



Landscape Research Group Ltd

Directors' Report, 2010

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

13 August, 2011

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the twenty-eighth period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2010. 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 the Inland Revenue for taxation purposes.

2. DIRECTORS, BANKERS, AUDITORS AND SECRETARY

Directors who served during the year were:

Dr Ian H. Thompson	(Chair**, and Consulting Editor)
Prof. Tim Collins	(Vice Chair**)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary**, and Treasurer**)
Mr Robert Aitken	[Director to 9 September 2010]
Prof. Nathalie Blanc	
Prof. Catherine Brace	(Associate Editor)
Dr Emily Brady	
Mr John Gittins	(Coordinator, Networking and Outreach Activity*)
Mr Peter Herring	
Prof. Peter J. Howard	(Coordinator, International Activity*)
Dr Antonia Noussia	
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	(Associate Editor)
Prof. Hannes Palang	
Dr George Revill	
Mr Gareth Roberts	(Coordinator, Events Activity*)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> *)
Dr Susanne Seymour	
Mr Paul Tabbush	
Prof. Ken Taylor	(Associate Editor)
Dr Emma Waterton	(Coordinator, Website Activity*)
Dr Kathryn Yussof	

The posts shown with a double-asterisk (**) are the Officers of the Group who, together with the activity Coordinators shown with an asterisk (*), comprise the Executive.

Of the twenty Directors at 31 December 2010, twelve are British. The eight other Directors hold citizenship as follows: Prof. Blanc holds French citizenship; Dr Noussia holds Greek citizenship; Dr Brady, Prof. Collins and Prof. Olwig hold United States citizenship; Dr Waterton and Prof. Taylor hold dual British/Australian citizenship; and Prof Palang holds Estonian citizenship.

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

Reporting Accountants are: Hepburn and Co, 89A The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QE.

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

3. BOARD AND EXECUTIVE

(i) Board of Directors

The Board met on three occasions during 2010, on 5 May, 8 September and 1 December. There were no email decisions during the year made separately from decisions at Board meetings.

(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 four coordinators for other activities. The Executive's Chair is the Chair of the Board, Ian Thompson.

(iii) Business Strategy and related Board decisions

Last year's report noted that during 2008 and 2009 the Executive and Board had worked on six key issues that affect the long-term direction of the Group:

- the future of *Landscape Research*;
- preparing for a significant change of officers in 2009 and appointing new Directors to bring fresh capacity, skills and perspectives to the Board;
- the long-term strategy for *Landscape Research Extra*;
- the effectiveness of the Research and Networking Committee;
- the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; and
- possible collaboration between the Group and the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) *Landscape and Environment Programme*.

The immediate tasks underlying the decisions made on the first four of these issues were brought to completion in 2009, having been informed by a two-day facilitated 'away-day' event in October 2009. A key activity in 2010 has therefore been to implement the agreed ways forward, especially in relation to replacing the former Editorial Committee and Research & Networking Committee by a series of activity networks each led by a 'Coordinator'. An integral part of this work has been to identify how activity can be developed around the two thematic priorities of Climate Change and the European Landscape Convention (the latter being one of the six key issues above, which the Group has consistently progressed over a period of years), and also to identify how best to take forward further links between the Group and AHRC.

As ever, the time-pressures on individual Directors (who undertake their roles in a purely voluntary capacity) have proved problematic, and some of the new activity networks have progressed more rapidly than others. Nonetheless, the Board feels that the new arrangements promise to deliver a

fuller range of activity than was previously possible, although it recognises that progress will need to be reviewed in late 2011 (by which time the new arrangements will have been in place for a year).

4. 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.

It comprises the Editor and Associate Editors of *Landscape Research*; two other Board members not directly involved in *Landscape Research* 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 representative(s) from Taylor & Francis Ltd. The Chair of the Board is the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2010, Maggie Roe.

(ii) *Landscape Research*

Feedback from various sources indicates that *Landscape Research* continues to be a respected international journal, and that the Publishing Agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd continues to be effective. In this respect, a key achievement has been to expand the journal from five to six issues annually, with effect from January 2010. This expansion responds to the growing number of submissions we are receiving and the demand for space for quality research papers.

