

# THE RUSSELL SOCIETY

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RUSSELL SOCIETY HELD ONLINE USING THE ZOOM VIDEO-CONFERENCING PLATFORM AT 15.45 ON 17 APRIL 2021

The meeting was attended by 51 members and was quorate in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Society.

### AGENDA

Following notification of the agenda to members no additional AGM items were raised or received by the closing date of Wednesday 3 March 2021.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Buckfast Abbey on 13 April 2019 (summary) published in Newsletter 75 and full minutes available via The Russell Society website).
3. Approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 that would have been presented at the 2020 AGM (and were circulated to the membership in March 2020).
4. Retrospective approval of the election of Phil Taylor as Membership Secretary and Trustee with effect from 4 April 2020.
5. Matters arising
6. Honorary Officers' reports:
  - 6.1 President
  - 6.2 Vice-President including Health & Safety
  - 6.3 General Secretary
  - 6.4 Treasurer and Approval of the accounts
  - 6.5 Membership Secretary
  - 6.6 Journal Editor
  - 6.7 Newsletter Editor
  - 6.8 Conservation Officer
7. Appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees for 2021 – 2022

Nominations received as follows:-

Honorary President	Steve Warren
Honorary Vice-President	David Aubrey-Jones
Honorary General Secretary	Alistair Napier
Honorary Treasurer	Stuart Wagstaff
Honorary Membership Secretary	Phil Taylor
8. Date of next Annual General Meeting – 2 April 2022
9. Any other business

## 1. Apologies for Absence – Malcolm Southwood and David Green.

## 2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2019 AGM (available via the Russell Society website and the summary of them published in Newsletter 75) were agreed unanimously as a true record of the 2019 AGM. This was proposed by Steve Warren and seconded by Mary Starkey. Vote: 32 in favour with 7 abstentions. Steve Warren (Hon. President) signed and dated a printed copy of the 2019 AGM Minutes.

## 3. Approval of the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

that would have been presented at the 2020 AGM (and were circulated to the membership in March 2020).

## ASM Treasurer's Report April 2020 for year ending December 2019

Nick Hawes drew attention to an inconsistency in the way that the SW Branch petty cash had been shown, resulting in a non-balance of the columns. The tabulated accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 have been corrected accordingly.

The table below shows the receipts and payments into the Society's current and deposit account:

<b>THE RUSSELL SOCIETY</b>					
<b>Registered Charity No 803308</b>					
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SOCIETY ACCOUNT : To 31/12/19</b>					
<b>For the year 1 January 2019 to 31st December 2019</b>					
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	<b>Payments</b>
Subscriptions (receipts-refunds)	£8,162.27	£7,923.57	Administration	£263.05	£165.33
Journal & Newsletter sales	£190.96	£120.00	Council Travel Expenses	£353.72	£294.00
Insertions in Journal/Newsletter	£50.00	£50.00	Gifts and Awards	£860.82	£0.00
PLS (Royalties )	£89.92	£27.23	Website	£139.99	£104.99
Interest received COIF deposit	£198.77	£70.23	GA affiliation fee	£40.00	£40.00
Gift Aid refund	£1,182.15	£2,602.81	Insurance	£352.73	£482.46
ASM Auction	£1,291.00	£917.00	Publicity	£321.09	£150.02
Donation Corrie book sale	£1,334.00		Display Cases	£119.10	
Other Donations	£14.53	£216.35	Journal costs	£4,793.63	£7,801.60
Medal reimbursement	£240.00		Newsletters	£4,719.80	£3,702.29
Catering one day seminar	£19.73		Transfers to Branch Accounts	£0.00	£300.00
ASM 2019 Buckfast Abbey	£1,165.00	£2,065.00	Room hire one day seminar (Centra	£63.00	£0.00
ASM 2020 Cheltenham	£560.00		Projects		£180.00
Transfer of funds from Branches	£1,073.71		ASM 2019	£3,246.00	
			ASM 2020	£725.00	
			Cogger proceeds to Charity		£2,650.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£15,572.04</b>	<b>£14,207.19</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£15,997.93</b>	<b>£16,830.69</b>
<b>Opening bank balances:-</b>			<b>Closing bank balances :-</b>		
Current account	£22,184.31	£24,807.81	Current account	£8,758.42	£22,184.31
COIF Deposit account	£19,000.00	£19,000.00	Deposit account	£32,000.00	£19,000.00
Petty cash with SW branch	£150.00		Petty cash with SW branch	£150.00	
<b>Total Bank Deposits</b>	<b>£41,334.31</b>	<b>£43,807.81</b>		<b>£40,908.42</b>	<b>£41,184.31</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£56,906.35</b>	<b>£58,015.00</b>		<b>£56,906.35</b>	<b>£58,015.00</b>

