



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 12th December 2014

PRESENT

Professor Martin Barstow, Professor Mike Cruise, Professor Ian Crawford, Dr Mandy Bailey, Professor Lyndsay Fletcher, Professor Gillian Foulger, Professor James Wild, Professor Richard Davis, Professor Andrew Norton, Professor Paul Murdin, Dr Helen Fraser, Mr Charlie Barclay, Dr Sarah Matthews, Professor Mike Edmunds, Miss Jane MacArthur, Dr Geraint Jones, Professor John Brown, Dr Sheila Peacock, Dr Simon Mitton and Dr Stacey Habergham

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Pamela Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr Robert Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The President welcomed everyone present to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Professor Gillian Foulger and Professor Martin Bureau.

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the Council meeting of 10th October 2014 were approved with minor changes.

In regard to matters arising the following points were noted:

- the Treasurer and Executive Secretary were due to meet with Broadstones discuss staff pensions scheme options on 18th Dec 2015.
- the Treasurer and Executive Secretary had met with Buzzacott to discuss the wording in the audit letter, this would be discussed further under agenda item 4.1, Treasurers business.
- A working group (consisting of the President, Executive Secretary, Chairpersons from the A and G Awards Committee and the Office, Events and Building Manager) is being established to consider how the Society should make nominations for external

awards [Post Council note: the first meeting is scheduled for Monday, 23rd February at 2 pm.]

- The membership committee had been tasked with considering if additional membership categories are required now or in the coming few years in response to initiatives such as RAS 200: Sky and Earth. A meeting will be held in January 2015.

The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on the 14th November 2014 were approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

3.1 European matters.

The President updated Council on his and Professor David Southwood's deliberations with the European Astronomical Society; some progress had been made, the EAS President had written to all EAS Council members on the proposal to have a representative in Brussels helping the European astronomy community engage with the EU and present collective views. This matter would be discussed at a meeting to be held in Rolle in February that both would attend. Council will be updated at the February Council meeting.

The Deputy Executive Secretary had attended a visit to Brussels organised by the Science Council in early December. It had been a very useful trip as they had visited the European Parliament, Council and Commission buildings and met with many MEPS; a useful networking experience.

3.2 STFC Council

The President advised Council that the STFC are looking to recruit three new Council members as he and another two colleagues are standing down. It was noted that they are seeking to increase diversity in the membership of the Council. He invited Council members to offer him suggestions for individuals to fill these positions and would approach them if required to ask them to apply.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: Details of how to apply can be found at <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/newcouncilmembers2015> and on the Cabinet Office's Public Appointments website: <http://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>]

The President advised that STFC are holding a town meeting in February where grants amongst other matters will be discussed.

3.3 Christmas jumpers and Cakes

Friday 12th December was Christmas Jumper Day, the President (himself wearing a Christmas jumper) promoted this and the RAS staff efforts to raise money for Save the Children, Shelter & Crisis by selling cakes at break and lunchtime, he encouraged Council to support this cause.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: The RAS staff raised £193 from the cake sale and £26 for the wearing of Christmas jumpers.]

4. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

Financial management (staff)

The Treasurer updated Council on plans to recruit a recently qualified accountant to work under Mr Kyriakides on a full time basis. It was noted that in the remaining weeks of the financial year and the run up to the preparation of the annual accounts, the previous accountant Mr Struthers will be employed on a part time basis to cover some basic activities, clearing Mr Kyriakides for the audit preparations.

It was noted that these arrangements will incur an extra level of cost in respect of financial management than that with which the RAS has survived in the past.

In summary, from 1998 to 2013 the Society employed a single accountant who served the Society very well and absorbed the increasing workload by unpaid home working. Increases government requirement for reporting, financial transactions and the expanding activities of the society make it no longer realistic to expect effective financial management of our affairs to be carried out by one full time equivalent (FTE) accountant. This matter had been discussed with Buzzacott and with the Finance Committee and all agreed that the current and future financial management could not safely be provided by a single post and that an extension at least to a FTE of 1.5 was required.

