



# **Landscape Research Group Ltd**

## **Directors' Report, 2017**

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

9 April 2018

*Approved by the Board of Directors: 9 April 2018*  
*Approved by the Annual General Meeting: 17 May 2018*

# LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2017

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9 April 2018

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## 1. Introduction

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited from 1st January to 31st December 2017. 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), and as such was the successor body to the unincorporated association known as "Landscape Research Group" which was founded in 1967.

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.

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 works internationally to deliver these objects and promotes collaboration and exchange between different disciplines and sectors, and between professionals and the public. It seeks to empower people to question and understand how we shape and are, in turn, shaped by the world we live in. The Group promotes a 'landscape approach' because it emphasises the holistic, dynamic and cultural nature of people's interaction with the world. It therefore supports the European Landscape Convention's definition of landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". A fuller interpretation of the Group's charitable objects and a statement of our current priorities are presented in our *Research Strategy* available at [www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy/](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy/).

## 2. Directors, Bankers, Auditors and Secretary

Directors who served during the year were:

Dr Chris Dalglish	(Chair* from 18 May 2017; Vice Chair* to 18 May 2017; and Coordinator, Research and Policy <sup>#</sup> to 18 May 2017)
Prof. Tim Collins	(acting Coordinator, Education and Training <sup>#</sup> to 27 February 2017)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Treasurer*; and Company Secretary* to 18 May 2017)
Prof. Laurence le Dû-Blayo	(Coordinator, LRG Community Development from 18 May 2017; and Coordinator, International and Outreach Activity <sup>#</sup> to 18 May 2017)
Mr Graham Fairclough	
Mr Peter Herring	[to 18 May 2017]
Dr Anna Jorgensen	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> *)
Dr Markus Leibenath	(Company Secretary* from 18 May 2017)
Dr Antonia Noussia	[to 22 February 2017]
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	
Prof. Hannes Palang	(Coordinator, Research and Policy from 18 May 2017)
Mr Gareth Roberts	(Coordinator, Events Activity <sup>#</sup> to 18 May 2017)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Consulting Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Ms Nancy Stedman	
Mr Paul Tabbush	(Vice Chair* from 18 May 2017; and Chair* to 18 May 2017)
Prof. Ken Taylor	[to 18 May 2017] (Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> to 31 December 2017)
Dr Emma Waterton	(Coordinator, Website Activity <sup>#</sup> to 18 May 2017; Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> from 20 March 2017)

The posts shown in the list of Directors above with an asterisk (\*) comprise the Group's Executive (all

as at 31 December 2017).

The Activity Coordinators shown with a hashtag (#) were members of the Executive until 18 May 2017, when the Board agreed to revise its structure [see discussion at 'Board and Executive' below]

Of the fourteen Directors at 31 December 2017, eight are British. The six other Directors hold citizenship as follows: Prof. le Dû-Blayo holds French citizenship; Dr Leibenath holds German citizenship; Prof. Palang holds Estonian citizenship; Prof. Collins holds United States citizenship; Prof. Olwig holds dual United States/Danish citizenship; and Dr Waterton holds dual British/Australian citizenship.

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

Reporting Accountants are: Hepburn and Co, 1027A Garrett Lane, London SW17 0LN.

The Company Secretary is: Dr Markus Leibenath, Conertplatz 9 c, 01159 Dresden, Germany

The Group's website is [www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org), email address [admin@landscaperesearch.org](mailto:admin@landscaperesearch.org), and its Twitter 'handles' are @aboutlandscape and @LandscapeResJ. The Group also has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/landscaperesearchgroup/>).

### **3. Public Benefit Statement**

This Directors' Report comprises the 'Public Benefit Statement' which the Directors as Charity Trustees are required to make under the Charities Acts. As required, it describes the charity's activities during the year to deliver its charitable purposes for the public benefit, as set out in the Introduction above. The 2017 Report is in a different, briefer format to that of previous Reports in respect of its description of the Group's activities during the year, because the Directors intended to make the report more easily accessible and to concentrate on key information.

