



Landscape Research Group Ltd

Directors' Report, 2009

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

9 August, 2010

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the twenty-seventh period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2009. 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* from 9 February 2009, and Consulting Editor)
Prof. Tim Collins	(Vice Chair from 6 May 2009*)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary*; and Treasurer*)
Ms Maggie Roe	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research</i> ; and Chair of the Editorial Committee*)
Prof. Catherine Brace	(Associate Editor; and Deputy Editor and Vice Chair to 6 May 2009)
Prof. Peter J. Howard	(International Officer)
Prof. Kenneth R. Olwig	(Associate Editor)
Prof. Ken Taylor	(Associate Editor)
Mr Robert Aitken	[Director from 29 August 2009]
Prof. Nathalie Blanc	[Director from 10 July 2009]
Dr Emily Brady	[Director from 10 July 2009]
Mr John Gittins	
Prof. Brian Goodey	[Director to 9 March 2009]
Mr Peter Herring	[Director from 10 July 2009]
Dr David Matless	[Director to 28 February 2009]
Dr Antonia Noussia	
Prof. Hannes Palang	[Director from 21 August 2009]
Dr George Reville	(Chair, to 9 February 2009)
Mr Gareth Roberts	
Dr Susanne Seymour	
Mr Paul Tabbush	
Dr Emma Waterton	[Director from 10 July 2009]
Mr R.N. (Bud) Young	[Director to 6 May 2009]
Dr Kathryn Yussof	[Director from 20 September 2009]

The posts shown with an asterisk (*) are the Officers of the Group who comprise the Executive Committee.

Of the twenty-one Directors at 31 December 2009, thirteen 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. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(i) Executive Committee

The Committee is responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the Group, except insofar as they are delegated to other committees; for coordinating the work of all committees; and for formulating and recommending on all issues of strategy and policy to the Board.

Until arrangements changed in November 2009 (see below), the Executive Committee comprised the Executive Officers of the Group – namely the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Editor of *Landscape Research* (ie the Chair of the Editorial Committee) and the Chair of the Research & Networking Activities Committee. From November 2009, the Officers have been the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary, and the new Executive comprises these Officers plus the Coordinators newly responsible for delivering the Group's activities (that is the Editor of *Landscape Research* and the four Coordinators for all other activities, who all replaced the role of the former Research & Networking Activities Committee (see below)).

The Committee's Chair is the Chair of the Board, Ian Thompson.

(ii) Business Strategy and related Board decisions

Last year's report noted that during 2008 the Executive Committee and Board had worked on six key issues that affect the long-term direction of the Group. This work continued during 2009, and four tasks were brought to completion. The six issues relate to:

- 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 *Landscape and Environment Programme*;

In relation to the future of *Landscape Research*, a new Editor took responsibility with effect from January 2009, after a phased transition from the previous Editor during 2008. This process of transition also aimed to facilitate expansion of the journal to six issues a year from January 2010, which has now been effected. The Treasurer on behalf of the Executive Committee therefore renegotiated the terms of the Editorial Support Agreement with the University of Newcastle, to provide increased support to come into effect from 2010.

The likely change of officers in 2009 and the need for new Directors became apparent at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2008. As a result of discussions in late 2008 and early 2009 the chairmanship of the Group changed, George Revill resigning and Ian Thompson taking office on 9 February 2009. The Board concluded its work to analyse Directors' skills, to identify skills gaps that ought to be taken into account in electing new Directors, and to assess the potential contribution of a range of landscape academics and professionals whose skills and experience would complement those of existing directors. This led to an invitation to six individuals to join the Board, who were appointed as Directors during 2009.

Following this significant change to the membership of the Board, a two-day facilitated 'away-day' event was held in Durham in October 2009, which most members of the new Board were able to attend. This event was a significant investment not previously made by the Group. The event's purpose was to ensure the Board has a clear and shared sense of future strategic direction; to develop an action plan to implement it; and to ensure that all members of the Board commit to helping to deliver the action plan.

A key part of the discussion related to the third and fourth key issues, the future of *Landscape Research Extra* and the structure and effectiveness of the Research and Networking Committee.