Council approved the proposed increase from 1 FTE to 1.5 FTE at an increase in expenditure on financial management from about £60k p.a. to about £90k p.a.

Bank Reconciliations

Council noted that the four accounts with HSBC (Current, Money Manager, Restricted Fund and Pension Fund Accounts) and one deposit account with Natwest were all reconciled to October 2014.

Council noted the financial and legal status of the Society as set out below:

RAS Financial and Legal Status	Level of Materiality	Report for December 2014
Transfers in and out of Reserves	£50k	No Change except market variability August 31 st figures in brackets RAS £5,980,029 (£6,010,497.05) Paneth £301,664 (£303,201.31)
Unplanned changes in cash holdings	£20k	OUP advance for 2015 and transfer of cash from BNY Mellon (Newton) have increased our cash holdings. As of Dec 1 st the balances were, (September 5 th figures in brackets): HSBC Current £0.00 (£180.00) HSBC Money Manager £3,218,619.99 (£1,756,849.76) HSBC Restricted Funds £ 78,174.89 (£78,232.63) HSBC Pension Fund Account £28,355.64 (£28,355.84) HSBC Total £3,322,150.79 (£1,863,618.23)

		Natwest £21,724.35 (£32,281.19)
Heritage Assets	One Heritage Item	No change
Lease	Any change	We are in discussion. Including the taking of legal advice, with our landlords over the lease renewal.
Debts	£5k	No change
Legal Agreements	Any change	No change
Insurance	Any change	No change

Burlington House

Council were briefed on ongoing deliberations that the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer are involved in with regards to the Tenancy of Burlington House.

Publication Income

Council noted:

- that the Executive Secretary, Editorial Office Manager and Treasurer had met with OUP in late October to receive their financial estimates for 2014.
- OUP have increased their sales, reduced costs and saved money by returning the printing of hard copy back to the UK. This will provide approximately an additional £260 K over and above the guaranteed income.
- A further windfall sum of approximately £250K is also estimated from the sale of a copy of our pre-1996 archives funded by the French Government.
- The Finance Committee discussed the publication income in detail at its meeting on December 4th and advised that the majority of the extra income be held in reserve to offset possible unplanned expenditure in other areas.

Professor Andrew Norton asked if there were plans to stop hard copy printing of the journals; the Treasurer explained that income is generated from hard copy printing (as a consequence of changing practices in printing particularly on demand printing) so there were no plans to stop.

Council were pleased to note that A&G, which had been running at a modest loss of £15k per annum, now generates an annual surplus of about £6.5k. They were reminded that the previous loss-making performance had been considered acceptable given the importance of A&G as one of the primary means by which we communicate with our members. During the strategic discussions in 2013 it was agreed to support and diversify A&G by setting up a specific website and invest in an expansion of the journal to include more content. It was noted that the combination of the improved financial performance with the extra funding voted by Council should be more than adequate to cover these new activities.

Dr Geraint Jones noted that the quality of paper used in A&G is of high quality and that perhaps a change could reduce costs. It was agreed that the Editor and publishers should be asked to consider this.

Council were also pleased to note that MNRAS continues to be highly successful academically as well as financially and that submissions are continuing to rise. They approved the appointment of an additional Editorial Board Member and an additional FTE Assistant Editor, who will in the first instance give cover for an impending maternity leave and thereafter help cope with the increased workload

Finance Committee

Council noted that the Finance Committee had met on December 4th to discuss the publication income, the staffing of financial posts at the RAS, the need to invest our cash surpluses and the format of future financial reporting.

NAM 2014

Council had sight of the financial statement from NAM 2014 and noted that the University of Portsmouth had made a surplus of £6.5K

Fraud statement

Council were reminded that Professor Paul Murdin has asked the Treasurer to engage with Buzzacott on the language used in the audit opinion letter; he was seeking a clear statement that there was no evidence of fraud.

The Treasurer and Executive Secretary had met with Buzzacott on 20th November 2014 and had been told that the language used is standard and aligned to the wording agreed by the Financial Reporting Council. The purpose of an audit is not to detect fraud, however fraud may be a reason for discrepancies in the accounts, so by stating there are no discrepancies in the accounts it could be inferred that no fraud had been identified. Council agreed that everything reasonable had been done to look into this matter.