Notwithstanding this change of format, the Directors confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's 'Public Benefit Guidance for Charity Trustees' in undertaking those activities.

### **4. Governance & Operations**

#### **4.1 The Board, Executive, Officers & Coordinators**

At Board Meeting 76 in May 2017, the Board revised the structure of the Executive and the number and the remits of the Group's 'activity coordinators'. The Executive now comprises the four Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Company Secretary) and the Editor-in-Chief of the Group's journal *Landscape Research*. As well as the Editor, there are two other activity coordinators: the Research & Policy Coordinator; and the LRG Community Development Coordinator.

The role of the Board is to ensure the good governance of LRG, agree strategy and monitor achievements. Operational decision-making is devolved to the Executive, the individual Officers and the Coordinators, all of whom have the authority to act within the scope of their various remits and the annual budgetary limits set by the Board.

Following the AGM on 18th May, the Board elected individuals to the Officer and Coordinator posts as follows: Chris Dalglish as Chair; Paul Tabbush as Vice Chair; Steven Shuttleworth as Treasurer; Markus Leibenath as Secretary; Anna Jorgensen as Editor of *Landscape Research*; Hannes Palang as Research & Policy Coordinator; and Laurence le Du-Blayo as LRG Community Development Coordinator.

#### **4.2 Staffing**

##### Current Staffing

LRG currently has contracts with a number of individuals who provide services on a self-employed basis: an Administrative Assistant; a Journal Editorial Assistant; a Website Developer/Provider of

technical support; and a Development Manager.

The Development Manager's (DM) contract was due to end in November 2017, the Development Project having been planned as a time-limited, three year initiative from December 2013. However, the decision was taken to extend the contract to 31 May 2018 to ensure continuity in key development, events and communications activities while LRG acted to finalise and implement new staffing plans (see below). The key purpose of the role remains "to enable LRG to increase its reach, profile, impact and effectiveness". The key elements of the role have been partially revised for the extension period and the role is now focused tightly on advising on and contributing to the development and implementation of LRG's membership and partnership strategy and also on continuing to set up and maintain a fuller portfolio of outward-facing activity.

### Future Staffing

At Board Meeting 76, the Chair presented the Board with a plan for the expansion and reconfiguration of LRG's contract staff capacity to meet our current and anticipated needs. The Board agreed in principle to the plan, and it was agreed that the Board would further be consulted on the details, when they had been developed by a working group. The plan was reviewed at Board Meeting 77 after the development of further detail and after further reflection on LRG's primary needs. It was agreed to proceed immediately with the creation of one new role (a journal Pre-Editor) and to develop other proposals further before submitting a final version of the full staffing plan to the Board for decision in March 2018.

### **4.3 Volunteers**

Among the strategic proposals put to the Board at Board Meeting 76 was a proposal for the enhancement of LRG's voluntary capacity: "It is envisaged that the model provided by the journal – where a team of trustee(s), staff and volunteer associates collaboratively deliver the activity – will be extended to other areas of activity, e.g. events, dissertation awards and research. To this end, a new status of Board-appointed, voluntary Landscape Research Associate (LRA) is proposed." The Board approved in principle the creation of this status and network of voluntary Associates.

Development of the detail of the LRA scheme will be taken forward by the Community Development Working Group, established since Board Meeting 76.

### **4.4 Finances**

The 2013 to 2016 Reports noted that the Group's finances are 'split' to distinguish the two separate elements of "unrestricted funds" available for any use considered by the Board to be appropriate to delivering the Group's charitable objectives, and "restricted funds" held for the specific purpose of delivering project HERCULES. This split is applicable to the Group's 2017 finances, and the discussion below therefore deals with the two elements separately.

With regard to its "unrestricted funds", the Group made a surplus in 2017 of £9,396 (income of £129,685, less expenditure of £120,289). This compares to the surplus in 2016 of £27,159 (income of £107,352, less expenditure of £80,193). There being one adjustment for 2016 creditor over-provision and three for creditor under-provision, the Group's Accumulated Fund of "unrestricted funds" at 31st December 2017 was £164,696 (2016, £153,294).

