



# **Landscape Research Group Ltd**

## **Directors' Report, 2014**

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

22 April 2015

*Approved by the Board of Directors: 22 April 2015*  
*Approved by the Annual General Meeting: 14 May 2015*

# LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2014

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the thirty-second period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2014. 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.

**John Gittins:** Although formally a matter to report in the Directors' Report 2015, to avoid delay until next year the Board considers that it is appropriate to record now their sorrow at the death on 7 January 2015 of John Gittins. John joined the Group in 1987, and became a Director and Trustee in May 2001. Board colleagues remember him for his commitment to the Group's work, in particular his contributions to *Landscape Research (LR)*, *Landscape Research Extra (LRE)* and his counsel on matters related to charity governance. The Chair Paul Tabbush and *LRE's* Editor Bud Young represented the Group at John's funeral, and Paul has formally passed on our condolences to John's wife and family. An appreciation of John's life was published in *LRE 72* (in February 2015) and on the Group's website.

### 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	[Director to 22 May 2014]
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	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> *)
Dr Markus Leibenath	
Dr Antonia Noussia	
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	
Prof. Hannes Palang	
Mr Gareth Roberts	(Coordinator, Events Activity*)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Consulting Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Prof. Ken Taylor	(Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Dr Ian H. Thompson	(Associate Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> )
Dr Emma Waterton	(Coordinator, Website Activity*)

The posts shown in the list of Directors above 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 2014).

Of the eighteen Directors at 31 December 2014, ten 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, 1027A Garrett Lane, London SW17 0LN.

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

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.

### **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 Directors confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's 'Public Benefit Guidance for Charity Trustees' in undertaking those activities.

### **4. BOARD AND EXECUTIVE**

#### **(i) Board of Directors**

The Board met on two occasions during 2014, on 22 May and 4 December. One email decision was made separately from decisions at Board meetings during the year, relating to approval of the draft Directors' Report 2013.

As well as discussions in its formal meetings and related to email voting, the Board and the Executive regularly discuss issues during the year, to progress the Group's business. The Board uses 'Basecamp' to share documents and track discussion. The 2013 Report noted that after some initial problems this system is both effective and worthwhile, and is working well for most Board members. This continues to be the case during 2014.

In 2014 the Executive (for discussions of both a few or all members) has started to conduct meetings using Skype. After some initial problems this system is working well.

#### **(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**

The 2012 and 2013 Reports noted the Board's review of its organisational arrangements and consideration of the the next stages of the Group's strategic development, and the good progress made in implementing the review's conclusions. 2014 has seen these matters brought to a successful conclusion, while initial thinking has been given to a number of consequential issues. These topics, together with other key matters considered by the Board in 2014, are discussed at (iv) to (x) below.

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

In relation to the key issue of future editorial arrangements for *Landscape Research*, the handover of Editorship took place smoothly during the latter part of 2013 so that Anna Jorgensen took up her new role with full effect from January 2014.

The appointment of Anna as Editor required significant changes to the support arrangements that underpin production of the journal, relating to re-negotiating the terms of the Publishing Agreement with Taylor and Francis Ltd (T&F), concluding a new Editorial Agreement with Sheffield University, and securing new arrangements for the Editorial Assistant. Steven Shuttleworth as Treasurer and Company Secretary completed the last two issues during 2013 and formally concluded the first issue in Spring 2014. As noted in last year's Report, the new Publishing Agreement improved both the 'editorial costs contribution' and 'royalties payment' made to the Group by T&F during 2014 when the journal remained at six issues per annum; will significantly improve those payments when the journal expands to eight issues per annum from Volume 40 (2015); provides other financial support; and provides free online access for Members to additional journals produced by T&F.

The only outstanding issue is reaching agreement with the institutions of the other members of the editorial team to provide limited research programme support similar to that for the Editor, to take effect in 2015. Initial steps to progress this matter were taken in 2014 after the new Agreement with T&F was formally concluded, and should be completed in 2015.

### **(v) The longer-term need for a Staffed Organisation: appointment of a Development Manager**

A key objective of the Board in negotiating the new Publishing Agreement was to secure sufficient financial capacity for the Group to engage extra support (as well as the support provided by the Editorial and Administrative Assistants) to help deliver its ambitions related to increased networking activity and impact, and to increase membership. In parallel with the negotiation process, the Board spent considerable time discussing the role of such a post, and the objectives and deliverables it should achieve, as outlined in last year's Report.

In early 2014 the Board finalised a person specification and recruitment strategy, and then formally decided at its May meeting to appoint a Development Manager on a 0.6 full-time equivalent self-employment home-working contract for a three-year period. It delegated Paul Tabbush, Steven Shuttleworth and Graham Fairclough to manage the recruitment process with the aim that the successful candidate would take up the role in late 2014. The post was advertised over a two-month period in summer, in *The Guardian* and a range of online professional and environmental recruitment media, resulting in 36 applications. Four high quality candidates were interviewed on 27 October 2014 (a fifth short-listed candidate withdrew for personal reasons).

The successful candidate was Sarah McCarthy, who took up her role on 1 December 2014. A profile about Sarah was published in *LRE* 72 (in February 2015) and on the Group's Website. The Board

agreed at its December meeting that her initial work priority for early 2015 will be to develop a Communications Strategy, and Sarah is now working to a detailed 'Work Plan' which will be subject to regular review and update with the Chair.

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

As indicated in previous Reports, in December 2012 the Board appointed Chris Dalglish as Coordinator to lead on a new area of activity to develop research and policy initiatives. In discussion with the Executive and other Directors, in 2014 Chris concluded the substantial progress made in 2013. This work led to the Board approving at its meeting in May 2014 a draft for consultation with Members, and then in December 2014 resolving to adopt the Group's first Research Strategy and approving a budget to support its implementation. This is discussed in more detail in the section on 'Events, Research and Networking Activities' below.

#### **(vii) Wider Communications and Publications Issues**

##### **(a) Introduction**

The discussions to define the role of the Development Manager and to develop the Research Strategy have led to wider discussions by the Board about the future direction of communications and publications issues generally as a means of delivering increased networking activity, impact and membership. There have been three main areas of discussion, summarised below. All of these issues will be taken forward in the context of Development Manager's work programme, including developing the Communications Strategy.

However, as a first step, a new Twitter account (@aboutlandscape) was set up in December 2014 and is being managed by Sarah McCarthy. The Board has discussed the basis on which this will be operated (for example, agreeing an editorial policy about 'content'), and this activity will be coordinated with that of the separate *Landscape Research* Twitter account (see below).

##### **(b) Role of the Group as a consultee and in opinion-forming on landscape issues**

The Board recognised that in the light of adopting the Research Strategy, it was appropriate to review the extent to which the Group should involve itself as a consultee and in opinion-forming on landscape issues. The Board has periodically debated this issue in the past, which has consistently led to the position that (apart from any restrictions on such activity due to its charitable status) the Group was not established to be and did not wish to be a campaign group arguing for a particular viewpoint, but had always played and should continue to play a role in providing "space for debate and exchange of ideas" on landscape issues.