Notes:  
 Excess income over expenditure -£425.89 -£2,623.50  
 Low in 2019 because of transfer of funds from Branch accounts

Income in 2019 was swelled by £1073 transfer from the Society branch accounts which have all now been closed bar that of W&W, and a very generous donation from Lyn Corrie of £1334 raised from the sale of Keith's books. Excluding the costs of the Journal and Newsletter, the running costs of the society were a little higher than last year. Our stock of Russell medals had become depleted and so more were ordered and additionally some small gifts were made to individuals (members and non-members) who had provided exceptional support to the society. A display case and poster were also purchased.

Total Society bank deposits fell from £41,184 to £40,908, a drop of £276 despite receiving £1073 from branch accounts. This figure has been affected by monies paid out for the 2019 ASM which were collected in 2018. If this "phasing" is removed, and Branch expenditures are included (including expenditure before branch accounts were consolidated) then the overall figures show that the Society made a very small surplus:

<b>OVERVIEW FOR SOCIETY including Branches but not W&amp;W 2019</b>			
	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>
Subscriptions	£8,162.27	General	£2,210.50
Gift Aid Refund	£1,182.15	Events (Costs less income)	£257.07
Donations	£2,740.53	Newsletter	£4,719.80
Other Income	£529.65	Journal	£4,793.63
		Projects	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,614.60</b>		<b>£11,981.00</b>

Financial support for events was lower than usual principally because our biggest event, the 2019 ASM, was run to a very tight budget and the Society only contributed £16. The organisers are to be congratulated. Other events supported by the Society were branch meetings and an excellent one day seminar organised by Central branch. At the time of going to press W&W have not had their AGM and so their accounts are not available and cannot be included in the above figures.

March 2021 Note: W&W accounts have been received by the Treasurer and show an excess of income over expenditure of £47.04 with an end of year balance of £2167.80

Vote to accept the accounts for year ended 31 December 2019. Proposed by Steve Warren  
Seconded by Mary Starkey. Vote: 48 in favour with 1 abstention.

**4. Retrospective approval of the election of Phil Taylor as Membership Secretary and Trustee** with effect from 4 April 2020. Proposed by Steve Warren Seconded by Mary Starkey  
Vote: 48 in favour 1 abstention.

## 5. Matters arising

None.

## 6. Honorary Officers' Reports

### 6.1 President's Report

2020 was a year of challenges for the Society, both in terms of the pandemic impacting our meetings and field trip programme and member apathy. However, challenging circumstances often lead to innovation and resolution of problems.

The emergence of our online talks programme has been a real plus for the Society. Attendance far exceeds that of our dwindling winter meetings and shows us the way forward. Meeting in person remains a priority, but online talks are very efficient and will help to fill the gaps in our social calendar.

Member apathy, in terms of helping to run the Society, has been a perennial issue for us. 2020 saw us address this problem, with a group of members coming forward to help on Council. We now have a succession plan that should see the Society through the next decade. This should not be taken for granted though and, from my perspective, the Society remains a fragile organisation. I would like to see more members throwing their hat in the ring to help. In addition, there are no female members in the succession plan; this cannot be good for us.

