



# **Landscape Research Group Ltd**

## **Directors' Report, 2013**

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

2 May 2014

*Approved by the Board of Directors: 9 May 2014*  
*Approved by the Annual General Meeting: 22 May 2014*

# LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2013

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the thirty-first period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2013. 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**)
Prof. Tim Collins	(Vice Chair**, and acting Coordinator, Education and Training*)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary**, and Treasurer**)
Dr David Cooper	
Dr Chris Dalglish	(Coordinator, Research and Policy*)
Prof. Laurence le Dû-Blayo	(Coordinator, International and Outreach Activity*)
Mr Graham Fairclough	
Mr John Gittins	
Mr Peter Herring	
Dr Anna Jorgensen	(Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Dr Markus Leibenath	[Director from 5 June 2013]
Dr Antonia Noussia	
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	
Prof. Hannes Palang	
Mr Gareth Roberts	(Coordinator, Events Activity*)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> *)
Dr Susanne Seymour	[Director to 23 May 2013]
Prof. Ken Taylor	(Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Dr Ian H. Thompson	(Consulting Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Dr Emma Waterton	(Coordinator, Website Activity*)

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 2013).

Of the nineteen Directors at 31 December 2013, eleven are British. The eight other Directors hold citizenship as follows: Prof. le Dû-Blayo holds French citizenship; Dr Leibenath holds German citizenship; Dr Noussia holds Greek citizenship; Prof. Palang holds Estonian citizenship; Prof. Collins and Prof. Olwig hold United States citizenship; and Prof. Taylor and Dr Waterton 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 two occasions during 2013, on 23 May and 5 December. During the year two email decisions were made separately from decisions at Board meetings, relating to approval of the draft Directors' Report 2012, and approving participating in the 2014 PECSRL conference.

As well as discussions in its formal meetings and related to email voting, the Board (and the Executive) have regular discussion on many issues during the year, to progress the Group's business. Last year's Report noted that the Board had considered the need for better ways of carrying out its business, given that that much discussion takes place between meetings and that Directors are geographically dispersed, and had adopted Basecamp as a means of sharing documents and tracking discussions. It was noted that after some initial problems this system appeared to be working well for most Board members. After a full year's use during 2013, it is clear that this system is, overall, both effective and worthwhile.

#### **(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, Paul Tabbush.

#### **(iii) Business Strategy and related Board decisions**

Last year's report noted that the Board had recognised in 2012 the need to review progress on its organisational arrangements agreed in 2009 and to consider the next stages of strategic development for the Group, and had started to do so. From its initial work the Board concluded that, since the Group is financially sound, the key problem to be addressed related to its and the Executive's capacity to expand activity, in terms of both time availability and succession planning. The Board therefore agreed that key matters for resolution included:

- 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;

- 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; and
- the need to review membership and composition of the Board.

The 2012 Report noted that the Board had made good progress in addressing these matters. In particular it had appointed a new Chair and a successor Editor of *Landscape Research*; agreed the 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; reviewed and slightly re-focused the structure of the various networks that deliver the Group's activities; and identified a way forward for future arrangements for editorial support for *Landscape Research*, which needed to be concluded in 2013.

During 2013, the Executive has taken forward the key issues that remained outstanding from 2012 as discussed at (iv) and (v) below, and it has also progressed other key issues discussed at (vi), (vii) and (viii) below.

#### **(iv) Future arrangements for *Landscape Research***

In relation to the key issue of future editorial arrangements for *Landscape Research*, the handover of Editorship from Maggie Roe to Anna Jorgensen took place smoothly during the latter part of 2013, so that Maggie was able to retire as Editor and Anna take up her new role with full effect from January 2014. The Board wishes to express its thanks to both for ensuring such a smooth transition, and to Maggie for the successful expansion and high academic quality of the journal under her tenure.

The appointment of Anna as Editor has required significant changes to the support arrangements that underpin production of the journal, which Steven Shuttleworth as Treasurer and Company Secretary has addressed during 2013. Three issues have had to be resolved.

The first related to re-negotiating the terms of 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. Last year's Report noted that the Board had agreed to continue the Agreement concluded in 2006<sup>1</sup> for a further seven years to December 2021, and that the Treasurer had held discussions with T&F to identify areas where detailed financial terms and changes were desirable. Detailed terms were agreed with T&F during the year. These improve both the 'editorial costs contribution' and 'royalties payment' if the journal remains at six issues per annum; significantly improve those payments if the journal is expanded to eight issues per annum, which both parties intend to implement from Volume 40 (commencing in January 2015); provide other financial support; and provide for free online access for Members to additional journals produced by T&F. These new terms should fully address three of the key matters identified above: securing more financial support for the editorial team to expand *Landscape Research* (see below); significantly increasing income such that meeting the extra costs of journal production does not limit the Group's ambition to expand other activity; and enabling finances to support the longer-term need for a staffed organisation. As at 31 December 2013 the Agreement has still to be finalised, but the outstanding points relate to detailed wording rather than the financial terms, and it is anticipated that it will be formally concluded in Spring 2014.

The second key issue for future journal production has been concluding a new Editorial Agreement with Sheffield University (SU) in respect of Anna Jorgensen's role to take effect on 1 January 2014, to replace that made previously with Newcastle University (NU) in respect of Maggie Roe's role. The Agreement with SU is for a five-year period (extendable by mutual agreement to a maximum of

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<sup>1</sup> The 2006 Agreement with T&F was a re-negotiated version of the original 1999 Agreement with its predecessor, Carfax Publishing Ltd.

seven years). It includes provision for the Group to make a £5,000 annual contribution to SU'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 SU accepting that in turn it gains considerable indirect benefit from being the host institution for a respected international refereed academic journal. This provision mirrors the previous arrangement with NU. The new Agreement also includes appropriate provisions to facilitate the new Editorial Assistant support arrangements that will come into effect in January 2014 (see below).

The final issue for future journal production has been to secure new arrangements for the Editorial Assistant. A key part of the Agreement with NU was their employment of an Editorial Assistant to support the Editor, for which the Group reimbursed NU's costs. Clearly this arrangement will no longer be appropriate from 2014. The Board had agreed that there would be considerable disadvantages to changing the Editorial Assistant, Crista Ermiya, and the fact that that much of the editorial process is web-based means that having the Editor and Assistant in separate locations was not an obstacle to smooth working; and SU had confirmed that they did not consider as a matter of principle that the Assistant should be based with them. Discussions with Crista confirmed that she wished to remain in the role and was willing to do so on a self-employed basis. An Agreement has been concluded that will implement these new arrangements from 1 January 2014, when Crista will move from NU to a home-based office. All the relevant systems are in place for this change.