The Board confirmed that it remained strongly of the view that these positions should remain unaltered. However, in the context of both the Research Strategy and the new Development Manager's role (detailed in her Job Description and the supporting Work Plan, hereafter also referred to as 'the Development Project') the Board recognised that developing the Group's membership depends on prospective members wishing to identify with the Group and its aims and activities. It therefore agreed that in future it would be reasonable to offer professional (multi-disciplinary) advice on issues that require a landscape perspective and to raise our profile so that our identity becomes more widely recognised, and that social media may have an important role to play in this regard.

##### **(c) Need for a 'Publications' Strategy**

The decision to expand *Landscape Research* to eight issues yearly from 2015 led to discussion about longer-term publications issues and options. Such options might, for example, include further expansion of the journal (for example to ten or twelve issues), or an alternative approach such as

developing an intermediate companion 'third' publication with a focus related to practice, aimed at a professional readership, and therefore falling between the roles of *Landscape Research* as an academic journal and *Landscape Research Extra* as a membership newsletter.

The Board appointed a Working Group comprising Paul Tabbush, Steven Shuttleworth, Anna Jorgensen, Kenneth Olwig and Gareth Roberts from the Board, together with Bud Young (*LRE* Editor) and Nancy Stedman (Member, previously a Director, who has expressed interest in assisting with future publications) and more recently Sarah McCarthy to consider this issue. The Working Group has had wide-ranging discussions to explore the issues of "what are we trying to achieve", "who we are aiming at", and "why", and the practical issues that then follow of "what" and "how". These discussions have been informed by research undertaken by Bud Young, who has sought the views of three former Directors who were Editors of *Landscape Research* or major contributors to *LRE* and have a wide-ranging perspective on publication issues; the views of three Editors of external publications of differing character; and analysed lessons from other publications. Discussion so far has identified the differing potential for several types of "publication" (communications media) – *Landscape Research*, *LRE*, an 'in-between' level of publication, an electronic newsletter, the website, and social media methods such as Twitter, Facebook and Blogs.

The Working Group recognises that the merits of these various media vary according to the nature of the audiences we want to reach and our reasons for doing so; how doing so will take forward the Group's purposes; and the 'communication preferences' of our target audience(s). In addition, our thinking will need to be influenced by choices made in relation to the future of existing communication methods and publications. Finally, any decision on future approach will need to be underpinned by robust consideration of the practical feasibility and financial viability of delivering it. All of these issues will now be progressed in the forthcoming Communications Strategy

Clearly, the Board will need in due course to make a strategic decision about future communication approaches that answer the first three points above (what are we trying to achieve, who and why), following which the last two (what and how) will need to be addressed in the light of the steer provided. It is intended to present proposals to the Board for consideration at its May 2015 meeting.

#### **(d) Publicity and Promotion**

The Group's publicity material was reviewed and updated in 2014. Two sets of new publicity banners were prepared and purchased, and the publicity leaflet was updated and re-printed. These have been used at various events (see below).

#### **(e) Anniversaries Programmes**

The Board has also recognised that 2016 and 2017 present a great opportunity for the Group to promote itself and *Landscape Research*, because the Development Project and first period of implementing the Research Strategy coincide with important anniversaries. Most importantly, the Group was set up in 1967, so that 2017 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. In addition, 2016 will mark two important anniversaries for *Landscape Research* – the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first issue of the journal, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group's association with T&F.

The Board noted that the Editor of *Landscape Research* was planning a special issue in early 2016 to critically reflect on the journal's achievements and successes over the past forty years, and supported a proposal by the Company Secretary/Treasurer that there should also be a special journal issue in 2017 to act as a document of record of the Group's history and reflect on its achievements. However, the Board noted that ideally there should also be a major series of events in 2017 with a strong international dimension so that the Group can use the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to promote itself.

The Board instructed the Executive together with Sarah McCarthy to consider this opportunity, and to take forward the necessary action to develop a programme of activities to mark the various anniversaries. It is intended to present proposals to the Board for decision at its May 2015 meeting.

#### **(viii) Payments and Benefits to Members and Directors**

The Board has given preliminary consideration to a governance issue that has arisen following the Group's involvement with the European Union (EU) Hercules Project (see Directors' Report for 2013). The issue is that the workload related to Hercules is likely to be substantially greater than the voluntary workload normally undertaken by Directors in their capacity as Charity Trustees, but the 'project team' is a mix of Directors and non-Director Members, while the project budget (which is externally funded as a research grant) includes provision for payments of 'salary'. If the Board were minded to use the 'salary' element of the grant to make payments to the non-Director members of the team for the professional services they have rendered, it therefore needs to consider how to address the principle of equity of approach between individuals that then arises. This issue arises because Directors are prohibited by the Group's constitution from receiving any financial benefit (other than reasonable expenses), although non-Directors can be (and in the past, have been) remunerated for providing substantial professional services. Although this issue has been brought into focus by recent experience on the Hercules project, its significance is the implications for any future LRG involvement in external research contracts that might arise as a result of implementing the Research Strategy.

The Board noted that the legal position in relation to the remuneration of Charity Trustees has changed since the Group's constitution was drawn up in 1983, in that the Charities Acts now permit small honoraria to be paid to individuals who are Trustees without approval by the Charity Commission up to a limit of a maximum of £1000 for all such payments in any one financial year, although anything above this sum must be approved by the Commission. However, even though small payments of honoraria are now permitted, the Board agreed that any change of approach in relation to Directors would represent a fundamental change in the Group's past policy, and should therefore not be undertaken lightly.

The Board recognised that this issue might prove prejudicial to the Group's ability to implement its ambitions in relation to the Research Strategy, since it was unreasonable to expect individuals to deliver substantial professional services (as opposed to Charity Trustee duties) without recompense, and that it was important as a matter of principle to avoid any inequity of treatment between Director and non-Director individuals doing the same work. More generally the Board also recognised that the way this issue is resolved is key to the Group's ability to provide certain services – not only in research, but also in consultation and profile – on a sustainable basis, which in turn drive and are driven by how the Group wishes to develop as an organisation. The Board therefore agreed that alternative models for delivering the work resulting from externally funded contracts should be explored (for example, the 'Community Interest Company' or other models of governance), as a basis for further discussion. The Board hopes to agree a strategy in 2015.

#### **(ix) Honorary Life Membership**

Having considered a nomination from Maggie Roe, Steven Shuttleworth and Bud Young, the Board recommended to the Annual General Meeting 2014 that Peter Howard be elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Group. The nomination was made on the grounds that Peter has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to both the work of the Group and the field of landscape research.

With regard to the former, Peter served as a Director for nearly thirty years, from 1984 to 2012, for most of which time he served as an Officer of the Group – as Editor of *Landscape Research* from 1986 to 1993, Vice-Chair from 1993 to 1999 and 2002 to 2005, and International Officer from 2005 to

2012. He has made an active contribution to the Board's work, not only in the demanding roles of Editor and International Officer in which he made significant achievements, but more generally in helping to formulate strategy and key initiatives that enabled the Group to develop from its early UK-based focus to a body with a well-regarded international reputation.

