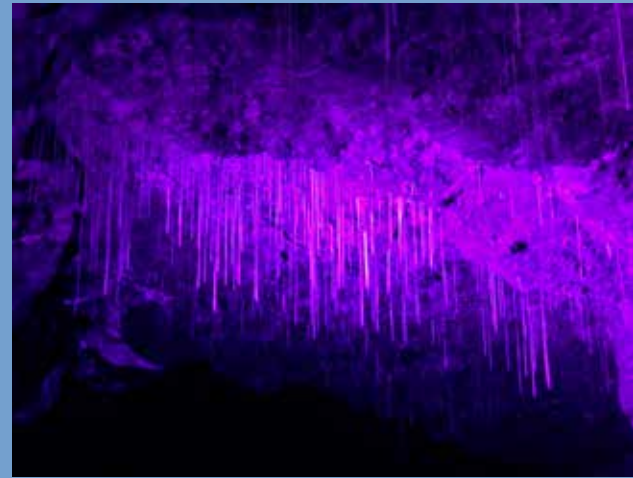
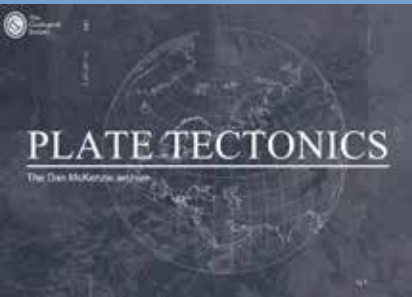




The  
Geological  
Society

# Geology for all

## Annual Review 2017



Serving science, profession and society

# The Society's aims

The Geological Society of London was instituted in 1807 for the purpose of “investigating the mineral structure of the Earth”.

In 2017, Council adopted a 10-year strategy, the principal objectives of which are:

## Our purpose

The Geological Society **supports** the work of geoscientists, **inspires** interest in the physical world, and **connects** science, profession and society.

## Our values

All that we do is underpinned by scientific excellence, professional and ethical integrity, and quality of service. To that end:

- We strive to be impartial, authoritative, trustworthy and transparent.
- We promote diversity, equality, inclusion and respect for others across the geoscience community.
- We promote social and environmental sustainability, responsibility and stewardship.
- We seek opportunities to work collaboratively and aim to be recognised as a valued partner.

## Themes

- **A home for geoscience:** We will promote and support the geosciences and act as the scientific and professional home for an engaged, diverse and inclusive geoscience community.
- **Serving and supporting geoscientists:** We will provide services and support for our Fellows and other geoscientists throughout their careers.
- **Maintaining standards:** We will assure high professional standards in geoscience, for the public benefit.

- **Trusted voice:** We will be the trusted voice of the geoscience community.
- **Education and outreach:** We will promote geoscience education and share our science widely, to inform public debate and to inspire future geoscientists to address the challenges facing humanity.
- **Strengthening our organisation:** We will ensure that the Geological Society remains a sustainable, resilient and thriving organisation over a generational timescale, in order to deliver our strategic aims and objectives.

From January 2017 the Society's Council had, as specific aims for the year, to:

- Develop a three-year rolling business plan to implement the strategy.
- Organise science, education and outreach activities to mark our Year of Risk.
- Celebrate 50 years of plate tectonics through the William Smith meeting, Dan McKenzie archive website and associated education and outreach activities.
- Engage more effectively with the academic geoscience community, working with University Geoscience UK.
- Develop our school visits programme and supporting resources.
- Grow Fellowship and Chartership, and explore options for broadening membership into new areas.
- Relaunch the Lyell Collection online publishing platform.

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# Geology for all

## From the President



The theme of this year's Annual Review is 'Geology for all', and the following pages demonstrate the extent of the work that the Society has done in the last twelve months to reach out to our members and to the wider public. Nowhere is this demonstrated better than in our celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the theory of plate tectonics, which took place in early October. A fantastic three day science meeting was accompanied by widespread press coverage, an archive website where anyone can find out more about the work of Dan McKenzie and the early days of the theory, and an online education resource for those wishing to find out more about plate tectonics and the geology of the UK & Ireland. On top of this, the meeting itself was streamed online, and watched live by audiences as far away as China, South Africa and Australia. In total, over 600 individuals and organisations in 36 countries joined us for the occasion over the internet – an exciting demonstration of how far our science can reach.

During the past two years, I've been working hard to achieve this goal within the Society as well. One of my aims for my Presidency was to improve the Society's ties with our Regional Groups, which are so essential to helping Fellows network and keep in touch. My 'Grand Tour' has, at time of writing, seen me visit 13 of the 15 groups to deliver my annual lecture – including our very active Hong Kong Group. It has been a great opportunity to meet Fellows and find out about their interests and challenges, and I'm grateful to everyone who's attended these events.