OUP

The Treasurer advised Council on a potentially sensitive commercial issue raised by OUP. Council discussed the matter and agreed that OUP had behaved well in bringing the matter to their attention but that the matter need not concern the Society.

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 Review of the RAS Byelaws

Council considered a revised draft of the RAS byelaws that took into account the discussions held at Council on the 14th November 2014. Minimal changes were proposed.

The Executive Secretary advised that she had been in discussion with Mr. Lawrey, from the Foundation for Science and Technology, who is in regular contact with the Privy Council and had confirmed that the Charter need not be amended to include the position of President-elect as an Officer and Council member, it will be sufficient to introduce the changes to the Byelaws and that there is no need to seek approval from the Privy Council on the proposed byelaw changes.

It was agreed that a final draft incorporating the minimal changes proposed would be approved by the drafting committee in January 2015 and that proposals for the revised byelaws will be issued to the Fellowship in February 2015, inviting comments by the first week in March.

Council were reminded that the byelaw working group will hold a couple of open door/drop in sessions for the Fellowship to discuss the proposed changes in more detail.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: The open door sessions are scheduled for 26th February and 5th March.]

The President thanked the drafting group for their good work and for presenting the proposed amendments in an effective and efficient way.

5.2 RAS Council Elections 2015

Council had sight of a ballot list. The President noted his conflict of interest as his daughter has applied to be a Councillor. Professor Ian Crawford, Senior Secretary, introduced this item and briefed Council on an earlier discussion with Officers on the balance of the nominations received, they felt that the nominations were reasonably balanced in terms of gender and subject matter and that there was no need for a Presidential Election Committee to be established as two candidates had been put forward for the position of President (elect.) Council concurred with these observations.

It was noted that a number of the candidates had not stated whether they were applying for an Astronomy or Geophysics position; they would be asked to confirm in writing.

5.3 100th Anniversary of election of women to the Fellowship

Dr Mandy Bailey briefly introduced this paper; however as it had been received late and there was limited time available to discuss it during this Council meeting, it was agreed that a costed options paper would be put to Council in February 2015.

5.4 Electronic infrastructure at Burlington House

Council approved the following recommendations made by the RAS IT and Communications Working Group

Recommendation 1: Purchase of 2 Cisco 24 port switches (or their equivalent) at a total cost of £953.70, including a 'cold spare' for quick recovery to facilitate the construction of Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs), a necessary step for work such as video streaming that is identified as a high priority by groups such as the International Committee.

Recommendation 2: That the RAS IT and Information Manager investigates different suppliers and arrange the purchase of 6 new wireless access points and a wireless management switch that will improve the stability and security of the wireless network at Burlington House, subject to a maximum cost of £5100.

Recommendation 3: Purchase and installation of a second physical server with an increase in memory capacity and a Storage Area Network, and a 3 year warranty. This will significantly

improve the performance and resilience of the servers and network, for example balancing the load between different pieces of equipment and allowing for a quicker recovery in the event of a hardware failure. The total cost of this equipment is £7994.20.

Recommendation 4: The principle of building a number of new virtual file servers for different applications:

- Archiving important information.
- Providing a shared staff area.
- Video file storage

should be investigated further by the RAS IT and Information Manager

Recommendation 5: The IT and Information Manager should investigate options to improve the protection of membership data, namely changing permissions, restricting access and protecting the database password.

Recommendation 6: The purchase of 2 MacBook Air laptops, one for the Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer and another as a ‘pool’ machine for other staff travelling to meetings at a cost of approximately £1250.

Recommendation 7: The purchase of three encrypted hard drives to improve the backup of data (which includes membership details and other sensitive information), in order for the Society to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Recommendation 8: £3k per annum budget allocated to the RAS IT and Information Manager for consumables and other essential purchases, this budget to be reviewed after 12 months.

Recommendation 9: The hosting of the RAS website is changed from RedStation (the current web provider) to Siteground, to improve the reliability of the service at a cost saving of approximately £1,000 per annum.

