not only at the meetings of the European Landscape Convention itself, but also at meetings of Uniscape, the organisation of universities to support the Convention. The Group is also invited to observe at meetings of Civilscape, which is a similar organisation intended for non-governmental organisations, and Permanent European Conference for the Conservation of the Rural Landscape (PECSRL). The close connections with the French government research organisation Cemagref remain strong.

As noted above, Peter Howard was International Activity Coordinator during most of 2012 but retired from this role and as a Director in December 2012, and the Coordinator with effect from then is Laurence le Dû-Blayo. The Board intends to agree its intended approach for future international and outreach activity when it has considered a paper and recommendations which Laurence will prepare in the first part of 2013. Meanwhile, in accordance with the plan to expand the network of Directors able to promote international activity, Kenneth Olwig, Nathalie Blanc, Hannes Palang, Antonia Noussia, Ken Taylor, Maggie Roe and Emma Waterton, together with Bas Pedroli of Uniscape, have continued to contribute to this work.

The Group's international activity was rather muted during 2012, due to the Coordinator's incapacity, although Maggie Roe attended the Council of Europe meeting at Thessaloniki, Greece in October, both as LRG observer and as speaker (see 'Landscape Research' above).

Last year's report noted that international activity in 2011 had explored initiatives to set up similar organisations to the Group, in Greece, Germany and the United States but that the first was unlikely to proceed for the time being and the last had made little progress. No substantive progress has been made in 2012 in relation to the United States.

However, 2012 has been more positive with significant progress in setting up a German-speaking network of landscape researchers. As noted in relation to 'Events' above, the Group sponsored an event at Erkner, Germany which brought together landscape researchers from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Bolzano (Italy) and was also intended to try to establish such a network. It was agreed that the network would operate very loosely as a separate organisation with partnership links to the Group but formally not a part of it, and therefore agreed that its name – settled as Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung (which translates as 'Working Group Landscape Research') – should not explicitly refer to the Group. Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung intends to publish its own electronic newsletter. It is keen to deepen its contact with the Group, and Vera Vicenzotti will act as the contact point for the time being. We expect to establish mutual Observer status at each other's meetings as their organisation becomes more formalised.

Finally, as referred to in 'Events', the Group, through Emma Waterton, co-organised and sponsored a very well-attended session on *Landscapes of Heritage and Heritage Landscapes* at the *Re-Theorising Heritage* conference held in Gothenburg in June 2012. The session opened with an introduction to the Group and to *Landscape Research*, including showcasing the new website, allowing the Group to profile itself to a world-wide audience of history, geography, sociology, tourism and heritage scholars. The presentation highlighted the Group's multi-disciplinary approach which is central to a better understanding of both the 'heritage' and 'landscape' themes on which the session was focused, and has resulted in new members joining the Group.

(vi) Research and Policy Initiatives

As indicated above, the Board agreed at its December meeting the need for this new area of activity, and appointed Chris Dalglish as Coordinator to lead the work. The Board had a preliminary discussion to consider possible focuses for work, and intends to agree its intended approach when it has considered a paper and recommendations which Chris will prepare in the first part of 2013.

(vii) *Landscape Research Extra*

Landscape Research Extra was published three times in 2012 (issues 61 to 63) [the intention is to publish four issues annually, but the fourth issue was delayed and will appear in January 2013]. The three issues totalled 36 pages of illustrated two column text. As in previous years, the editorial team aimed to present short pieces written in a clear style, seeking to stimulate readers with a very wide range of landscape topics and issues, and to provoke thought about them. Each issue included colour print illustrations, with reviews and short features.

Key features discussed the ownership of English forests (continued from an initial feature in 2011); how to be a landscape architect, including a bibliography of relevant books (the second and third parts of a feature started in 2011); the landscape as experienced by children (also continued from an initial feature in 2011); continuity in landscape; the World Heritage Site at Nazco, Peru; the impact of scale on perceptions of landscape, with reference to the large-scale pattern of the landscape of Siberia viewed from 33,000 feet and the small-scale pattern of landscape that results from the impact of movement disability on perception; the landscapes of the Ukraine; the faltering progress of implementation of the European Landscape Convention; 'sudden Larch death' disease; gardens and fences; and remembering and enjoying the landscapes of the Malvern Hills, the New Forest, the Lower Lea Valley, Essex and Suffolk.

The issues also contained brief notices and reports of various conferences and papers, including the *Transforming Practice* landscape research workshops and symposium, the symposium held in October 2011 being sponsored by the Group (see the Directors' Report for 2011); *New Energy – new energy landscapes – new perspectives for landscape research?* held in Erkner, Germany in April 2012 which was sponsored by the Group (see 'Events above'); *Landscapes of Heritage and Heritage Landscapes* held in Gothenburg, Sweden in June 2012 and again sponsored by the Group (see 'Events' above); the third 'Careggi Landscape seminar' on *Soundscapes* held at Florence, Italy in June 2012. There was also a review of the *Idiosyncratic and Lively Landscapes* art exhibition (a retrospective of the work of Edward Burra) held at Chichester in November 2011 to February 2012.