Six issues of the journal (comprising Volume 35) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue contained six papers on the theme of landscape aesthetics, knowledge flows and the meanings of and attachments to landscape, in relation to rural, suburban and urban spaces which examined theoretical, policy and practice issues. They included an assessment of the meaning of natural beauty in landscape legislation, with particular reference to the United Kingdom; a study of non-farm landowners' motivations for rural living and attachment to their land, in Ontario (Canada); a study of how 'small decisions' by suburban landowners affects the ecological quality of an area, and how improved knowledge flows could lead to better ecological decisions; an assessment of the factors affecting user interest and visiting patterns to children's outdoor play areas, and their implications for playground design; an analysis of the differences between artistic depiction of landscape and real landscapes, with reference to the ancient Chinese 'Bajing' genre of landscape painting; and an analysis of the role of complexity in landscape experience, and its implications for linking landscape indicators with landscape preference in future research. The issue also contained five book reviews.
- (ii) The **April** issue was a special issue containing six papers on the landscapes of energies, in the context of the need to combat climate change and global warming. The opening paper presents an introduction to the theme, considering the empirical and theoretical potential of developing research networks in this area, and suggesting a research agenda to explore the evolving relationship between landscape and energy. The substantive papers consider the potential for changing public perceptions about the need for landscape change, as a necessary part of accepting the new technologies that will be part of the inevitable need for landscapes of carbon neutrality; the potential landscape impacts of biomass energy; the transition of North Frisia and Dithmarschen (Germany) from mainly agricultural coastal landscapes into wind energy

landscapes; planning wind power landscapes in Aude (southern France) to avoid harm to birds; and the institutional and social processes through which river and hydropower landscapes have emerged in Spanish water policy, and the associated growth of environmental concerns.

- (iii) The **June** issue contained six papers on varied topics. They included an appraisal of how political driving forces (for example, for new roads, buildings and land-use practices) shape landscape change, based on the Limmat Valley in Switzerland; a study of the perception of plants in ancient times and their use as motifs in cultural landscapes, in the ancient city of Side (Turkey); a study of the differences between western professional and indigenous groups in New Zealand in expressing and locating landscape qualities, leading to a model that might better express the multiple qualities of landscapes; an assessment of the conflicts between perception and reality in the management of alien species in forest ecosystems, based on a case study in Hordaland (western Norway); a study of the perceptions of differing user groups to land cover diversity, and its implications for landscape diversity management and conservation, in Stolsheimen (western Norway); and a study of recent landscape evolution on a Mediterranean island, Syros in Greece. The issue also contained four book reviews.
- (iv) The **August** issue contained six papers, four of which were on the theme of landscape change and regional identity. The special section included an introduction to the theme, including an outline of the role of the Permanent European Conference for the Conservation of the Rural Landscape (PECSRL) as a pan-European network for landscape researchers¹; an assessment of the potential of ecomuseums in strategies for local sustainable development in rural areas, based on research in Marche (Italy); a study of the factors underlying agricultural change at the small scale, and their impact on landscape change in the olive plantations of Lesvos island (Greece); and an assessment of how the interaction of land management agencies with the ideas and knowledge of local people can influence rural landscape management, based on research in Argyll (Scotland). The other two papers presented a wide-ranging review of the cultural heritage of roads and road landscape, presenting a model for evaluating their cultural and economic values; and an interdisciplinary analysis of the sustainability of hedgerow network landscapes, based on a case study in northern Brittany (France).
- (v) The **October** issue contained four papers on varied topics, together with a short research communication. The papers presented studies of how changing perceptions of space and territoriality, politics and desire configured the landscape in post-revolutionary France; the transformation of fragmented urban landscapes from the Soviet to post-Soviet period, in Estonia; the implications of highway permeability for restoring landscape connectivity between protected areas, based on a case study in the Basque country (Spain); and the impact of public participation on the effectiveness of, and users' attachment to, urban neighbourhood parks in Taipei (Taiwan). The short communication provides a clarification of the concept of landscape complexity, suggesting that there is no single 'landscape complexity' but three separate types of landscape complexities that need to be woven together in future research and thinking.
- (vi) The December issue was a special theme issue containing seven papers on landscape change and rural development. The opening paper presents an introduction to the theme, summarising the key factors involved, exploring the importance of interchanging theoretical and methodological approaches, and emphasising the importance of a landscape research agenda in providing a useful bridge between different disciplines, approaches and methods. The substantive papers consider the role of agri-environmental policies in preserving the characteristics of agricultural landscapes, based on a case study of cultivation terraces in Lesvos island (Greece); the tensions between rural development and environmental regulation in the way farming livelihoods and landscapes are changing, based on a Devon (England) case