The Board confirmed its previously expressed view that *Landscape Research Extra* provides a highly distinctive and valuable part of the Group's activities, and that such a 'sister' publication to *Landscape Research* is an important part of the Group's duty to encourage interest in and exchange information about landscape. The Board agreed that Bud Young should continue as Editor, receiving a modest fee for this work following his resignation as a Director, to enable publication of the newsletter to continue while longer-term arrangements (ie appointing a successor editor and deciding whether a future publication should be entirely web-based) are put in place.

The away-day also led to a consensus view that the structure of the Board's organisation to develop and implement research and networking activity (ie all activity other than publication of *Landscape Research*) needed to be changed. This decision led to the adoption of new arrangements at a Board meeting in November 2009. It was agreed that the former Editorial Committee and Research & Networking Committee should be replaced by a series of activity networks each led by a 'Coordinator'. These were agreed to cover the following areas, with 'Coordinators' as indicated:

- publication of *Landscape Research* – Maggie Roe;
- 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.

The Board has also endorsed the principle that the activity to be delivered by the various Coordinators and their teams should be developed around the two thematic priorities of Climate Change and the European Landscape Convention (the latter being one of the six key issues the Executive Committee identified above, which it has consistently progressed over a period of years). The Events Coordinator was charged with leading discussion between the various Coordinators (particularly those responsible for Events, Networking and Outreach, and *Landscape Research*) and other Directors as appropriate, to consider further possible themes that can be supported realistically by deliverable programmes of activity across some if not all the activity areas. The resultant proposals will be considered by the new Executive and then the Board, and if agreed will become the basis for the Coordinators implementing the various activity programmes. This process is also intended to identify how best to take forward further links between the Group and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The rest of this Directors' Report is structured to reflect the previous arrangements whereby activity was led by the former Editorial and the Research & Networking Committees, since these were formally in place until November 2009.

4. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

(i) Role of the Committee

The Committee was responsible for producing *Landscape Research* on behalf of the Board, and ensuring the journal maintains standards appropriate to a respected international academic journal; and for formulating and recommending on related issues of strategy and policy to the Executive Committee.

The Committee comprised the Editor, Deputy Editor(s) and any overseas Associate Editor(s) 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 Committee was also empowered to co-opt up to two additional members from the Board as it saw fit, to add to the breadth of its expertise, and a representative(s) from Taylor & Francis Ltd. The Chair of the Committee was the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2009, Maggie Roe.

(ii) Landscape Research

The key responsibility of the Committee continued to relate to maintaining *Landscape Research* as a respected international journal, and ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Publishing Agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd. Feedback from various sources indicates continued success in these areas.

As noted above, the changeover of Editor took effect from January 2009 and arrangements for expansion of the journal from January 2010 have progressed smoothly.

Five issues of the journal (comprising Volume 34) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue was prefaced by a major Editorial which reviewed the history of the journal since the foundation of Landscape Research Group in 1968. It also contained six varied papers. They include an assessment of cultural landscape in Asia, seeking to reconcile international and south East Asian regional values; a study of developing a sustainable development framework for landscapes of dispersed historic settlement, with reference to United Kingdom planning policies; a study of how designed natural space can be used to create healthy and sustainable university campuses, with particular reference to Hong Kong; an assessment of aesthetic responses to urban greenway trail environments, in Houston and Austin, Texas, USA; an analysis of eastern Mediterranean (Lebanon) oak forests over the period 1965 to 2003 using landscape indices; and a study of remembrance and commemoration through 'honour avenues and groves' in Western Australia. The issue also contained four book reviews.
- (ii) The **April** issue was a special issue containing six anthropological papers, on the relationship between people and their surroundings. The opening paper presents an introduction to the theme, considering surroundings, selves and others: the political economy of environment; and identity. The other papers considered the contested field of environmental relations in Costa Rica; local and national approaches to nature preservation, with reference to the St John Island (US Virgin Islands) National Park; approaches to dealing with native and alien species, also in St John Island (US Virgin Islands); the political economy of sustainable coffee certification and

its implications for local livelihoods and identities, with reference to Guatemala; and fishing and environmental regulation in the Caribbean, with reference to Jamaica.