As a small charity, run by volunteers, it is vital that we operate as efficiently as possible. For many years we have enjoyed a twice-yearly printed Newsletter. Rising printing and postage costs, combined with a need to reduce the burden on the Newsletter Editor have resulted in Council deciding to issue the Newsletter in email format from now on. I am really pleased with the new arrangement, it is a flexible and effective means of communicating with our members.

Our Journal goes from strength to strength and receiving it remains one of the highlights of the year. My thanks go to the Journal team, authors and referees for all their dedication and hard work.

Although 2020 dealt a hard blow to our field trip programme, 2021 is looking much more positive and I expect we will soon be back in action. My appreciation goes to all the Branch Organisers and Field Trip Organisers for their determination and the efforts that go into delivering our field trips.

The value of field trips, in terms of recording the mineralogy of the British Isles, came across clearly to me in 2020.

In Chris Finch's Zoom talk it became obvious that our activities are highly valued by parts of the quarrying industry. I know that similar relationships have been developed across the UK by other Field Trip Organisers and the overall picture remains very encouraging despite the hurdles we have to jump over.

In November, Neil Hubbard and David Green then reported the first British occurrence of richelsdorfite from Dolyhir Quarry in our Journal. This further highlighted the importance of saving specimen material from the fleeting exposures that occur in quarries and the importance of recording the context of finds.

To sum up, our Society has survived the pandemic and is now in a stronger position than we have been for some time. We cannot take anything for granted though. We need to continue streamlining our operations and we need to reboot our social activities. Zoom can help to fill a gap but there is no substitute for face-to-face contact.

In 2022, our Society will be fifty years old. This is no mean achievement for a group that emerged from an evening class in the Midlands. In that time, we have developed a rich history and made a significant contribution to British topographic mineralogy. The bridges that we have formed between amateur and professional mineralogists, quarry operators and landowners are of immense value and will help take us into the future. In the meantime, please support our Central Branch who will be hosting the 2022 ASM Weekend and continue supporting your Society as best you can.

As with any 'organisation' things do not happen automatically. They happen because certain individuals go to great lengths to make sure that they happen. As we move forward to a new incarnation of Council it is worth remembering how we got here.

There is no doubt in my mind that our Society would have ceased to exist if Roy and Mary Starkey had not stepped up to help on Council several years ago, their intervention has been the deciding factor in our survival.

It has been an immense privilege to work with Roy and Mary over the past few years and we all owe them our considerable gratitude. (I'll miss the soup and rolls too ....).

Steve Warren  
Hon. President

Nigel Moreton commented that he much preferred a printed hard copy newsletter. Marashean Parker added "I can carry a booklet with me but not my desktop computer". Colleen Thomson said "Access it from your smart phone", whilst Mike Howe told the meeting "I keep thousands of documents on my iPad and/or Google drive. Just as easy as print." Gary Morse commented that the PDF version had the distinct advantage of being searchable.

In response to the comments the General Secretary stated that Council had given this matter serious consideration and on a number of grounds it had been decided to adopt an electronic newsletter as standard.