Our popular London Lecture series is going on the road as well – having been renamed the Geological Society's Public Lecture Series, we expect four of these to be delivered outside of London during 2018. The first has already taken place; in January I spoke in Aberdeen about the role of oil and gas in future energy supply. Keep an eye on our website for news of future lectures, at Burlington House and across the country, during 2018.

Geology for all means more, of course, than extending the geographical reach of our science. We've continued to work hard on our efforts to promote diversity, equality and inclusion, both in the Society and in the geosciences more widely. 2017 saw our participation in the Science Council/Royal Academy of Engineering's Progression Framework, assessing our progress so far and structuring our plans to deliver on our commitment to the Science Council's 2014 Declaration on DEI. We also worked with the American Geosciences Institute to develop guidelines on harassment, bullying and discrimination, and in September last year the International Association for Geoscience Diversity became an Associated Society.

2017 may have been the Society's Year of Risk – featuring a fantastic range of conferences and events, about which you can read more overleaf – but I feel the future is on anything but shaky ground. Following the arrival of our new Executive Secretary, Richard Hughes, as well as new members of our Council in June, we've strengthened the Society's leadership and put it on good footing for the future. As my two years as President come to an end, I'm confident that the future of the Society, and of our science, looks brighter than ever.

Malcolm Brown

### Council membership

**President:** Mr Malcolm Brown

**Vice Presidents:** Mr Keith Seymour; Mr John Talbot

**Secretaries:** Dr Marie Edmonds; Dr Colin North;  
Prof Katherine Royse

**Secretary, Foreign & External Affairs:** Dr Sarah Gordon

**Treasurer:** Mr Graham Goffey

\*Mr John Booth<sup>6</sup>; Mr Rick Brassington<sup>4</sup>; Mr Malcolm Brown<sup>1</sup>; Dr Jason Canning<sup>4</sup>; Miss Liv Carroll<sup>4</sup>; ~Dr Nigel Cassidy<sup>6</sup>; \*Ms Lesley Dunlop<sup>2</sup>; ~Mr Chris Eccles<sup>1,4</sup>; Dr Marie Edmonds<sup>1,2,6</sup>; Mr Graham Goffey<sup>1,3</sup>; Dr Sarah Gordon<sup>1,2,3</sup>; Mrs Tricia Henton<sup>4</sup>; ~Mr David Hopkins<sup>4</sup>; Ms Naomi Jordan<sup>2</sup>; Dr Jennifer McKinley<sup>5</sup>; Dr Rob Larter<sup>2</sup>; ~Prof David Norbury<sup>2</sup>; Dr Colin North<sup>1,3,5</sup>; Dr Sheila Peacock<sup>5,6</sup>; Prof Christine Peirce<sup>1,6</sup>; Mr Nicholas Reynolds<sup>4</sup>; \*Prof Nicholas Rogers (President designate)<sup>1</sup>; Prof Katherine Royse<sup>1,3,4</sup>; Mr Keith Seymour<sup>1,4</sup>; \*Miss Jessica Smith<sup>4</sup>; \*Mr John Talbot<sup>1,4</sup>; Dr Alexander Whittaker<sup>6</sup>; ~Mr Michael Young<sup>1,2,3,6</sup>

\* New Council members elected at the AGM on 7 June 2017

~ Council members who retired at the AGM on 7 June 2017

### Standing Committee Membership

<sup>1</sup> Elections; <sup>2</sup> External Relations; <sup>3</sup> Finance & Planning;  
<sup>4</sup> Professional; <sup>5</sup> Publications & Information; <sup>6</sup> Science.

### Method of Election of Trustees

Trustees are elected by the Fellowship at the Annual General Meeting by ballot of Fellows present on a list of candidates. New trustees are annually invited to an induction day in order to obtain an understanding of the Society's affairs and what tasks they will undertake as a member of Council. They also receive written guidance on their responsibilities as trustees.

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reports directly to Council. Members of the Audit Committee are: Mr Chris Bulley, Mr Roger Dunshea, Mr Doug Fenwick (Chair), Mr Nick Hardy, Mrs Beverley Parrish and Dr Nigel Platt.

# Delivering our strategy

From the Executive Secretary



One of my first duties on joining the Geological Society in May 2017 was also one of the most enjoyable – that of welcoming new members to the Society at our first ever event for new Fellows. It was a great pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic new members, and to introduce them to the many benefits that joining the Society brings.

Our membership is growing year on year, with Fellowship standing at just under 12,500 in mid-2017. Amongst these, the biggest area of growth is amongst Candidate Fellows – those studying for their first degree in geology. It's extremely heartening to see membership growing amongst those starting out in their geoscience careers – an indication that the Society's future looks bright.

Also on the increase is Chartership, with just over 2,700 members maintaining Chartered Geologist status. 2017 saw the launch of our new and improved CPD scheme, which we hope maps better to your CPD aims and activities. We hope that Chartered Fellows are already finding the new scheme helpful, in advance of the relaunch of the online CPD recording system this year.

