



# **Landscape Research Group Ltd**

## **Trustees' Report for 2020**

Landscape Research Group Ltd:  
A Company Limited by Guarantee (Registration No: 01714386)  
and a Registered Charity (Registration No: 287160)

9th May 2021

*For approval by the Board of Directors: 14 May 2021*

*For approval by the Annual General Meeting: 24 September 2021*

**LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2020**

**Directors and Trustees of Landscape Research Group Limited at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

The directors / trustees who held office during the year were:

Linda BJERKETVEDT (Appointed 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
Prof Vanesa CASTAN-BROTO  
Dr Chris DALGLISH  
Mr Graham FAIRCLOUGH  
Mr Merouen HEDHELIE  
Dr Karen Jones (Appointed 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
Prof Laurence Le Dû-BLAYO (Until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
Dr Markus LEIBENATH (Until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
Dr Gavin MacGregor  
Dr Ian MELL  
Prof Kenneth OLWIG  
Prof Hannes PALANG  
Prof Ingrid SARLÖV- HERLIN  
Mr Paul TABBUSH (Until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
Dr Tim WATERMAN  
Prof Emma WATERTON  
Dr Laura Alice WATT (Appointed 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

**Company Secretary**

Mr David SAUNDERS

**Company Number**

1714386 (England and Wales)

**Charity Number**

287160

**Registered Office**

99 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1RS

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc, 34 Moorgate, London EC2R 6PL.

**Independent Examiners**

Andrew M Wells FMAAT , 99 Western Road, Lewes, BN7 1RS

**LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED**

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charitable company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The company (referred to below as "the Group" or "LRG") was incorporated in England and Wales on 12th April 1983 as a Company Limited by Guarantee with no issued share capital (registered number 1714386), as the successor body to the unincorporated association known as "Landscape Research Group" which was founded in 1967.

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

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Objectives and Aims**

The objects for which Landscape Research Group (LRG) 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 field".

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

A fuller interpretation of the Group's charitable objects and a statement of our current priorities are presented in our *Research Strategy* available at <https://landscaperesearch.org/what-we-do/research-strategy/>

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Summary of the significant activities and the main charitable activities of LRG in 2020**

The plans for delivering the main charitable activities of LRG in 2020 were impacted significantly by the spread of Covid19 virus. Travel restrictions and difficulties were faced by both staff and Trustees in working under the many constraints on holding meetings and actually delivering some of the charitable activities. Despite this some progress was made in the following areas:

- **Advancing Research:** LRG supported research by providing grants to five researchers selected competitively from a total of 23 applications. A financial commitment of £12,993 was made for the 2020 financial year. Outputs from research projects funded in 2019 have started to be returned, and the completed reports are placed on LRG's website. Some flexibility will be made in extending the submission deadline for completed projects to account for the difficulties in carrying out fieldwork in 2020.

- **Publication of Landscape Research Journal:** Eight issues of the journal “Landscape Research” were produced in Volume 45 during 2020. LRG continued to benefit from a publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis which provides payments to the charity in the form of royalties, and also a contribution towards editorial expenses.
- **Community Development:**
  - **Events.** As a result of the imposition of Covid-related travel constraints LRG were unable to host any physical meetings or attend conferences in 2020. In response, LRG organised two on-line conferences / webinars in 2020; one in June with the title “A Future of our own Making”, and another a multi-day programme under the title “Landscape and Goodness” in December. These were well attended, with a wide reach of participants from around the world,
  - **Communications.** LRG brought forward the development of new online resources and launched a new “Landscape Exchange” website in October 2019 which supports the research and education activity of the charity, by providing a platform for multimedia contributions and promotes landscape studies to a wider global community.
  - **Developing Research Networks:** Funding and support has been provided to develop regional Landscape Research Networks (LRNs). Several of these networks that were in development had approval from LRG for funding and technical support, but none of them were able to carry out the planned programme of meetings, and the funding allocated has been held back until 2021.

### **Achievements against Objectives**

Despite the constraints caused by global pandemic LRG has managed to maintain a focus on supporting research and delivering education in landscape-related subject areas. Through moving many networking events online there has been a continued growth in members from a much wider network of landscape research, from both UK, and abroad.