## 6.2 Vice-President including Health & Safety

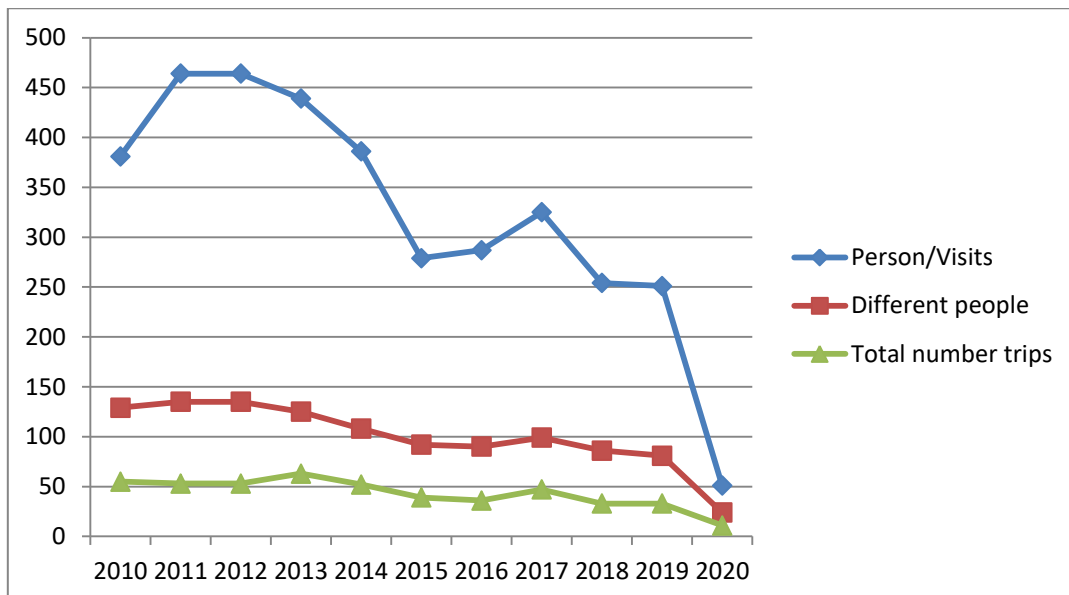
### Covid-19 Pandemic

Branch organisers worked hard to plan an extensive field trip programme for 2021. Field trips had just started in early March when the Covid-19 pandemic led to a total lockdown being announced by the government. With no-one being allowed to travel or meet, we had no alternative but to cancel field trips for three months. We reviewed the situation in July when there was a relaxation in the lockdown, and announced that some field trips could go ahead with a limit of six people attending providing the land owners and/or site managers were agreeable. This allowed some a few field trips to be salvaged, but inevitably there has been a huge drop in numbers as can be seen in the graph below. Many quarries were not accepting any visitors and trips, and so the impact continued. A total of 20 field trips were cancelled.

### Health and Safety

Many thanks to those who submitted the documentation for review and to all attendees who enabled the field trips to be "incident free, showing the responsible attitude which Russell Society members have to health and safety issues". Using the returns from the Field Leader Indemnity Forms (FLIF) a summary of visits has been produced.

Branch	Number of Field Trips Reported	Field Trip Attendance
Central	1	4
North	4	18
South West	4	20
Wales & West	0	0
Southern	2	9
Total	11	51



*Graph of Field Trips and numbers attending over the last 11 years*

### Commentary

- There have been 51 person/visits in 2020 in total.
- 24 different people attended a field trip.
- 20 trips were cancelled.

### Health and Safety Documentation

The new insurance documents for 2020 were forwarded to Branch Organisers and Field Trip Organisers in July. A query on the insurance exclusions was raised by Ian Dossett and this has now been addressed.

New versions of many of field trip documents have been created and these should now be used in place of the old ones. The most recent versions, which are all on the website, are:

- Indemnity form rev03 March 2021
- Risk assessment form rev02 January 2021
- Incident reporting form rev01 June 2020
- Guidance for use of excavators rev02 June 2020
- Risk assessment and Field trip leader guidance rev01 June 2020
- Health and safety policy rev01 March 2021

### Safety Record

I am pleased to be able to report a nil return for incidents during the field trips in 2020.

I would like to thank all Branch and Field Trip Organisers, and Council members, for working with me during a very difficult and exceptional year on the required health and safety issues.

David Aubrey-Jones  
Vice President

## 6.3 General Secretary

The past year has been unprecedented in the history of the Society. As I write this the difficulties and frustrations that we were facing surrounding the Cheltenham ASM weekend this time last year come back into sharp focus. We were fortunate indeed that all costs and moneys paid were eventually refunded by the hotel, and much of the preparatory work that went into that weekend has been salvaged and the programme for the 2021 ASM reflects that fact. I would like to thank all

of the other people who were involved in planning and preparing for the event, particularly Marashean and Tony Parker, and the various speakers and exhibitors.