Recommendation 10: The purchase of a service and maintenance contract from Whitwam Audio Visual Solutions to ensure reliable operation of the audiovisual equipment in the RAS lecture theatre, at a cost of £1049.00 per annum and subject to review in 12 months’ time.

Council discussed other possible IT and information requirements and asked that the working group consider the need for additional cooling apparatus in the IT server room, the need for an additional firewall over and above that currently provided by UCL and the need for an additional Uninterrupted Power supply.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Secretary (to liaise with working group)

Council noted that the management and development of the RAS website was under review as part of the ongoing process of reviewing external suppliers to ensure that they provide the best value for the Society.

Council thanked the RAS IT and Information Manager, the Deputy Executive Secretary and the working group for all their work.

5.5 RAS Research Fellowships 2015

Professor Jim Wild, VP (A), provided an update on progress with the selection process for the RAS Research Fellowships. Council were reminded that three Fellowships can be awarded this year as one of last year's winners did not take up their position.

The selection panel consists of:

- Prof James Wild (Chair), Lancaster University (STP/space plasma physics)
- Prof Hilary Downes, Birkbeck/UCL (solid earth and meteorites)
- Prof Clare Parnell, St Andrews (solar and plasmas)
- Dr David Sing, University of Exeter (planetary/exoplanet)
- Dr Martin Bureau, University of Oxford (formation and evolution of galaxies)
- Prof William Chaplin, University of Birmingham (stellar and solar physics)
- Professor Andrew Liddle of ROE (cosmology)

The range of applications had been wide, with 72 applicants received, broadly split as Solid Earth (3 applications) Solar terrestrial and solar (5 applications) Planetary (3 applications) Stellar and galactic (14 applications) Extragalactic and cosmology (44 applications) and other/unclassified (3 applications.)

19 applications were down selected to a long list whose applications would be sent to independent referees. It was noted that the next teleconference to decide the shortlist of 6 – 8 candidates is scheduled for the 10th February 2015 and that interviews will be held in Burlington House on 24th February 2015.

5.6 Arrangements for NAM 2015

Dr Mandy Bailey and Professor Mike Edmunds gave a brief overview of progress in NAM planning including the scientific programme. Key points included:

- Venue Cymru will provide full online registration service including links to accommodation and social events.
- There will be a separate NAM 2015 website with links to Venue Cymru website.
- The Town Hall meeting is likely to be held on the Tuesday (to suite CEO STFC availability)
- The conference dinner will be held in Venue Cymru and medals and awards may be presented at the dinner.
- The SOC has set the following deadlines, call for plenaries 20th November 2014 and call for parallel sessions 5th January 2015.
- An Outreach Programme Organising Committee is being established, they will organise the outreach activities, agree any outreach-themed parallel discussion sessions for the main scientific programme and oversee any Welsh-language issues.
- It was also noted that Professor Martin Rees has offered to give a public lecture.

Council discussed options for NAM 2016, an update will be provided at the Council meeting in February 2015.

5.7 Building works in Burlington House

It was noted that there has been a delay in obtaining the necessary permissions required before the reception window in BH can be installed. The Executive Secretary and Treasurer will be asked to approve final estimates when received.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: the Buildings Regulations Passing of Plans notice has been received from Westminster. Awaiting date from building contractor as 6 – 8 week lead for specialist fireproof glass.]

5.8 Library Committee Minutes

Council noted the minutes of the library committee held on the 28th October 2014 and noted that an error had been made in marking the attendance, where Ian Howarth was in attendance rather than Ian Crawford.

Dr Simon Mitton, chair of the Library Committee noted how professionally the librarian, Sian Prosser, was managing the library.

5.9 International matters

Council were joined by Professor Patricia Whitlock and Professor Phil Charles to discuss International matters. Professor Whitlock is a senior astronomer at the University of Cape Town and the South African Astronomy Observatory and is on the board of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development, (OAD.) Professor Whitlock gave a presentation on the history and work of the OAD. It was noted that the Society is a partner with OAD for their visiting experts' scheme; however the application rate has been very low with only two awards made to date.