With regard to the latter criterion, Peter has been a leading light in expanding interest in and understanding of the cultural aspects of landscape perception, in particular in relation to art and design and to landscape and heritage. In that role, he has authored or edited (individually or jointly with others) several books which have become influential in the field, such as *Heritage Management Interpretation*, *The Artists' Vision (History of the British Landscape)* and *Companion to Landscape Studies*. Furthermore, he is a founder-editor of the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, now established as a leading journal in that field.

The AGM endorsed the Board proposal, and accordingly elected Peter as an Honorary Life Member.

#### **(x) 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. As in previous years, she undertakes the role on a 0.27 full-time equivalent self-employment home-working contract. The Board wishes to thank Pauline for her continued excellent support.

### **5. 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.

The Editorial Board 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 T&F representative(s). The Chair of the Editorial Board is the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2014, Anna Jorgensen.

In 2014 the Editorial Board has not needed to meet, since the Editor and the Treasurer/Company Secretary have dealt with the key issues of concern to it – respectively ensuring the smooth transition to a new Editorial Team, and progressing the changes required 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 Editorial Team and a separate International Editorial Advisory Board.

During 2014 *Landscape Research's* Editorial Team comprised the Editor (Anna Jorgensen), Consulting Editor (Maggie Roe) and Associate Editors (Tom Mels, Ken Taylor, Ian Thompson and



Vera Vincenzotti), and Book Reviews Editor (Mick Atha). Towards the end of the year, the Editorial Team was expanded to include three new Assistant Editors (Federica Larcher, Penny Travlou and Lise-Marie Shillitoe) on a trial basis, to provide extra editorial capacity to deal with the expansion of the journal from 2015. One of the posts also has special responsibility for promoting the journal through social media such as Twitter, and a new Twitter account (@LandscapeResJ) has been set up and is now being used, this activity being coordinated with that of the Group's Twitter account managed by Sarah McCarthy (see above).

The Editorial Team's work to develop the academic content and quality of the journal is supported by an International Editorial Advisory Board (IEAB) which, as at 31 December 2014, comprises twenty-seven 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 IEAB and their affiliations is given in the inside front cover of each issue of *Landscape Research*, and includes three new members in 2014 – Simon Swaffield, Marc Treib and Philip Warren. The Editorial Team's work is also greatly supported by the many individuals who act as peer reviewers of submitted papers. They carry out their work on individual papers on an anonymous basis, but a full list of those who undertook the role in 2013/14 is provided in Volume 39 (Issue 6).

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the work and commitment of the Editor and her team, which has led to the journal becoming highly respected in its field (see below), with continued high quality special and theme issues. The Board also wishes to thank the members of the IEAB and the peer reviewers, without whom the journal could not maintain its academic status.

### **(iii) Editorial Assistant**

The Editorial Assistant remains Crista Ermiya, who provides the administrative and editorial support that is necessary for the smooth production of the journal. As noted above, a key change in 2014 has been the move to new arrangements for the Editorial Assistant following the change of location of the editor from Newcastle to Sheffield University. With effect from 1 January 2014, Crista has been engaged on a self-employed homeworking contract, as in previous years on an 0.5 full-time equivalent basis. The new arrangements are working smoothly, to the satisfaction of both Editor and Editorial Assistant. The Board wishes to thank Crista for her continued excellent support.

### **(iv) 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 2014, the total number of full-rate subscriptions remained more or less the same (and included a 98 per cent renewal rate), while online access sales agreements increased by 118 per cent. Online usage of the journal is also steadily increasing.

The latest data for article citations and impact factor is for 2013, which both increased compared to the previous year. The impact factor of 0.943 (2013) is the highest the journal has had over the last six years. Figures for 2014 are likely to be similar. However, there may be a dip in 2015 because there will be fewer Special Issues, these tending to be the most highly cited papers. Steps have been taken to address this problem and, as indicated below, there are now sufficient Special Issues in the pipeline to ensure a plentiful supply over the next few years.

Submissions to the journal remained stable in 2014 compared to 2013 (over 160 papers submitted via the online submission system), but early figures for 2015 suggest that submission rates may be increasing. The online backlog noted in the 2012 and 2013 Reports reduced in 2014, and the emphasis is now on producing an even flow of accepted papers while maintaining a small backlog to act as a cushion in the event of any unexpected drops in submission or throughput.

A key task for the Editor in 2014 has been preparing for the expansion of the journal to eight issues in 2015. Expansion is expected to provide an effective response to the growing demand for space for quality research papers. A new Journal cover was finalised, which has a 'clean' design with a background photograph which will change each year, and will first appear in Volume 40 Issue 1 (January 2015). It is hoped that two Special Issues will be ready for publication in 2015. For 2016 and subsequently, a further nine are confirmed and at various stages of preparation with six currently at the review stage, while a further five proposals are pending (that is, are proposals already submitted or ideas currently in discussion with the Editor).

Six issues of the journal (comprising Volume 39) were published during 2014. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue was a General Issue containing six papers, plus an editorial reflecting on lessons from past issues of the journal and opportunities for the future, and setting out Anna Jorgensen's aspirations as new Editor for its future development.

The six papers covered: strategies for enhancing landscape architecture research; the sacred commemorative landscapes of Albany, Western Australia which was the last Australian place of anchor for the Australian/New Zealand (Anzac) forces departing for the World War I battles of the Middle East and Gallipoli; the role of the domestic garden as 'ordinary landscape' in British perceptions of landscape; the role of pastoral abandonment and shrub proliferation in driving landscape change in a mountain area, based on a case study of the Ghorka district of Nepal; a literature review of the importance of park design in promoting youth physical activity, to help combat long-term poor public health; and the influence of designers and perceptions about the ethics of colonial wealth in shaping English designed landscapes in the late Eighteenth/early Nineteenth Centuries, based on a case study of Sheringham Park, Norfolk.

- (ii) The **April** issue was a Special Issue guest-edited by Simon Swaffield and Jørgen Primdahl on *Pathways towards Local Scale Policy Integration in Agricultural Landscapes*, drawn from a research workshop in Copenhagen in September 2011 sponsored by the OECD Cooperative Research Programme on 'Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems'.

The editorial summarised the key points arising from the conference, and in particular the importance of the the breakdown of traditional landscape management systems in the face of pressures caused by globalisation, social fragmentation and changing policy imperatives such as food security, resource scarcity, and the need for resilience of production systems in the context of economic and environmental risk. The papers explore these themes.

The papers discussed: the impact of intersecting trade and environmental policies on the intensive farmland landscapes of the USA and Canada; the impact of changed responses in public policy to agricultural developments and urbanisation on agricultural landscape sustainability, based on data from Denmark; the implications of policies to ensure urban food security for landscape change and the relationship between cities and the adjoining countryside, with reference to the 'Food Plan' of Pisa, Italy; the planning and conservation issues affecting policies to protect and develop the archaeological-historical landscape, based on research in the Netherlands; the lessons from agri-environment schemes in England and Wales as tools to promote sustainable agricultural landscapes; the implications of an open-market policy regime for sustainability practices and agricultural landscape management in New Zealand; and a study of the contrasts and contradictions in the attitudes and practices of land managers towards the landscape, based on a case study in the extensive agro-silvo-pastoral systems of the Montado area of southern Portugal.