The drive to move the Society towards a fully 'electronic' organisation has continued and the benefits are clear to see. We extended this by introducing monthly talks using the Zoom videoconferencing platform in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of opportunities for members to interact at physical meetings or on field trips. The talks have typically attracted an audience of 50 – 60 members and guests, with a multi-national audience from as many as seven nations, spanning Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. Given that we have more than 300 members it is difficult to understand why the talks are not over-subscribed each month (we have 100 places available on a first come, first served basis). I have therefore extended invitations to various like-minded groups and also invited attendees via Mindat in order to maximise the 'bang for our buck'.

For the record, talks arranged so far are as follows:-

Wednesday 17 June - Dr Michael Doel – Collecting the fluorescent minerals of Långban, Sweden

Wednesday 15 July - Dr Frank Ince – Leicestershire's other lead mine

Wednesday 19 August - Tom Cotterell (National Museum Cardiff) – The minerals of the South Wales Coalfield

Wednesday 16 September - Gary Morse - British Fluorite

Wednesday 21 October - Mike Sweeney - Larkin's Quarry

Wednesday 18 November - Chris Finch - Mineral Collecting in the Wider Mendips

Wednesday 16 December - John Faithfull – William Hunter and Mineral Collecting in the 18th century

Wednesday 20 January - Norman Moles – Minerals of the Mourne Mountains

Wednesday 17 February - David Aubrey-Jones – A Mine and a Mineral: Two West Country Treasures

Wednesday 17 March - David Ifold – Devon phosphates

Wednesday 7 April - Sylvia Humphrey – Sunday Stones of Tyneside Collieries

Wednesday 20 May 2021 - David Alderton – Fluid inclusions and what they can tell us

The virtual talks series will be taking a summer break after the talk in May and will resume again in September.

If you would like to offer a talk, workshop or other virtual activity please contact Roy Starkey.

The website continues to go from strength to strength and I would like to thank Mary Starkey and Michael Dunmore for their efforts in this regard. I hope that everyone now understands that this should be your first port of call if you want to check details of field trips, indoor meetings or other events. We are trying to reduce the workload on Council members and posting information and announcements on the website is a useful tool in this goal and reduces the need for mailshots or email distribution all of which take time and effort. So, please help us to help you – check the website first! Any feedback or comments will be gratefully received.

We have decided to continue our advertisement in *Down to Earth* magazine for another year in the hope that this may attract some new members.



We have also sponsored four Mindat pages – arthurite, russellite, Boltsburn Mine and Hope’s Nose as a way of both promoting the Society and supporting Mindat.

After a series of appeals from Steve Warren and myself asking for members to step forward and offer their skills to the Society by volunteering to serve on Council it is pleasing to report that we now have a viable succession plan in place.

I shall be standing down from the post of General Secretary after this meeting and would like to express my thanks to my fellow Trustees, Council members and appointed officers for their support and hard work over the past few years, and to wish my successor Alistair Napier every success in the role.

Roy Starkey  
General Secretary

#### 6.4 Treasurer’s Report and Approval of the accounts

The Society’s finances remain very healthy with cash reserves, as of the end of 2020, of nearly £40K.

Subscriptions continue to provide an income of about £8,000 with an additional income of £1,200 from Gift Aid. Usually, the Society also benefits from an auction at the ASM which generally raises about £1,000; this of course did not happen in 2020.

Our administration and Council travel expenses have dropped in part because we held our October Council meeting by Zoom; something that will be continued. A bigger Journal increased both our printing and postage costs compared with 2019. This could be afforded as only one printed Newsletter was published last year; this will continue as an electronic magazine which will significantly reduce our ongoing outlay. We spent £4,720 on the Newsletter in 2019; only £70 less than that year’s Journal. The Newsletter budget for 2021 is £300.

