



# **Landscape Research Group Ltd**

## **Directors' Report, 2011**

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

16 April, 2012

# LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2011

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the twenty-ninth period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2011. 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 HM Revenues and Customs 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**, and acting Coordinator, Networking and Outreach Activity from 18 May 2011*)
Dr Steven Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary**, and Treasurer**)
Prof. Nathalie Blanc	
Prof. Catherine Brace	(Associate Editor)
Dr Emily Brady	[Director to 29 July 2011]
Mr John Gittins	(Coordinator, Networking and Outreach Activity to 18 May 2011*)
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 Group's Executive.

Of the nineteen Directors at 31 December 2011, twelve are British. The seven other Directors hold citizenship as follows: Prof. Blanc holds French citizenship; Dr Noussia holds Greek citizenship; 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 2011, on 18 May, 14 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 2010 the Executive and Board had continued to work on implementing the decisions that resulted from a two-day facilitated 'away-day' event in October 2009 in relation to key issues that affect the long-term direction of the Group, focusing on tasks that had not been brought to completion in 2009, specifically:

- replacing the former Editorial Committee and Research & Networking Committee by a series of activity networks each led by a 'Coordinator'; and
- identifying how activity can be developed and developing programmes of activity around the two thematic priorities of Climate Change and the European Landscape Convention, and also to identify how best to take forward further links between the Group and the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) *Landscape and Environment Programme*.

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 initially had progressed more rapidly than others. However, during 2011 the new arrangements were sufficiently well established to enable delivery of a fuller range of activity during 2011 and from 2012 onwards than has previously been possible.

The Board recognised last year that progress would need to be reviewed in late 2011 (by which time the new arrangements will have been in place for a year). Board discussions have therefore begun to consider the next stages of strategic development for the Group, based on a paper prepared by the Chair. As the Group continues to remain financially sound and is expanding its activity, the problems of Board and Executive capacity become ever more acute – not just in terms of time availability but also of succession planning given the age profile of Directors. Key matters for resolution therefore include the issues of consolidation, gradual expansion, focused vision, the balance between a publication-led and a networking organisation, and the need for a staffed organisation. The Board

recognises that the expansion of *Landscape Research* is likely to require more financial support for the editorial team, so that unless income is significantly increased there may be a tension with the ambition to expand other activity, which issue needs to be factored into debate. Finally, the Board also recognises that these matters are made more acute by the need to appoint replacements for the Chair and the Networking and Outreach Activity Coordinator, since the former has indicated his intention to stand down in 2012 and the latter stood down during 2011. Furthermore, the Editor of *Landscape Research* has indicated her intention to stand down in 2012 or 2013, subject to appointing a successor and putting in place appropriate transition arrangements.

The Board has made initial progress in addressing these matters. A successor Chair has been identified with effect from the 2012 Annual General Meeting, an approach has been made to a possible successor Editor, and proposals are being developed for decision during 2012 on the strategic issues above.

#### **(iv) Honorary Life Membership**

The Board resolved at its December 2011 meeting to appoint Steven Shuttleworth as an honorary life member of the Group, in recognition of his nearly forty-year's service as Treasurer and Secretary to the Group and its predecessor.

### **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 Editorial Board is the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2011, Maggie Roe.

#### **(ii) *Landscape Research***

Feedback from various sources demonstrates 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, an 'impact factor analysis' shows that special issues have a good record for download access, although there is no discernible pattern in terms of topics. More special issues are planned for 2012 and 2013. The expansion of the journal to six issues has clearly responded well to the growing number of submissions received and the demand for space for quality research papers; indeed, the editorial team receives a large number of submissions and the rejection rate of papers is currently very high.