The Group delivered a substantial increase in its expenditure in 2017 compared to 2016, but greater than expected income resulted in a surplus (albeit much smaller than in 2016) rather than the expected 'break even'. In relation to income, royalties from the *Landscape Research* Publishing Agreement again exceeded predictions, so that total income from this source was £107,712 (compared to £91,600 in 2015 and £100,300 in 2016), and there was fees and sponsorship income in relation to one event, although membership income was slightly lower (£6,032, compared to £6,657 in 2016). Income in 2017 was also boosted on a one-off basis by the refund to the Group's "unrestricted funds" of its eligible expenditure (£11,497) for the second half of the HERCULES project. The increased expenditure primarily resulted from *Landscape Research* costs increasing by c.£4,500 as planned; increased expenditure on Events (partly offset by the events income); one-off extra costs for redeveloping the Website; the new programme of Research Support grants (£16,120

expenditure incurred in 2017 on an awarded total of £20,000 grants); and extra Board, Development Project and Administration costs.

As well as its unrestricted funds summarised above, the Group's finances have included final income and expenditure in relation to HERCULES, which concluded in November 2016. The funding for the project was provided to the research consortium in tranches, with the first tranche paid at the start of the project in 2013, the second tranche paid in early 2016, and the final payment paid in August 2017 following EU sign-off of 'satisfactory completion' of the project. Accordingly, the Group received income of £8,898.91 (€10,141.20) in 2017, but spent £33. The HERCULES project and all its related financial activity having been completed with the receipt of the final tranche of research funds, the remaining balance (added to the balance of funds held at 31st December 2016) constituted the Group's "eligible expenditure" for the second half of the project, in total £11,497. This was accordingly refunded to the Group's "unrestricted funds", and the HERCULES bank account then closed. The balance of "restricted funds" (to be used only for EU-approved purposes in relation to HERCULES) is therefore nil at 31st December 2017.

Thus, the Group's total Accumulated Fund at 31 December 2017 was £164,696, all of which is available for "unrestricted" use.

Looking ahead to 2018 and beyond in relation to the "unrestricted funds", normal income is expected to be c. £122,000 in 2018 and rising to c.£135,000 by 2020. This increase largely reflects extra income in respect of royalties on *Landscape Research* sales, and assumes that future events will generate c. £5,000 income annually. There may also be some increased membership income as a result of the completion of Development Project activity. More generally, however, it seems prudent to continue to assume that bank deposit interest income will remain at its current extremely low level, and also (as noted in the Reports for 2012 to 2016) to assume that there will be no tax reclaim contributions from Gift Aid donations for the foreseeable future.

With regards to expenditure in 2018 and over the next few years, as noted in last year's Report it is planned that this will rise substantially as a result of expanded activity made possible by the steadily increased income from which the Group has benefitted over the past few years. The costs of producing *Landscape Research* will further increase as a result of new support arrangements for the Editorial Team. Also, it is planned that substantial expenditure will continue for Research Support and Events. Costs will also be incurred as a result of the decision to extend the Development Project to May 2018. The most significant change, however, will be the substantial new expenditure that is likely to arise during later 2018 as a result of decisions the Board may take in relation to future staffing needs after the Development Project is completed – which expenditure will then be a continuing cost for the Group into future 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 activity. In terms of financial planning for delivering 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 Group's recently updated four-year financial projection for 2017 to 2020 reflects this approach. However, as noted in previous years' Reports, the Group's Accumulated Fund overall is now considerably in excess of £60,000, the level of reserve intended by the financial strategy. The intended expenditure and investment described above should use some 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 key financial issue for the Board to focus on during 2018 is therefore deciding whether the Group is now at the point where it can commit to employing permanent staff, to take forward its activity on a more sustainable basis than its current reliance on severely stretched volunteer effort. Assuming this commitment is possible, thereafter, the key issue will remain as identified in previous Reports – ensuring that expenditure plans for activities other than publishing *Landscape Research*, and in particular for events, international activity and developing proposals for research, are refined into robust multi-year programmes of activity, which are then implemented and delivered.

