

**Edinburgh Geological Society**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**7pm Wednesday 27 January 2016, Grant Institute**

**Present**

Christine Thompson (Chair) and 30 members as listed in the attached Attendance Sheets.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Anne Burgess, Mel Farquharson, Graham Leslie, Bob Gatliff, Angus Miller and Fiona McGibbon.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting 28 January 2015**

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposer: Anita Cutting. Seconder: Averil Hope-Smith

**President's Report**

The President reported that the Society had had another busy and successful year in pursuit of its objectives; the stimulation and encouragement of public interest in geology and the advancement of geological knowledge. An excellent programme of 11 lectures took place during the Session 2014-2015, ably organised by Lectures Secretary Graham Leslie. The Clough Medal Lecture was delivered by Professor Rob Strachan, and the Clough Award Lecture by Dr Nick Schofield. The Fellows' Night programme of short talks, the last which would be held in Murchison House, was arranged by EGS Secretary Beverly Bergman, and was followed by an enjoyable cheese and wine party arranged by John Mendum. The President expressed her thanks to all speakers and organisers.

A summer programme of 7 day and 4 evening excursions was organised and run by Mel Farquharson, Excursions Secretary, supported by Vice-President Richard Smith and Secretary Beverly Bergman. The President expressed her thanks to them, and to the excursion leaders who voluntarily gave of their time and expertise. Anne Burgess broke new ground by organizing the Society's first overseas excursion, to Selje on the west coast of Norway. It was enormously successful, thanks to Anne's superb organisational skills and the expert knowledge and leadership of Dr Simon Cuthbert. A full report will appear in the next issue of The Edinburgh Geologist.

After 6 years in post, Treasurer Bob Morley is retiring, and Christian Ranken was welcomed in his place. The President paid a heartfelt tribute to Bob's professional expertise and vigilance in keeping the Society in good financial shape. He had been a vital member of the Finance and Planning Committee and had worked hard to help to bring the 5-year Strategy into being. Progress towards implementation of the Strategy had already seen the publication of the long-awaited Stirling and Perth Excursion Guide, savings in overseas postage costs, a survey of members' views on the excursion programme, improvements to the Scottish Journal of Geology and the awarding of a substantial number of grants in furtherance of the Society's objectives. The Committee had also drawn up a budget forecast for the new financial year. The President expressed her gratitude to the Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee Andrew Rushworth for steering the process, and also to the retiring Secretary of the Committee Rhona Fraser.

Also recently resigned from Council were former President Angus Macpherson, whose wisdom and knowledge would be greatly missed, and Angus Miller who had served Council tirelessly as both past Secretary and as Publications Sales Officer, and had recently masterminded the move of the Society's publications into commercial storage. He continues to manage the website, for which the Society is extremely grateful. Other retiring members of Council are Colin MacFadyen, whose advice on fieldwork and collecting policy has been much valued; Phil Stone, who stands down as an Ordinary Member of Council but will continue to edit The Edinburgh Geologist (see below); and Rob Duck who has given sterling service as one of the two Scientific Editors for many years.

The President expressed her thanks to the people who were remaining on Council: Fiona McGibbon and her team of envelope-stuffers who always achieved timely dispatch of the Billet, David Stephenson for his chairmanship of the Publications Committee and for editing a number of EGS publications, and Barbara Clarke for her important role as Membership Secretary. Mike Browne continued to chair Lothian and Borders GeoConservation; during the year he was made a Distinguished Fellow in recognition of his many years of valued service to the Society.

Finally the President expressed thanks to the British Geological Survey who had hosted Fellows' Nights and a wide range of EGS meetings for many years. BGS will be moving from Murchison House to the Heriot-Watt campus in the Spring. The move has necessitated the rehousing of the Society's publications to commercial storage, whilst the EGS's archives have been taken on by the Library of the University of Edinburgh under a Deed of Gift, where they will be catalogued and will be accessible for research. Bob McIntosh was thanked for his role in achieving a permanent home for the archives.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer Bob Morley presented his last annual report in that role before stepping down. He took members through the Statement of Financial Activities in the Annual Report and pointed out a net surplus of £510 on the year. The main source of income was subscriptions, to which Gift Aid provided a valuable top-up and all members who were eligible were encouraged to ensure that their subscriptions were Gift Aided. The main item of expenditure was on lectures, followed by Billets and The Edinburgh Geologist, whilst governance costs, insurance, stationery, postage and funds management charges were other necessary sources of expenditure. The excursion programme aimed to break even, so was financially neutral. Both income and expenditure were little changed year on year. Any surplus income over expenditure went towards geological leaflets and grants/awards. In restricted funds, the income from the Clough and Mykura Funds was available for fieldwork grants (awarded annually), whilst funding for the Rocks for Schools programme (predominantly funded by a donation from Conoco Phillips) supported the provision of teaching kits to schools. Other donations during the year had been made to support the Scotland Rocks! schools conference, exhibition boards for the North West Highlands Geopark, the part-funding of berths for young Earth scientists on the Testimony of the Rocks voyage and a donation to the Friends of Hugh Miller. The Treasurer concluded by summarizing that the Society's finances were healthy.

### **Election of Council Members**

Nominations to Council had been published in the Billet and on the website, although there was one late amendment to the published list; Andrew Rushworth was standing for election again as Asst Sec (Finance and Planning), in place of the vacancy shown in the Billet. None of the posts had more than one nominee so no vote was required. The nominations were proposed by Ken Grant and seconded by James Floyd.

The following were elected:

President	Stuart Monro
Vice-President	Bob Gatliff
Vice-President	Emrys Phillips
Immediate Past President	Christine Thompson
Honorary Secretary	Beverly Bergman
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Barbara Clarke
Excursions Secretary	Mel Farquharson
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie
Publications Committee Chair	David Stephenson
Asst Secretary (Finance/Planning)	Andrew Rushworth
Asst Secretary (Billet)	Fiona McGibbon

Asst Secretary (Awards)	Graham Leslie
Librarian & Archivist	<i>Vacant</i>
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron
Ordinary Members	Mike Browne
	Richard Smith
	Richard Buxton
	Alison Tymon
	Chris Lofthouse
	<i>Vacant</i>
Scientific Editors	Maarten Krabbendam
	Breandán MacGabhann
Independent Examiner	J Cordery (Gibson McKerrell Brown)

The retiring President Christine Thompson welcomed the new members of Council and members appointed to new office.

### **Further Business**

The Editor of The Edinburgh Geologist, Phil Stone, reported that the publication had now reached 15 issues under his editorship, assisted by Bob McIntosh. Volunteers to take over as Editor in due course are sought, and are encouraged to contact Phil for more information on the role.

There being no more business, the meeting closed at 7:35 pm and members then heard a lecture given by **Hamish Johnston**, great-great-grandson of Professor Matthew Forster Heddle (1828-97), entitled "**Matthew Forster Heddle, Mineralogist, Mountaineer and former EGS president**".