Six issues of the journal (comprising Volume 36) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **February** issue contained six papers plus an editorial on the themes of cultural landscapes and their implications for policy and practice issues; landscape visual preference methodologies; and cross-disciplinary approaches to landscape planning, design and management. As the

editorial noted, although many of the papers emanate from European sources, the issues they address are of global significance and also reflect matters generated under the influence of the European Landscape Convention. The papers included an assessment of indicators for cultural landscape hotspots in Europe, based on fieldwork in western Spain and Romania; an exploration of the heterogeneity of rural landscape preferences, based on fieldwork in upper Austria; designing farmland for multi-functionality, based on fieldwork in southern Sweden; a study of the impact of conceptions of nature and rural space, combined with wider influences such as affluence and ideology, on community development in rural amenity areas, based on a comparison of rural communities in Wisconsin, USA and Norway; the creation of play spaces in twentieth-century Amsterdam (Netherlands); and a short communication on the use of diversity indices as tools in landscape planning.

The issue also contained four book reviews.

- (ii) The **April** issue was a mixed issue including a special section on the landscapes of mining. The special section included an editorial; a study of the issues in developing a land management framework in relation to the cultural landscapes of goldfield heritage of the South-West Pacific, with reference to Victoria, Australia and Otago, New Zealand; an assessment of the impact of coal strip mining, mountain-top removal and the distribution of environmental violations across the USA between 2002 to 2008, considering in particular the relationship between community poverty and environmental violations; an investigation of the utility of geochemical landscape analysis to the risk assessment of acid mine drainage, based on a case study in central Sweden; and a short communication on the ecological restoration of mining sites in the Czech Republic. The issue included three other substantive papers: a review paper of the effects of urban vegetation on urban air quality; a study of the measurement of visible space as a means of assessing landscape openness; and an assessment of the use of wildland-urban interface typology for the risk management of forest fires, based on fieldwork in Valencia, Spain.
- (iii) The **June** issue contained six papers on varied topics. They included an appraisal of acoustic value in the assessment of heritage landscapes, based on fieldwork in Western Australia; an assessment of the usefulness of the concepts of erasure, origination, transformation and migration in the teaching of landscape design; a trajectory analysis of forest cover change in the tropical dry forest of Burkino Faso (West Africa); a study of the conceptual challenges underlying different perspectives on landscape identity; a study of 'greenway planning' in the historical green corridors of the Golden Horn, in Istanbul-Halic, Turkey; and an assessment of the validity of photographs compared to on-site observations in landscape representation.  
The issue also contained two book reviews.
- (iv) The **August** issue was a special theme issue on reassessing landscape drivers and the globalist environmental agenda, containing seven papers and an editorial. The papers have been selected from those presented at the research seminar held at Lund University (Sweden) in October 2009, which the Group organised jointly with the Nordic Research Landscape Network (see the 2009 Directors' Report).  
The editorial draws together the common themes and learning points from the papers, noting that landscape cannot be seen as a purely local aspect but can and does contribute both to an understanding of the issues often identified with globalism (such as climate change and global economic challenges) and can also provide an independent research agenda (as suggested, for example, by the European Landscape Convention). The papers included a review addressing the role of landscape research in the 'globalist agenda' and the practical implications of that agenda for landscape interests; an assessment of how new land uses can be accommodated in traditional landscapes, with reference to field work in Brittany, France; a study of the carbon sequestration potential of agro-forestry in Germany's agricultural landscapes; a review of the impact of energy policy that seeks to reduce carbon use on landscapes, and the tension between global and local perspectives; an assessment of the relevance of the European Landscape Convention to resolving the major land use conflict posed by the development of

windpower, based on case studies from Italy and Sweden; a study of the issues of 'landscape democracy' in a globalising world, based on a case study of Tange Lake, Denmark; and a review of the role of landscape as a driver for well-being, and the relevance of the principles of the European Landscape Convention in other parts of the world, based on case studies in Palestine and New Zealand.

(v) The **October** issue contained four papers on varied topics, presenting studies of the emotional affordances of forest settings, based on an investigation in boys with extreme behavioural problems; the effects of natal territory location and timing of fledging on local settlement by woodland birds in fragmented habitat; the role of design in environmental interpretation, with reference to newer plant displays in botanical gardens; and cultural differences in attitudes towards urban parks and green spaces, contrasting cultural preferences in Turkey with those of Western Europe.