- (iii) The **June** issue was a General Issue containing six papers on varied topics. They were studies of: the effectiveness of landscape character assessments in England as a means of understanding public interests in landscape, within the requirements of the European

Landscape Convention (ELC); the importance of developing community capacity to enable effective engagement in nature conservation planning and management, based on a case study in Nova Scotia, Canada; the conflicts between memorialising the sacredness of the site of the former Płaszów concentration camp and everyday urban activity, in Kraków, Poland; the opportunities and conflicts in landscape perception of urban wilderness and future regeneration presented by derelict urban sites, based on a case study of the former fishing harbour of Tallinn, Estonia; the failure of urban park planning to address the widely acknowledged issues of climate change and global warming, based on a case study in Jaffa, Israel; and the development of a method for landscape characterisation and assessment of public engineering works associated with fluvial landscapes, based on a case study of the River Tajo in Guadalajara, Madrid and Toledo provinces, Spain.

The issue also contained five book reviews.

- (iv) The **August** issue was a Special Issue on the theme of *Fresh Approaches to Visual Methods in Landscape Studies*, comprising an Editorial plus seven papers selected from general papers submitted to the journal.

The papers were studies of: the varying influences of weather and sub-aquatic scenes on preferences for waterscapes; the perceptions of different stakeholders to past and future landscape change caused by new housing development in rural areas, based on case studies in counties Clare, Kildare and Tipperary, Ireland; the perceptions of local residents (as opposed to tourists) of the significance of landscape character and quality in the World Heritage Site of the rice terrace landscape of the Cordilleras of Ifugao province, Phillipines Republic; perceptions of the differing attributes and characteristics of pasture landscapes, and their influence on categorisation of the rural landscape in Sweden; the influence of photograph properties and landscape characteristics in shaping perceptions of landscape character types, based on a study using eye-tracking analysis; the role of archaeological and visual legibility in influencing perceptions of heritage remains in urban fringe areas, and their implications for safeguarding cultural heritage; and the symbolism and realism of naturalistically depicted flowering plants in Late Gothic art from Austria and southern Germany.

- (v) The **October** issue was a General Issue containing six papers on a varied range of landscape assessment and management issues. These were: a literature review and empirical study of young children's perception of and interaction with nature; an integrative study of the archaeological and landscape aspects of the World War I German field defence systems around Antwerp, Belgium, and its implications for cultural heritage management of the area; a study of the commemorative landscape of Geraldton, Western Australia in relation to the World War II sinking of *HMAS Sydney II*; an assessment of the role of public policy and the railways in the urbanisation of the countryside of south-west Flanders, Belgium from 1830 to 1930; an exploration of the varied perceptions about risk and stigma that arise in relation to large energy developments; and a study of the origins of soil bio-engineering.

The issue also contained five book reviews.

- (vi) The **December** was a Special Issue on the theme of *The Social Dimensions of Landscape Change in Coastal and Wetland Environments*, comprising an Editorial plus six papers, the first resulting from the Group's 2013 Annual Lecture, and the other five selected from general papers submitted to the journal.

The first paper was the written-up and expanded paper derived from the Group's third Annual Lecture given in December 2013 by Prof Tim O'Riordan, on *The Difficulties of Designing Future Coastlines in the Face of Climate Change*.

The second paper was an exploration of how landscape and climate change are apprehended through institutional strategies and then negotiated through local knowledge and social relations, with reference to the National Trust, and a case study of how the Trust's climate change strategy is operationalised on the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, England. The third paper also reported on the Trust's work in Cornwall, England in response to climate change, comprising a

study about the use of remote-sensing techniques to enable effective communication and engagement with local residents and stakeholders about the future management of Cotehele Quay.

The other papers were: a study of the differing public perceptions and uses of natural and restored salt marshes, based on a case study in Huelva, Spain; an analysis of the values that underlie perception of nature and how these interact with and influence wetland restoration, based on case studies of the Kävlinge and Höje Rivers, Sweden; and a study about how the success of urban stream restoration can be assessed across social and economic as well as ecological parameters, based on a case study in Seattle, Washington, USA.

#### **(v) Research project, University of Sheffield**

One element of the new Sheffield University (SU) Editorial Support Agreement is the provision of a grant (£5,000 in 2014) to promote landscape-related research at SU. This grant was provided to recognise, in a notional way, the large amount of time spent by the Editor in producing the journal, and mirrors the previous arrangement with Newcastle University for the previous Editor.

The funds are to be used to provide small research grants to students and staff. All students (undergraduates and both taught and research post-graduates) are eligible to apply by a competition process which will be held twice annually. In 2014, grants were awarded as follows:

- Josepha Richard: *Region and culture in the gardens of China: Challenging the concept of 'the Chinese garden'* (£750);
- Jonathan Emery: *A visual guide to Capability Brown's work at Chatsworth c. 1760* (£400);
- Katie Maude: *The History and Design of Victorian Woodlands: The Application to Modern Day Restoration* (£730);
- Mollie-Mae Dale-Collen: *Transitional Edges – Placing Theory in Context* (£2000); and
- Ngaire Burston: *Reinstating the 'Little Quarry' planting of Clarence Elliott at Whinfell Quarry Garden, Sheffield* (£150).

The effectiveness of this grant approach in stimulating landscape research can be illustrated by the results of the award to Josepha Richard, which enabled her to conduct a month-long PhD fieldwork in China in June/July 2014, gathering a large amount of data which will constitute the core of her thesis about regional gardening styles in China. The fieldwork was focused on two Chinese regions chosen as case studies. In Lingnan region, accompanied by Prof. Zhuang (庄少庞) from South China University of Technology, Josepha visited and drew simple surveys of previously poorly documented private gardens in Eastern Guangdong. She met with specialists in Lingnan architecture in Guangzhou, including Prof. Feng (冯老师) from South China University of Technology and Prof. Tang (汤国华) from Guangzhou University, to discuss her topic and obtain materials such as garden surveys. She also consulted Guangzhou libraries for additional sources and drew a simple survey of the Qinghuiyuan in Shunde, one of the 'Four Famous Gardens of Lingnan'. In Sichuan region, Josepha joined the week-long survey organised by Sichuan garden specialist Prof. Jia (贾锐利) from Xinan Jiaotong University, and along with local landscape students she drew survey plans of both Guihu garden in Xindu and Yanhuachi garden in Changzhou. She then visited the Bishu Shanzhuang in Chengde, as this well-preserved Qing imperial garden and the adjoining temples feature different regional architectural and landscape styles. To sum up, thanks to the Landscape Research Small Grant Josepha obtained the remaining data needed for her research and created an invaluable network with local specialists for both her and the SU Department of Landscape.

## **6. 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 2014 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 - 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 *LRE*, 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 2014 as summarised in sub-sections (ii) to (vii) below.