The only outstanding issue is providing limited research programme support to the institutions of the other members of the editorial team similar to that for the Editor. This will be taken forward in 2014, when the new Agreement with T&F has been formally concluded.

#### **(v) The longer-term need for a Staffed Organisation**

An issue long-recognised by the Board is that extra staff capacity (as well as that provided by the Editorial and Administrative Assistants) is needed to help deliver its ambitions related to increased networking activity and impact. The strategic review discussed earlier concluded, among other things, that the Group was unable to secure such capacity due to insufficient income to afford such a commitment, and that a key objective for the Publishing Agreement negotiations should therefore be to remedy that problem. The Board is confident that the new Agreement has done so, and that it should be possible in the near future to recruit a Development Officer.

The Board has therefore discussed at some length the precise role of such a post, and the objectives and deliverables it should achieve. While these discussions have still to be concluded, it has been broadly agreed that the role is to increase the reach, profile, effectiveness and impact of the Group in achieving its aims and objectives, by: increasing our membership (to reverse the long-term decline in numbers, caused by an ageing membership profile and lack of capacity to recruit more members each year than are lost); facilitating a greater level of Members' engagement and participation in the Group's actions; constructing a larger and active partner base among landscape-related organisations; and developing and maintaining a fuller portfolio of outward-facing activities.

The Board will conclude these discussions, and then finalise a person specification and recruitment strategy, as soon as possible in 2014 so that it can then finally decide whether or not to appoint at its May meeting. The Board considers that, although the post will be fully funded by the income expected from 2015, any shortfall arising from a start date in later 2014 can easily be met from the Group's reserves which are considerably greater than the Group's approved financial strategy requires (see the section on 'Finances' below).

#### **(vi) Research Strategy**

As indicated in last year's Report, at its December 2012 meeting the Board agreed the need for a new area of activity to develop research and policy initiatives, and appointed Chris Dalglish as

Coordinator to lead the work. Chris has made substantial progress in 2013, in discussion with the Executive and other Directors, and preparation of a strategy is now well advanced (see the section on 'Events, Research and Networking Activities' below).

### **(vii) Project HERCULES**

A key achievement in 2013 was the Group's involvement in a consortium of thirteen partners that successfully bid to undertake a major new European Union (EU) funded research project called Project HERCULES, an acronym for HERitage in CULTural landscapES. The EU requires advice on how best to deal with cultural landscape issues – or, as the long text reads: “the development of sustainable futures for Europe's landscapes: tools for understanding, managing, and protecting landscape functions and values”. Hercules started on 1 December 2013 and runs for 36 months. The EU funding for the project is nearly 3 million Euros, and the Group's share is a small but significant 48,410 Euros. The Board believes that the Group has a key role in delivering the project.

Fuller details about the project, including details of our partners, can be viewed on the Group's website at [www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org) and on the Hercules website at [www.hercules-landscapes.eu](http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu). The Project Director is Dr Tobias Pleininger who at the time the project proposal was submitted was at Humboldt University in Berlin, but is now with the University of Copenhagen. Laurence le Dû-Blayo, the Group's International Officer, is leading our 'scientific' involvement in the project, and Steven Shuttleworth as Treasurer and Company Secretary is responsible for the organisational and business aspects.

The project will be undertaken as a series of work programmes (WPs), to which the different partners will contribute in varying proportions according to their expertise. It will focus on cultural landscapes in rural areas – including the peri-urban fringe – aiming to understand the 'drivers' that have shaped these landscapes in both the long and the short term, and the culture and ecosystem-based landscape services generated in each landscape. It will go on to test the impact of the wide range of present policies and strategies which can have a profound effect on landscapes. Resilience, a key new term in landscape studies in an era where climate is changing, is seen as all important. The project intention is that the insight, technologies, and strategies developed will be tested and applied in regional case studies, purposefully selected to span major environmental and land use history 'gradients' throughout Europe. There will be a number of supplementary case studies to ensure that the broad range of cultural landscape types is fully considered. The project results, with supporting information and data, will be available online in a 'Knowledge Hub' so that researchers, landscape professionals and local communities can make practical use of them. The accumulated research results will also hopefully be used by EU governments to inform the refinement of present landscape policies intended to deliver the aims of the European Landscape Convention.

The Group will be mainly involved in 'WP 9', which is concerned with stakeholder involvement, communication strategy, and – at the end of the project – organising the final conference. As well as Laurence le Dû-Blayo and Steven Shuttleworth, the LRG personnel formally named as contributing to this work are Peter Howard, Gareth Roberts and Paul Tabbush. However, it is hoped also to involve the wider membership in various ways as the work develops, especially to disseminate findings clearly and concisely. In addition to its formal role in WP 9, the Group will also make a wider contribution to the project by acting in the role of 'critical friend' for other WPs. A small number of LRG individuals additional to the five named above may therefore be asked to assist in this work.

A research project such as HERCULES will clearly also lead to a number of academic papers. It is hoped that some of these will be published in *Landscape Research* in due course – obviously subject to the usual editorial approval processes required for a peer-reviewed journal.

The Group's key charitable purpose 'To advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields' is



delevered in many ways, as described in this and previous Directors' Reports. However, it is many years since the Group has been able to be directly involved in undertaking or commissioning research – the last time it did so in any substantive way was promoting and managing the 'Nature-Experience Research Program' in 1984-88. Involvement in Project HERCULES therefore represents an important step for the Group in getting pro-actively involved in shaping the future landscape research agenda. As such, it will complement our substantial involvement in a range of international research and policy networks, and our emerging research strategy.

#### **(viii) Honorary Life Membership**

Following a request from the Annual General Meeting in 2012 to clarify the situation with regard to Honorary Life Members, and in particular the criteria that should be used for electing them, the Board considered this issue at its May 2013 meeting. The Board noted that the Group currently has four Honorary Life Members [three former such who were elected immediately following incorporation of the company, being members of the company's predecessor body, are now deceased], and that the process for election is set out in the Articles of Association. The Board noted also that, immediately after incorporation in 1983, it had agreed a simple criterion for election which is based on an individual's merits, to be conferred as and when appropriate. The Board considered whether its previously agreed approach was still appropriate and agreed that was the case subject to minor clarification, and accordingly recommended to the Annual General Meeting in 2013 as follows:

*The basis for proposing that an individual be elected as an Honorary Life Member of Landscape Research Group Ltd should be as follows: that the person proposed to be elected should have "made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the work of the Group and/or the field of landscape research".*

*Any Director or Member wishing to propose an individual for election as an Honorary Life Member should do so by preparing a short written statement setting out clear reasons for the proposal, which should be submitted to the Administrator at least two weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting to enable the Board at its immediately preceding meeting to consider whether it wishes to support the proposal and recommend it to the AGM.*

The Annual General Meeting resolved accordingly.