We are carrying an advert in “Down to Earth” to publicise the Society and are monitoring response. Covid limited the projects that could be supported this year but we did provide the Somerset Earth Science Centre at Moon Hill Quarry with a display of local minerals, generously provided by members, and paid for an inexpensive display case.

We did manage some evening branch meetings and an excellent one-day seminar at the Somerset Earth Science Centre before lockdown in March. The costs of £516 (less £154 paid by attendees) include some evening room hire costs for 2019 that were billed in 2020. This is the first full year that branch expenses are being paid for centrally and it seems to be working well.

Although the ASM did not happen, we did receive full booking fees from members and had paid the hotel in full. The hotel refunded us and the Society in turn refunded members. This has



increased the monies going through the account as effectively each pound spent went into and out of the account twice. We had made a small outlay of £68.50 in printing a programme that could not be recovered but three generous members refused their refunds resulting overall in £94.50 going into Society funds.

Council had budgeted to draw £1,500 from reserves in 2020; our actual excess of expenditure over income for the year was less than this at £1,000.

The Society income was £15,346 (as shown in the receipts and payments account) plus £250 reported by Wales and West branch giving an overall income of £15,596.41 to be reported to the Charity commission.

Recently I have been working with the Membership Secretary to reformat the electronic membership database so that the records needed for our Gift Aid submission to HMRC can be easily extracted. HMRC require names, addresses, amount paid and when, each in a set format. Of the seven items only two match the HMRC format and the others must be edited manually, a painful process. Some of the changes will benefit the Membership Secretary so it should be a win-win. As part of this review, I have been auditing our paper records and some members will have been contacted by me, where there have been contradictions. Many thanks for your patience and thanks to those individuals who have filled out fresh declarations when I have been unable to trace the original.

I am resigning as Treasurer this year. Thanks to everybody for their support with special thanks to fellow Council members.

Mary Starkey  
Hon. Treasurer

## THE RUSSELL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 803308

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SOCIETY ACCOUNT : To 31/12/20

For the year 1 January 2020 to 31st December 2020

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	<b>Payments</b>
Subscriptions (receipts-refunds)	£8,040.49	£8,162.27	Administration	£184.22	£263.05
Gift Aid refund HMRC	£1,199.09	£1,182.15	Council Travel Expenses	£252.50	£353.72
Journal & Newsletter sales	£204.97	£190.96	Gifts and Awards	£130.00	£860.82
Insertions in Journal/Newsletter	£0.00	£50.00	Website	£79.99	£139.99
PLS (Royalties )	£117.83	£89.92	GA affiliation fee	£40.00	£40.00
Interest received COIF deposit	£84.03	£198.77	Insurance	£322.04	£352.73
ASM Auction	£0.00	£1,291.00	Publicity	£216.00	£321.09
Donation Corrie book sale		£1,334.00	Display Cases	£11.99	£119.10
Other Donations		£14.53	Journal costs	£5,363.07	£4,793.63
Medal reimbursement		£240.00	Newsletters	£3,808.87	£4,719.80
Seminar / Meeting income	£154.00	£19.73	Projects	£136.00	
ASM 2019 Buckfast Abbey		£1,165.00	Seminar/Meeting costs	£515.58	£63.00
ASM 2020 Cheltenham	£5,546.00	£560.00	ASM 2019 Buckfast Abbey		£3,246.00
Transfer of funds from Branches		£1,073.71	ASM 2020 Cheltenham	£5,286.50	£725.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£15,346.41</b>	<b>£15,572.04</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£16,346.76</b>	<b>£15,997.93</b>
<b>Opening bank balances:-</b>			<b>Closing bank balances :-</b>		
Current account	£8,758.42	£22,184.31	Current account	£7,758.07	£8,758.42
COIF Deposit account	£32,000.00	£19,000.00	COIF Deposit account	£32,000.00	£32,000.00
Petty cash with SW branch	£150.00	£150.00	Petty cash with SW branch	£150.00	£150.00
<b>Total Bank Deposits</b>	<b>£40,908.42</b>	<b>£41,334.31</b>	<b>Total Bank Deposits</b>	<b>£39,908.07</b>	<b>£40,908.42</b>
<b>Total Income+ opening deposits</b>	<b>£56,254.83</b>	<b>£56,906.35</b>	<b>Total payments + closing deposits</b>	<b>£56,254.83</b>	<b>£56,906.35</b>
<b>Change in cash reserves</b>	<b>-£1,000.35</b>	<b>-£425.89</b>			