## **(ii) Events**

### **(a) Introduction**

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

- Jointly organising and co-funding a symposium with Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) (in Stockholm, Sweden on 3 to 4 March 2014);
- Jointly organising and co-funding a conference with Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB, the Free University of Brussels) (in Brussels, Belgium on 28 to 29 April 2014);
- Organising and sponsoring a research workshop on 9 September 2014 as part of the Permanent European Conference for the Conservation of the Rural Landscape (PECSRL) 2014 Conference (in Gothenburg and Mariestad, Sweden on 8 to 12 September 2014);
- Sponsoring a major photographic exhibition on *Image, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as a Sign Language* (in London on 31 March to 16 May 2014, in Halifax on 7 June to 7 September 2014, and in Edinburgh on 26 September to 4 October 2014);
- Sponsoring and contributing to an arts and field study event *Some Miraculous Promised Land*, organised by the Museum of Modern Art Wales (MOMA) (in Machynlleth from 13 September to 15 November 2014); and
- holding a public lecture (in London, 4 December 2014).

This level of event activity was higher than that anticipated at the start of the year and higher than that undertaken in 2013. Linked to the emerging programme for 2015, 2016 and 2017, it continues to give confidence that the new arrangements for promoting event activity are now progressing well.

### **(b) Stockholm Symposium**

The three-day research symposium *Between Space and Place: The future of landscape characterization, and the future character of landscape* in March 2014 was held at the Kungl. Skogs- och Lantbruksakademien (KSLA, the Royal Swedish Landscape Academy), in Stockholm. It was funded jointly by the Group, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (with funds from the EU Rural Development Programme) and SLU, and organised by Kenneth Olwig, Graham Fairclough, Peter Herring, Chris Dalglish from the Group and Ingrid Sarlov-Herlin and Marie Stenseke from KSLA. The central issue under discussion was the future of landscape characterisation and its role in determining the future of landscape, in the context of the ELC. The event comprised five presentations (which are available on KSLA's website [www.ksla.se/aktivitet/landscape-characterisation/](http://www.ksla.se/aktivitet/landscape-characterisation/)), followed by extensive discussions. Speakers

included the Group's Graham Fairclough, Peter Herring and Chris Dalglish. The event was well-attended, KSLA being able to draw in a wide-ranging audience from the distinguished members of the Academy, representatives of relevant Swedish state agencies, local government and special interest organisations, and interested people from the general public. The event also included a brief presentation about the Group, making use of the new publicity banners and leaflets etc. A report outlining the papers and discussions will be published in LRE 72 (in February 2015).

**(c) Brussels Conference**

The two-day conference on *Combining Scientific Expertise with Participation: the Challenge of the European Landscape Convention* in April 2014 was held at ULB, in Brussels, Belgium. It was funded jointly by ULB and the Group, the Group's funds being used to facilitate a 'round table' discussion of invited experts on the topic *Participation process in landscape planning*, and simultaneous French-English translation. Laurence le Dû-Blayo was a member of the organising committee. The event comprised a wide range of presentations as well as the 'round-table' (available on [www.igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/conference-elc-2014/programme](http://www.igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/conference-elc-2014/programme)), and was attended by 165 delegates. The exhibition hall included a presentation about the Group, making use of the new publicity banners and leaflets etc. It is hoped that a report outlining the papers and discussions will be published in LRE during 2015

**(d) PECSRL 'Round-Table' Workshop**

The 'round-table' workshop on *Landscape and culture – how can society value its cultural landscapes?* was held in September 2014 in Gothenburg and Mariestad, Sweden as part of the PECSRL 2014 Conference *Unravelling the Logic of Landscape*. The multi-disciplinary 'round-table' was wholly funded by the Group. The event was organised and chaired by Paul Tabbush, and seven papers were presented (including three by Tim Collins, Peter Herring and Kenneth Olwig) followed by thought-provoking discussions on the role of the concept of 'Cultural Ecosystem Services' in decision-making concerning landscapes. It was attended by over 50 delegates. The event also included a brief presentation about the Group, making use of the new publicity banners and leaflets etc. A report outlining the the papers and discussions will be published in LRE during 2015.

**(e) Photographic Exhibition**

The photographic exhibition *Image, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as a Sign Language* was a collaboration between the landscape photographer Simon Warner and distinguished academic Prof Jay Appleton. In recognition of the significance of the exhibition in exploring important themes about landscape, first developed by Prof Appleton (a former Chair and an Honorary Life Member of the Group) in 1975 in his seminal book *The Experience of Landscape*, and the duration of and varied venues for the exhibition, the Group considered it appropriate to provide substantial sponsorship to the event. The exhibition was launched by Julia Bradbury at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 30 March and was attended by 150 invited guests, with Paul Tabbush and Steven Shuttleworth representing the Group, and included a briefing about the Group's work. The exhibition ran in London, then moved to Dean Clough Galleries in Halifax, and then to the Matthew Gallery at the University of Edinburgh. Over 2300 people attended (974 in London, about 750 in Halifax, and about 600 in Edinburgh). Each of the exhibitions included the Group's new publicity banners and leaflets etc. Details can be found at <http://www.simonwarner.co.uk/2014/03/image-instinct-and-imagination/>, and a preview of the event was featured in LRE 68 (February 2014).

**(f) Art Exhibition**

The art exhibition *Some Miraculous Promised Land* held from September to November 2014 in Macynlleth comprised a major retrospective exhibition of the work of three artists (JD Innes, Augustus John and Derwent Lees) who were based at Nant Ddu, Arenig in Meirionnydd from 1910 to

1913 together with a series of activities of related activities. It was designed to complement and coincide with an exhibition of the work of JD Innes at the National Museum of Wales. The gallery exhibition included the work of the three artists and of contemporary artists influenced by this landscape, and the whole event also included two public lectures (by Gareth Roberts on *Artists at Arennig* and Keith Bowen on *The Sacred Mountain*), guided walks (led by Gareth Roberts), a mini-bus tour and an art workshop. The event was convened by MOMA in collaboration with the Snowdonia Society and the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, with grant-aid support from the Group and the Arts Council for Wales. The exhibition launch at MOMA on 20 September was attended by 150 invited guests, with John Gittins and Gareth Roberts representing the Group, and included a briefing about the Group's work supported by the new publicity banners and leaflets etc. The gallery exhibitions were attended by 1600 people, the two lectures by 60 and 50 people respectively, and the art workshop by 11 people. An article about the event was featured in *LRE* 69 (May 2014).

#### **(g) Annual Lecture**

The final event of the year was the public lecture by Prof Jacque Burgess on *Valuing Wetlands and Wetland Values*. The event was organised by Antonia Noussia, and was hosted by the Architectural Association. Before introducing the speaker, Paul Tabbush gave a short briefing about the Group's work. The event included a reception after the lecture, and was supported by the Group's new publicity banners and leaflets etc. It was attended by over 100 people and was very well-received, provoking a full question and answer session which was particularly thought-provoking in the context of the continued financial pressures on conservation agencies that will result from the announcements in the Chancellor's 'Autumn Statement' shortly before the lecture. The lecture was videoed and is available for viewing, together with the powerpoint presentation used by Prof Burgess, on the Group's website (as are videos of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 lectures).