- (iii) The **June** issue contained five papers and a short communication on varied topics. They included an appraisal of woodland changes and their impacts on the landscape structure of Kwangju city region, South Korea; understanding the process of spatial alienation that leads to the withdrawal of people from local public place, with reference to Switzerland; a method for classifying landscape character in New Zealand; a study of the validity of visual surrogates for representing waterscapes; and an outline of a biographical approach to landscape, integrating archeological, social anthropological and cultural geography approaches to landscape, with reference to the Netherlands. The short communication explores the creation of new suburb as part of the regeneration strategy for Port Adelaide, South Australia. The issue also contained four book reviews.
- (iv) The **August** issue contained five papers. They included an appraisal of wilderness in urban landscapes in Germany; the development of a multi-sensory and multiple-perspective framework for assessing the landscape experiences of different publics, based on a case study in Aberdeenshire; an exploration of approaches to the management of cultural landscapes in the former Soviet Union, based on a case study in Latvia; a comparative study of evaluations of design gardens by landscape architecture and non-design students; and a citation analysis of transportation research literature, to develop a multi-dimensional map of roadside environments. The issue also contained five book reviews.
- (v) The **October** issue contained six papers on the general theme of landscape ecology, introduced by a short editorial. The papers included a study of the impact of highly modified landscapes on generalist or specialist woodland bird species; the differing perceptions associated with the invasion of the horse chestnut leaf-miner insect *Cameraria ohridella*, with reference to the green areas of Paris (France); a case study and conceptual framework for selecting focal species in ecological network planning, with reference to Rome province (Italy); the use of the concept of ecological networks in nature conservation policies and planning practices, with reference to Gelderland (Netherlands); a study of the effect of intensive urbanisation on the floristic and landscape patterns of green spaces, in Guangzhou (south China); and an assessment of the age and origin of forests in south-western Poland, and their importance for ecological studies in man-dominated landscapes.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research's* Editor, Deputy Editor and Associate Editors – Maggie Roe, Catherine Brace, Maggie Roe, Kenneth Olwig and Ken Taylor – and their supporting editorial team for their work during the year.

The Editorial Assistant is Crista Ermiya, who took up her role in late 2008. she has settled well into the role, and administrative arrangements to enable good editorial support have worked smoothly.

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 pleased to report an increase in the number of papers originating in those areas, and in 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.

As recorded in last year's Report, the grant was being used in two main areas: support for research student development and for development of research themes, in particular ELC implementation and green infrastructure planning (the latter including strengthening the links between the University and practice, as well as reflecting a key focus of LRG's research and networking activity). In the past year, use of the funding has broadened to include 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. RESEARCH & NETWORKING ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

(i) Role of the Committee

The Committee was responsible for developing and implementing on behalf of the Board the Group's programme of research and networking activity in all areas other than publication of *Landscape Research*, and for formulating and recommending on related issues of strategy and policy to the Executive Committee.

The Committee comprised the Editor of *Landscape Research Extra*, the International Officer, and seven other named members of the Board; and on an *ex officio* basis the Chair and Treasurer of the Group. The Committee was also empowered to co-opt additional members from the Board as it saw fit to add to the breadth of its expertise and capacity to implement the activities programme. The Acting Chair during 2009 was Gareth Roberts.

Activities undertaken in 2009 are reported below.

(ii) Landscape Research Extra

Landscape Research Extra was published five times in 2009 (issues 48 to 52), compared to the three issues published in the previous two years.

The five issues totalled 64 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. Both issues included colour print illustrations, with reviews and short features.

Key features discussed railway landscapes, Lancashire industrial landscapes, Herefordshire geology and landscape, the Knoydart peninsula, Connemara, the maritime landscapes of the Pacific-Oceania islands, urban landscape change in central London, and the experience of landscape for people with blindness and visual impairment. Two other articles were a semi-biographical feature by Ian Mercer reflecting on his writing of the revised 'New Naturalist' book on Dartmoor, and a commentary by Jay Appleton on cosiness in architecture and 'Prospect-Refuge Theory'. The final major feature was a dialogue between Board members on the issue of decribing landscape, that arose out of discussions at the awayday in Durham, discussed above.