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. However, they are presented in a new format that reflects the accounting standard rules set out in the new Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 applicable in the United Kingdom, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

#### **4.5 Legal & Regulatory Compliance**

##### Compliance with UK Financial Regulations to confirm Directors' identities and addresses

This compliance activity is required for all business bank accounts. It is required to help prevent fraud and money-laundering. During 2017, the Treasurer and other Directors of LRG provided the necessary information to LRG's bank and it has been confirmed that LRG has satisfied the requirements relating to the Regulations.

##### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The current Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) is being replaced by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), with effect from 25 May 2018. The GDPR is being introduced to comply with EU Regulation 2016/679 (27 April 2016). GDPR will come into effect before Brexit, and the Government has confirmed that the UK's decision to leave the EU will not affect the commencement of the GDPR.

The Treasurer attended a training course and prepared a report to the Board concerning the implications of the new regulations, with recommendations for action. LRG's Development Manager also assessed what she believes LRG needs to do in order to comply, providing a written report.

At Board Meeting 77 in December 2017, the Board established a working group comprising the Company Secretary, two other Board members and the Development Manager and tasked the group with reviewing current practices and procedures and implementing any changes necessary to comply with the GDPR in time for the 25th May 2018 deadline.

#### **4.6 Governance Framework**

##### The Governance Compendium

In order to improve its governance, the Board resolved in 2015 to bring all governance documentation together in a single place, compiling it as a single 'Governance Compendium'. The first iteration of the Compendium was completed and circulated by the end of 2017. The Compendium is intended to be a living document to be updated with new or revised material as and when required. A Governance working group has been drafting new policies and procedures to fill any gaps identified in compiling the Compendium and this work will continue into 2018.

##### Archive Policy

A new archive policy has been adopted to rationalise and guide LRG's retention of key digital and paper documents. Following adoption of the Policy, the Treasurer and Administrative Assistant reviewed all records held centrally by LRG and, guided by the Policy, discarded documents or transferred them to secure storage as appropriate. All Officers, Coordinators, Board members and relevant contract staff have been supplied with a copy of the Policy and requested to delete/discard documents and files, retain them locally or submit them for central storage by LRG in accordance with the Policy.

### **5. Advancing Landscape Research**

#### **5.1 Advancing Research: Strategy & Planning**

The LRG *Research Strategy* (available at [www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy/](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy/)) was approved relatively recently (December 2014), and there is not yet a need to review it.



Short-term plans include issuing a second call for research grants and reviving the Student Research Award in 2018 (see Sections 5.2 and 5.3 below).

## **5.2 Research Grant Awards**

LRG issued its first ever call for research grant applications in late 2016, on the topic of *Landscape Justice*. Six projects were awarded funding (in early 2017) to the total value of £20,000. One was completed in December 2017 and the other five were still in progress at the end of the year.

Based on the success of the research grants scheme in 2017, a new call was prepared, with an indicative budget of £10,000. The broad topic remained the same, *Landscape Justice*, and the call is due to be issued in January 2018, with a submission deadline of 1 March, 2018. This call gave additional pertinence and focus to the LRG's *Landscape Justice Debate* held on 6th December, 2017 (see below), whose discussions and/or conclusions were used to inform the specific scope and priorities of the call, i.e. '*Borders, boundaries and landscape justice*'. The decision about the new grants will be made on or before 23 March, 2018.

## **5.3 Student Research Awards**

No new Student Research Award call was made in 2017. However, the scheme is being reviewed with a view to continuing it in a new format.

## **5.4 Journal Landscape Research**

### Changes in composition of Editorial Board

Emma Waterton (Australia) was appointed as Associate Editor in March 2017, taking over the role from Ken Taylor (Australia) who stepped down at the end of 2017.