Council thanked Professor Whitlock for her interesting presentation. It was agreed that more publicity should be given to the visiting experts scheme and that the RAS and OAD could give further thought to how they could work together better. It was agreed that there may be opportunity for joint working as the RAS makes plans for its 200th anniversary. The Treasurer invited the OAD through Professor Charles to draft proposals for future engagement.

ACTION: PROF. PHIL CHARLES, Chair of the International Committee

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Progress Report: RAS 200 Sky and Earth

The Deputy Executive Secretary provided a short update on progress to date on RAS 200

- The Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer, Deputy Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Steering Group had organised and attended 12 'town hall' meetings to discuss the project with RAS Fellows and community groups around the UK
- Two more meetings were set to follow in January, in Reading and the Isle of Man

- Feedback from the meetings has been extremely positive, not least in the RAS demonstrating that it has a presence across the UK
- The invitation for outline proposals for RAS 200 grants opened on 1 December
- Membership of the grants panel has been agreed and the panel will meet on 16 February to assess the first set of applications

6.2 Education and Outreach Committee Minutes

Council noted the minutes of the Education Committee held on 24th October 2014.

6.3 Minutes of the Committee on Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics

Council noted the minutes of the Committee on Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics held on 21st November 2014

6.4 House of Lords Science and Technology Committee: Resilience of Electricity Infrastructure: RAS response

Council noted the RAS response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report on Resilience of Electricity Infrastructure. The full response is available at: http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras_pdfs/Policy%20Papers/RAS_electrical_infrastructure_and_space_weather_final.pdf

6.5 RAS statement on #shirtgate/#shirtstorm

Council briefly discussed the successful landing of the Philae space probe on the surface of Comet 67/P Churyumov-Gerasimenko and the subsequent public interest in the choice of shirt worn by the lead scientist at the press conference announcing the landing. It was noted that the RAS had issued a statement.

7. PUBLICATIONS

There was nothing significant to report under this item.

8. OTHER

8.1 Medals and Awards 2014

a. Council considered a paper written by the Award Committee Chairs that had been tabled at the meeting. It was noted that very few nominations had been received for the Winton Capital Award, which was disappointing. A good set of nominations for history of astronomy achievement has been received for the Jackson-Gwilt Medal.

Overall it was felt that the Society needs to encourage an increased number of nominations of a more diverse nature.

b. Council approved the following Awards:

Gold Medal

(A): Professor Michel Mayor

(G): Professor Mike Lockwood

Eddington Medal (A)

Professor Rashid Sunyaev

Herschel Medal (A)
Professor Stephen Eales

Price Medal (G)
Professor John Brodholt

George Darwin Lecture (A)
Professor Katherine Blundell

Chapman Medal (G)
Professor Alan Hood

Jackson-Gwilt Medal (A)
Winner: Professor Allan Chapman

Harold Jeffreys Lecture (G)
Professor Anthony Watts

Fowler Award:
(A): Dr Hayley Gomez
(G): Dr Catherine Rychert

James Dungey Lecture (G)
Dr Helen Mason OBE

Winton Capital Award
(A): Dr Michal Michalowski
(G): Dr Richard Morton

Service Award:
(A): None
(G): Professor Lidia Van Driel-Gesztelyi

Group Achievement Award
(A): E-Merlin
(G): Hinode EUV Imaging Spectrometer
(EIS) Team

Honorary Fellowships
1. Professor Fiona Harrison (A)
2. Dr Alan Stern (G)
3. Dr Asahiko Taira (G)
4. Dr Janet Luhmann (G)

c. Council deferred lifting the restriction on existing Fellows receiving Honorary Fellowships, pending the changes to membership categories set out in the revised bye-laws being approved at the AGM. It was agreed that Professor Andrew Norton and Professor Paul Murdin would provide a discussion paper for the consideration of Council in February 2015.

8.2 Patrick Moore Medal

Charles Barclay, who chaired the award committee for the Patrick Moore Medal, reported on the selection process. Council approved the panel recommendation that the Medal go to Sarah Llewellyn-Davies of Castell Alun High School in Flintshire.