(vi) The **December** issue was a special theme issue containing five papers on methods and content in landscape histories presented at the first day-long symposium held by the Society of Architectural Historian's Landscape Chapter in Chicago, USA in April 2010, together with an editorial.

The opening editorial presents an introduction to the theme, summarising the key learning from the event and the five papers in this issue, and how changes in historical methods and content have shaped contemporary landscape history scholarship. The substantive papers consider the relationship between landscape and environmental history, and the need for the two academic fields to collaborate more closely in future; the use of workforce characteristics as a means of understanding the cultural landscape of New Orleans, USA; the importance of the work and strategies of Jewish women garden architects in shaping modern landscape and garden architecture in Vienna, Austria; a study of design and change in the Jardin des Floralies in Montreal, Canada; and a review of public housing landscapes in France, 1945 to 1975.

The issue also contained three book reviews.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research's* Editor and Associate Editors – Maggie Roe, Catherine Leyshon, Kenneth Olwig, Ken Taylor, Anna Jorgensen Tom Mels – and Book Reviews Editor Mick Atha and Assistant Editor Sam Turner. As noted above, their work has resulted in a continued increase in the number of papers originating from areas outside Europe, and to the related development of special and theme issues.

The Editorial Assistant remains Crista Ermiya, who provides the administrative and editorial support that is necessary for the smooth production of the journal.

### **(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. For example in 2011, some of the funding was used to enable attendance at the Glasgow University symposium on "Transforming Practice in Landscape Research" (see 'Events' below) and the ECLAS conference at Sheffield University. The support arrangement requires the individuals to provide a short report on the activity and/or the paper presented.

## 5. EVENTS, RESEARCH AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

### (i) Coordination of Activity

As noted in last year's Report, 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 2011 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, then Tim Collins; 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*. Bud Young continues as Editor although now retired as a Director.

The Board is pleased to report that these new arrangements have now successfully 'bedded in', and significant activity has been successfully undertaken in 2011 as summarised below.

### (ii) Events

The Group organised or contributed to four events during the year. These were: organising and co-sponsoring a field trip/seminar in the the Trossachs National Park (based in Aberfoyle, 14 to 15 June 2011); organising and sponsoring a workshop at the joint Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers annual conference (London, 31 August to 2 September 2011); sponsoring a symposium at Glasgow University (8 to 9 October 2011); and holding a public lecture (London, 1 December 2011). This was twice the number of events anticipated at the start of the year, and linked to the emerging programme for 2012 and 2013, gives confidence that the new arrangements for promoting event activity are now progressing well.

The two-day field meeting in June 2011 focused on aspects of "Afforestation, Landscape and Ecosystems" in the Great Trossachs and Loch Katrine. Thirty-one invited professionals and academics gathered to discuss issues of sustainable landscape management and decision-making. The meeting was organised by Paul Tabbush on behalf of the Group; was jointly sponsored by the Group, the Institute of Chartered Foresters and Forest Research; and was hosted by Forest Enterprise and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Key themes for discussion were: How do 21<sup>st</sup> Century ideas influence land management in the context of the National Park's iconic landscape? How can we ensure that the outcomes from plans to create new woodlands and manage existing ones are in the public interest? and How do current processes address the flow of economic, environmental and social services from landscapes and ensure that a balance is maintained? A full report outlining the discussions on these themes and preliminary conclusions is presented in *Landscape Research Extra* 59. The intention is to develop the resultant ideas into more specific research directions, with the aim of improving processes of landscape planning and decision-making.

The Group, through Catherine Leyshon, organised and sponsored a workshop at the RGS/IBG annual conference, on "Landscapes of Education". The session was well-attended. It opened with an introduction to the Group and to *Landscape Research*, and generated a lively and interesting range of discussion points. Six conference papers were prepared of which four were presented at the conference, and a selection will be identified for publication in *Landscape Research*, subject to the usual refereeing procedures.

