



### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting August, RGS/IBG Annual Conference, 2012**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Session 3, 1.10pm to 2.50pm, Appleton Tower - Room 2.05

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Felix Driver, Keith Liley, David Harvey, Catherine Leyshon, Briony Mcdonagh, Harriet Hawkins, Alastair Owens, Lucy Veale

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting

These were received and approved.

#### 3. Matters arising not on the agenda

No matters were raised.

#### 4. Reports from committee members

##### **Chair:**

2011-2012 was a busy year. Started strongly with the Practising Historical Geography conference hosted at St Johns College, University of Oxford. A full report of this was published in the Spring newsletter. This continues to be an important part of the HGRG calendar and is a well-received event. RHED continue to support the event, match funded by HGRG, with the student contribution of £10 towards refreshments. The £10 fee was considered to be appropriate.

HGRG has received a GEES grant for developing the teaching project. This is under development and will provide online resources for teaching historical geography at UG level. This will progress over the next year as the new HGRG website is designed to incorporate the teaching resources.

Over the last year the Chair has been progressing items with committee members on the range of HGRG activities including the archives, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the teaching project, a new website, liaising with members, and responding to RHED requests for feedback. Some of these activities are reported in more detail under agenda point 6.

Nicola noted that HGRG had received two grants from 2011 RHED Research Group Grants, both which were match funded by HGRG. The first will support the Practising Historical Geography Workshop in 2012. This workshop continues to receive excellent reviews from the grant assessors and is a well received event. The second grant was for a number of PG bursaries for the ICHG conference. It was noted that we were only able to fund 9 of the 12 applications and a decision was made to fund the registration costs of the students. It was felt appropriate to fund a number of registration costs to enable students to draw down match funding from their institutions and grant awarding bodies.

This is the last year of Nicola's term of office as chair and she thanked HGRG members of their support and noted that she had been very honored to take this role for the last three years.

##### **Secretary:**

No formal report was received, however the Secretary was thanked on behalf of HGRG by the Chair for managing the HGRG sponsored sessions and group guests at the annual conference.

**Treasurer:**

Carl Griffin presented the accounts (Appendix 1) and indicated that HGRG was in a stronger financial position than in recent years. The figures do not reflect some of the expected outgoings (linked to the refreshments costs at the Practising Historical Geography conference), however it would appear that HGRG is in much better health than in recent years. The success of the last monograph continues to boost the HGRG funds. It is anticipated that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will be financially demanding with Next year will be a significant year for the use of HGRG funds. It was indicated that HGRG should start to advertise more strongly the support funds available to postgraduate students now that more funds were available. This was approved.

**Research Series Editor:**

HGRG is looking to commission new titles. If you are interested in publishing in the series please contact Alastair

Alastair submitted the following points for reporting and discussion:

- 1) As colleagues will recall, sales and distribution of back titles is now dealt with by the RGS. This seems to be working well. I have requested figures on numbers of volumes sold and will circulate these when I receive them.
- 2) I currently have one proposal (outline and sample chapter) under consideration. The proposal is being assessed by an external reader.
- 3) I am discussing possible volumes with two other individuals, though both are uncertain about their capacity to produce at the current time.
- 4) The idea of a volume on collaborative historical geographies received plenty of support. At the moment (and understandably) there is no-one who feels able to take this on as editor. I still think this is a viable idea and wondered if anyone had suggestions on how to move forward. Perhaps a recently completed CDA student would be willing to take this on, may be with a more experienced colleague in a mentoring/second editor role?

The AGM considered the final point raised by Alasdair, and while no one came forward at the time of the AGM their was support for this volume and agreement that a collaborative editorial team would provide a sensible route forward. Nicola requested that people considered this and contact Alastair as appropriate. [NB Subsequent to the AGM an editorial team has been put in place].

**Conference Officer:**

The 2011 Practising Historical Geography conference was held at the University of Oxford last November. Speakers included Alan Lester, Georgina Endfield, Innes Keighren and Stephanie Wyse. The day attracted 50 delegates and seems to have been a great success. We ran on a relatively modest budget, paying £300 for the room hire and covering the costs of the food and refreshments from the £10 per person charge. We also received a grant from the RGS which was put towards room hire and speakers' expenses.