No Honorary Life Members were appointed during 2013.

#### **(ix) Administrative Assistant**

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.

### **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 the journal's 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 2013, Maggie Roe.

In 2013 the Editorial Board has not needed to meet, since the Editor and Editor-designate and the Treasurer/Company Secretary have dealt with the key issues of concern to it – respectively ensuring a smooth transition between Editors, and progressing changes to the support arrangements that underpin production of the journal (see ‘Business Strategy and Related Board Decisions’ above).

### **(ii) *Landscape Research* Editorial Team and International Editorial Advisory Board**

The Editorial Board referred to above is not involved in matters of editorial content of the journal, which are the responsibility of the Editor advised by the wider membership of the Editorial Team and a separate International Editorial Advisory Board.

During 2013 *Landscape Research's* Editorial Team comprised the Editor (Maggie Roe), Consulting Editor (Ian Thompson) and Associate Editors (Ken Taylor, Anna Jorgensen and Tom Mels), Book Reviews Editor (Mick Atha) and Assistant Editor (Vera Vincenzotti). The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude their work and commitment which has led to the journal becoming highly respected in its field (see below), with continued increase in the number of papers originating from areas outside Europe, and high quality special and theme issues.

The Editorial Team's work to develop the academic content and quality of the journal is supported by an International Editorial Advisory Board which, as at 31 December 2013, comprises twenty-four highly respected academics, chosen to represent a wide range of disciplines and interests across the field of landscape research and to ensure wide geographic coverage. A full list of the members of the Board and their affiliations is given in the inside front cover of each issue of *Landscape Research*. The Editorial Team's work is also greatly supported by the many individuals who act as peer reviewers of submitted papers. These individuals carry out their work on individual papers on an anonymous basis, but a full list of those who undertook the role in 2012/13 is provided in Volume 38 (Issue 6). The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the work of both the members of the International Editorial Advisory Board and the peer reviewers, without whom the journal could not maintain its respected academic status.

The Board also wishes to thank four colleagues who stood down from their roles during 2013 – former Assistant Editors David Jones and Sam Turner – and three former members of the International Editorial Advisory Board – Jacquie Burgess, Brian Goodey and John Sheail – for their significant contribution to the journal's development.

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

### **(iii) *Landscape Research***

Feedback from various sources demonstrates that *Landscape Research* continues to be a respected international journal which is performing well in the current market, and that the T&F Publishing Agreement continues to be effective. During 2013, full-rate subscriptions have seen a slight decline but this is off-set by an increase in online sales agreements access to the journal, while online usage of the journal continues to increase. The journal has featured in a number of successful marketing campaigns including the Architecture and Landscape ‘most read’ collection.

Citations to the journal have been steady, although there was a slight drop in the journal's ‘impact factor’. There may be various reasons for this, but it is not seen by the Editorial team as a problem



and a number of actions are being taken to address this issue. Visual issues remain popular, as are those to do with outdoor spaces, sustainability and climate change, while special issues on focused topics and review papers are also very well read. Three special issues are planned for 2014, and more are planned for 2015 and beyond.

Submissions to the journal have remained high, with 153 manuscripts submitted via the online submission system in 2013. The expansion of the journal to six issues has proved an effective response to the growing number of submissions received and the demand for space for quality research papers. However, as noted in last year's Report, there is continuing pressure for publication and a 'backlog' of papers awaiting publication. The latter problem has been alleviated to considerable degree by using the iFirst system which allows prior publication of papers on the Web, but in any case it is also desirable to have a certain 'bank' of papers in the system as this allows for seasonal and other changes in submission/acceptance rates that result from various drivers (for example, the Research Assessment Framework (REF) in the UK which is occurring in 2014). The Editor and Treasurer explored with T&F whether it is feasible to increase the size of the journal in response to the increasing submissions and demand for publication. As noted above, in relation to issues related to the longer-term publication of *Landscape Research* discussed under 'Business Strategy and Related Board Decisions', it has been jointly agreed that increasing the number of issues to eight per year should be feasible from 2015, and this intention is reflected in the newly agreed Publishing Agreement.

Six issues of the journal (comprising Volume 38) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue was a General Issue containing seven papers, plus an editorial exploring the importance (and success) of *Landscape Research* in promoting research excellence in the field.  
The first paper was the written-up and expanded paper derived from the Group's first Annual Lecture given in December 2011 by Prof David Lowenthal, on *Eden, Earth Day, and Ecology: Landscape Restoration as Metaphor and Mission*.  
The other papers were: an exploration of the purpose and scope of landscape ecology, analysing and evaluating six different conceptions of the field; a study of the relationship between the design approach and play value of outdoor play spaces; an assessment of landscape quality and brownfield regeneration, assessing community landscape preferences; a study of the effectiveness of using eye movement tracking as a measure of the restorative value of different urban environments; a review of concepts and approaches in research on greenspace, immigration and society in Northwest European countries; and a study of the importance of stonewall field boundaries as 'novel' ecosystems, based on fieldwork in Ireland.  
The issue also contained four book reviews.
- (ii) The **April** issue was a Special Issue on the theme of 'Place', comprising a short editorial plus six papers selected from general papers submitted to the journal. They covered the following topics: a study of place attachment and memory, exploring the role of public spaces in developing emotions of attachment ('landscapes of belonging') by first-generation migrants now resident in Sheffield; a study of the importance of historic landscape character to sense of place, based on case studies in the Blackdown Hills (Devon, Dorset, Somerset borders) and the marshlands of South Essex; a study of the differences between personal and official perspectives on the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage management, based on case studies in Norway; a case study of the different cultural interfaces of the landscapes of ancient Lycia, on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey; a study of the impact of socio-economic demands, ecological conditions and the power of tradition in shaping past woodland management decisions in the southeastern Czech Republic; and a study of the limits on using tourism as a means of rural place-making and combatting decline, in a situation of 'rural dystopia' (as opposed to 'rural idyll'), based on a case study in South Australia.