The Group also agreed to sponsor a symposium at Glasgow University on “Transforming Practice in Landscape Research”. The symposium marked the culmination of a series of workshops which had brought together participants from different disciplines, to develop concrete propositions for research to transform the theory and practice of those disciplines for which landscape is a concern and to inform landscape policy and decision making. The symposium aimed to build on the previous workshops by developing a concrete collaborative statement about the current state and future of research relating to three key themes: creating landscape visions; collaborative disciplinary working; and democratising decisions. The grant from the Group enabled the University to supplement its originally planned programme, by convening field trips on the first day. The session was well-attended, and a report on the symposium will be published in *Landscape Research Extra* 61 (in February 2012), and feature on the website.

The final event of the year was the organisation by Antonia Noussia of a public lecture by Prof. David Lowenthal on “Eden to Earth Day: landscape restoration and mission as metaphor”. The event was hosted by the Architectural Association, and included a reception after the lecture. It was attended by over 100 people and very well-received. It is intended that the lecture will be published in a future issue of *Landscape Research*. When the idea for a public lecture was conceived, it was hoped that, if successful, it might become an annual event. Given the success of the event, the Board has agreed to repeat the venture.

Other event-related activity during the year has focused on progressing events for 2012 and 2013. The major event planned for 2012 is a conference on “Ethics and Aesthetics of Architecture and Environment” which will take place at Newcastle University (in July 2012). Also planned for 2012 are a symposium on “Sublime Snowdonia” (in September 2012) and the second public Annual Lecture (in December 2012). Events currently planned for 2013 are a two-day seminar/field event on the “Sublime Industry of Landscape” to be held in Cornwall, and collaborating with the University of Malta to hold a major international conference on “Changing Mediterranean Identities and Landscapes”.

### **(iii) Website and Information Activity**

Last year’s report noted that major progress had been made in 2010 to enhance the website, completely re-designing it and adding much of the planned new content, including a ‘student page’, to enable it to become a lively and active site. This progress continued apace, enabling the new site to go “live” in September 2011 with no apparent major difficulties. Some work remains to be done – for example, enabling web-based payments – and a key issue will be ensuring the website is kept up-to-date. Nonetheless, the work over the past three years has been a significant achievement, and the Board is very grateful to Emma Waterton for leading this work and to Tim Collins for his substantial support on the project.

### **(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 2011 prizes were judged and awarded for undergraduate and graduate (Masters) work completed in 2010, in a range of landscape-related fields. The judges for the undergraduate prize were Susanne Seymour, Tim Collins and John Gittins. The judges for the graduate prize were Tim Collins, Emily Brady, John Gittins, Antonia Noussia, Paul Tabbush and Peter Frost (Countryside Council for Wales).

In relation to the undergraduate competition (2011), three 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 seven dissertations were from students at six 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, Greg Mahon (Environment & Development, University of Manchester) whose dissertation was entitled *T3 Forecourt Project: (and the) Global Perception of Space and Place*; and, for Category B, Charlotte Wilkerson (Geography, University of Cambridge) with a dissertation entitled *Lyon in the Nineteenth Century: Landscape and Identity Politics in the shadow of Revolution*. The highly commended entry in Category A was by Victoria Drummond (Environment & Development, University of Manchester) with a dissertation entitled *Preserving Rural Heritage: A Case Study of Dry Stone Walls in the Uplands of England and Wales*, and in Category B was by Gregory Llewellyn (Geography, Durham University) with a dissertation entitled *Modernism and the residential high-rise: Did the architect's vision lead to social dystopia? – the cases of Trethick and Balfron Tower*.