¹ The Group has been actively involved in PECSRL for several years as part of its international networking activity; see previous Directors' Reports.

study; the sugar industry's impact on the wet tropical coast landscape and on the Great Barrier Reef of Queensland (Australia); the way functional and structural changes in agricultural landscapes are conceived by local farmers in Denmark; the social productivity of farming in terms of landscape as a symbolic resource for place-making, based on a case study in southern Alentejo (Portugal); and differences in preferences towards potential future landscapes in the Swiss Alps.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research's* Editor and Associate Editors – Maggie Roe, Catherine Brace, Kenneth Olwig and Ken Taylor – and their supporting editorial team for their work during the year. The supporting editorial team has expanded during the year, to support the expansion of the journal, and includes Book Reviews Editor Mick Atha (Andy Law until March 2010); Assistant Editor (Europe) Tom Mels; and (since August 2010) two further Assistant Editors, Anna Jorgensen and Sam Turner. The Editorial Assistant remains Crista Ermiya, who provides the administrative and editorial support that is necessary for the smooth production of the journal.

The two overseas Associate Editors, Kenneth Olwig and Ken Taylor, have continued their work to secure more overseas material (Kenneth Olwig focusing on Europe and North America, and Ken Taylor on the Asia-Pacific region) to enable the expansion of the journal. The Board is again pleased to report a continued increase in the number of papers originating in those areas, and the related development of special and theme issues.

(iii) Research project, University of Newcastle

One element of the Editorial Support Agreement originally negotiated with the University of Newcastle in 2007 was the provision of a small grant (£2000 annually) to promote landscape-related research at the University. This grant was provided to recognise, in a notional way, the large amount of time spent by the Editor in producing the journal.

The grant continues to be used in two main areas: support for research student development and for development of research themes, in particular ELC implementation, green infrastructure planning, new cultural landscapes and heritage values. The funding continues to support individuals to attend conferences and seminars, particularly to give papers that furthers their own research and that of the University's Landscape Group, with the aim of encouraging further research projects and/or publications. The support arrangement requires the individuals to provide a short report on the activity and/or provide the paper presented.

5. EVENTS, RESEARCH AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

(i) Coordination of Activity

As noted above, new arrangements for developing and promoting events, research and networking activity in all areas other than publication of *Landscape Research*, came into effect during 2010. The Coordinators for these activities during the year were:

- delivery of Events - Gareth Roberts;
- development and active management of the Website - Emma Waterton;
- promotion of Networking and Outreach Activity (including prizes, research and public relations) - John Gittins; and
- development of International Activity and contacts - Peter Howard

In addition, a key events, research and networking activity remains the production of *Landscape Research Extra*. As noted in last year's report, Bud Young continues as Editor although now retired as a Director.

The new arrangements are taking time to 'bed in', particularly in terms of the four Coordinators' progress in formulating and recommending on a future events, research and networking strategy to the Executive, because in the first year they have focused on a series of urgent initiatives in some of the individual areas of activity. Nonetheless, significant activity has been successfully undertaken in 2010 as summarised below.

(ii) Events

The main event activities during the year were sponsoring the European Landscape Architecture Students Association (ELASA) conference (Edinburgh, April 2010), and organising and sponsoring two sessions at the joint Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers annual conference (London, September 2010). The proposed conference on aspects of "Romantic Landscapes" in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, originally planned for 2010, was regrettably unable to proceed.

The ELASA conference involved 40 students from 18 European countries, and focused on the theme "landscape architecture: back to basics". The programme was split between Edinburgh and the rural highlands around Aberfeldy, and involved a series of workshops, lectures, discussions and field work. Unfortunately attendance was reduced because of travel difficulties resulting from the Iceland volcano, but nonetheless the event was successful and stimulating, and considered by the Board to be a good use of funds. Advance notice of the programme was reported in *Landscape Research Extra 53*, and a full post-event report was provided in *LRE 54*.