The Group’s main website is: [www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org)

Landscape Exchange: <https://lex.landscaperesearch.org>

Our email address is: [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> ).

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Significant events**

The main source of income for the Charity is through the publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis. The current arrangement continues until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, and agreement has been reached to continue this arrangement for four more years.

Membership has increased significantly in 2020, and this has results in some growth in the income generated from subscriptions. A review of membership subscriptions was carried out in 2020

which now allows for lower fees for some non-OECD countries and offers concessionary rates for students and retirees. It was not possible to generate any significant income from running events in 2020, but the level of operating costs also reduced from that predicted.

In developing plans and setting budgets for the next three years LRG Trustees have continued the previously approved policy to begin to utilise some of the accumulated surpluses to develop the organisation and expand its membership to better deliver charitable activity in the future. During the course of 2020 it became apparent that it would not be possible to deliver many of these activities, and both expenditure, and income, was somewhat lower than anticipated as a result.

### **Reserves**

At the Board meeting in May 2020 Trustees confirmed the level of reserves to be held to take account of the engagement of employed staff. A sum of £100,000 is held on deposit at a level to cover the charity's operational expenses for approximately one year. These reserve funds are held as £15,000 in an instant access savings account with Lloyds Bank and £85,000 in a separate deposit account with Hampshire Trust Bank. This arrangement is to spread the risk, and safeguard these reserve funds under the FSCS guarantee scheme.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

LRG operates under Articles and Memorandum established in 1983. As these rules are somewhat out of date an exercise commenced in 2019 to review the Articles and Memorandum to bring them up to date, and conform to the 2006 Companies Act.

At a Board meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 a proposal to convert LRG from a Company Ltd by Guarantee, and Registered Charity, structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a new constitution based on the Charity Commission Association model was approved by a majority of Trustees (13 for, 1 against).

A special resolution to make this constitutional change was then put to LRG Members at the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and this was approved by the required majority. The application for conversion to a CIO is now with the Charity Commission.

### ***Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities***

The Trustees (who are directors of Landscape Research Group Ltd. for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

### ***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.

### ***Risk Management***

The trustees review the major risks faced by the charity on a regular basis and it is considered that the implementation of strong budgetary and other key financial controls will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees also examine other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that systems and controls are in place which should mitigate against any significant risks.

### **Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

Trustees are elected by the members at an AGM.

As a result of Covid travel restrictions the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 was held by videoconference using Zoom. This change in normal procedure followed the guidance from Charity Commission. Two long-standing Trustees stepped down, and one was not re-elected by ballot. The Members elected three new Trustees to replace them.

LRG have a policy to encourage a regular turnover of Trustees, and seek to maintain a diverse representation, as far as possible. New Trustees are inducted by the Chair and directed to Charity Commission guidance documents "Essential Trustees", and "The Charity Governance Code".

### ***The Board, Executive, Officers & Co-ordinators***

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 Co-ordinators, all of whom have the authority to act within the scope of their various remits and the annual budgetary limits as set by the Board.

The Officers and Co-ordinators for 2020 have been as follows:

- Chair - Chris Dalglish (until June 2020) then Tim Waterman;
- Vice Chair - Chris Dalglish (from June 2020);
- Treasurer (Gavin MacGregor);
- Company Secretary - David Saunders;
- Journal Editor - Emma Waterton;
- Research & Policy Co-ordinator (Hannes Palang);
- Community Development Co-ordinator - Laurence le Du-Blayo and Markus Leibenath (until June 2020), then Ingrid Sarlöv-Herlin.

### **Staffing**

LRG Ltd employed two members of staff during 2020. David Saunders as the Chief Executive and Sarah Hobbs as the Communications and Membership Manager.

LRG engaged other freelance contractors for services associated with the production of the Journal, website design and IT support.

## ***Finances***

Please see the separate document: 'Financial Statements for 2020' for more detail than is provided here.

In 2020, the charity made an operating surplus of £20,740 (income of £123,123, less expenditure of £102,383). This compares to the loss in 2019 of £20,534.

The Group's financial strategy, agreed in late 2006, is based on achieving a broad balance of income and expenditure to maintain a minimum reserve to meet future liabilities. In 2020 the Trustees agreed to raise the level of reserve to £100,000. The Group's Accumulated Fund has risen substantially in recent years and our total Accumulated Fund at the end of 2020 stood at £176,985.