Vote to accept the accounts for year ended 31 December 2020. Proposed by Steve Warren  
Seconded by Mary Starkey. Vote: 48 in favour with 1 abstention.

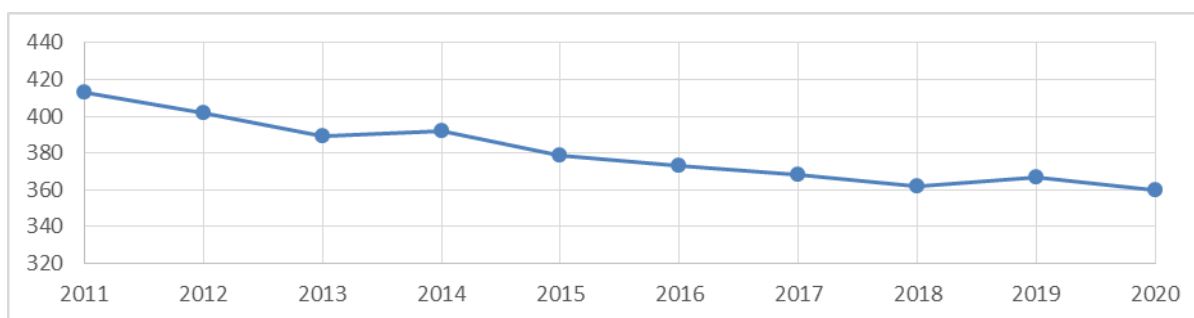
### 6.5 Membership Secretary

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the total membership stood at 360, seven down over the last year.

This figure does not include four people who contribute funds to the Society but are no longer active members; these four persons make an annual donation.

Due to deaths, resignations and non-payment, the total membership has fallen to 360. The following table records the total number of members and new members over the past 10 years.

Year End	Members	New members
2011	413	13
2012	402	12
2013	389	28
2014	392	23
2015	379	10
2016	373	11
2017	368	14
2018	362	19
2019	367	25
2020	360	9



## 2020 Changes in Membership & Statistics

New members	9		
Ex. members	16	Died	6
Overall change	-7	Resigned	9
		Not Paid	1
<b>Distribution of Membership (31/12/2020)</b>			
Northern	91		
Central	67		
Wales & West	34		
Southern	98	Junior/Student	5
South West	47	Single	248
Overseas	23	Family	107
Total Members	360	Total Members	360

## 2021 Statistics (up to 31/03/2021)

New members	4		
Ex. members	2	Died	2
		Resigned	0

## Remarks

- The overall fall in membership differs from the fall in required mail shots for posting the Journal. This is due to Family memberships and the effect of new members throughout the year. For example, a family member may leave the Society therefore lowering the total membership by one, but the number of journals to be posted remains unchanged.
- Sixteen (16) people left the Society during 2020, nine (9) new members joined; with an overall difference of -7 members resulting, with a drop in mailing addresses of -4.
- During the summer of 2020, Roy and I contacted thirty-four members who did not have an email address registered with us. An email address is becoming more essential now the Newsletter has gone electronic. It is also necessary for notifying members to the monthly

talks and news updates during the Covid-19 pandemic, and beyond. The exercise resulted in 17 new emails being added to the database list, so halving the required number of physical postal mailshots required.