- (iii) The **June** issue was a General Issue containing six papers and two short communications on varied topics. The main papers included an appraisal of the visual perception of agricultural cultivated landscapes, to identify the key components that could be used as predictors for landscape preferences, based on a study in the Lower Galilee area of northern Israel; a study of farm- and forest-landowners' participation in biodiversity conservation, examined through the 'value-belief-norm' theory, based on a case study in Götaland in southern Sweden; a study of the use of climbing plants in the urban landscape of two Oxford colleges, using archive photographic material; a study of the different landscape character assessment techniques used in Spain, and the need for a harmonisation of methods based on clearer and more consistent criteria to shape future mapping; an exploration of the use of quasi-naturalistic landscape design in decisions about watercourse redevelopment, flood-risk management and pollution control of culverted streams in urban areas in Taiwan; and an assessment of the conflicts between nature conservation and private property rights in relation to deer migration in the urban fringe, and their implications for land-use planning in Oregon, USA.

The first short communication was a proposal to use connectivity as a tool to integrate the ecological, social and cultural dimensions of landscape in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, based on the findings of field research in southern Sweden. The second reported on the potential important role of diving site names as linguistic elements of tourism and cultural landscapes, based on research in Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

- (iv) The **August** issue was a Special Issue on animals and landscape, emanating from a call for papers on the subject. It contained an editorial, eight substantive papers and a short communication.

The papers were: a general review of research on livestock and landscape, and the growing importance of farm animals in landscape studies; a review of the cultural, political, ecological and economic significance of animals in landscapes, and their role in shaping individual and collective land management practices and senses of identity, which are far more important in popular culture than is recognised in academic rural studies; a study of the observations of Cree hunters on resources in the landscape in the context of socio-environmental change in the Eastern James Bay area of Quebec, Canada; a study on the constitutive role of animals in society-nature interactions, based on research about brown bears in semi-urban landscapes in south-eastern Finland; a study of traditional grazing practices and landscape change caused by the modern simplification of land management practices and over-grazing, in the semi-arid landscape of western Lesvos, Greece; an assessment of the opportunity costs of conserving pasture resources for mobile pastoralists in the Caucasus mountains of Azerbaijan; an assessment of the benefits of low-intensity husbandry as a cost-efficient way to preserve dry grasslands, based on field research on Hiddensee island, Germany; and a study of the importance in British environmental discourse of otters as mediating and unifying symbols of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

The short communication reported on an assessment of grey squirrel dispersal patterns in the landscape using genetic sequencing, as a method for aiding their management at landscape scale and for enhancing the conservation of red squirrels.

- (v) The **October** issue was a General Issue containing seven papers on a varied range of landscape assessment and management issues. These were: a study of school teachers' use, preferences and ecostrategies for green spaces as classrooms for outdoor curriculum-based learning in Denmark; a study of the preferences of residents in a rural-urban fringe area of Finland for natural spaces and agricultural environments; an assessment of historical changes in the distribution and abundance of constructed ponds in response to changing population density and land use, in Pennsylvania and Delaware, USA; an assessment of the usefulness of the Delphi method to study the governance of protected landscape areas; a study of spatio-temporal landscape pattern changes in response to the future urbanisation of the Maricopa County area of Arizona, USA; an assessment of techniques for recording manifestations of

cultural ecosystem services in the landscape, based on a case study in the Swabian Alb, Germany; and a critical review of the issues which influence the design of parking areas in non-urban contexts, and their integration of modern infrastructures into the landscape. The issue also contained four book reviews.

- (vi) The **December** was a Special Issue guest-edited by Bas Pedroli, Marc Antrop and Teresa Pinto Correia reporting on some of the highlights of the *Living Landscape – The European Landscape Convention in Research Perspective* conference, organised jointly by Uniscape (the organisation of universities to support the Convention) and Landscape Europe in 2010.

The editorial summarised the key points arising from the conference, and in particular the importance of the four inter-disciplinary themes of universal commons (securing landscape as a common good); roots and routes (coming to terms with mobility and evolving lifestyles); reactions and resilience (long-term landscape transformations); and road maps (landscape as baseline and context for future change). The papers in this issue largely reflect these four themes.

The papers discussed: the scientific, educational and awareness-raising requirements for landscape fieldwork in the context of the European Landscape Convention (ELC); a participatory approach to analysing future scenarios for planning rural landscapes, based on a case study in Monferrato Astigiano, Piedmont, Italy; the importance of landscape quality in farmyard design for wine farms in Italy; the value of an 1827 cadastre map in the rehabilitation of ecosystem services in the Křemže Basin in the Czech Republic; a study of the establishment of a baseline for understanding the impact of the ELC on national policy, and assessing the effectiveness of policy change to implement the ELC in the United Kingdom; and an assessment of change patterns and the policy implications of agricultural structural change and urbanisation within European rural landscapes, based on two case studies in Denmark.

#### **(iv) Research project, University of Newcastle**

As noted above, one element of the 2007 NU Editorial Support Agreement was the provision of a grant (£4,400 excl. VAT in 2013) 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 and Consulting Editor at Newcastle in producing the journal.

The grant has been used for development of work based on the main research themes that Ian Thompson and Maggie Roe are working on, in particular, implementation of and activities related to the principles and policy of the ELC, such as the development of participatory methodologies. It has also been used to develop new areas linked to the ELC principles of the importance of ordinary landscapes and understanding cultural landscapes, landscape values and identities. The funding has supported attendance at conferences and seminars, particularly to give research papers as well as to make contact with other researchers and disseminate and publicize the work of LRG, particularly in relation to *Landscape Research* journal.

In 2013 this support included travel and expenses to develop research on the relationship of communities with water in the landscape, based on arts and humanities and co-production methodologies. This has now resulted in the winning of a three-year AHRC research grant under the Connected Communities programme, for a collaborative cross-disciplinary project '*Towards Hydrocitizenship: connecting communities with and through responses to interdependent, multiple water issues*' with Maggie Roe as Co-Investigator in conjunction with a number of other researchers at universities in the UK. Maggie Roe also attended the 5th Careggi Seminar, Florence 27-28 June 2013 and gave an invited paper in Session II Documentation, assessment and monitoring '*How can policy change be monitored? Developing a Monitoring Framework for policy change in relation to implementation of the ELC in the UK*'. In December Maggie Roe visited the Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and gave a presentation '*The Art of Composing Scientific Articles: Analysis of*

*Papers, Editors' Survey & Reflections on Experience from Publishing Landscape Research 2004-2013*'. A very lively round-table discussion then took place with researchers including staff and students. This visit also provided opportunities for discussion with individual researchers including Dr Vera Vicenzotti (Associate Editor LR) on journal matters, and Professor Ingrid Sarlov-Herlin. This has resulted in a conference paper to be presented at ECLAS in September 2014 and in a collaborative research paper to be submitted in 2014 as part of the *Landscape Research* Special Issue on Food & Landscape due for publication in 2015.