Bo Yang (USA) was appointed as Assistant Editor in September 2017.

There were no changes in the composition of the International Editorial Advisory Board during 2017, are there are no immediate planned changes to report.

### Publications in 2017, including Special Issues

Nine issues of *Landscape Research* (comprising Volume 42) were published in 2017, including the extra LRG Anniversary issue. Apart from the anniversary issue, there were six special issues and two general issues, as follows:

Vol 42(1), January – General issue;

Vol 42(2) February – Special issue: *Green Infrastructure* (Ed. Ian Mell);

Vol 42(3) April – Special issue: *Landscape Histories of Urbanisation* (Ed. Mattias Qvistrom);

Vol 42(4) May – Special issue: *Political Landscapes* (Eds. Ludger Gailing and Markus Leibenath);

Vol 42(5) July – General issue;

Vol 42(6) August – Special issue: *Rethinking the Landscapes of the Peak District* (Ed. Tim Edensor);

Vol 42(7) October – Special issue: *Shrinking Cities* (Eds. M. Francisca Lima & Mark Eischeid);

Vol 42(8) November – Special issue: *Landscape Research and Knowledge Exchange: learning from the HERCULES research project* (Eds. Steven Shuttleworth & Hannes Palang); and

Vol 42(9) December – LRG Anniversary issue, which included a special paper on *Fifty Years of Landscape Research Group* and a 'commissioned paper' on *Defining Landscape Justice: the role of landscape in supporting wellbeing of migrants, a literature review*.

### Backlog of papers in 2017 and 2018, and general comments

In 2017, the delay between acceptance of a paper and online publication on iFirst varied between

one and six months. However, the delay between acceptance and appearance in print is rather longer being, on average, 1 year. This delay was partly exacerbated in 2017 by the higher ratio of special issues to general issues (6:2), excluding the anniversary issue, so that a backlog of general papers awaiting publication has built up. In 2018, the ratio of special issues to general issues will be 4:4, allowing most of the backlog of general papers to be assigned to the 2018 general issues, with some assigned to early 2019. There are currently 25 papers in ScholarOne waiting to be put into iFirst production, and these are a mixture of special issue papers and general papers that will be assigned to print issues in the first half of 2019.

The journal currently runs at eight issues a year and the intention is to continue with this number for the time being.

#### Research project, University of Sheffield

One element of the Editorial Support Agreement between LRG and Sheffield University (the Editor's employer) is LRG's provision of a grant (£5,000 in 2017) 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 funds are to be used to provide small research grants to students and staff at the University. All students (under-graduates and both taught and research post-graduates) are eligible to apply by a competition process which will be held twice annually. The following applications were funded in 2017:

Veronica Love: *Quantifying the canopy effect of resilient shrubs on irradiance and their cooling capacity on roof gardens and other extreme and drought-prone landscapes;*

Eun Yeong Choe: *Investigating the relationship between mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) and the setting in which it is carried out;*

Dominika Blachnicka-Ciacek & Clare Rishbeth: *'Refugees welcome in parks': urban green spaces as resource of inclusion and well-being for newcomers;* and

Lauriane Suyin Chalmin-Pui: *Urban Green Infrastructure symposium 2017 for early- and mid-career researchers at the University of Sheffield.*

#### Research activities of Vera Vicenzotti, SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

In recognition of her efforts as Associate Editor of *Landscape Research*, Vera Vicenzotti's department has received a financial contribution to its landscape research from LRG (£2,000 in 2017).