8.3 Officers Reports

Council approved the following for Fellowship:

Surname	First Name	Town/ University	Sponsor
Ahmed	Tahir	Nottingham	Margaret J. Penston
Alcock	Benjamin	Glasgow	Graham Woan
Alderson	John	Bromley	Membership Committee
Asaert	Guy	London	M.M. Dworetzky
Atia	Itamar	London	Andrew Norton
Barker	Jeremy	Cheltenham	Steven Phillipps
Bhansali	Neerav	London	Ian Howarth

Borissov	Alexei	Leuchars	Alan Hood
Boulderstone	Elizabeth	Redhill	Prof. J.P Emerson
Brooker	Laura	Milton Keynes	Andrew Norton
Burrell	Angeline	Leicester	Steve Milan
Carbajal Gomez	Leopoldo	The University of Warwick	Prof. S.C. Chapman
Chan	Jennifer	UCL	Jason McEwen
Chishti	Muhammad	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Corlett	Gary	Isle of Man	Mr Howard Parkin
Court	James	Southampton	Mark Sullivan
Crowther	Sarah	University of Manchester	J.D. Gilmour
Culshaw	Jon	London	Mandy Bailey
Curtis	Paul	Andover	Ian Ridpath
David	Timothy	Leciester	Darren Wright
Davies	Melanie	Hastings	Prof. P.A. Thomas
DeBlackmere	Eric	Kingsport	Roger G. Clowes
Desai	Ravindra	MSSL	Prof. A.J. Coates
Dickinson	Alex	Robinson College, Cambridge	Ross Parnell-Turner
Djordjevic	Julie	University of Hertfordshire	Mark Thompson
Doran	Donald	Southport	Silvia Dalla
Downs	Simon	Clanfield	Graham Bryant
Durkan	Stephen	Belfast	Colin Hill
Dye	Simon	Duffield	Neal Jackson
Elliott	Scott	London	Prof. J.P Emerson
Evirgen	Cetin Can	Scarborough	Dr Andrew Fletcher
Florence	Scott	Prestbury	Victor Debattista
Fournier	Benoît	Brighton	Prof. P.A. Thomas
Garland	Ryan	Oxford	Patrick GJ Irwin
Goddard	Daniel	Harlow	Claudia Maraston
Graham	Georgina	MSSL	Iain Jonathan Rae
Gray	Rebecca	Lancaster University	Sarah Badman
Greenslade	Joshua	London	D.L. Clements
Greer	Paul	Oldbury	Andrew Norton
Gu	Minyang	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Gualdi	Davide	UCL	O. Lahav
Guervilly	Céline	University of Leeds	David W. Hughes
Gunn	Kathryn	Warnford	Ross Parnell-Turner
Gurkan-Uygun	Gulay	University of Hertfordshire	MJ Hardcastle
Harker	Geraint	London	Emma Chapman
Hilton	Matthew	University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa	Keith Smith
Holdship	Jonathan	London	Serena Viti
Hood	Rosie	Loughton	Anasuya Aruliah
Johnson	Rosie	Durham	Tom Stallard
Johnston	Craig	Dundee	Alan Hood
Jones	Bethany	Manchester	Michael Keith