#### **(h) Future Events Planning**

Other event-related activity during the year has focused on progressing events for 2015 and beyond. Three events are currently planned for 2015:

- A three-day conference on *Wilderness and the Wild* being organised by Newcastle University with sponsorship by the Group, to be held in Newcastle on 26 to 29 March 2015 (organiser: Ian Thompson).
- A three-day conference on *Energy Landscapes: perception, planning, participation and power*, to be held in Dresden, Germany on 16 to 18 September 2015 (organiser: Markus Leibenath).
- The fifth public Annual Lecture (on 3 December 2015), to be given by Prof Carole Crumley on the subject *If the Past Teaches, What does the Future Learn? Exploring Historic Knowledge Landscapes for Clues to a Just and Liveable Future*.

It is also hoped that the exhibition *Image, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as a Sign Language* may be shown at Bath Central Library in June 2015.

Events currently planned for 2016 are: a two-day seminar/field event on the *Sublime Industry of Landscape* to be held in Cornwall (re-scheduled from the originally planned spring 2015 timing); a two-day seminar/field event on *Railway Landscapes* to be held in Snowdonia; a seminar in Rennes (Brittany) in May 2016 to support Project Hercules; and the sixth Annual Lecture. Other event ideas are also being explored.

As noted above, the Executive is developing ideas for events in 2017 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Group.

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

Last year's report noted that good progress was made in 2013 to complete the content and functionality of the new website, following its re-design in 2012. This work, again led by Emma Waterton with specialist support, continued in 2014. Two key aspects were extending the facility to make web-based payments linked to a PayPal account, and linking the website to the T&F website to allow Members to enjoy access to the 'bundle' of journals which has been negotiated as part of the new Publishing Agreement. The former made it much easier for new Members to join the Group and pay their subscriptions, and from 2014 could also be used for membership renewals. This facility has proved very successful and beneficial to members, with take-up being significantly increased – a trend that is continuing in 2015. The latter has been achieved by incorporating a 'Members-only restricted gateway' via a 'log-in' mechanism on the website that takes Members into the restricted part of the T&F website to access the articles/issues associated with our bundle. This facility was available from June 2014.

As noted in previous years' Reports, a key issue is ensuring the website is kept up-to-date. This has been achieved during 2014, with news items and weblinks regularly being added about events, the Research Strategy, new issues of *Landscape Research Extra*, the Annual Lecture and Project Hercules updates, as well as 'house-keeping' updates such as adding new or updated pen-portraits of Board members, and a copy of the Annual Directors' Report.

However, the past three years's effort to upgrade the website has now led to the position where it needs refinement and updating. It has grown into a very large site with many pages; its organic and multi-contributor creation and content upkeep has rendered some sections, and access to them, not entirely logical and partly duplicatory; and it is not easy to keep up-to-date. Emma Waterton has therefore begun to work with Sarah McCarthy to make some short-term changes, and it is planned that during 2015 a Working Group will consider how best to maximise its fitness for the future.

### **(iv) Education and Training Activity**

#### **(a) *The Annual Student Awards Prize Scheme***

The Group has organised a prize scheme for student dissertations that contribute to the understanding of landscape issues, since 2000. The scheme was originally started on a small-scale basis to continue the work originated by the Nan Fairbrother Memorial Trust, which transferred its assets to the Group when the Trust was wound up (see Directors' Report for 1998). Since then the scheme has steadily expanded in scope. The submission and judging process moved online in 2012.

In 2014 seven submissions were received for work completed in 2013, comprising four entries for the undergraduate prizes, two for the Masters prizes, and one for the PhD prize, from students at six institutions. The judges were Tim Collins and Paul Tabbush. Three awards were made. Two were first prizes of £250 for Undergraduate dissertations; and one was a first prize of £350 for Master's theses. No awards were made for PhD theses.

The two Undergraduate prizes were awarded to Ema Bauzyte and Tim Hoyland (of the Universities of York and Nottingham). Their dissertations were respectively entitled *Collective memory, society and a communist monumental space after the fall of the regime* [in the former Lithuania SSR] (awarded in the 'Language, Text, Humanities – Cultural Geography/Archaeology' category) and *Do keystone structures inhibit specialists? A study of woodland herbs in the Weald* (awarded in the 'Practical Science and Planning – Planning and Science' category). Reports outlining the dissertations will be presented in *LRE 72* (February 2015).

The Masters prize was awarded to Joshua Peacock (of Leeds Metropolitan University). His thesis was entitled *The Nature of Landscape Sensitivity* (awarded in the 'Creative Art and Design –



Landscape Architecture' category). A report outlining the dissertation will be presented in *LRE 72* (February 2015).

At the end of the year a total of eleven entries have been received in relation to the 2015 competition for theses completed in 2014, comprising nine entries for the Masters prizes and two for the PhD prize, from students at nine institutions (there are no entries for the undergraduate prizes). Any prizes awarded will be reported in next year's Report.

The first set of invitations inviting entries for the 2016 Awards (ie for dissertations completed during 2015) will be issued in June 2015.

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

As indicated in the 2012 Report, the Board has agreed the need to re-focus networking and outreach activity to address education and training. However, regrettably it has still not been possible to appoint an Education and Training Coordinator. Tim Collins has continued to discharge the role until a candidate comes forward and is appointed, but in practice effort in 2014 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 ELC itself, but also at meetings of Uniscape, the organisation of universities to support the Convention. The Group is also occasionally invited to observe at meetings of Civilscape (which is a similar organisation to Uniscape, intended for non-governmental organisations), and at PECSRL, and retains its close connections with the French government research organisation Cemagref.

As noted above Laurence le Dû-Blayo was International Activity Coordinator during 2014. A key activity during the year, following the Board approval noted in last year's Report, has been to identify individuals to act as a network of "international correspondents" to develop contacts in different parts of the world where the Group is particularly under-represented, to exchange information and promote LRG membership in their country, and to seek to strengthen links with 'landscape observatories' and similar bodies. Two correspondents have been identified in principle for North America (in Quebec and Louisiana), one for South America (Uruguay) and two for Africa (Algeria and Tunisia), and it is intended to complete their recruitment to the role in early 2015. Meanwhile, a range of Directors (in particular in 2014 Markus Leibenath, Kenneth Olwig, Hannes Palang, Gareth Roberts, Steven Shuttleworth, Ken Taylor, Emma Waterton) and other Members (in particular Peter Howard and Jan Woudstra) contributed more generally to work to promote international activity.

In terms of the Group's international activity during 2014, the work undertaken with partners as part of Project Hercules was arguably the most significant, and is discussed under 'Research and Policy Initiatives' below. The Group has also had a presence at four international events during 2014, while more general contacts have been progressed in Sweden, the Ukraine and with Civilscape.

Three events attended were those in Stockholm, Brussels and Gothenburg-Mariestad referred to above, where the opportunity was taken by the various directors present at each to promote the Group to other participants. In addition, Jan Woudstra attended the *Caring for the Land: places, practices and experiences* conference held at Treviso, Italy from 20 to 21 February 2014 and was able to promote the Group; a report on that conference was presented in *LRE 70* (August 2014).

Following the Stockholm symposium in March 2014, Paul Tabbush and other Directors met with representatives of KSLA to consider possible future collaboration, and it is hoped that this will lead to even closer links between the Group and Swedish (and other Nordic country) landscape researchers.