The issues also contained notices and reports of various conferences, exhibitions and courses – notably the Institute of Historical Research symposium (October 2008) on landscape and regeneration in the period since 1980; the Great British Landscape art exhibition at Dorking and Great Torrington (January to March 2009, and online); and the Nove Hradý Conference of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (May 2009), discussed below.

Other articles included a write-up of three dissertations that received prizes under the Group's annual Dissertation Award Scheme; and notes about the 'Delectable Mountains' (a concept originally explored in *LRE44*), trees as landscape, measures of green space quality, the use of strategic ecological networks as opportunities for biodiversity improvement through development, and mitigating the ecological effect of extraction drains in an Irish peat bog prepared for industrial peat cutting. The issues also included more profiles of Board members. Finally, the issues also included short book reviews including a dialogue of views about how man has shaped nature in the rural landscapes of Europe.

As noted above, Bud Young retired as a Director after many year's service on the Board, but has agreed to continue as Editor of *Landscape Research Extra*. The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of Bud, Rosemary Young, and the varied correspondents (both overseas and domestic) who supply much of the source material. Notable among the latter are Philip Pacey, Terry O'Regan, Gareth Roberts and Brian Goodey, who continue to contribute a steady stream of quality articles.

(iii) Events

The main event activities during the year were the conferences held on 27 to 30 May 2009, in Nove Hradý, Czech Republic on "Local Implementation of the European Landscape Convention", and the seminar on "Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda" held at Lund and Alnarp, Sweden on 7 October 2010.

The Nove Hradý event was the first international conference dedicated to the topic. This event was a collaboration with the Rozmberk Foundation (Czech Republic) and Mondì Locali (the European Ecomuseums network based in Italy). The event coincided with the Czech Presidency of the European Union and European Landscape Convention and with the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe. The Board agreed to sponsor this event and to provide speakers and/or facilitators. Other sponsorship and support was received from the three Council of Europe networks set up to support the European Landscape Convention, the Czech Ministry of the Environment, the Province of South Bohemia and the Municipality of Nove Hradý.

The declared aim of the Conference was to bring together key players from non-governmental organisations, local and regional authorities, and ecomuseums in support of the European Landscape Convention with a view to sharing ideas and experiences about the local, practical implementation of the ELC and how, for example, ecomuseums or non-profit organisations could become more directly involved in this effort. The conference is judged, overall, to have been very successful in meeting its aims. In total 86 delegates (compared to a planned 70) from 22 countries attended, about half of whom made presentations over the three days. The demand for presentations to be made exceeded the time available. The Second Conference is now being planned, to be held in the Netherlands in 2010.

The Lund/Alnarp event was organised jointly with the Nordic Research Landscape Network. The seminar was held at Lund, in conjunction with the official Council of Europe international workshop on the European Landscape Convention, held in nearby Alnarp on 8 to 9 October 2009. There were 32 attendees, of whom 22 were speakers, from 15 countries. The seminar was judged to have been very successful, stimulating a good debate with a varied international perspective which contributed effectively to the related ELC workshop discussions. Selected papers from the seminar will be published in a special issue of *Landscape Research*, and a short report was published in *Landscape Research Extra* 53 (Spring 2010). The Swedish Heritage Board expects to be able to finance the publication of all the papers in book form in due course.

Other event-related activity during the year was to progress organising three events for 2010. The first is a conference on aspects of “Romantic Landscapes” in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The second is organising two sessions on “Landscape and Living with Environmental Challenge and Change” and “Post-Industrial Landscapes – Insights from Art, Geography and Landscape Architecture” at the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers annual conference, both to be held in 2010. Finally, the Group has committed to supporting the annual European Landscape Architecture Student Association (ELASA) mini-meeting to be held in Edinburgh in April 2010.

(iv) Website and Information Activity

Last year’s report noted that, after some delays in previous years, good progress had been made in 2008 on initial work to enhance the website. Emma Waterton took over the role of website editor from Tim Collins, who had acted *pro tem* during 2008 and early 2009. Preliminary technical work has been undertaken to enable the website to become a lively and active site, eventually with keyword function and hyperlinks to and from relevant sites. The Board hopes to bring this work to completion by early 2011.