Planning for the 2012 annual Practising Historical Geography postgraduate conference is in hand. It will be held at the University of Hull on Wednesday 7th November 2012, where the venue has been kindly organised for us by David Atkinson. Keynote speakers for the day are Elizabeth Gagen (University of Hull) and Uma Kothari (University of Manchester). There will also be two workshops and a postgraduate voices panel session made up of two or more postgraduates at different stages of their doctoral career. The planned charge for the day is £10 which should cover food and refreshments and perhaps yield something towards speakers' costs. Thanks to David and other staff at the University of Hull, rooms have been secured free of charge. Ruth Craggs has kindly offered to be the local contact at Hull and will assist the new HGRG Conference Officer in planning and running the event.

**Dissertation Prize Officer:**

Innes Keighren reported that there had been 12 dissertations submitted to the prize this year and that they were being judged by Susanne Seymour, Ruth crags and himself. HGRG continues to have the support of Ashgate. Innes was thanked for his excellent efforts in ensuring a swift adjudication period and for maintaining the profile of the prize. All judges were thanked for the time they gave to support this important activity.

**Web Officer:**

Catherine Leyshon was thanked for undertaking her role as Web Officer and full participation on the HGRG committee for many years. Over the next year the website will be moved to a new platform and Innes Keighren has started the process of requesting information from members about the form and function of this new site.

**Membership secretary:**

HGRG continues to attract new members. Over the last year Nicola Thomas has been overseeing the membership role and this is now being transferred to Ruth Craggs. The updating of the subscription rates continues to be a part of the membership secretary's role. Over the year 2012-2013 the membership secretary will be reviewing the membership list, to remove names of members who are no longer paying subscription or responding to correspondence in an attempt to get accurate figure on the membership numbers.

**E-circulation officer:**

The e-circulation officer continues to send email updates and information to members. Lowri Jones wishes to step down from this position and was thanked for her attention to detail during her period of tenure.

**Newsletter editor:**

Oliver Dunnett continues to edit the newsletter. The format has developed over the last year and the content continues to be warmly received. Copy should be sent to Oliver.

**Postgraduate Committee members:**

The Postgraduate Committee Members reported the success of the Practising Historical Geography Workshop and the two sessions organized at the annual conference titled 'Emerging themes in historical geography'. The postgraduate committee members were thanked for their excellent support of their peer group.

## 5. Election of new committee members

The following committee members were elected:

- a. Chair - Carl Griffin (proposed by Nicola Thomas, seconded by Innes Keighren)
- b. Treasurer - Briony McDonagh (proposed by Carl Griffin and seconded by Nicola Thomas)
- c. Web Officer - Innes Keighren (proposed by Catherine Leyshon and seconded by Alastair Owen)
- d. E-Circulation Officer - Hannah Neate (proposed by Briony McDonagh and seconded by Lowri Jones)
- e. Conference Officer - Lucy Veale (proposed by Briony McDonagh and seconded by Lowri Jones)

The role of Dissertation Officer is vacant following the successful appointment of Innes Keighren to the role of Web Officer.

## 6. Items for discussion

**HGRG 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2013 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HGRG. It is proposed to host a series of events/activities to mark the occasion. The following ideas have gained most support over the last year consultation period:

Sessions dedicated at the Annual conference in association with HGRG anniversary. It was suggested that these sessions might tie to the conference theme, be thematic, and offer a space for new intellectual agendas within the sub-discipline. It was indicated that HGRG had limited sessions to allocate and if sessions were going to be ring-fenced in association with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary that they should speak to substantive debates.

A celebratory reception or social event to mark the anniversary. It was noted that it was convenient for people to attend a social event in conjunction with the annual conference.

A one day pre-conference gathering

A more celebratory function at Lowther Lodge, RGS-IBG to provide a social space to reflect on HGRG at a point in the year other than the Annual Conference. The concern was raised with this that it would be sparsely attended given the costs of visiting London.

The website will be launched in this time.

It is hoped to develop an expanded archive and histories of HGRG site. A monograph has been proposed and this is an area that needs to be taken forward. It was reported that a British Academy application had been submitted to focus on HGRG history. Although this was unsuccessful it is hoped to deliver an element of this project in the forthcoming year.