In 2017, Dr Vicenzotti used parts of these funds as seed money for establishing a future research focus: an exploration of the nexus between landscape design and the political. Over the last 15 years, certain internationally influential discourses within landscape and urban design (such as Landscape Urbanism or Ecological Urbanism) have emerged in response to global challenges of urbanization. While these movements have, among other things, been successful in suggesting design solutions that focus on ecological issues, they have largely ignored the societal and political dimension of landscape and urban design. It is intended to reconstruct the history of this development, study its consequences (both in terms of landscape ideologies and design language), and explore the relation between notions of the political and the aesthetic to ultimately suggest ways to strengthen the societal and political dimensions of landscape projects. The focus of this research ties in with two of LRG's strategic research priorities: (i) With its critique of fashionable 'isms' within landscape and urban design, the research is a form of "critical landscape thinking" that challenges current thinking and practice; and (ii) To some degree, the research also echoes the research priority of "landscape justice", if the a-political implications of the technocratic practices that Dr Vicenzotti critically studies are considered as a form of landscape injustice.

In addition, some of the funds were used – inter alia – to support an international collaboration with Greet De Block (University of Antwerp) and to cover costs for travel (flight) and accommodation to present a joint paper (*'The effects of affect. A plea for sustaining distance'*) at the ECLAS conference in Greenwich, UK, 10–13 September 2017.

### Research activities of Lisa-Marie Shillito, University of Newcastle

Lisa-Marie Shillito from Newcastle University functions as Assistant Editor of *Landscape Research* and receives a grant (£500 in 2017) as a contribution to her landscape research and related activities. In 2017 the grant was used to support various activities including the organisation of the 5th Developing International Geoarchaeology conference, held in September 2017. The theme for the conference was “*Geoarchaeology: from Landscape to Material Culture*”, and attracted 100 delegates from Europe, North America and Australia. It is also planned to publish a special issue of *Geoarchaeology* journal, which will include an editorial discussing the role of geoarchaeology in landscape archaeology more broadly. Some funds were also used to purchase various books for research.

### Research activities of Federica Larcher, University of Turin

Federica Larcher from the University of Turin also functions as Assistant Editor of *Landscape Research* and receives a grant (£500 in 2017) as a contribution to her landscape research and related activities. In 2017, she used this financial support to attend the IALE 2017 European Congress “*From pattern and process to people and action*” in Ghent (Belgium) on 12-15th September 2017. Furthermore she participated, as invited speaker, at a seminar in Berlin (Technische Universitaet Berlin) with a lecture on ‘*Nature-based solutions and urban greening*’ on 23 June 2017.

## **6. Developing a Community of Interest**

### **6.1 Developing a Community of Interest: Strategy & Planning**

At Board Meeting 76, the Board took the decision to revise LRG’s body of activity coordinators. This included creating the position of LRG Community Development Coordinator. ‘Community Development’ in this context relates to matters of LRG’s membership (the LRG community) and LRG’s wider partnerships and networks (the wider community of which LRG is a part, and which LRG helps to develop and sustain as a means of meeting our charitable aims). Much of our communications activity also falls under this heading (although communications is also important for other aspects of LRG’s work, e.g. those reported in Section 5 above).

The new Community Development Coordinator has established a working group to develop proposals for LRG’s Community Development strategy and associated implementation plans.

Membership and partnership development were explicit parts of the remit of the Development Manager prior to Board Meeting 76 and the creation of the Community Development Coordinator position. These matters have since been confirmed as an ongoing priority for the Development Manager in her role for LRG. The Development Manager has been working with the Community Development Coordinator and members of the working group in order to progress LRG’s membership and wider community development strategy.

### **6.2 Branding & Communications**

#### Website

LRG is in the process of re-developing its website. The technical development of the website is now complete – with the structure and back end of the site having been created by LRG’s web development contractor Paul Lacey – and waiting to be populated with updated content. Addition of the content will be completed in early 2018, when the new site will go live.

#### eBulletin

The eBulletin currently has 325 subscribers. It is expected that the number of subscribers will fall next year, due to the opt-in requirement for receiving e-communications that comes into force in May 2018 as part of GDPR adjustments. When the subscriber list was originally set up, LRG members

were automatically included, but as a result of GDPR requirements they will have to be removed until/unless they positively opt-in to receive the eBulletin.