2017 saw the launch of our strategy for the next 10 years – the result of much hard work and collaboration between the staff, governance and Fellowship of the Society. We also now have in place a three-year, rolling Business Plan, through which we will deliver the priorities identified in our strategy.

The theme of this annual review, 'Geology for All', reflects many of the aims set out in our strategy. By broadening and growing our membership, we want the next ten years to see an increasingly diverse Fellowship, and are committed to promoting diversity, equality, inclusion and respect for others across the geoscience community.

Our strategy also highlights a commitment to promoting our science beyond the Fellowship, by promoting geoscience education, informing public debate and stimulating public awareness and enthusiasm for the geosciences through our communications and outreach initiatives. At the heart of this goal lie our Regional Groups, who between them cover the length and breadth of the UK and – in the case of our Hong Kong group – beyond.

Developing closer ties with the Society's Regional and Specialist groups has been one of my aims since taking up my role at the Society. I hope 2018 will see more engagement and involvement with the Regional Groups, who are so important to the Society's continued growth and success, and to our goal to extend our footprint beyond London.

At the heart of our strategy, of course, is our Fellowship and the support we can provide to members throughout their professional careers. We aim to provide a home for geoscience wherever our members are based, through providing high quality remote access services, facilitating communication and access to networks, and maintaining excellence in our programme of publications, conferences and Library services.

One of the high points of 2017, about which you will see much more in the following pages, was the William Smith Meeting, 'Plate Tectonics at 50.' This celebration of one of our science's most fundamental theories encapsulated all these aims – an outstanding science meeting, it also engaged Fellows and non-Fellows throughout the world through live streaming, as well as the launch of our much-praised Dan McKenzie archive website. Thanks to associated press coverage and the launch of our Plate Tectonic Stories education resource, we spread the word about our science and the work that we do to public audiences across the globe.

None of this could be delivered without the support and enthusiasm of our members. We're always keen to engage Fellows, both new and established, with the work the Society does, whether through membership of Society committees and working groups, contributions to our responses to government consultations or volunteering your time to communicate your science with public audiences. If you're interested in getting involved with any of these initiatives, we'd love to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads 'Richard Hughes'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Richard Hughes*

# A home for geoscience

Our conference programme, publications and Library are at the heart of the Society's work – stimulating, supporting and communicating geoscience research and its application.

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Over 200 delegates gathered in October for the 2017 William Smith Meeting, 'Plate Tectonics at 50'.  
Photo credit: Will Amlott.)

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**25**  
books published

**1247k**  
full-text downloads  
from the Lyell  
Collection, up 49%  
on 2016

**27,449**  
Library catalogue  
searches

**The twin focuses for our science programme in 2017 were our Year of Risk, and our celebrations of 50 years of plate tectonics linked to the landmark conference highlighted in the President's report (our William Smith meeting for the year). Both these themes stimulated innovation and collaboration not just in our scientific conferences, but in our education and public outreach activities.**

The range of risk-related meeting topics was undoubtedly the widest yet to arise from our series of themed years. The Year of Risk also brought interdisciplinary work to the fore, both within Earth sciences and more widely. This was exemplified by a pair of conferences held over a week in July, which provided a forum for sharing thinking about understanding and management

of risk and uncertainty – first between the mining and oil & gas lifecycles, and then across sectors as diverse as climate, natural hazards, aviation, the military and artificial intelligence. Heralded by our November 2016 Bryan Lovell Meeting on Water, Hazards and Risk, 2017 also featured conferences on: Building Resilience to Geohazards; Ground-Related Risk to Transport Infrastructure; The Evolution of Flooding and Flood Risk; and another successful Janet Watson early career symposium, this time on The Future of Contaminated Land Risk Assessment. This followed the formal launch of our newest Specialist Group, the Contaminated Land Group, at a fully booked meeting in March. Building on these hugely varied events, we are now working to develop a risk communications toolkit for geoscientists.

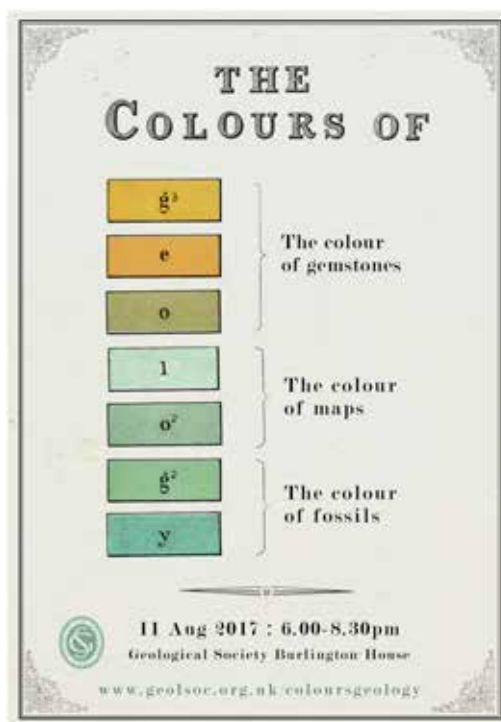
Other highlights of the meetings programme included a Lyell Meeting 'Sticking Together', on microbes and their role in forming sediments, and a FERMOR Meeting entitled 'Factory Earth'. The year closed with our second Bryan Lovell meeting on 'Mining for the Future', the launch event for our 2018 Year of Resources, which explored the challenge of sourcing the minerals we will need to deliver the Paris COP 21 Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a socially and environmentally acceptable way.