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

During 2020 the Company Secretary carried out all formal reporting required by Companies House and the Charity Commission.

## **Governance Framework**

In order to improve its governance, the Board resolved in 2015 to bring all the governance documents together in a single place, compiling it as a single 'Governance Compendium'. The Compendium was intended to be a living document to be updated with new or revised material as and when required. A Governance working group has drafted new policies and procedures to fill any gaps identified in compiling the Compendium and this work continued throughout 2020 with a final Issue of the Governance Compendium being produced, with both minor copy-edits, small updates (e.g. reference to counter terrorism, financial sanctions; reference to new CEO and CMM posts) and the addition of a new policy on archives and the adoption of a risk register.

Proposals for new policies and / or governance procedures

With the move to LRG taking on directly-employed staffing in October 2018, changes have been made to the ways that decision-making authorities are delegated by the Board. In particular, certain executive authorities that were previously vested in the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and in the Executive (comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Journal Editor), have been passed to the Chief Executive. The Chair and Chief Executive have been consulting on this 'delegation framework' which was circulated to the Board for further consideration during 2020.

The current line management arrangements are that the Chief Executive reports to the Chair of the Board and the Communications & Membership Manager (CMM) reports to the Chief Executive. The CMM's work plan is agreed with the Chief Executive, and the Chief Executive's priorities are agreed with the Chair.



# FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CHARITABLE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN 2020

## *Advancing Landscape Research*

### Research Grants

The 2020 call for research grants was issued on 8<sup>th</sup> February, with the deadline 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The aim of the call was to explore how landscapes can contribute to well-being and social good. The title selected for this call was “Landscape, Virtue and the Common Good” a theme inspired by and developed from the LRG’s successful event in December 2020 which celebrated the work of human geographer, [Yi-Fu Tuan](#).

The call resulted in 20 applications for a total sum of almost £63,000

As agreed by Trustees in 2019 the research grants are now only made available to LRG members.

An ad hoc committee consisting of Ian Mell, Nancy Stedman and Hannes Palang assessed and discussed the applications and selected five to be funded.

Five new research grants were awarded (see table).

Applicant	Research Project Title	Award
Sarah Pohlschneide	What is Wilderness? Landscapes of change	£ 4,982
Andrew Butler	Forest fire & indigenous landscape identity	£ 2,600
Laura Hodsdon	Landscape Stories: an investigation of organisations’ and diverse audiences’ narratives of the countryside to advance landscape justice	£ 1,715
Johanna Brugman-Alvarez	Supporting urban poor’s women leadership to respond to lake and wetland’s in-filling practices and urban dispossession in Phnom Penh, Cambodia	£ 1,650
Creighton Connolly	Evaluating Extended Urban Infrastructure Landscapes Under China’s Belt and Road Initiative	£ 2,012

It is likely that the implementation of some of these projects may be affected by the Covid-19 situation, especially any involving fieldwork. A flexible approach will be taken for delays caused by travel restrictions. Four out of the five 2019 projects have now submitted their final reports, one has asked for an extension until the end of the year.

### Student Research Awards

There were no student awards provided in 2020. In 2019 the Trustees agreed not to support a

thesis competition, but rather to replace this with travel and fieldwork grants. This was included in the budget for the 2020 research awards.

## **Landscape Research Journal**

Landscape Research Group Ltd. benefits from a publishing agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd. which allows for payments to the Group in respect of royalties on total Taylor and Francis sales (with a guaranteed minimum royalty), plus a contribution towards the Group's editorial costs and also sponsorship for events. The publishing agreement that was put in place in January 2013 continued until the end of December 2020. A new publishing agreement has been prepared for a four year period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## **Landscape Research Operations**

Eight issues of Landscape Research were published in Volume 45 during 2020. 2020 saw the publication of 69 articles, 12 of which were published Open Access.

2020 also saw an increase of submissions from various regions, including Brazil, Egypt, Iran, the US and Australia. Patterns of submission remained steady from the UK, Italy and China, but the journal saw a decrease in submissions from Turkey and Spain.