Gareth Roberts held discussions with the Ukraine Institute for Economy and Forecasting at Taras Schevchenko University in Kiyv, to share views about the environmental implications and requirements arising from the Association Agreement recently signed between Ukraine and the EU. In the wake of this agreement the University wished to bid for research funding under the EU *Horizon 2020* programme, and sought advice and possible Group support and involvement. The meeting discussed the opportunity for a project bid to focus on ELC requirements, and the potential for any bid to include the other 'Eastern Partnership' countries which are signatories to the ELC, as well as Ukraine. It was suggested that the ELC could provide the basis for coordinating research to identify good environmental practice, which could be used to help Eastern Partnership countries to meet the environmental requirements needed prior to full membership of the EU. The discussion and follow-up communications established that the Institute needed to do a lot more work to turn its initial ideas into a realistic project proposal, and helped them understand that to be successful any proposal must be led by institutions in the partner countries, rather than the Group. However, subject to the outcome of further thinking to develop the proposal, the Group has indicated in-principle support, although reserved its position about the scale of any active supportive role.

The Group, via Steven Shuttleworth and Chris Dalglish, also took part in discussions with Civilscape about opportunities to strengthen the existing limited collaboration between the two bodies. Civilscape is an international association with a membership of over 100 civil society/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 30 European countries. which dedicate their work to landscape protection, management and planning according to the ELC. The Group and Civilscape therefore have many shared values, objectives and activities. The discussions envisage a range of future collaboration, which might include agreement on joint positions and priorities on landscape issues, jointly commissioning projects or new research or supporting applications for funding at transnational and European level, and jointly organising events. It is envisaged that in the first instance, the discussions will lead to each body agreeing to either (free) corporate membership or formal 'observer status' on a reciprocal basis, to provide a formal basis for future joint working.

Finally, the Group was invited to participate in an EU 'Expert Group' Workshop *Towards a New Agenda for Cultural Heritage Research and Innovation* in November 2014, planned to help the EU develop its thinking about future research priorities for its Horizon 2020 six-year environmental research programme. Peter Howard was due to attend, but regrettably a late clash of commitments made this impossible. However, the EU is aware that the Group is keen to be involved in future meetings.

Expenditure on international networking was formally recorded as nil in the 2014 Accounts. However, as can be seen from the discussion above, this does not reflect lack of activity but simply that Group expenditure on this activity was subsumed under networking related to the events programme and Project Hercules.

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

### **(a) Research Strategy**

As indicated in 'Business Strategy and Related Board Decisions' above, Chris Dalglish as Coordinator has actively taken forward the development of the Group's first Research Strategy during 2014 with the support of a Working Group comprising Paul Tabbush, Tim Collins, Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Graham Fairclough, Peter Herring, Gareth Roberts and Steven Shuttleworth. He prepared a draft strategy which the Board approved for consultation with Members at its May 2014 meeting,

managed the consultation process, and revised the strategy for adoption by the Board at its December 2014 meeting.

The strategy is intended to give specific direction to the Group's activities intended "to advance ... research ... for the public benefit", providing 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).

The Strategy identifies a single over-arching priority, which is "to advance research which contributes towards more just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape" and four more specific themes, namely:

- the challenge of injustice in landscape contexts;
- the challenge of rapid environmental change and, specifically, of developing human responses to change at the landscape level;
- the challenge of short-term and narrow franchise approaches to the governance and development of landscapes; and
- the need to advance theoretical and creative research which questions conventional modes of thought and develops new ways of thinking concerning landscape.

The over-arching aim and the four themes highlight fundamental landscape research problems which need to be addressed, approaching common questions and problems from different perspectives. The Group has defined them to provide specific direction in relation to our over-arching priority of advancing landscape research, but always in balance with our desire not to needlessly and narrowly restrict the kinds of research we will support. In tune with the Group's multi-disciplinary ethos, the themes quite deliberately both cut across and connect individual disciplinary and sectoral domains, and also overlap and connect with each other.

As indicated in 'Business Strategy and Related Board Decisions' above, the Board resolved to set up a budget to support implementation of the Research Strategy. Such a fund could be used both proactively (ie to fund research activity that the Group wished to promote or encourage) and reactively (ie to fund activity proposed by others), agreement to any such funding in both cases being dependent on the proposed research activity helping to deliver the Strategy's objectives and priorities. The Board's earlier approval of the Group's 'Four-year Budget 2014-2017' had provisionally allocated amounts of £2000 in 2014 and £5000 for each of 2015, 2016 and 2017 for such a fund. The Board's December 2014 meeting confirmed these provisional budgets, subject to the proviso that they may need to be revised because of the uncertainty of future income levels from *Landscape Research* royalties and the likely 'demand' for such funding.

Chris Dalglish and Sarah McCarthy will coordinate work to finalise the text and presentation of the strategy ready for dissemination in 2015, and to enable the first stages of its implementation, including developing criteria to guide decisions on use of the research fund.

### **(b) Project Hercules**

As noted in last year's Report, a key achievement in 2013 was the Group's involvement in the award of a major EU-funded research project called Project HERCULES, an acronym for HERitage in CULtural landscapES. This project aims to provide advice on how best to deal with cultural landscape issues (formally, "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 project will be undertaken as a series of 'Work Packages' (WPs), to which the different partners will contribute in varying proportions according to their expertise. The Group is formally involved in

'WP9', which is concerned with stakeholder involvement, communication strategy, and – at the end of the project – organising the final conference. In 2014, the Group has helped define the detail of the WP9 work programme; contributed to the development of the Hercules website and promotional leaflets; and taken a 'lead' role at the formal Hercules stakeholder 'launch' meeting in Brussels in May 2014, at which Peter Howard was the 'keynote speaker' and Laurence Le Du-Blayo gave the 'closing statement'. More details about this event can be found at: [http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu/stakeholder\\_workshops.php?the\\_first\\_hercules\\_eu\\_level\\_stakeholder\\_workshop\\_european\\_cultural\\_landscapes\\_at\\_a\\_crossroads&id=1](http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu/stakeholder_workshops.php?the_first_hercules_eu_level_stakeholder_workshop_european_cultural_landscapes_at_a_crossroads&id=1).

In addition to its role in WP9, the Group is making a wider contribution to the project by contributing where appropriate to the detailed work of other WPs and more generally acting in the role of 'critical friend' for other WPs. During 2014, the Group has contributed to the work to define the 'case study landscapes' being used to inform much of the project research; contributed to a significant internal debate on the relationship between landscape and heritage, the conflicts between the definition of landscape in the ELC and the separate definition of 'world heritage cultural landscapes' in the World Heritage Convention, and their implications for Hercules work; and been involved in the quality assurance process for three of the ten project report 'deliverables' prepared during the year.

To support the above work, the Group has attended a WP9 meeting in Brussels in January 2014 (Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Peter Howard and Steven Shuttleworth); the Hercules stakeholder 'launch' meeting in Brussels in May 2014 (Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Peter Howard and Paul Tabbush); and the Hercules Project Steering Group meeting in Amsterdam in September 2014 (Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Peter Howard and Steven Shuttleworth). Other meetings have been conducted using Skype.

Fuller details about the project, including details of our partners, can be viewed on the Hercules website at [www.hercules-landscapes.eu](http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu).