The Society's Publishing House had another highly successful year in 2017, including the publication of 25 books. Among recent publications which have had the greatest initial impact is the Atlas of Submarine Glacial Landforms (Memoir 46), which generated global news coverage and is the first atlas to provide high resolution imagery of the seafloor in the polar regions. Also expected to be transformative in its field is the Engineering Group working group report on Engineering Geology and Geomorphology of Glaciated and Periglaciated Terrains (EGSP28), an essential reference text for practitioners, academics and students working in these challenging ground conditions.

We were delighted to join with colleagues from the University of Portsmouth for the EG50 conference, celebrating 50 years both of engineering geology at the university and of our Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology. This event highlighted the journal's contribution to science and practice in the fields of terrain evaluation, quaternary geology, ground investigation, hydrogeology and contaminated land, among many others.

2017 also saw the launch of the new Lyell Collection website on the JCore platform, in collaboration with HighWire, our online hosting partner. The visually appealing and intuitive interface allows readers to discover featured articles, benefit from enhanced search functions and connect with over 29,000 articles online, more quickly and easily, whether on desktop, tablet or smartphone. The new site undoubtedly contributed to the 49% increase in downloads in 2017.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of our Library team this year was the launch of the wonderful Dan McKenzie Archive website, a key element of our plate tectonics celebrations. Through storytelling, and illustrated by papers and photographs from Professor McKenzie's personal archive which he so kindly donated to the Society, together with recorded interviews, the new site marks his remarkable contribution to our science and documents his interactions with many collaborators.



'The Colours of Geology' – a Library outreach event held as part of the Burlington House Courtyard Lates evening.

We launched our new online archive catalogue in 2017, providing access to the Society's archive collections catalogue for the first time. It includes descriptions of over 20,000 items, including letters, diaries, field books, drawings, prints and maps, as well as the Society's own historical records. Among the highlights are the papers of William Buckland, Adam Sedgwick, John MacCulloch and Etheldred Benett. The Picture Library was relaunched, and now includes a print-on-demand service. We also completed a Library inventory, during which over 8,000 volumes were preserved and 3,000 duplicate items withdrawn.

The Library's public engagement activities have gone from strength to strength. They included displays on 'Three Month Isle: the Story of Graham Island', 'F is for Fake' and 'The Colours of Geology' – the last two also providing the basis for outreach events hosted in the Library – as well as an exhibit of highlights from the McKenzie archive. We also attended the 'History Day' conference at Senate House in October, exhibiting to over two hundred history students and researchers, and loaned items from our historical collections to MUDEC (Milan's Museum of Culture) for their exhibition 'Rex and the City', and to the University of Cambridge Library for the 'Landscapes Below' exhibition.



Atlas of Submarine Glacial Landforms – launched at Burlington House in January.

# Geology for the benefit of all

Our aim is to raise awareness of geoscience considerations in UK policymaking for the benefit of science, profession and society and to seek out and maintain relationships with organisations both in the UK and around the world.

**Policy work in 2017 continued to be centred around the impact of the UK's decision to leave the European Union, as well as the implementation of the Higher Education and Research Act and the publication of the government's industrial strategy.**

The Society continues to raise awareness of the role and importance of geology in policymaking both in the UK and further afield. We do this through a number of activities, including responding to parliamentary and government inquiries and consultations, writing policy briefing notes and also through

our events, themed year programme and engagement with sister organisations.

The policy landscape as it relates to geoscience was dominated by ongoing work around the result of the EU referendum, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Green paper on the Industrial Strategy and the passage of The Higher Education and Research Act through parliament during spring of 2017.

The Society prepared a significant response to the Industrial Strategy green paper which covered, among other things, the

Delegates at the Geology for Global Development annual conference.





importance and value of mined materials in developing new technologies, the need for UK-wide and regional investment in geoscience skills, examples of where investment in geoscience industries has delivered important technological advances, the need for geoscience skills and materials in infrastructure development, implementation of carbon capture and storage and the role of geotourism in a successful tourism industry in the UK.