## **5. EVENTS, RESEARCH AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES**

### **(i) Coordination of Activity**

As noted in last year's Report, the arrangements agreed in 2009 for developing and promoting events, research and networking activity in all areas other than publication of *Landscape Research*, were refined during 2012. The Coordinators for the various activity networks (as redefined) during 2013 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 - Laurence le Dû-Blayo; and
- development of Research and Policy Initiatives – Chris Dalglish.

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 2013 as summarised in sub-sections (ii) to (vii) below.

### **(ii) Events**

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

- organising and co-funding a field study weekend with the Medieval Settlement Research Group (in Falmouth, Cornwall, 25 to 26 April 2013);
- attending a research workshop organised by Arbeitskreises Landschaftsforschung (German Landscape Research Workshop) including German members of the Group (in Rottenburg, Baden Wurtemberg in Germany, 26 to 27 September 2013);
- organising and mainly funding an invited research seminar and workshop convened by Tim and Reiko Collins (in Kinloch Rannoch, on 21 to 23 November 2013); and
- holding a public lecture (in London, 5 December 2013).

This level of event activity was higher than that anticipated at the start of the year and similar to that undertaken in 2012. Linked to the emerging programme for 2014 and 2015, it continues to give confidence that the new arrangements for promoting event activity are now progressing well.

Regrettably, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Group was not able to contribute as fully as originally planned to the conference on *Journees du Paysage* (to be held jointly with the University of Rennes 2 and other partners) in Brittany in June 2013. However, it was represented, and the event reported under 'International and Outreach Activity' below.

The two-day field meeting *How did People in Medieval Cornwall perceive their Environment* in April 2013 was held at the University of Exeter's recently established Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities (CEAH) in Falmouth. It was funded by the Group with CEAH and the Medieval Settlement Research Group (MSRG) as partners, and organised by Graham Fairclough and Peter Herring who respectively are or were members of the MRSRG Committee as well as LRG Directors. The collaboration demonstrated that there are clear shared interests in landscape between LRG and MSRG, and hopefully will lay the foundations for future joint working. Two dozen professionals, academics and amenity society members as well as speakers gathered to discuss perceptions of an ancient landscape, now and in the past, and their relevance to contemporary engagement of modern communities with their local landscape. The event comprised seven lectures on the first day, followed by a field excursion on the second. A report outlining the the lectures and the discussions on these themes, together with reflections by Graham and Peter on the wider aspects of LRG/MSRG collaboration, was published in *Landscape Research Extra* 66 (in July 2013), and a separate article has been published in the MSRG journal, *Medieval Settlement*.

The Arbeitskreises Landschaftsforschung (AL) <sup>2</sup> workshop held in Rottenburg in September 2013 focused on *Changing Landscapes: Changing Power Structures*, the organisers including Markus Leibenath. The word "power" in this context refers to the issue of 'political control' of decisions related to landscapes, rather than 'energy-related' power. The programme included a series of presentations and related discussions, and a field trip. The event was not as well attended as AL had hoped, with only fifteen researchers attending, but was nonetheless a lively debate, which AL plans to continue in a wider forum by leading a special session on *Political Landscapes* at the 2014 PECSRL Conference, at which event LRG is also leading a special session (see below). A report outlining the discussions on these themes is presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 67 (November 2013), which includes a web-link to the German language network site. The Rottenburg event was attended by Peter Howard as part of the Group's international networking activity, and that aspect is reported separately under 'International and Outreach Activity' below.

The event in Kinloch Rannoch entitled *The Forest is Moving: a Future Forest* was conceived and run as a seminar and workshop with invited guests chosen for their ability to contribute effectively to achievement of the event objectives, together with a free public session. It was funded primarily by the Group with support from the Forestry Commission and Creative Scotland, and organised by Tim and Reiko Collins. The event arose from their artist residency within the Black Wood of Rannoch, an iconic Caledonian forest, where questions about art and design were swiftly over-shadowed by tensions about public use and recreational management of the forest which some considered detrimental to the bio-diverse ecosystem. The event sought to make the case for cultural values and cultural access to the forest, as well as recognition of ecological value. It therefore focused on trying to answer the questions: Do the Caledonian forests of Scotland provide a higher level of cultural ecosystem service due to their iconic status? If so, how important is it that the public has access to and/or awareness of this 'type of forest'? The setting of the Black Wood was used to examine the ideas, knowledge, valued and the experiences that enable and constrain public access to, and awareness of, a forest that has considerable ecological and cultural importance. The workshop was attended by over two dozen participants representing forestry, ecosystem, cultural, arts and humanities, third sector and perspectives, followed by a public walk and talk on the second day with 30 participants. During the early part of 2014 the artists will work with local partners to prepare a report from ideas discussed at the workshop, and producing various sound and video-based artworks. A report outlining the discussions on these themes and preliminary conclusions will be presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 68 (February 2014), which will include a weblink to further details about the workshop.

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<sup>2</sup> Arbeitskreises Landschaftsforschung is the network of German-speaking landscape researchers from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Bolzano (Italy), the establishment of which last year the Group contributed to – see 2012 Report.



The final event of the year was the organisation by Antonia Noussia of a public lecture by Prof. Tim O’Riordan on *The Difficulties of Designing Future Coastlines in the Face of Climate Change*. The event was hosted by the Landscape Institute, and included a reception after the lecture. It was attended by over 80 people and was very well-received, provoking a full question and answer session which was all the more focused in the light of the major storm surge taking place in the North Sea that very evening. The lecture was videoed and is available for viewing, together with the powerpoint presentation used by Prof. O’Riordan, on the Group’s website (as are videos of the 2011 and 2012 lectures). It is intended that a paper based on the lecture will be published in a future issue of *Landscape Research*.

Other event-related activity during the year has focused on progressing events for 2014 and beyond. Three major events are planned for 2014:

- A research symposium on *Between Space and Place: The future of landscape characterization, and the future character of landscape*, to be held jointly with Kungl. Skogs- och Lantbruksakademien (the Royal Swedish Landscape Academy), in Stockholm on 3 to 4 March 2014.
- A conference on *Combining Scientific Expertise with Participation: the Challenge of the European Landscape Convention*, to be held jointly with the Université Libre de Bruxelles, in Brussels, Belgium on 28 to 29 April 2014.
- A round-table workshop on *How can Society Value its Cultural Landscapes; Is monetary valuation the best or only way?* as part of the PECSRL 2014 Conference *Unraveling the Logic of Landscape*, to be held in Gothenburg and Mariestad, Sweden on 8 to 12 September 2014.