Other articles included a write-up of two of the dissertations that received a prize under the Group's 2011 Scheme; short book reviews and anthologies, including reviews of three books recently published by LRG Members; a summary of the contents of Issues 5 and 6 of the 2011 volume of *Landscape Research* and of *Landscape History*; and a number of 'letters to the editor' and 'commentaries' on some of the features above.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of Bud and Rosemary Young, and the varied correspondents (both overseas and domestic) who supply much of the source material. Notable among the latter in 2012 were Philip Pacey, Terry O'Regan, Ian Thompson, Brian Goodey, Gareth Roberts, Owen Manning, Paul Tabbush, Peter Howard, Baerbel Francis and Vera Vicenzotti.

6. FINANCES

The Group made a surplus in 2012 of £20,501 (income of £65,363, less expenditure of £44,862). This compares to the surplus in 2011 of £2,403 (income of £47,834, less expenditure of £45,431). There being one adjustment for 2011 creditor over-provision, the Group's Accumulated Fund at 31st December 2012 was £89,964 (2011, £68,363).

This large surplus was substantially due to a one-off item of income. During 2012 it was realised jointly by Taylor & Francis and the Treasurer that the payments due since the *Landscape Research* Publishing Agreement was re-negotiated in 2007 had been not fully made, due to oversight on the part of Taylor & Francis for which they have fully apologised. Following discussions, agreement was reached on the amount of under-payments due to be refunded (in total, £12,744), which were received in November 2012.

However, setting aside this one-off item, income nonetheless considerably exceeded expenditure. Compared to the previous year normal income was £52,589, increased from £47,824 in 2011 because of the extra contributions due from Taylor & Francis following the increase of the journal to six issues per annum. In contrast, expenditure was slightly reduced compared to the previous year, with increases in expenditure on *Landscape Research*, events, international networking, and Board/Executive and administration costs being more than outweighed by decreases in the costs of *Landscape Research Extra* (reflecting the publication of three rather than the planned four issues), website expenditure (reflecting completion of the website upgrade) and the prize scheme.

Looking ahead to 2013 and beyond, income is expected to remain at the 2012 level (excluding the one-off item), although this position may improve from 2014 dependent on the outcome of discussions with Taylor & Francis concerning the terms of the Publishing Agreement. More generally, given the prolonged delay in wider economic recovery, it seems prudent to continue to assume that royalties income will not otherwise significantly increase, and that bank deposit interest income will also not recover to previous levels from its current extremely low level.

Also, contributions from Gift Aid donations may reduce in future, due to a change in income tax rules which means that not as many donations as previously received will be eligible for tax relief [it may

be noted that no allowance has been made for Gift Aid receipts in the 2012 Income Account, while the implications are being resolved with HMRC, and any 2012 tax relief that may be received will therefore be treated as an adjustment to the 2013 Accounts].

In terms of expenditure, as discussed above robust programmes of expenditure are in hand for events and international activity; *Landscape Research Extra* costs are expected to rise back to 2011 levels; and – as noted in last year’s report – from 2014 the costs of producing *Landscape Research* are likely to increase as a result of expanding the editorial team to reflect the work involved now that the journal has been expanded to six issues (although, as noted in the previous paragraph, some of this may be covered by increased income from the Publishing Agreement). It is also assumed that the costs of the prize scheme should revert to previous levels, and that networking and outreach activity costs will continue to increase as those activities are expanded. Website costs should remain relatively low in future since the main work to re-develop the website is substantially completed, and maintaining up-to-date content is low cost. However, the expansion of the Board, with an increased international membership and higher average attendance than in previous years, means that its costs are likely to increase. Administrative and support costs continue to be managed tightly, and are expected to remain broadly similar to previous years.

The Group’s current financial strategy is based on achieving a broad balance of income and expenditure, by making use of the funds available over and above the costs of publishing *Landscape Research* and of administrative support to enable the wider range of networking and outreach activity. In terms of financial planning for delivery of this activity programme it is assumed that some years may have a slight surplus and others a slight deficit, but that over a rolling three-year period the Group will maintain a broad balance of income and expenditure. Excluding the impact of the one-off item of income referred to above, the five-year projection for 2011 to 2015 reflects this approach and aims to ensure the Accumulated Fund overall is about £60,000 (the level of reserve intended by the financial strategy) at the end of the period. However, in the light of this one-off income, the Group will need to further review its financial strategy to consider how best that windfall might be used to support and implement the conclusions reached by the business strategy review discussed earlier in this report.

The Accounts, the Auditor’s Report and the Treasurer’s Report give a fuller assessment of the Group’s finances. The financial reports have been prepared taking advantage of the exemptions conferred by the Companies Act 2006 in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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