Following on from extensive consultations in 2016 on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the government finalised and passed the Higher Education and Research Act. The Act established UKRI (United Kingdom Research and Innovation), replacing Research Councils UK, and ushered in the TEF as well as a number of other high-level policies in what is a significant shake up of Higher Education policy. The Society responded to a number of associated consultations and inquiries on this area in collaboration with University Geoscience UK.

In addition to these significant areas of new policy, we also responded to a number of smaller inquiries including the Mineral Products Association's Draft UK Minerals Strategy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Energy Inquiry and parliamentary inquiries on research integrity and ocean acidification. Preparations continued for the launch of a new siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF) for higher level radioactive waste, and we have engaged with this work in various ways, most notably through the Independent Review Panel for the preliminary national geological screening exercise, which concluded its work in 2017. All of our policy work can be found on the Policy area of the Society website.

As part of our continued work engaging with the academic geoscience community, the Society ran a 2-day meeting entitled 'Future Science', together with University Geoscience UK, the British Geological Survey and the Royal Astronomical Society in February. The meeting featured presentations and discussion sessions focussing on major research questions and grand challenges in the future of geoscience and designing a roadmap to achieve this vision. The discussions from the meeting are being collated into a report due out in 2018. We also collaborated with University Geoscience UK to nominate panel members for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework exercise (REF 2021).

We continue to work with UK and international geoscience organisations in both collaborative and supportive roles. In November, Geology for Global Development held their fifth annual conference at the Society on the theme of cities and urbanisation. We are also continuing



our work with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) on professional standards in geology, and most recently have collaborated on the INTRAW and KINDRA Horizon 2020 projects. INTRAW fosters international cooperation on raw materials, whilst the KINDRA project focused on developing a knowledge inventory of EU-wide groundwater research and understanding. The Society held a workshop on the KINDRA project bringing those from academia, regulatory bodies and the British Geological Survey together to discuss the inventory tool.

Once again, we participated in Voice of the Future in March, an event organised by the Royal Society of Biology which gives young researchers the opportunity to question MPs. The Society also had a presence at the EGU annual conference in April in Vienna where we met with Fellows, promoted the work of the Society and convened a session on geoethics in collaboration with the International Association for Promoting Geoethics.

The Society continues to expand its network of Honorary Fellows, members of the geoscience community who are recognised for their achievements and as ambassadors of geological science around the world. In 2017, Prof Min Huh, formerly President of the Korean Geological Society, was elected as an Honorary Fellow along with Dr Vitor Correia, current President of EFG. Also recognised for his longstanding work with EFG and in exploration geology is Dr Markku Iljina from Finland who was elected in early 2018.

In addition to our longstanding partnerships, we are also exploring new working relationships with science and geological organisations in the UK and around the world. These include the Institute of Risk Management, with whom we collaborated to run the Managing Risks across the Oil and Gas Cycle Conference in July. During 2017, the International Association for Geoscience Diversity also became an Associated Society and plans are underway for activities taking place in 2018.

Cartoon created during September's Building Resilience to Geohazards conference (see page 6) by Chris Shipton, Live Illustrations.

7 successful REF 2021 panellist nominations by GSL and UGUK

10 policy consultation responses

6 students representing GSL in parliament at Voice of the Future

# Written in the rocks

Throughout 2017, our outreach work has focused on celebrating the narrative power of geology – from the stories of key researchers behind popularly known theories, to the plate tectonic history of the UK and Ireland.

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Dan McKenzie at the Plate Tectonics at 50 conference, alongside an exhibition of his archives. Credit: Will Amlott.

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**50.6k**

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram followers

**20**

UK & Ireland Plate Tectonic Stories sites

**10**

public lectures at Burlington House

**There are few concepts in geology more popularly known than plate tectonics – how often do we hear the phrase ‘tectonic shift’ used by the media and politicians? The theory is so embedded in our minds that it’s easy to forget how recent it is. 2017 saw our celebrations of the 50th anniversary of plate tectonic theory with a programme of outreach and education events, media campaigns and associated resources.**

Dan McKenzie and Robert Parker’s landmark paper ‘The North Pacific: an Example of Tectonics on a Sphere’ (Nature, December 1967) marked the beginning of a revolution in the Earth sciences. Our celebration of the anniversary focused around the hugely

successful ‘Plate Tectonics at 50’ conference, (3-5 October), and the launch of a website showcasing the newly catalogued Dan McKenzie archive and associated exhibition. A media campaign resulted in widespread coverage, including a segment on the Today Programme, the BBC Online feature ‘Plate tectonics: When we discovered how the Earth really works’, a Nature Editorial and a number of other BBC radio features. In conjunction with the event, we launched ‘Plate Tectonic Stories’ – an online resource focusing on 20 sites in the UK and Ireland which record key plate tectonic processes, along with their ‘twin’ sites overseas. The project also saw the launch of a competition, inviting the public to tell us their own plate tectonic stories.