The journal saw a slight dip in institutional subscriptions (now 2850 in 2020) but a significant rise in full-text downloads. These continue to come from a collection of mostly UK- and European-based institutions followed by Asia and North America. We will therefore continue to focus our efforts on increasing the journal's visibility and impact in Australasia, Africa and South America.

The journal's impact factor (IF) saw a considerable increase from 1.198 in 2017 to 1.902 in 2018. In 2019, that IF dropped slightly from 1.902 to 1.806, but it remains close to the magic number of 2.0. The IF for 2020 will be released by mid-2021. Several interdisciplinary journals with a remit that focuses on landscape do better than LR in terms of these rankings. One strategy for increasing the journal's IF is to consider the journal's self-citation rates, which are currently very low at 4%.

LR remains in Quartile 2 for all subjects that the journal 'services', which puts it in the top 50% of journals across: (1) Environmental Sciences; (2) Geography, Planning and Development; (3) Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law; and (4) Nature and Landscape Conservation. Worth noting here is that the journal is now ranked in the top half of the Geography category, which is an excellent achievement. Aiming to get into the top quartile would be a worthwhile pursuit.

Our rejection rate tends to sit between 70-80%, which is about right for a high-quality academic journal. In 2020, our acceptance rate was slightly higher than in 2019 at 23%.

Our speed of production has increased significantly over the past few years, reducing from 81 days in 2015 to 45 days in 2019. Our speed of article publication slowed slightly in 2020, to 32 which is likely a direct impact of COVID-19.

Our backlog remains small. As such, we intend to keep running at eight (8) issues per year.

Some of the detail contained here is now available on the journal website, under 'Journal Metrics',

where those considering submitting to the journal will find information on 'usage', 'citation metrics' and 'speed/acceptance':

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=journalMetrics&journalCode=clar20>

## Editorial Team Changes

In 2020 the Editorial Team for *Landscape Research* underwent a series of changes. The most significant was the retirement of long-serving Editorial Assistant, Crista Walshaw, who first joined the team at the start of 2009. In September 2020 she was replaced by Madeleine Hatfield and Jeremy Brown, both of whom work with a small editing agency in the UK called *Yellowback Editing*.

2020 also saw the creation of three new posts on the Editorial Team: *Pre-Editor: Post-Submission Assistant*, which has been filled by Dr Hayley Saul, Western Sydney University (WSU); *Pre-Editor: Peer-Review Assistant*, which has been filled by Vanicka Arora (WSU); and *Social Media Editor*, which has been filled by Dr Zannah Matson (Penn State University). The final academic support post, approved by the Board in 2020, for ECR, PhD and non-English speaker authors will be a focus of recruitment for 2021.

In addition to the creation of the above three posts, *Landscape Research* also saw the replacement of two team members. Dr Thomas Oles was replaced by Dr Laura Menatti (Bordeaux School of Architecture and Landscape) as the journal's Book Review Editor and Dr Lisa-Marie Shillito was formally replaced by Associate Professor Stephen Livesley (University of Melbourne), who formally transitioned onto the team in September 2020 as one of the journal's Assistant Editors, after a 6-month trial period.

At the end of 2020 Dr Vera Vicenzotti stepped down from her role as Associate Editor. Dr Vicenzotti had been a core part of the Editorial Team since 2012, joining first as an Assistant Editor before taking up the role of Associate Editor in 2014. She has been replaced by Dr Andrew Butler (SLU) on a trial basis, with confirmation due later in 2021. Professor Anna Jorgensen has also now stepped down from her role as Consulting Editor. A replacement has not yet been appointed but we will seek to do so by mid-2021.

The full Editorial Team is therefore currently comprised of: an Editor-in-Chief (Waterton), a Consulting Editor (to be filled), three Associate Editors (Castan-Broto, Roe and Butler), four Assistant Editors (Eischeid, Larcher, Yang and Livesley), a Book Review Editor (Menatti), a Social Media Editor (Matson), an Editorial Assistance Team (Yellowback Publishing) and two Pre-Editors (Arora and Saul).