The Group organised and sponsored two sessions at the RGS/IBG annual conference, on "Post-Industrial Landscapes – Insights from Art, Geography and Landscape Architecture" (co-sponsored by the Landscape Institute) and "Landscape and Living with Environmental Challenge and Change". The sessions were well-attended, by 20 and 35 people respectively. Each session opened with an introduction to the Group and to *Landscape Research*, and both sessions generated a lively and interesting range of discussion points. Advance notice of the programme was reported in *Landscape Research Extra 53*, and a full post-event report was provided in *LRE 55*. The papers from both sessions are going to be gathered together into a special issue of *Landscape Research*, subject to the usual refereeing procedures.

Other event-related activity during the year has focused on progressing three events for 2011 and 2012. The first will be a two-day field meeting on aspects of "Afforestation, Landscape and Ecosystems" to be held in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, in June 2011. The second is a public lecture (which, if successful, might become an annual event) to be held in London, planned for December 2011. The third is a conference on "Ethics and Aesthetics of Architecture and Environment" which will take place at Newcastle University, in July 2012.

(iii) Website and Information Activity

Last year's report noted that good progress had been made in 2008 and 2009 on initial work to enhance the website, to enable it to become a lively and active site, with a major expansion of content which will be regularly updated; facilities to enable 'internal workflow management' between Directors (for example, to assist with reviewer activity related to the Student Awards Prize Scheme); and eventually with keyword function and hyperlinks to and from relevant sites. This progress has continued apace during 2010, coordinated by Emma Waterton with substantial support from Tim Collins. By the end of 2010, the site has been completely re-designed and much of the planned new content has been added. It is planned that this work will be completed to enable the new site to go "live" during 2011.

Last year's report noted that the Board had agreed that it might be desirable to re-publish the *Development of the European Landscape Convention*, originally published following the 1992 conference at Blois on *Landscapes in a New Europe: Unity and Diversity*, with a new supporting editorial that brings together a progress report. Considerable work was done to assess the practicality of this proposal, and the likely demand for an updated publication, but after careful thought it has been decided that there is not sufficient up-to-date content to warrant re-publishing.

(iv) Network and Outreach Activity: the Annual Student Awards Prize Scheme

The Group has organised a prize scheme for student dissertations that contribute to our 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).

In 2010 prizes were judged and awarded for undergraduate and graduate (Masters) work completed in 2009, in a range of landscape-related fields. The judges were Emily Brady, Tim Collins, John Gittins, Gareth Roberts and Susanne Seymour.

To encourage further excellence in the field, and particularly to promote Masters-level entries, the Masters-level first prizes were increased in 2010 from £250 to £350. All prize winners (both undergraduate and graduate) continue to receive a year's free membership of LRG.

In relation to the undergraduate competition (2010), five entries were received for best dissertation based on original academic research and showing conceptual sophistication in the study of landscape (Category A), and four for best dissertation addressing a practical problem or landscape design issue (Category B). The nine dissertations were from students at seven institutions. The standard was high in both categories. The judges awarded four prizes: two first prizes of £250 and two 'highly commended' prizes of £100 (all including a year's free membership of LRG). The first prize winners were – for Category A – Philip Kirby (Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London) whose dissertation was entitled *Ground control: Felt landscape and the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign*; and – for Category B – Samantha Jackson (Geography, University of Edinburgh) with a dissertation entitled *An assessment of the value of terrestrial carbon payback calculations to the development of Scotland's renewable industry: A case study of Onshore Wind*. The two highly commended entries were both in Category A – by Delphi Jarrett (Geography & the Environment, University of Oxford) with a dissertation entitled *Rethinking Urban Publicness: A Case Study of Graffiti in Berlin* and Michael Hughes (Geography, Durham University) with a dissertation entitled *Reassessing Peltier's model of Glacial Isostatic Adjustment through lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic analysis of Holocene sediments in the Wirral, North West England*.