Since May 2017, there have been four eBulletins issued – in June, August, a special issue re the *Landscape Justice Debate* issued in October, and a small edition issued in December 2017.

As part of the project to ‘e-develop’ the website, the eBulletin will be linked to the news and blog sections of the new website.

### LRG Jiscmail

Jiscmail has currently 394 subscribers and is being used by those members and by LRG to promote events and, at times, for brief discussions relating to landscape research.

### Twitter

LRG runs two Twitter accounts.

@aboutlandscape has 1348 followers. Over 1903 tweets have been sent since LRG joined Twitter in January 2015. November 2017 saw the highest number of impressions, at 36,400, a reflection of intense promotional activity for the landscape justice debate.

The other account @LandscapeResJ is related to the journal *Landscape Research* and has 1261 followers. The account is used mainly to promote recently published papers in the journal, and to engage with authors who share their papers on social media. Occasionally we retweet calls for papers and notices of landscape-related conferences. The account has significantly increased the ‘altmetrics’ of the journal and analytics show anywhere between 5 – 50 clicks through to the journal depending on the paper. Popular papers in 2017 were the *Anniversary Editorial* (open access), *Justice, development and the land: the social context of Scotland’s energy transition* and *Changes and continuities in a Mediterranean #landscape: a new interdisciplinary approach to understanding historic character in western #Catalonia*. In total, there were 48,300 impressions in 2017.

### Facebook

The Landscape Research Group Facebook page was launched end of October 2017. The page is being administered with the help of LRG member, Dr Kimm Curran.

### PR materials

A total of 919 copies of the *Research Strategy* have been printed to date, in addition to a pdf version which is available on the LRG website. Currently approximately 400 copies are held in LRG’s archive, for future use.

In addition, LRG continues to distribute publicity flyers at events to promote the charity and its activities.

## **6.3 Landscape Research Extra (LRE): a Report on LRE at the 50th Year of LRG**

*Landscape Research Extra* was developed in 1988 and so named to provide a more informal newsletter supplement to *Landscape Research*, as this evolved into its present form as a peer-reviewed journal. It was intended to act as a carrier of news and views. It has had one Editor (Bud Young) in its near-thirty year existence. Its content covers reports from the Group’s conferences, short and informal descriptions from the Group’s dissertation prize winners, and speculative articles about all and any aspect of landscape, and illustrations are an important part of each issue. Originally produced six monthly, LRE has been produced quarterly since its 50<sup>th</sup> issue. Its content depends heavily on materials supplied by members, and there have been some notable and persistent authors who enjoy writing and have something to say. In 2017, LRE contained 38 articles, dissertations or reports by about 30 authors..

The LRE Editor is currently preparing an anniversary collection of selected articles. Out of the whole

collection of issues beginning in winter of 1988, the Editor has selected 92 short pieces which have been arranged into 10 broadly defined subject heads. He has relied heavily on the judgement of LRG colleague Owen Manning (one time academic at Sheffield University and a keen writer). Each chapter is given a preface by a selection of LRG members, and in total the collection amounts to about 75,000 words with many illustrations and potted biographical details of each author. The whole issue is prefaced by the President of the Landscape Institute with a short introductory note by the Chair of LRG regarding the position and significance of the collection. It is to be published in economical book form early in 2018.

#### **6.4 Events**

##### *Seminar on Landscape Research in Partnership*

On 18 May 2017, for the first time LRG ran a 'showcase' event in conjunction with its AGM in London. The event was open to LRG members and to anyone else who wished to attend and it provided an opportunity to promote LRG's charitable activities, with a specific focus on the research projects funded from LRG's research fund and on LRG's student awards scheme.

##### *Landscape Justice Debate*

The LRG-organised *Landscape Justice Debate*, held on 6 December at the Wellcome Collection, London, brought together some fifty-five people including researchers, landscape architects, publishers, politicians, archaeologists, artists, writers and many more. Over the course of the afternoon and evening, attendees discussed how landscape justice might be better achieved through research, policy and practice. Following presentations from four invited speakers, the participants broke into small facilitated groups, which resulted in very lively discussions and produced lots of good ideas to feed into future LRG activities as well as into the call for the 2018 LRG Research Grant Awards.