Several other events are planned for 2014:

- Support for a field study event *Some Miraculous Promised Land*, centred around the Arenig Mountain in Meirionnydd, being organised by the Museum of Modern Art, the Snowdonia Society, and the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales.
- Sponsorship of a major photographic exhibition by Simon Warner and Jay Appleton on *Image, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as a Sign Language*, to be held at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 31 March to 16 May 2014, Dean Clough Galleries in Halifax on 7 June to 7 September 2014, and the Matthew Gallery at the University of Edinburgh on 26 September to 4 October 2014.
- The fourth public Annual Lecture (in December 2014), to be given by Prof Jacquie Burgess.

Events currently planned for 2015 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); a two-day seminar/field event on Railway Landscapes to be held in Snowdonia; and the fifth Annual Lecture. Preliminary planning is also underway for a conference or other event around the theme of Wilderness and Wild Places to be held in 2015 or 2016, and for an event to celebrate the tercentenary of ‘Capability’ Brown in 2016, and other event ideas are also being explored.

Ideas are being sought for events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of LRG in 2017.

### **(iii) Website and Information Activity**

Last year’s report noted that continued progress had been made in 2012 to enhance the new website, completely re-designing it and adding new content. This progress, again led by Emma Waterton with specialist support, continued in 2013. A key aspect was completing work in March 2013 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. This work was completed with relatively minor difficulties which were quickly addressed, and the new site has since been working smoothly. As part of this migration, initial work was completed to enable web-based payments linked to a PayPal account. This system was successfully activated after some trials, and has made it much easier for



new Members to join the Group and pay their subscriptions, and it is intended to extend it in 2014 so that it can be used for membership renewals.

Initial work has also started to link the LRG website to the T&F website, to allow Members to enjoy access to the 'bundle' of four or five journals which has been negotiated as part of the new Publishing Agreement. This access requires not only linking the two websites, but doing so in a way that incorporates a 'members-only restricted gateway' via a 'log-in' mechanism on the LRG website that will take Members into the restricted part of the T&F website to access the articles/issues associated with our bundle. It is intended that this work will be completed in Spring 2014, at which point we will communicate with Members to announce which journals they can gain free access to, and explain how to do so.

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 2013. For example additions include news items about forthcoming events and reports of events, the addition of new issues of *Landscape Research Extra*, links to a video and the powerpoint presentation of the Annual Lecture, an announcement about Project HERCULES, new or updated pen-portraits of Board members, and copies of the Annual Directors' Reports.

#### **(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). Since then the scheme has steadily expanded in scope. The submission and judging process moved online in 2012, the problems experienced then as a result of web-hosting problems (which led the Group to change its provider – see 'Website' above) having been resolved and causing little difficulty in 2013.

In 2013 thirteen submissions were received for work completed in 2012, comprising six entries for the undergraduate prizes, three for the Masters prizes, and four for the PhD prize, from students at five institutions. The judges were Tim Collins, John Gittins, Peter Herring, Hannes Palang, Susanne Seymour, Paul Tabbush and Ian Thompson. Five awards were made: two were first prizes of £350 for Master's theses, and three were first prizes of £500 for PhD theses. No awards were made for Undergraduate dissertations.

The two Masters prizes were to Helen Whale and Emily Winsauer (both of the University of Edinburgh). Their Masters theses were respectively entitled *Sparrow Places: a spectral geography of the decline and conservation of the house sparrow* (awarded in the 'Practical Science and Planning - Material Geography' category) and *Theorizing Food Sovereignty: an analysis of public and academic discourse* (awarded in the 'Language, Text, Humanities - Cultural Geography' category). Reports outlining the dissertations will be presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 69 (April 2014).

The three PhD prizes were to Jonathon Prior and Sam(antha) Steddon (both of the University of Edinburgh) and Helen Susan Murray (of the University of Glasgow). Their PhD theses were respectively entitled *The role of Aesthetic Value in Ecological Restoration* (awarded in the 'Language, Text, Humanities - Cultural Geography' category), *Keeping Track of Nature: interdisciplinary insights for participatory ecological monitoring* (awarded in the 'Practical Science and Planning - Material Geography' category), and *Assessing the Impact of Windfarm-related Disturbance on streamwater carbon, phosphorus and nitrogen dynamics: A case study of the Whitelee catchments monitoring* (awarded in the 'Practical Science and Planning - Environmental Management' category). Reports outlining the dissertations were presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 67 (November 2013).

At the end of the year a total of five entries have been received in relation to the 2014 competition for these completed in 2013, comprising two entries for the undergraduate prizes, two for the Masters prizes, and one for the PhD prize, from students at four institutions. Any prizes awarded will be reported in next year's Report.

The first set of invitations inviting entries for the 2015 Awards (ie for dissertations completed during 2014) will be issued in June 2014.

#### **(b) Other Education and Training Activity**

As indicated in the 2012 Report, the Board has agreed the need to re-focus the work of the former Networking and Outreach Activity Network to address education and training. However, regrettably it has not yet been possible to appoint the resultant new role of Education and Training Coordinator (overseeing dissertation prizes and liaising with the student representative). Tim Collins has continued to discharge the role until a candidate comes forward and is appointed, but in practice effort in 2013 has focused very much on the Prize Scheme as discussed above.

#### **(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 Laurence le Dû-Blayo was International Activity Coordinator during 2013, having taken over the role in December 2012. The Board considered a paper by Laurence with recommendations on its future approach for international and outreach activity at its December 2013 meeting. Although more analysis needs to be undertaken regarding the geographical spread of membership and downloads of *Landscape Research* papers, the report emphasised that membership still largely reflects the Group's UK origins, and that European and especially non-European membership is limited – which is paradoxical considering the strong reputation of the Group across Europe and the world impact of *Landscape Research*. Furthermore, the membership is not very active, at least in terms of informing all the membership network of interesting experiences or events. The Board agreed to try to identify and set up a network of "international correspondents" to develop contacts in different parts of the world, exchange of information and LRG membership in their country, and to seek to strengthen links with 'landscape observatories' and similar bodies. The Board confirmed its previous view that North America, where the Group is particularly under-represented, should be a focus for effort. The Board also recognised the need to develop a 'description' of the different roles played by correspondents, Board members and partner organisations. Meanwhile, a range of Directors (in particular Markus Leibenath, Antonia Noussia, Kenneth Olwig, Hannes Palang, Gareth Roberts, Maggie Roe, Ken Taylor and Emma Waterton) continue to contribute to work to promote international activity.