Our annual celebration of the geology of the UK and Ireland, Earth Science Week, took as its theme 'Our Restless Earth' to mark the 50th anniversary. As well as a thriving programme of events on home soil, the week is becoming increasingly international – associated activities were organised in India, the Democratic Republic of Congo and by our Hong Kong regional group, as well as the annual celebrations organised in the US, Australia, Canada and a number of European countries. Earth Science Week saw the announcement of the winners of our 2017 photography competition, also on the theme of Our Restless Earth, which were featured in The Guardian, Daily Mail and Amateur Photographer Magazine.

Plate tectonics also provided the theme for much of our education and outreach activities in 2017. Collaboration with the British Geological Survey resulted in the creation of a floor map representing global earthquake and volcanic activity, which we took to the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival in May, as well as incorporating into an Earth Science Week event for A Level students at Burlington House. As well as plate tectonics, the map marked our theme for 2017, The Year of Risk, which featured prominently in our series of ten public lectures at Burlington House, as well as providing a focus for the fourth annual Great Geobakeoff – a competition which continues to grow in popularity on social media.

Our in-house education activities thrived during 2017, with record levels of attendance at the National Schools Geology Challenge and Early Career Award finals in May – so much so that 2018 will see the separation of these two finals into separate events. We also held another successful Geoscience Education Academy in July, including a microscope workshop kindly sponsored by Zeiss. 2017 saw a huge increase in the suite of resources the Society offers to schools, including increasing numbers of fact sheets, presentations and activities. In addition, we launched our STEM Ambassador scheme in collaboration with STEM Learning, to encourage more geologists to visit schools and talk about their subject.

February saw the Society hosting an exhibition organised by TrowelBlazers in collaboration with artist Leonora Saunders. 'Raising Horizons' celebrates female geologists, palaeontologists and archaeologists throughout history, and is currently on tour around the UK. We are increasingly collaborating with artists in our outreach work – 2017 also saw our involvement in a project organised by artist Tereza Stehlikova, 'Journey to the Interior', using the work of George Bellas Greenough as inspiration for a participatory performance as part of



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Members of our Education Department with colleagues from the British Geological Survey at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival.

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London's Open Senses weekend, held at the Dissenter's Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery. We also took part once again in London's annual Open House event in September, welcoming 1150 visitors to Burlington House.

Beyond Burlington House, we attended a number of events during 2017 to talk about our science, geology careers and what the Society has to offer. In September, we attended New Scientist Live for the first time – an exhibition at the Excel Centre which saw over 30,000 visitors over three days. A number of Fellows and other volunteers provided 'Ask a Geologist' sessions, with members of the public able to talk to them about their work and handle samples. We also held Careers Days in Edinburgh and Nottingham, where geology students could find out more about the careers on offer after their graduation. In October, our Geoconservation Committee held its Annual Gathering in Belfast, which also saw the launch of the Northern Ireland Geodiversity Charter, designed to provide guidance to help safeguard Northern Ireland's rocks and landscapes.

Finally, we were thrilled to see the continuing legacy of our 100 Great Geosites project with Society Fellow Ashley Reinhardt's Great Geology Cycle – visiting all 100 of the sites on two wheels in a six month trip. Ashley finished her journey at Burlington House, where she delivered a talk about her experience at the launch of Earth Science Week – a fitting opener to the week which launched the 100 Great Geosites project in 2014.



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Plate Tectonic Stories – a new web resource and competition.

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# Serving and supporting the profession

The Geological Society provides support to its Fellows and the wider professional geoscience community, and promotes high professional standards, for the public benefit.



The Science Council and Royal Academy of Engineering launch their Diversity and Inclusion Framework (Photo credit: Pat Langford Photography).

**The pathway to professional formation and recognition begins at university, where our accreditation scheme helps to ensure that degree programmes meet the needs of students and employers.**



**The Geological Society**

*accredited degree programme*

There were newly accredited degree programmes during 2017 at the University of Bristol and at Royal Holloway University of London, in addition to many re-accreditations. This brings the number of accredited undergraduate programmes to 175 (including overseas and industrial placement variants), and of taught MSc programmes to 11. We also accredited the Training Academy Programme of the NERC Centre for Doctoral Training in Oil and Gas at Heriot Watt University – the first such programme we have accredited.

There were also five additions to our list of accredited company training programmes in 2017, at HRH Geology, LAM Geotechnics, Leap Environmental, AECOM and WYG. This relatively recent innovation in our accreditation scheme is now firmly established and clearly valued, with a total of 36 company training programmes accredited.

The number of Chartered Geologists, as well as the Fellowship overall, has grown steadily year on year, and this continued in 2017. The value placed on Chartership is underpinned by the rigorous maintenance and application of professional standards, and it is vital that these are periodically reviewed and tested. Our Chartership Audit Committee carried out a full

internal review of our systems during the year, and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Although the number of Chartership applicants had increased from 112 to 205 a year since the last full audit in 2011, high standards have been maintained, and were found to be applied thoroughly, fairly and consistently.