With regard to the Masters' prize (2011), two entries were received for best dissertation in Category A, and four for Category B. The six dissertations were from students at four different institutions. The judges awarded two first prizes of £350, one highly commended prize of £150 and one commended prize of £75 (all including a year's free membership of LRG). The winning entries were, for Category A, Daniel Corden (Environment & Development, University of Manchester) whose dissertation was entitled *The Cross-Benefits of Green Infrastructure Planning and Flood Risk Management*; and, for Category B, Tom Bradfer-Lawrence (Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling) whose dissertation was entitled *Restoring Woodland Communities: assessing the comparative development of the flora of planted and naturally regenerated habitats*. The two other prizes were both in Category B: Melanie Downes (Landscape Architecture, University of Sheffield) was highly commended for her dissertation *What you see is not always what you get: a qualitative, comparative analysis of Landscape, Urban Design and Architectural Visualizations with post-construction photography*; and Paul Lintott (Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling) was commended for his dissertation *Foraging activity of bats in golf courses within urban environments in relation to habitat composition at varying spatial scales*.

At the end of 2011, the first set of invitations has been issued inviting entries for the 2012 Awards (i.e. for dissertations completed during 2011).

The Board is pleased to report that it has agreed to further expand the prize scheme as part of the 2012 Awards, to include Doctorate-level entries (on a global, rather than a United Kingdom-only basis). Three Doctoral degree prizes of £500 will be awarded each year. Entries must be for original academic research that makes a unique and considerable contribution to knowledge on the expanded topic of landscape, in one of three categories:

- theoretical issues in fields such as cultural geography, history, archaeology, literature or philosophy;
- practical issues in fields such as material geography, environmental management, material geography, planning, and science; or
- current practices in fields such as architecture, art, design and landscape architecture.

#### **(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. 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 Permanent European Conference for the Conservation of the Rural Landscape (PECSRL).

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, together with Bas Pedroli of Uniscape, continue to work closely with the International Activity Coordinator Peter Howard. The close connections with the French government research organisation Cemagref and with the Nordic Research Landscape Network, via Kenneth Olwig, remain strong.

The Group's international activity continued during 2011, with direct involvement by both Peter Howard and Kenneth Olwig in the major event organised by Cemagref, at Perpignan and Girona. As in previous years, LRG promotional literature has been distributed at these events, and advertising banners are also used at conferences to promote the Group.

Maggie Roe went to Evora on behalf of the Group and gave a presentation *Multifunctional Landscape Visions: recent research implications for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention*, which examined a selection of recent papers in *Landscape Research* to indicate some key issues that are being revealed in relation to the vision of multi-functionality in the landscape. This paper generated considerable interest from participants in the journal and in LRG. Maggie Roe also accepted the *Special Mention Award for the Landscape Award* given by the Council of Europe to the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership, with whom she has had a long association.

Last year's report noted that international activity in 2010 had resulted in three initiatives to set up similar organisations to the Group, in Greece, Germany and the United States. The latest position on these initiatives as a result of 2011 activity is as follows:

- The work in Greece has led to one publication, with a second volume imminent. However, all academic and government sponsored work in Greece has been affected by financial constraints, and the development of an active Greek research group has had to be postponed.
- In Germany some progress has been made in setting up a German-speaking network of the Group. The intention is to be able to have events in the German language, and to encourage all the network's members to join LRG. Peter Howard attended a meeting in Hannover on May 2011 to assist and to help identify areas for possible future collaboration. As a result of the progress made, a symposium (which the Group is sponsoring) and further discussions (which a Director will attend) will take place near Berlin in April 2012, to try to launch this network.
- With a view to expanding our interests in the United States, in 2010 we asked James Palmer (in Arizona), a long-time member of the Group, and Kent Mathewson (in Louisiana), to act in a recruiting manner for LRG. He has been supplied with materials and will develop other publicity material. No substantive progress has been made in 2011, and this will be pursued in 2012.

Finally, although not directly an activity by the Group, the numerous overseas contacts made through its international networking activity have been fundamental in providing a genuinely international (as well as inter-disciplinary) dimension to the major review of landscape research to be published in mid-2012 by Routledge which is edited by three of the Group's Board members, Peter Howard, Ian Thompson and Emma Waterton.