In terms of the Group's international activity during 2013, the work undertaken with partners to prepare the bid for Project HERCULES was arguably the most significant. The consortium of which LRG is part was one of 38 proposals submitted to the EU, so it was a major achievement to be selected as the winning proposal. As noted above, Laurence as International Officer is the LRG 'lead' for HERCULES, especially on scientific issues, so the project will represent a major part of her international task over the next three years. It may be noted that the Group also has a wider

involvement in HERCULES by virtue of its membership; although it was represented at the “project initiation meeting” by Laurence and Steven Shuttleworth, two other Members were present – Peter Howard as a member of the Forestry Communications team, and Hannes Palang as a member of the University of Tallinn team.

The Group has also had a presence at four international events during 2013.

The first was the *Journees du Paysage* final conference under the auspices of the EU’s Interreg CORDIALE programme on 26 to 27 June 2013, held in Logonna Daoulas, Brittany in France, where the Group was represented by Paul Tabbush. The event was organised by University of Rennes 2 with the support of the Conseil Regional de Bretagne, and was co-organised by Laurence le Dû-Blayo in her capacity as a researcher at University of Rennes 2. This conference was a real success, with about 110 participants, the maximum capacity of the venue. One of the Cordiale programme’s concerns has been to “democratise” landscapes – making information available to people about their landscapes, to make it easier for local communities to engage in decision-making processes concerning them. A report on the conference will be presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 68 (February 2014), which will include web-links to the Cordiale and related websites. Paul Tabbush had the opportunity to make a lot of contacts for LRG, among both French and English attendees, which should prove useful for further partnerships in HERCULES.

The second event was the *Transitions in Landscape and Land Use* summer school held on 12 to 18 June 2013 in Lesvos, Greece which was attended by Maggie Roe. The summer school was organised under the auspices of the EU’s VOLANTE project, and was intended to bring together a mix of young and experienced researchers. Maggie was asked to attend this event to talk about developing and publishing scientific papers, based primarily on her experience as Editor of *Landscape Research*. This provided a good opportunity to promote both the Group and the journal, as well as to pass on skills and experience to young researchers. A report on the conference is presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 66 (July 2013), which also provides a web-link to the VOLANTE project website.

Third, as noted in relation to ‘Events’ above, the Group attended an event at Rottenburg, Germany in September 2013 organised by Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung (AL). AL is keen to deepen its contact with the Group. Peter Howard’s attendance in Rottenburg on behalf of LRG and the appointment at the Annual General Meeting 2013 of Markus Leibenath (who is a co-founder of AL) as one of the Group’s Directors were an important part of that partnership-building process. Peter made a presentation about the Group, stressing the value of personal membership, and a lot of interest was shown in the new promotional leaflets and copies of *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Research Extra*. It is clear that AL members value LRG’s support for their work, and look forward to ongoing liaison. They remain an informal network, existing only as a list of currently 80 subscribers to an email newsletter keeping people informed of many landscape events both inside and outside Germany, rather than a body with paid membership. Hopefully a reasonable proportion of AL’s subscribers will join the Group, which might create the potential for LRG to support various network events in different countries in various languages.

Finally, Laurence le Dû-Blayo represented the Group at the 13th Council of Europe “Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention” held in Cetinje, Montenegro on 2 to 3 October 2013. The theme of the workshop was *Territories of the future, landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy*. The first day was a field trip from the old capital Cetinje to the Kotor bay area, a mix of karst landscape and modern coastal developments. The second day comprised three workshops on the themes “Identify, Analyse, Characterise the Landscape” (co-introduced by Graham Fairclough), “An Exercise in Democracy: the knowledge, the feeling, the will of population” (at which Laurence le Dû-Blayo represented the Group, with a presentation about “A shared knowledge of the landscape”), and “Collaborative Methods”. As well as the usual official government representatives at such events, there were about 100 participants from across Europe

and further afield, which gave good opportunity to make a lot of contacts to present the Group. Again, a lot of interest was shown in the new promotional leaflets and copies of *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Research Extra*. A report on the conference will be presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 69 (April 2014), which will include web-links to the conference website.

#### **(vi) Research and Policy Initiatives**

As indicated in 'Business Strategy and Related Board Decisions' above, Chris Dalglish as Coordinator has actively taken forward this new area of activity during 2013.

The Board had a preliminary discussion to consider possible focuses for work, which led to a paper and fuller discussion at its meeting in May 2013. As a result, the Board agreed to develop a strategy to give specific direction to the Group's activities intended "to advance ... research ... for the public benefit". The strategy will provide a definition of the 'field of landscape' referred to in our charitable purpose; a statement of the priority objectives that the Group will adopt to guide relevant activities in the period over the next few years; and an outline of how these will be delivered through specific activities (for example, through events, publications or research project collaboration).

Papers on particular aspects of the strategy were prepared and circulated for consideration by the Board in late 2013. Regrettably, travel disruption reduced attendance at the December 2013 Board meeting, so the discussion planned for that meeting was instead undertaken as an e-discussion via Basecamp. In the light of that discussion, it is intended to prepare a further draft for review by a small working group of Directors in March 2014, for the Board to consider in May 2014 and approve for consultation and comment by Members during Spring/Summer 2014. Following that consultation, a finalised Strategy will be prepared for adoption by the Board and subsequent web publication.

#### **(vii) Landscape Research Extra**

*Landscape Research Extra* was published four times in 2013 (issues 64 to 67). The four issues totalled 48 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 covered the landscapes of Yalta, Crimea (continued from an initial feature on the landscapes of the Ukraine in 2012); the Cajas National Park in Ecuador; the banlieus of suburban Paris; Essex (two articles); and the cultural landscapes of the Tunisian Sahel. There were also significant features on the Government response to the report of the 'Independent Panel on Forestry' (continued from previous features on the ownership of English forests, in 2011 and 2012); the work of a conservation volunteer group building nesting holes for sand martins; conservation work experience; sound in the landscape (several articles); and the value of wetlands in the Irish landscape.

The issues also contained brief notices and reports of various conferences and papers, including: The *Ethics and Aesthetics of Architecture and Environment* conference at the University of Newcastle in July 2012, which was sponsored by the Group (see the Directors' Report for 2012); the *Seeking Sublime Snowdonia* field weekend held in September 2012, which was sponsored by the Group (see the Directors' Report for 2012); the annual presentation of recent results in landscape research undertaken in France, at the University of Bordeaux in December 2012; the *How did People in Medieval Cornwall perceive their Environment* workshop, held in April 2013 which was co-organised by the Group (see 'Events' above); the *Transitions in Landscape and Land Use* summer school in June 2013 in Lesbos, Greece (see 'International and Outreach Activity' above); the *Changing Landscapes: Changing Power Structures* workshop in Rottenburg, Germany in September

2013 (see 'Events' above); and the *Music and the Spaces of Sound* conference at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in September 2013.