The composition of the International Editorial Advisory Board (IEAB) has also recently been updated to reflect our ambitions to broaden our scope and readership. New additions to the IEAB include: Professor Sarah Wright (University of Newcastle), Associate Professor Bin Jiang (The University of Hong Kong), Dr Zhang Rouran (Shenzhen University), Dr Brad Coombes (University of Auckland/Kati Mamoe and Ngati Kahungunu), Dr Olaf Kühne (University of Tübingen), Professor Chinwe Ifejika Speranza (University of Bern) and Dr Pedro Sergio Urquijo Torres (National Autonomous University of Mexico). In addition, Dr Vera Vicenzotti and Professor Anna Jorgensen will transition onto the IEAB in 2021.

## **LR Best Paper Prizes**

Landscape Research announced the awarding of our two new prize schemes in Issue 1 of 2020 (worth £250.00 each and kindly supported by the Landscape Research Group)

The Best Paper prize is awarded each year to a paper published in the previous 12 months. Nominations for this prize are received from the International Editorial Advisory Board, which form a shortlist from which the Editorial Team selects an overall winner.

**Best Paper:** “Drivers of European landscape change: stakeholders’ perspectives through Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping”, authored by Theo van der Sluis, Bas Arts, Kasper Kok, Marion Bogers, Anne Gravsholt Busck, Kalev Sepp, Isabel Loupa-Ramos, Vangelis Pavlis, Nicoleta Geamana and Emilie Crouzat, published in volume 44, issue 4.

The Best Paper by an Early Career Researcher is awarded to an article with not more than two authors, the first of which must be an early career researcher (i.e. a PhD candidate or a researcher who was awarded their PhD within the last five calendar years). All eligible papers are considered by the Editorial Team, who select a winner.

**Best Paper by an Early Career Researchers:** “Dwelling and tourism: embracing the non-representational in the tourist landscape”, Solène Prince, published in volume 44, issue 6.

Both papers are available as Open Access.

## **Product Quality**

Discussions about improving the quality of the LR product (in terms of print stock, image quality, printing and design) are ongoing and have thus far involved Tim Waterman, Gavin MacGregor, Emma Waterton, David Saunders from LRG, and Thomas Murden and Jonathan Manley from Taylor and Francis.

## **Developing a Community of Interest**

### **Membership, Branding & Communications**

With the appointment of Sarah Hobbs in November 2018 as LRG’s Comms and Membership Manager (CMM) there has been a significant increase in the visibility of Landscape Research Group in social media and through more traditional engagement with our members at meetings and events. Sarah left LRG at the end of 2020 to move to another post near her Highland home. LRG are most grateful for all her hard work and enthusiasm in bringing LRG’s communications up to date.

An advertisement for a replacement CMM went out in December 2020 with appointment scheduled for early 2021.

Most of Sarah’s time in the two years has been spent improving LRG’s offering to existing and potential members, and our public faces/image. In this time we have:

- **Doubled the reach of our networks** in under two years, through investing time in Twitter,

- Facebook, newsletters, website, and other channels, from 1,950 to over 4,000
- **Increased the engagement** of our networks, e.g. applications to LRG’s annual Research Fund have almost doubled, and represent a more diverse range of researchers, and we’ve had high numbers of submissions for this year’s events
  - Developed a **new website**, including re-structure, full content re-write etc.
  - Moved LRG to **online memberships**: taking online payments, an online Members’ Area, online member database
  - Introduced **new membership options** which reduce financial barriers to joining
  - Established the first **marketing strategy** for the organisation
  - Developed and formalised the **Landscape Research Networks** scheme
  - Organised and run five **events**, including symposia, a field trip, and virtual events, including all branding and promotion
  - Conceptualised, developed and built **the Landscape Exchange**, the sister space to the journal.

### Membership Benefits

All members, of any level can:

- contribute their work to LEX,
- apply for grants through our annual Research Fund,
- establish or join a Landscape Research Network,
- vote and stand for election as an LRG Trustee, and
- receive discount event tickets (when paid-for events resume).

Membership subscriptions at the end of 2020 stood at 194, an increase of 45% over the twelve months.

New categories of membership subscription were introduced in 2020 to take account of affordability in non-OECD countries. These are now:

	OECD country	Non-OECD country
Standard member	£28	£14
Standard member online journal	£52*	£28
Standard member paper journal	£52*	£28
Concession	£14	£7
Concession online journal	£28	£14
Concession paper journal	£28	£14

\* Old fee, hence no fees increased.