Joyce	Simon	Birmingham	M.A. Barstow
Jupp	Simon	Hastings	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Kitching	Thomas	MSSL	Jason McEwen
Kruijssen	Diederik	Max-Planck Institut fur Astrophysik, Germany	Robert Kennicutt
Lacey	Helen	London	D.L. Clements
Latter	Henrik	Cambridge	J. Papaloizou
Lawrence	Scott	London	I.A Crawford
Leggat	Peter	James Cook University, Australia	Membership Committee
Lochner	Michelle	UCL	Hiranya Peiris
MacEvoy	Bruce	Sebastopol, CA, USA	Membership Committee
Malenta	Mateusz	Manchester	Michael Keith
Malliband	Christopher	Durham	Paula M. Chadwick
Mather	William	Brighton	Dr Darren Baskill
Meyer	Dominique M- A.	Haguenau, France	Robert Izzard
Mihailescu	Adriana	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Mooroogen	Krishna	Gateshead	R. Morton
Motwani	Bhawna	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India	Michael Drinkwater
Mulay	Sargam	St. Edmunds College, Cambridge	Dr Adrian John Barker
Mundy	Carl	University of Nottingham	Prof. Alfonso Aragon- Salamamca
Naik	Saili	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Nathan	Ravi Paul	London	Ian Howarth
Nowacki	Andy	University of Bristol	James Wookey
Owen	Ellis	Woking	Megan Whewell
Pagomenos	George	Milton Keynes	Andrew Norton
Palamartchouk	Kirill	Newcastle University	Peter John Clarke
Parfitt	Mark	Denham Green	Membership Committee
Pattle	Katherine	Preston	D Ward-Thompson
Pearlstone	Brynley	Glasgow	Graham Woan
Pines	Sebastian	Kenilworth	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Pittordis	Charalambos	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Pollak	Alexander	University of Oxford	Garret Cotter
Powell	Stacie	Cambridge	Dr M.J. Irwin
Prentice	Simon	Warrington	M.F. Bode
Prichard	Laura	Bristol	Garret Cotter
Ratcliffe	Luke	Harrogate	Andrew Norton
Raymer	Katie	Leicester	Suzanne Imber
Reed	Joe	Southampton	Caitriona Jackman
Richards	Frederick	Jesus College, Cambridge	Ross Parnell-Turner
Rogers	Keir	London	Hiranya Peiris
Saintonge	Amélie	UCL	Serena Viti
Seta	Amit	Newcastle University	Graeme R. Sarson

Shumaylova	Valeria	Cambridge	Dr Adrian John Barker
Simões	Paulo	Universtiy of Glasgow	Prof. Lyndsay Fletcher
Slattery	Christopher	Sidmouth	Dr Ian Geoffrey Stimpson
Snowball	David	Swindon	Membership Committee
Spence	Robert	Sheffield	Clive Tadhunter
Srivastava	Abhishek Kumar	Banaras Hindu University, India	Membership Committee
Stephenson	Simon	Cambridge	Ross Parnell-Turner
Tabatabaei	Naghmeh	London	Prof. J.P Emerson
Tajuldeen	Layth	St. Andrews	Dr Vivienne Wild
Taylor	Sam	Redhill	Prof. A. Coates
Vitti	Marcela	Wolfson College, Cambridge	Gordon Ogilvie
Weightman	Colin	Beckenham	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Wickham-Eade	Jamie	University of Kent	M.J. Burchell
Williams	Benjamin	St. Andrews	Alan Hood
Ye	Haoyang	Cambridge	Malcolm Longair
Zegmott	Tarik	Brighton	Jeremy J. Drake

Jane Macarthur noted the healthy growth in membership over the year to date.

9. Any Other Business

- a. The recent deaths of two prominent Fellows were noted:
 - Professor J. Russ Evans had died on the 1st December 2015. Professor Russ was an Editor for GJI in 1996-1998 and the GJI Editor in Chief during 1999-2006.
 - Professor Don L. Anderson died on 2nd December, 2014. He had received the RAS "G" gold medal in 1988.

- b. Professor Mike Edmunds briefed Council on the plans in the Autumn Statement for a section of the A303 road near Stonehenge to be converted to a tunnel. Council agreed that he should write on their behalf in support of this proposal.

- c. Council noted that an exhibition entitled '*Light Works*' celebrating the International Year of Light 2015 will be hosted in the courtyard of Burlington House from 26th January to 10th Feb 2015. The Society is very pleased to assist with this exhibition that is organised by the Royal Photographic Society with support from STFC. The press launch will be held in Burlington House on the 30th January 2015.

- d. Dr Sheila Peacock raised the matter of journals refusing papers that are based on work involving damage to geological outcrops. It was agreed that the Editorial Office Manager would forward relevant correspondence on GJI's policy to Dr Peacock.

- e. It was agreed that Dr Simon Mitton would submit a proposal for a specialist discussion meeting to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Fred Hoyle's birth.

Council rose at 15:30.

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Professor M. Barstow

13th February 2015