Other articles included descriptions of walks and a cycle ride remembering and enjoying the landscapes of London, the Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh, the woods alongside Loch Lomond, the Malvern Hills, the Borrowdale Valley in the Lake District, and Bath; the 'national tree' of Wales, the Pontfadog oak; an introduction to the journal *Landscapes*; and reflections on the impact of mobility impairment on the appreciation and enjoyment of the landscape. The issues also included a write-up of three of the dissertations that received a prize under the Group's 2013 Scheme, 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 2013 were Jay Appleton, Ros Codling, Tim and Reiko Collins, Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Graham Fairclough, John Gittins, Brian Goodey, Peter Herring, Ondrej Hudec and Libor Novak, Markus Leibenath, Owen Manning, Philip Pacey, Terry O'Regan, Gareth Roberts, Maggie Roe, Paul Tabbush and Ian Thompson.

## 6. FINANCES

In previous years, all the Group's finances have been available for any use considered by the Board to be appropriate to delivering its charitable objectives, that is they are "unrestricted" funds. In 2013, a part of the Group's income has been received on the "restricted" basis that they are to be used only for the specific purpose for which they were given, namely the EU funds received in relation to Project HERCULES, discussed earlier in this Report. This discussion of the Group's finances is therefore 'split' to distinguish these two separate elements.

With regard to its "unrestricted funds", the Group made a surplus in 2013 of £7,215 (income of £56,879, less expenditure of £49,664). This compares to the surplus in 2012 of £20,501 (income of £65,363, less expenditure of £44,862). There being one adjustment for 2012 creditor over-provision, the Group's Accumulated Fund of "unrestricted funds" at 31st December 2013 was £97,959 (2011, £89,964).

As explained in last year's Report, the large surplus in 2012 was exceptional and due to a one-off item of income, in relation to a refund of under-payments in respect of the *Landscape Research* Publishing Agreement. Also, as explained in last year's Report, a change in income tax rules means that many Gift Aid donations may now no longer be eligible for tax relief; no allowance has therefore been made for such receipts in either the 2012 or 2013 Income Accounts, while the implications are being resolved with HMRC.

The 2013 surplus of "unrestricted funds" was largely due to increased income from the Publishing Agreement, which reflected the full financial effect of increasing the journal to six issues per annum as royalty sales improved from the previous year. Membership income also increased, reflecting the new subscription rates that took effect in January 2013. Expenditure also increased substantially compared to the previous year, particularly in relation to *Landscape Research Extra* (four issues in 2013 compared to three the previous year), events, the dissertation prize scheme, and publicity and promotion; and the costs of *Landscape Research* increased slightly. Expenditure on international networking and on Board/Executive and administration costs (excluding publicity and promotion) were less than in the previous year. However, the net increased expenditure was outweighed by the greater increase in income.

As well as its unrestricted funds summarised above, the Group's finances have benefitted from the income received in relation to Project HERCULES. The funding for the project is provided to the research consortium in tranches, with the first tranche payable at the start of the project. Accordingly,



the Group received income in 2013 related to Project Hercules of £21,825, of which it has spent £1,418. The balance of £20,407 is a “restricted fund”, to be used only for EU-approved purposes in relation to Project HERCULES.

Thus, the Group’s total Accumulated Fund at 31 December 2013 was £118,366 – £97,959 being for “unrestricted” use and £20,407 being “restricted”.

Looking ahead to 2014 and beyond, income is expected to increase in 2014 and then (assuming *Landscape Research* increases to eight issues per annum, as planned) to further substantially increase in 2015 and thereafter as a result of the terms of the renegotiated Publishing Agreement. It also increase if a decision is made to further increase the membership subscription rate in 2015 or thereafter, to reflect the future increased size and frequency of the journal. However, more generally in relation to income, given the prolonged delay in wider economic recovery, it seems prudent to continue to assume that bank deposit interest income will not recover from its current extremely low level, at least for two years; and also, as noted above, to assume that contributions from Gift Aid donations will not apply for the foreseeable future.

In parallel, it is expected that expenditure will also rise substantially over the next few years as a result of expanded activity made possible by the expected increased income. The costs of producing *Landscape Research* should increase from 2014 as a result of the new support arrangements for the editorial team reflecting the journal’s expansion to six issues; and costs will further increase slightly from 2015 if the journal expands to eight issues. Also, as discussed above, major expenditure is planned for events in 2014, and programmes of expenditure are being developed for both events and international activity thereafter. Furthermore, appointing a Development Officer will incur a significant cost commitment (assumed from 2015) and expenditure may also arise from any initiatives in relation to the funding and dissemination of landscape research projects consequent on agreeing a research strategy (and, dependent on the timing of final decisions, costs related to these items may arise in 2014). In addition, networking and outreach activity costs are likely to continue to increase as those activities are expanded. However, the costs of *Landscape Research Extra* and the enhanced prize scheme should remain at 2013 levels, while 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 increased international membership of the Board 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. The five-year projection for 2014 to 2017 reflects this approach. However, given the impact of the one-off income received in 2012 and the pattern of surpluses of income over expenditure that has occurred over the past few years, the Group’s Accumulated Fund overall is now considerably in excess of £60,000, the level of reserve intended by the financial strategy. Some of the intended expenditure and investment described above should make use of that excess in a planned way, and more generally it will enable the Group to adopt a relaxed approach to high planned expenditure which exceeds income in individual years.

The Board will therefore need to focus on two key issues over the next twelve months.

First, it must ensure that the expenditure plans indicated above for activities other than publishing *Landscape Research* are refined into robust multi-year programmes of activity, which are then implemented and delivered. This is particularly important for events and international activity, but



ensuring good progress with the prize scheme, and also developing proposals for research and for other aspects of education and training activity are also important.

Second, the decision whether or not to appoint a Development Officer is of immediate importance in terms of the Group's strategic development and its future capacity to deliver its ambitions. This is also important in financial terms – quite simply, having negotiated a source of income to be able to afford such an initiative, any decision not to proceed will pose the challenge of how the Group would then make use of its future income. Arguably this would be an even more difficult challenge, because the pattern of the past few years of an annual surplus of income over expenditure will become even more acute.

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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