Our commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion in geoscience is now enshrined in our 10-year strategy. Making our science and profession open to all, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status or any other attribute, is both the right thing to do and vital for the future of the profession. To benchmark our achievements so far and help us make further progress across the full range of our activities, we took part in the Diversity and Inclusion Progression Framework exercise run by the Science Council and Royal Academy of Engineering, which we helped to pilot in 2016. This will be repeated annually, and provides an effective vehicle for structuring our work in this area.

We were delighted to welcome the International Association for Geoscience Diversity as an Associated Society in 2017, and are now working with UK members to launch its first national chapter in June 2018. We held our first workshop to support university departments seeking to apply for or renew Athena SWAN status through the Equality Challenge Unit. The Society also plays a leading role in promoting diversity and inclusion in geoscience internationally, and has been an active participant in an AGI working group to develop guidelines for its member bodies on harassment and discrimination in the full range of educational, professional and other geoscience settings. These will be published in 2018, and we will be reviewing our own policies and practices to ensure they are in line with these best practice guidelines.

**12,409**

Fellows in mid-2017

**2719**

Chartered Geologists in mid-2017

**175**

accredited undergraduate programmes

# Implementing our 10-year strategy

From the Treasurer



As in previous years, I will concentrate on the underlying performance of the Society's activities by discussing mainly the financial outcome before reflection of unrealised or accounting value changes which contribute to the overall reported financial outturn. Whilst it is gratifying that the Society's investment portfolio increased in value by £365k during 2017, the portfolio is being steered towards a more defensive position to limit the downside risk of likely future market volatility. Conversely, the 2017 losses of £154k on foreign exchange obscure the realisation in early 2017 of around £242k of unrealised year-end 2016 gains through the conversion to sterling of a portion of the Society's US dollar holdings.

If investment/foreign exchange gains and losses are removed, the net income surplus of £219k was slightly higher than 2016 and ahead of budget, although flattered by delayed completion of the IT upgrade project which meant that around £100k of depreciation charges were not incurred in 2017. The impact of the depressed natural resources sector continues to be felt in terms of Corporate Affiliate subscriptions, event income and perhaps Fellowship subscriptions, which continue to grow albeit at lower rates than recent prior years. From a positive perspective, fellowship growth is not common amongst learned societies.

Considerable effort was invested in 2017 by staff, Trustees and committee members to develop a 3-year business plan from the broad objectives and aspirations set in the 10-year strategy. Robust income is required in order to implement this plan and overall income (excluding gains/losses, as above) continues to increase gently (£5.4M – 2014, £5.5M – 2015, £5.75M – 2016, and 2017 – £5.8M).

Overall expenditure is also on a general rising trend (£4.75M – 2014, £5.2M – 2015, £5.5M – 2016, and 2017 – £5.5M) and will continue to track income as we implement the business plan. Several new staff have been recruited in the Publishing House to alleviate excessive workloads and to develop and protect revenue streams. Publishing House

income remains strong in an uncertain sector and is a significant financial contributor to the Society whilst enhancing the Society's external reputation through the dissemination of high quality, peer-reviewed science. In line with a recommendation from a 2017 review of the potential for philanthropic support for the Society's activities, it is planned to recruit a head of development in 2018.

The development of dependable, regular financial reporting by Jonathan Silk and his team has allowed the Society to budget in a way that permits commitment during the year to additional activities based on the developing financial performance. Jonathan has made huge strides over the last four years in improving the Society's accounts and financial processes in particular, for which I sincerely thank him and wish him well in his chosen move to seek new challenges outside the Society.

As noted in previous years, the Society's ageing accounting and Fellowship services IT systems were no longer fit for purpose and new accounting software was implemented in 2017. Due in part to issues with historic Fellowship databases, implementation of the Fellowship services software has been protracted but is expected to be in use by the time that Fellows read this report.