### LEX – Landscape Exchange

This new web-based resource was launched on International Landscape Day, 20 October 2020, which commemorates the signing of the European Landscape Convention.

It currently contains 165 published multimedia pieces– text, audio, video, images – from 73 authors. This can be accessed at: <https://lex.landscaperesearch.org/>

At the September 2020 board meeting, LRG Trustees Ian Mell, Karen Jones, Laura Watt and Linda Bjerketvedt all offered to become part of the LEX sub-committee, which will involve helping decide themes for LEXmag, suggest contributors/contributions, content curation, etc.

## **Events**

As a result of the travel restrictions caused by the arrival of Covid19 in 2020 the events programme had to be held online.

Despite the loss of personal contact caused by the adoption of a new means of disseminating research activity using the “virtual” symposium approach, there were some benefits, with the participation of many more members who may not have been able to afford to travel, from further afield than in previous London-based meetings.

The two main events held in 2020 were:

### **Symposium - 18 June 2020**

**A future of our own making: what does landscape justice look and feel like in the face of rapid environmental change?’**

This was the first online event by LRG, run as a Zoom webinar and was held the same day as the 2020 AGM, again the first online AGM we had run.

Contributors responded to a call shared on 16<sup>th</sup> May which reached 18,500 people. Attendance was free with 110 people registering and some 70 people attended.

The event format was a Pecha-Kucha style presentation each 8mins long, chaired by Tim Waterman, and followed by a discussion with all the contributors. We hosted six contributors from four countries and three further contributions were accepted and shared after the event, as an ongoing ‘fringe.’

### **Landscape Symposium 2020:**

**Landscape & Goodness: Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Yi-Fu Tuan (5-10 Dec 2020)**

One of the largest events LRG has run to date, with 11 events held over 6 days in the UK, Palestine, China, USA, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands and Iceland.

A call for event submissions went out on 26<sup>th</sup> October which reached 13,000 people, and we received 25 submissions from 13 countries

16 new members joined LRG as a result of requiring at least one person submitting to be an LRG member. Tickets were free for LRG members, and donations requested for non-members.

Two early-career student volunteers came forward from the Bartlett, arranged by Tim Waterman, who helped organise and co-ordinate the event in exchange for complementary membership.

Event videos have been shared after the event on social media and in the newsletter, via our YouTube channel and as a playlist on LEX.

## Landscape Research Networks (LRN)

LRN's are networks of landscape researchers and practitioners, bounded by a geographical region, or theme. They offer LRG members regular opportunities to exchange and forge partnerships 'on the ground,' and help further landscape thinking in that region, as a 'hub.'

Mainly as a result of Covid19 No new LRN activity was funded in 2020, despite available budget and communications with potential networks. LRG are seeking to support the development of one new network per year, and will seek to catch up in 2021, subject to controls on virus permitting.

Existing LRNs:

- **German-language LRN:** remains as an LRG-affiliated LRN. Their scheduled workshop for 2020 had to be postponed, and will either be held in person or online, Covid permitting, entitled: "Between Individuality and Representativity: Landscape Assessment and Evaluation." LRG continues support for this network by hosting the German-language LRN website (<http://www.landschaftsforschung.de/network.html> )
- **Maghreb LRN** following their initial workshop to garner interest in Tunisia in November 2019. Due to challenges of Covid, no network activity took place in 2020,

Networks in development:

- **Flanders LRN** (co-ordinated by member Niels Dabaut). The network of professionals focused on landscape characterisation has grown informally out of numerous events held in the region over the last couple of years. The network may well also be supported by the Flemish government. The network has a vision statement (Nov 2020), and are planning to meet in 2021

Other Potential 2021 networks – (all put on hold by impact of Covid19 in 2020):

- Others who have expressed an interest in forming an LRN are:
  - Scotland/North/Highlands
  - Scandinavia/Nordic
  - Boston, USA
  - Pyrenees
  - Egypt

## Partnership Development

Because of Covid19 travel restrictions LRG was unable to be represented at the usual conferences and meetings during 2020. Communication continues through online events and several Trustees have put themselves forward to represent LRG as and when "in-person" conferences resume.

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### Registered Office:

99 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1RS

**Company Secretary:** David Saunders, 41 Grange Road, LEWES, BN7 1TS, UK