#### **(vi) *Landscape Research Extra***

*Landscape Research Extra* was published four times in 2011 (issues 57 to 60), as intended. 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, seeking to stimulate readers with 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 re-use of World War II runways in Norfolk; Greek immigration landscapes (a follow-on to a feature in 2010 on the declining condition of Greek landscapes); the landscapes of Mauritius; the landscapes of La Gomera (Canary Islands); the ownership of English forests; the landscape of Rupert the Bear; a report on the Great Trossachs and Loch Katrine field study event (see 'Events' above); the drabness of public spaces in Britain; how to be a landscape architect; and the landscape as experienced by boys. A range of short articles explored Tennyson's poetry and landscape; a recipe for landscape (the Danish dish Æbleflæsk, 'apple pork'); defiant gardening; and the complexities of street-naming in Prishtina, Kosovo.

The issues also contained brief notices and reports of various conferences and papers, including the "Archaeology of Town Commons", "A Tree Archive of Lost Traditions" and "Abandoned Landscapes of former German Settlements in the Czech Republic and Slovenia", from the conference on "Aspects of Commons and Cultural Severance in the Landscape", held at Sheffield in September 2010; the IALE conference on "Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Services" held at Telford in September 2011; and the initial meeting of a proposed German-speakers landscape research network event (see 'International Activity' above). Reviews included the exhibitions "Here, There, Everywhere" held at Eastbourne in January to March 2011, and "London Street Photography 1860-2010" held at London in June to September 2011.

Other articles included a summary of the dissertations that received prizes under the Group's 2011 annual Dissertation Award Scheme (see above), together with write-ups of three of the dissertations (a write-up of a fourth will appear in *Landscape Research Extra* 61, in February 2012); short book reviews; a summary of the contents of the 2011 issues of *Landscape Research* and *Landscape History*; another feature in the series 'Meet the LRG Board'; and a number of 'letters to the editor' and 'commentaries' on some of the features above.

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 2011 were Philip Pacey, Terry O'Regan, Kenneth Olwig, Brian Goodey, Gareth Roberts, Owen Manning, Paul Tabbush and Rosamunde Codling.

## **6. FINANCES**

The Group made a surplus in 2011 of £2403 (income of £47,834, less expenditure of £45,431). This compares to the surplus in 2010 of £5,083 (income of £49,001, less expenditure of £43,918). There being no adjustments for 2010 creditor under- and over-provisions, the Group's Accumulated Fund at 31st December 2011 was £68,363 (2010, £65,960).

This result was primarily due to reduced income as well as increased expenditure compared to the previous year because, for the first time since the *Landscape Research* Publishing Agreement was introduced, royalties income has not increased substantially year-on-year, while income from other sources was also slightly reduced. Overall expenditure was broadly similar overall, with a substantial increase in events expenditure matched by a decrease in website expenditure (reflecting completion of the website upgrade).

Looking ahead to 2012 and beyond, income is expected to remain at the 2011 level. Given the prolonged delay in wider economic recovery, it seems prudent at this stage to assume royalties income will not significantly increase, and that bank deposit interest income will also not recover to previous levels from its current extremely low level.

In terms of expenditure, robust programmes of expenditure are in hand for events, international activity, website development, *Landscape Research Extra* and the prize scheme element of UK-based networking and outreach activity. Administrative and support costs are being managed tightly,

and are expected to remain broadly similar to previous years. However, the expansion of *Landscape Research* to six issues, and the consequent expansion of the editorial team, means that the costs of producing the journal are likely to increase.

The Group's current financial strategy is based on achieving a broad balance of income and expenditure, by making use of the funds available over and above the costs of publishing *Landscape Research* and of administrative support to enable the wider range of networking and outreach activity. 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. The five-year projection for 2011 to 2015 reflects this approach and aims to ensure the Accumulated Fund overall is about £60,000 (the level of reserve intended by the financial strategy) at the end of the period. However, the Group will need to review its current financial strategy to ensure its future approach is supportive of the conclusions reached by the strategic review discussed earlier in this report.

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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16 April 2012