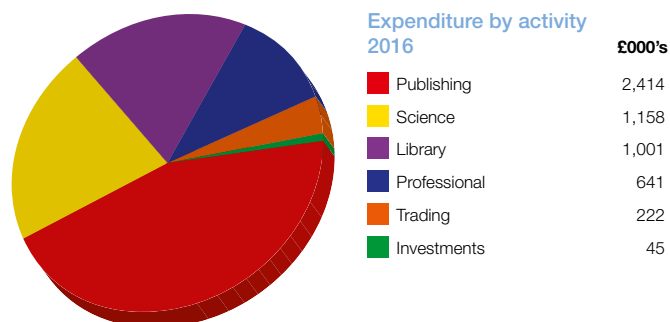
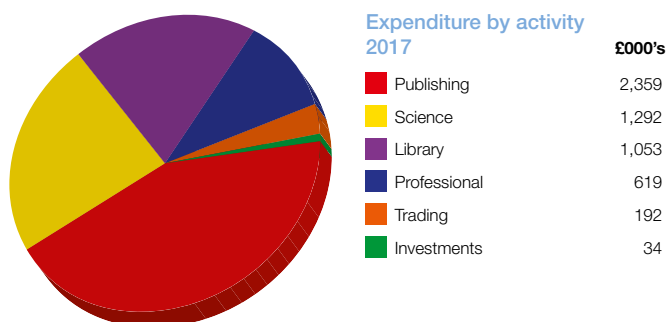
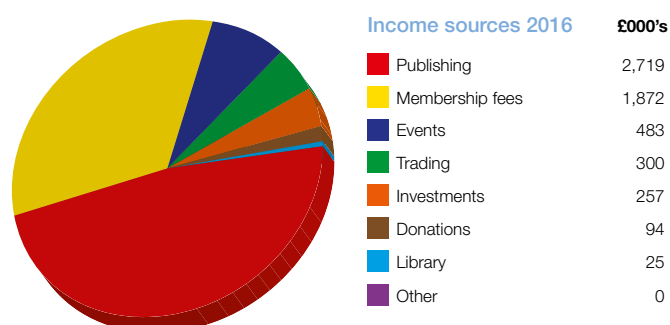
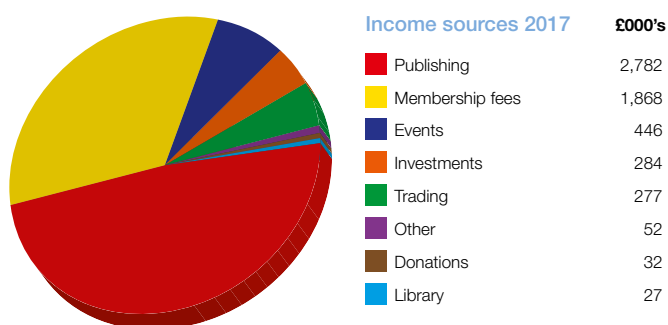
Finally, the Society continues to set aside funds to mitigate future costs regarding its Burlington House premises and to pursue routes to secure its long-term tenure here. There has been some engagement with the relevant government department during 2017 and Council is forming an ad hoc work group to assess possible options and contingencies in anticipation of further dialogue with government in 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Goffey', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Graham Goffey

# Society finances 2017

The full financial report and accounts, and a PDF of this Review, may be downloaded at [www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2017](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/annualreview2017).



**2017 funds** £000's

Endowment funds	2,024
Restricted income	864
Unrestricted income	2,024



2017 funds

**2016 funds** £000's

Endowment funds	1,909
Restricted income	848
Unrestricted income	7,307



2016 funds

(NB 2016 figures are re-stated following prior year adjustments included at 2017 year-end)

# Corporate Affiliates

The Society extends its sincere thanks to all its Corporate Affiliates

## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Bronze

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (UK); Anglo American Plc; Berkeley Energia; C & C Reservoirs Ltd; CL:AIRE; Dong E&P Services (UK) Ltd; ENI UK Ltd; ERC Equipoise Ltd; GETECH; Heritage Oil (UK) Ltd; Ikon Science Ltd; INEOS Upstream Ltd; JLT Speciality; John Wiley & Sons Ltd; Lukoil International; Maersk Oil North Sea UK Ltd; NAE; Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd; Norton Rose Fulbright; NPA-CGG Services UK Ltd; Ophir Energy Company Ltd; PGS Exploration (UK) Ltd; Premier Oil Plc; Ramboll UK Ltd; Robertson (UK) Ltd; RPS Energy; Sasol UK Ltd; Siccar Point Energy; Tarmac Ltd; Tullow Oil Plc; Wolf Minerals; Wood Mackenzie.

If your organisation would like to find out more about the benefits of becoming an Affiliate, please contact [georgina.worrall@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:georgina.worrall@geolsoc.org.uk)

In addition to the companies listed above, the Society wishes to record its sincere thanks to all the companies, universities and other organisations that allowed their staff the time and resources to participate in voluntary Society activities.



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Cover: Front (clockwise from top right) Volunteers at Earth Science Week in Pune, India c. Rajiv Pandit, President, Jividha; 'Subterranean' (White Scar Caves) c. Gina Williams; The Geoscience Education Academy; Petroleum Group Annual Dinner at the Natural History Museum; Joel Gill & Rebekah Williams at New Scientist Live; delegates at the Plate Tectonics at 50 conference c. Will Amlott; The Dan McKenzie archive website; 'Connemara National Park, County Galway' c. Ankit Verma; Plate Tectonics Passport in collaboration with the British Geological Survey. Back: 'Cliff-top overlooking Loch Maree' c. Emma Smith.  
Text: Nic Bilham, Florence Bullough, Sarah Day  
Editor: Sarah Day  
Designed and printed by Witherbys