With regard to the Masters' prize (2010) four entries were received for best dissertation in Category A, and one for Category B. The five dissertations were from students at five different institutions. The judges awarded three first prizes of £350 (all including a year's free membership of LRG). The winning entries were – for Category A – Alan Gillingwater (Geography, University of Sheffield) whose dissertation was entitled *Visions of Ringway 1: Tracing the Spaces of a Modernist Aporia*, and Emilie Koefod (Geography, University College, London) whose dissertation was entitled *Battersea Power Station: A Disturbing Post-Industrial Landscape*; and – for Category B – Adam Perry (Environment and Development, University of Manchester) with a dissertation entitled *An Assessment of the Potential of Landscape Management in the Upland Peat Environment to Sustain Ecosystems Services: a Case Study of Smithills Moor, Bolton*.

At the end of 2010, the first set of invitations has been issued inviting entries for the 2011 Awards (i.e. for dissertations completed during 2010). Active consideration has also been given during the year to further expanding the scheme to include Doctorate-level entries (if possible on a global, rather than a United Kingdom-only basis), with effect from 2011 (i.e. to be judged during 2012).

(v) International 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 over the previous two years. LRG is now an accredited observer not only at the meetings of the European Landscape Convention itself, but also at meetings of Uniscape, the organisation of universities to support the Convention. The Group is also invited to observe at meetings of Civilscape, which is a similar organisation intended for non-governmental organisations, and PECSRL. The Group's international activity continued during 2010, with direct involvement in two events outside the UK and with representation in international fora by Peter Howard (in his role as International Activities Coordinator) during the year. As in previous years, LRG promotional literature has been distributed at all of these events, and excellent advertising banners are also used at conferences to promote the Group.

In accordance with the plan to expand the network of Directors able to promote international activity, Kenneth Olwig, Nathalie Blanc, Hannes Palang, Antonia Noussia, Ken Taylor, Maggie Roe and Emma Waterton are now working closely with Peter Howard. In addition, Bas Pedroli of Uniscape has also contributed both in terms of advice and being prepared to represent LRG at various events.

The close connection with the French government research organisation Cemagref continues, with both Peter Howard and Kenneth Olwig involved in their new venture on *Everyday Landscapes*. Similarly, the close liaison with the Nordic Research Landscape Network, via Kenneth Olwig, remains strong.

This activity has resulted in three possible new initiatives to set up similar organisations to the Group, in Greece, Germany and the United States:

- In Greece Thymio Papayannis, with the support of Aphrodite Sorotou and Theano Terkenli, is moving to set up a research organisation following the publication of a book on the Greek landscape. The main purpose of this group will be more of a campaigning organisation to overcome what the promoters believe is a clear lack of "a Greek landscape conscience", a point made in Gareth Robert's feature in *LRE 54*. Antonia Noussia is now in contact with this group.
- In Germany Markus Liebenath is actively considering setting up a German network of the Group (akin to the Nordic network). The intention is to be able to have events in the German language, and to encourage all its members to join LRG. Peter Howard will be attending a meeting in Hannover on May 2011 to assist and to help identify areas for possible future collaboration.
- With a view to expanding our interests in the United States, we have asked James Palmer (in Arizona), a long-time member of the Group, to act in a recruiting manner for LRG. He has been supplied with materials and will develop other publicity material. He plans to attend the 2011 Association of Landscape Architects meeting in Los Angeles. We have also been in touch with Kent Mathewson (in Louisiana), with a view to having two representatives from different disciplines and regions of the USA. Kenneth Olwig is promoting these relationships.

Events attended during 2010 were as follows:

- The Uniscape meeting in Florence in October 2010 was attended by Peter Howard as a formal observer (see above). The Group invited Uniscape's convenor Bas Pedroli to attend its Board as an observer, on a reciprocal basis, and this invitation has been accepted by Uniscape.
- The 10th Anniversary of the European Landscape Convention was celebrated in Florence in October 2010, and was also attended by Peter Howard. It was very noticeable that several speeches clearly acknowledged the Group's role in promoting the Convention (and of promoting the conference at which it was first suggested). Most particularly, Marc Antrop's paper on the history of research on landscape gave the Group credit for its very major role in promoting not

just landscape research in its widest sense, but also for activity that had directly stimulated a new and timely awareness of the need for landscape heritage conservation across the continent.