### **(c) Other Research Project Support**

In 2014, the Board received a request from Dr Tim Harrod to support the publication of a report *The Detailed Soil Map of the Moretonhampstead Area*. This report was intended to enable the transfer of knowledge gained by privately undertaken research into a key component of the North Dartmoor landscape, the study representing the only part of the publicly funded programme of soil survey in the South West not carried out prior to the closure of the National Soil Survey in 1987. Publishing the report would thus complete the set of studies sampling the region's soils, which are one of its main landscape elements.

The Board agreed to provide £2000 to facilitate the securing of grants from other bodies and personal donations, the total cost being £10000, subject to the report being written in such a way that it presented the research in its wider landscape context (ie was not just written as a technical soils monograph). Bud Young provided guidance and support to ensure an appropriate (illustrated) chapter was written, and more generally acted as mentor to Dr Harrod's completion of the project. The report will be available in Spring 2015, and will include appropriate credit to the Group (including its logo), while the Group's publicity banners and associated leaflets will be displayed at events organised in relation to this project

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

*LRE* was published four times in 2014 (issues 68 to 71). The four issues totalled 48 pages of illustrated two column text. As in previous years, the Editor Bud Young 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. Each completed issue was published immediately on the Group's website by Emma Waterton.

Key features covered the purpose of Project Hercules and the Group's involvement in it (see above); the implications of cultural heritage issues for Project Hercules (see above); the landscapes of the Pantanal region of western Brazil and the Moremi Game Reserve in Okavango, Botswana; the role of the Arenig and Nant Ddu areas of Mid-Wales in the development of modern landscape painting in Britain, which was the subject of the *Some Miraculous Promised Land* events held in September to November 2014, sponsored by the Group (see above); and the landscape of Hoverla, the highest mountain in Ukraine (continued from previous articles on the landscapes of the Ukraine in 2012 and 2013). There were also significant features on the recently updated profiles for the 159 landscape 'National Character Areas' defined by Natural England; the wider landscape and social consequences of the Government's proposal to promote biodiversity offsetting; the paintings of Newport by Falcon Hildred; and the importance of weather and of silence in our appreciation of landscapes.

The issues also contained notices and reports of various recent or planned conferences and papers, including: the final meeting of the EU Inter(regional) Project Cordiale, held in June 2013 in Brittany (see the Directors' Report for 2013); the *Future Forest* workshop and field weekend in Kinloch Rannoch in November 2013, which was sponsored by the Group (see the Directors' Report for 2013); the *Caring for the Land: places, practices and experiences* conference held at Treviso, Italy in February 2014 (see above); the *Image, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as a Sign Language* exhibition held from March to October 2014, which was sponsored by the Group (see above); the *Urban Landscape Ecology: science, policy and practice* conference in September 2014 organised by the International Association for Landscape Ecology; the Cherscape programme of conferences during 2014 and 2015, focusing on the interaction of landscape and cultural heritages; and the *Hearing Landscape Critically: music, place and the spaces of sound* conference to be held in Harvard, USA in January 2015.

Other articles included descriptions of walks remembering and enjoying the landscapes and townscapes of the Paddington area of London, Luton and the Breckland, several features on the impact of the coastline on British perceptions of landscape and related aspects of coastal management, and a reflection on the significance of orchids in the British landscape. The issues also included a profile of Anna Jorgensen (Editor of *Landscape Research* from January 2014); a review of a recent biography about the environmental commentator, Ian Nairn; a write-up of the three dissertations that received a prize under the Group's 2014 Scheme (see above); a new regular 'Companion Guide' summarising the contents of *Landscape Research*; 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 2014 were Jay Appleton, Ros Codling, Tim and Reiko Collins, Laurence le Dû-Blayo, Roger Dalton, Graham Fairclough, John Gittins, Brian Goodey, the Reverend Paul Hardy, Peter Howard, Anna Jorgensen, Owen Manning, Philip Pacey, Josh Peacock, Gareth Roberts, Maggie Roe, Steven Shuttleworth, Nancy Stedman, Paul Tabbush, and Jan Woudstra.

## **7. FINANCES**

The 2014 Report noted that for the first time, the Group's finances were 'split' to distinguish the two separate elements of the "unrestricted" funds available for any use considered by the Board to be appropriate to delivering the Group's charitable objectives, and the "restricted" funds held for the specific purpose of delivering Project Hercules. This split is applicable to the Group's 2014 finances also, and the discussion below therefore deals with the two elements separately.

With regard to its "unrestricted funds", the Group made a surplus in 2014 of £7,883 (income of £69,605, less expenditure of £61,722). This compares to the surplus in 2013 of £7,215 (income of

£56,879, less expenditure of £49,664). There being one adjustment for 2013 creditor under-provision, the Group's Accumulated Fund of "unrestricted funds" at 31st December 2014 was £105,762 (2013, £97,959).

The 2014 surplus of "unrestricted funds" was due to greatly increased income from the new Publishing Agreement, which reflected the improved financial terms for 2014 negotiated as a transition to the expansion of *Landscape Research* to eight issues yearly from 2015. Expenditure also increased substantially compared to the previous year, particularly in relation to *LRE* (expanded content), events and research support; and the costs of setting up the Development Project and first month's payment for the Development Manager. Expenditure on international networking was nil in 2014 but, as noted above, this activity was subsumed under networking related to the events programme and Project Hercules. Board/Executive and administration costs (excluding Development Project costs) were the same as in the previous year. However, the increased expenditure was outweighed by the greater increase in income.

As well as its unrestricted funds summarised above, the Group's finances have included expenditure 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 in 2013. Accordingly, the Group received no income in 2014, but spent £4,020. The remaining balance of £16,387 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 £122,149 – £105,762 being for "unrestricted" use and £16,387 being "restricted".

Looking ahead to 2015 and beyond in relation to the "unrestricted funds", income is expected to increase significantly from the higher editorial costs contribution and royalties due under the renegotiated Publishing Agreement, as result of *Landscape Research* increasing to eight issues per annum. Membership income may increase as a result of new members joining the Group as a consequence of Development Project activity, although the Group has decided to hold subscription rates for 2015 at previous levels. However, more generally in relation to income, it seems prudent to continue to assume that bank deposit interest income will remain at its current extremely low level, at least for a further two years; and also, as noted in the Reports for 2012 and 2013, to assume that tax reclaim 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 appointment of the Development Manager is a significant new cost commitment, while the costs of producing *Landscape Research* will increase from 2015 as a result of the new support arrangements for the editorial team and other costs reflecting the journal's expansion to eight issues. Also, as discussed above, major programmes of expenditure are being developed for both events and international activity in 2015 and thereafter. Furthermore, expenditure may arise from any initiatives in relation to the funding and dissemination of landscape research projects consequent on implementing the Research Strategy, and also on website costs as further improvement takes place as part of the Development Project. The costs of *LRE* and the enhanced prize scheme should remain at recent levels. 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 four-year projection for

2014 to 2017 reflects this approach. However, as noted in last year's Report, 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 – in particular plans for events in 2017 – 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 key financial issue for the Board to focus on during 2015, and indeed over the next three years, is therefore ensuring that the expenditure plans indicated above 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.

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