Also as noted in last year’s report, the Board has also agreed in principle 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*. The report was published jointly with the French group Paysage et Aménagement which has now dissolved, and it has been confirmed that the Group now owns the copyright. The Board is considering re-publication with a new supporting editorial that brings together a progress report, and is minded to take forward this work in 2010/11.

(v) Annual 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 2009 prizes were awarded for both undergraduate and graduate (Masters) work, in a range of landscape-related fields. The judges were Susanne Seymour, Tim Collins and John Gittins.

To encourage further excellence in the field, the prizes were increased in 2008 from £100 to £250 for a first prize and from £50 to £100 for a ‘highly commended’. All prize winners also continued to receive a year’s free membership of LRG.

In relation to the undergraduate competition (2009), 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 (2009) 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 £250 (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*.

(vi) International Activity

As noted in last year's report, 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. The Group's international activity continued during 2009, with direct involvement in two events outside the UK and with representation in international fora by Peter Howard (in his role as International Officer) and others during the year.

As in previous years, LRG promotional literature has been distributed at all of these events. In addition two excellent advertising banners are now available for use at conferences. These are in the charge of the International Officer and the Editor, but they are available for all to use. There is now a serious need for updated promotional literature, which is being developed.

The two key areas of international activity have been referred to above under 'Events' – the Nove Hrad conference in May 2009 and the Lund seminar in October 2009. At the former, the Group – represented by Gareth Roberts, Peter Howard, John Gittins and Paul Tabbush – was the senior partner in exploring the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. However, the event also provided the opportunity for a membership recruitment effort, using both leaflets and the banners, which led to a great deal of interest and some new members. At the latter, the Group assisted the Nordic Landscape Research Network in hosting a seminar, which was intended as an academic precursor to the more practice-based meeting of the European Landscape Convention at nearby Alnarp. The Group funded some of the participants and the dinner. The International Officer's illness led to his work being shouldered by Maggie Roe and Kenneth Olwig, but clearly the Group gained a great deal of goodwill.

Other events attended by the International Officer during 2009, which provided an opportunity for membership recruitment, included two meetings of Cemagref (the French government research organisation), concerned with reporting the results of their research programme and the planning of the subsequent book; a meeting on Mediterranean Wetlands organised by MedWet (a very active organisation, largely devoted to natural heritage conservation) at Prespa, Greece, where he was given a short slot to introduce concepts of cultural landscape and to promote the Group; and a workshop at the Alnarp meeting, where the Group was an observer.

Finally, as noted above, the organisation of the Group's activities changed towards the end of the year, in consequence of which the status of the International Officer was changed to International Coordinator. In this role he was charged with developing a support group to assist international networking and promotional activity, and this was underway at the close of the year.

6. FINANCES

The Group made a deficit for the year of £11,803 (income of £42,281, less expenditure of £55,084). After adjustments for 2008 creditor under- and over-provisions, the Group's Accumulated Fund at 31st December 2009 was £60,876 (2008, £73,101).

This result reflected the considerable planned expenditure on international events and networking activity which compensated for the low level of activity in 2008 (which had not use all the notionally available budget) and the cost of the planned Board awayday. Income increased compared to 2008 as a result of increased Publishing Agreement royalties, but bank deposit interest was very much reduced from previous years reflecting the wider economic downturn. In relation to expenditure (setting aside the costs of the two international events and the awayday), there was increased cost of Board meetings (reflecting the growing number of overseas Directors) and significantly increased expenditure on publicity and promotion. Otherwise, Executive Committee and administration costs were kept at similar levels to last year.

As noted in the last two years' reports, the Group's financial strategy is based on achieving a broad balance of income and expenditure. In relation to prospects for 2010, planned events and increased website development and international activity, referred to above, will involve significant expenditure. Expanding *Landscape Research* to six issues will further increase expenditure but should also result in increased royalty income from 2010. Assuming the new Coordinators are successful in developing and delivering planned programmes of activity, achieving the Group's financial strategy should begin to be practical from 2010 and into the longer term.

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 1985 on the grounds that in the opinion of the Directors the company is entitled to these exemptions as a small company.

Registered Office

89A The Broadway
Wimbledon
LONDON
SW19 1QE

Dr Steven Shuttleworth

Secretary
4 Gwyns Piece
Lambourn
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 8YZ

9 August 2010