(vi) *Landscape Research Extra*

Landscape Research Extra was published four times in 2010 (issues 53 to 56), compared to the five issues published in 2009 and three issues in the previous two years. The four issues totalled 48 pages of illustrated two column text. As in previous years, the editorial team aimed to present short pieces written in a clear style, aiming to stimulate readers to 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.

Key features discussed the declining condition of Greek landscapes; the importance of virtuous circles in dealing with change in cultural landscapes; the disconnection from nature as a fundamental cause of environmental and landscape degradation, and the need to re-connect landscapes; the changing tourist landscapes of the Maghreb (Tunisia); and the unnaturalness of nature reserves. A range of short articles explored the urban morphology of back streets, animated townscapes, semi-urban lanes, playing field landscapes, and disused railways; others explored the landscapes of the Tongariro (New Zealand) alpine area, the Bois de Cise in Picardy (France), the River Great Ouse (Huntingdonshire), the Appian Way (Italy), and Israel and the West Bank (Palestine); and there was a review of the politics and landscape impacts of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Two other articles were auto-biographical feature in nature, reflecting on the urban childhood experience of landscape, and on the European Landscape Convention and Ireland.

The issues also contained notices and reports of various conferences, exhibitions and courses – notably the European Landscape Architecture Students Association (ELASA) conference in Edinburgh in April 2010 (see ‘Events’ above); a conference on “Socio-Ecological Resilience of Cultural Landscapes” held in Berlin in June 2010; a landscape perception workshop using the ‘legible landscape’ technique, in Midi-Pyrennes (France) in July 2010; the PECSRL conference on “Living in Agricultural Landscapes: Practice and Heritage”, held in Riga and Leipaja (Latvia) in August 2010; the joint Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers conference, held in London in September 2010 (see ‘Events’ above); and the United Kingdom Landscape Industries Award Conference, held in Liverpool in November 2010.

Other articles included a summary of the dissertations that received prizes under the Group’s 2010 annual Dissertation Award Scheme (see above), together with write-ups of four of the dissertations; and short book reviews.

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 2010 were Philip Pacey, Terry O’Regan, Gareth Roberts, and Paul Selman who continue to contribute a steady stream of quality articles.

6. FINANCES

The Group made a surplus in 2010 of £5,083 (income of £49,001, less expenditure of £43,918). This compares to the deficit in 2009 of £11,803 (income of £42,281, less expenditure of £55,084). There being no adjustments for 2009 creditor under- and over-provisions, the Group’s Accumulated Fund at 31st December 2010 was £65,960 (2009, £60,877).

This result was primarily due to increased royalties income from the Publishing Agreement (£5,000 more than in 2009, because of publishing six rather than five issues of *Landscape Research*) and the return to more typical levels of expenditure than had been the case in 2009, as predicted in last year’s report.

Looking ahead to 2011 and beyond, income should remain at the 2010 level as a result of expanding *Landscape Research* (which increases editorial costs but also increases royalties income); and if the economy and interest rates improve, bank deposit interest income should also begin to recover to previous levels from its current extremely low level.

The Group's financial strategy is based on achieving a broad balance of income and expenditure, making use of the funds available for activity over and above publishing *Landscape Research*. These funds are predicted to rise from £18,200 in 2011 to £19,500 in 2013 and thereafter. A key focus for the Board over the next twelve months must therefore be to ensure that a robust multi-year costed programme of deliverable activity is planned, and is then implemented, over the next three years. 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. If this can be achieved, the Group will ensure that expenditure is broadly in line with income, resulting in the level of reserve intended by the financial strategy. The projection for 2011 to 2015 reflects this approach to ensure the balance overall is about £60,000 at the end of the period.

In relation to prospects for 2011 to 2013, robust programmes of expenditure are in hand for international activity, website development, *Landscape Research Extra* and the prize scheme element of UK-based networking and outreach activity. However, more work needs to be done to ensure a clear, substantial and costed programme for events or other elements of UK-based networking and outreach activity, although there are various individual events in hand. The Board recognises the need to firm up such a programme as a matter of urgency.

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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