### **ICHG 2015**

Following the consultation with HGRG members in 2011, Felix Driver and Nicola Thomas proposed to invite the participants of the ICHG to London in 2015. It is proposed to have a UK consortium of historical geographers hosting the event at the RGS-IBG in London.

### **Maintaining HGRG archives**

In 2011 Innes and Nicola spent some time starting a rough catalogue of the HGRG archives. This has subsequently been used by Robin Butlin for his research and it is proposed to spend time using these archives in preparation for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

Innes Keighren suggested that some money might be used from HGRG funds to progress the rough cataloguing of the archives.

### **Teaching Historical Geographies**

Following a grant of c.£15k from Gees to develop an HGRG teaching and learning resource fund the project has developed at a slow rate. It is proposed to pick up the activity in Autumn 2012 and this will be reported in future newsletters and at the annual conference.

## 7. Forthcoming meetings

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Postgraduate and Undergraduate one day Conference for postgraduate and undergraduate students of historical geography will be held at the University of Hull on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012** between 9:30 and 5. Organised by the Historical Geography Research Group, the day will include keynote lectures from Dr Liz Gagen and Professor Uma Kothari, workshops exploring research methods, a 'postgraduate voices' session and a brief talk by this year's HGRG undergraduate dissertation prize winner.

## 8. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2013 – call for sessions

A session proposal was received from Divya Tolia-Kelly and this will be considered in the open call for sessions in Autumn 2012.

Feedback from the 2012 annual conference noted that there had been shorter gaps between sessions and a longer lunch break was needed. Overall the experience of the conference had been positive and the conference continued to be well run.

## 9. Any other business

Prof Withers requested that HGRG members use their votes in RGS-IBG elections to ensure that the interests of Higher Education are represented on Council. Prof Withers noted that in recent years a constituency of RGS-IBG members had been mobilized who felt that the Society should fund large expeditions which would impact the way in which the society would be able to support academic research.

Innes Keighren raised the issue of a new HGRG logo to coincide with the launch of the new website and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. It was agreed that this might be the focus for a competition and this would be addressed in the year 2012-2013.

## 10. Date of next AGM

This will be confirmed, but will be in the Annual Conference in 2013, London.

## Appendix 1—HGRG Accounts

**Treasurers report to E-Committee Meeting, 2012**

## 1) Balance:

<i>Account</i>	<i>Balance Dec 2010</i>	<i>Balance Dec 2011</i>
Treasurer	£3174.45	£4700.44
Deposit	£2794.33	£2869.74
Total	£5968.78	£7570.18

## 2) Major income:

Conference income	£270
RGS subvention	£600
RGS grant	£500 (ICHG PG grants)
Publications	£674.57
Subscriptions	£1563.50

## 3) Major expenditure:

Newsletters	£164.74
Committee expenses	£0 (meetings held via email)
HGRG Postgraduate Conference expenses	£301.58
Monograph costs	£1436.31
Post-graduate and conference support	£100
Other costs	£6 (cashing USD cheque)

## 4) Key points

HGRG funds have shown a marked improvement, notwithstanding the cost of printing the monograph (which just fell into this period), the net surplus of £1601.40 following a surplus of £76.62 in 2010 and a £600 deficit in 2009. In some ways 2011 was an exceptional year: before handing over the sale of the HGRG monograph back catalogue to the RHED division of the RGS *Visual Geographies* continued to sell strongly; while St. John's College, Oxford have not fully invoiced us for the 2011 PG conference. It is also important to note that a cheque for £447 for catering at the PG conference was cashed one day after the accounting deadline.

Subscription income remained stable – again – the impact of the increased subscription rates will fully take effect in 2012.

The healthy state of the HGRG finances and our successes in securing a generous subvention and grant from the RGS has allowed us to add £787 from our funds to the £500 grant to fund eleven bursaries for PG students attending the 2012 ICHG. Such activities – combined with the annual PG conference – are at the very heart of heart of the HGRG, and, given our strong financial position, should remain as priority areas of expenditure.

In short, HGRG funds are in robust health with a strong outlook for 2012 – though costs related to subsequent monograph production and for our anniversary celebrations might have a significant impact.

Dr. Carl J. Griffin, HGRG Hon. Treasurer

10 April 2012