The event focused on the following two questions:

- What does landscape justice mean to you and why does it matter?
- How can landscape researchers, practitioners and others work together to bring about justice in people's relationships with their landscapes?

The concluding plenary session identified several concerns, of which the following seemed to resonate most strongly:

- *Wider access to insights and knowledge from existing landscape research.* Rather than necessarily carrying out more research, academics should focus on rendering the landscape justice research that already exists into formats and media that are intelligible to a wider audience. We need to connect with the people outside of the research community and professional elites and start from what they understand (or don't) about landscape
- *The impact of borders and boundaries on the perception and management of, and access to, landscapes.* Research providing better understanding of how landscape justice is affected by the imposition or perception of borders and boundaries could have a wide application in relation to the governance of, for example, nature reserves, cities, and between countries.
- *The impact of the language and methods of landscape discourse on the development and acceptance of holistic, sustainable and participative, i.e. 'landscape', approaches to environmental governance.* Language and terminology that may work in one sector, discipline, area or country, can hinder or skew 'landscape' thinking in another. We need to identify culturally-specific language and methods that enable, rather than inhibit, efforts to achieve landscape justice in the longer term.

A podcast of the event, with the exception of the working groups' discussions, is to be made available on the LRG website. LRG would like to record its thanks to the speakers and all participants for their invaluable contributions and, particularly, its gratitude to the Caroline Humby Teck Trust for its generous grant of £2775 in support of the event.



All participants were emailed after the event for feedback. A brief report was published in the January 2018 issue of LRE.

### Other events

LRG also provided financial sponsorship and support to the following three events in 2017:

- Research workshop on “*Protecting and using landscapes: Large protected areas caught between the conflicting interests of conservation, economic development and politics*”, organised by Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung (the 'Working Group on Landscape Research' based in Germany), held in Odernheim (Germany) on 20 to 22 September 2017.
- Conference on “*The South Pennines in the 21st Century – its landscape and cultural heritage*”, organised by Pennine Prospects, held in Halifax on 8 November 2017.
- Research seminar on “*The Port Arthur Convict Settlement – Transdisciplinary Engagement with Landscape*”, organised by University of Western Sydney, held in Port Arthur, Tasmania, (Australia) on 13 to 16 November 2017.

The Group also provided more general support to a round table discussion at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds on 3 July 2017. The round table was on the subject of ‘*Memory, Landscape, and Heritage: Encountering the Medieval in the Present*’ and was organised by LRG Member Dr Kimm Curran of the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow.

### **6.5 Partnership Development**

As part of her work in partnership development, LRG’s Development Manager has participated in a number of events that have helped to develop other organisations’ awareness of LRG and the potential for partnerships by LRG with other organisations. This has included:

- Presenting on LRG’s Research Strategy and funded projects at the National Landscape Forum Ireland, organised by the Landscape Alliance Ireland (LAI) in June 2017. The event was attended by landscape architects, heritage professionals, representatives of the Heritage Council, members from Abbeyleix community – including farmers, business people, staff of government departments and other civil servants, and academics. A written copy of the presentation has been sent to the organiser for publication on the NLF website. Two representatives of the LAI attended LRG’s *Landscape Justice Debate* in December 2017.
- Making and maintaining contact with relevant UK organisations: Natural England, the Landscape and Arts Network, the Landscape Institute (a professional institute) and the Heritage Alliance (an association of non-governmental organisations in the field of heritage).
- Presenting at a Landscape Institute (LI) Think Tank event in September 2017. The focus of the presentation was the need for research into landscape justice. The audience comprised of LI Fellows, the LI President and CEO of the LI. The initial feedback from attendees was that they would like to undertake more research and more-focused research into the practice of landscape architecture. Interest in the theme was also expressed by the Editor of the LI’s journal *Landscapes*.

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