- We have now had eight new members join so far this year.
- Currently there are 70 people who have yet to pay their subscriptions. Reminder emails and letters have been sent with a deadline for payment of 23 April.
- Finally Phil expressed his thanks to Neil Hubbard for all his assistance in effecting a smooth handover.

Phil Taylor  
Membership Secretary

Marco Marchesini asked whether Council would consider permitting overseas members to pay up to three years in one go. It was agreed that this would be considered at the next Council Meeting.

## 6.6 Journal Editor

### Journal Report (David Green, Ray Robinson and Frank Ince)

#### JRS 23 (2020)

JRS 23 was printed at the end of November. There were very minor changes to the text on the front inside and back inside covers, and the weight of the card covers was increased to 350 g. JRS 23 contains twelve articles contributed by fourteen different authors, five of whom are first-time contributors. With a total of 121 pages it is the second largest the society has produced. The articles include a diverse mix of topics of relevance to British mineralogy.

The table below summarises the income and expenditure for 2020, together with the comparable data for 2019. Given the surplus generated in 2019 (£880.54), the budget for 2020 had been agreed at £4800.00. JRS 23 proved to be larger than anticipated (with proportionately greater costs); consequently, in 2020 there was a deficit of £436.35.

JRS	Pages <sup>1</sup>	Income			Expenditure				Balance
		Budget	Sales	Total	Layout	Printing	P&P	Total	
23 (2020)	121 + 4	4800.00	160.46	<b>4960.46</b>	650.00	3581.28	1165.53	<b>5396.81</b>	<b>-436.35</b>
22 (2019)	110 + 4	5500.00	157.95	<b>5657.95</b>	550.00	3359.23	868.18	<b>4777.41</b>	<b>+880.54</b>

<sup>1</sup> Text + 4 cover pages

#### JRS 24 (2021)

As yet no contributions for JRS 24 have been formally submitted. Five articles about mineralisation in the Permian rocks of northeast England are promised and these should result in a useful thematic volume. Two further articles, one a historical survey and the other with an interesting engineering angle are also in the pipeline.

Bearing in mind the deficit in 2020, a budget of £5500.00 for 2021 was suggested by the JRS Team; however, at the February Council Meeting the possible increases in costs were discussed and a budget of £6150.00 for 2021 was agreed.

#### JRS 25 (2022)

Further ahead, perhaps for JRS 25, a set of contributions looking at the history of mineralogy is a possibility.

Frank also reported that Ray Robinson had indicated that he would like to take on the role of Journal Manager and Frank will be working to effect a handover to suit both parties.

## 6.7 Newsletter Editor

**Newsletter No. 76 (March 2020)** was the last printed edition of the Newsletter. Printing and postage costs had been steadily increasing for a number of years and a total of £3362 for the design, printing and posting of a 48-page Newsletter to 290 members was clearly not sustainable. The onset of Covid simply accelerated the need to find a solution that not only removed the cost of printing, but also eliminated the need for, and cost of, external support for design and layout.

Mailchimp was chosen as it is a comprehensive system that can handle all aspects of online Newsletter production, from layout to issuing; database management to GDPR. The software supports the creation of a very large file which can be sent to multiple recipients in one go. This means we can include as many high-quality, full colour images as we like, meeting the clear call from members for more, bigger and better photos. To comply with GDPR rules, Mailchimp automatically carries out 'list-cleansing', and any 'unsubscribes' or bounce-backs can be reported to the Membership Secretary. As before, individual, personalised PDF versions of field trip reports can be created to be sent to landowners and quarry managers. A searchable PDF of the full Newsletter is available to download from the Members' Page of the website, or members can create their own.

While Mailchimp is not perfect, it is a reliable, versatile, easy to use system – and the version we use is free.

**No. 77 (September 2020)** was the first online-only edition but given the relative ease of Mailchimp, we were able to issue a full length Newsletter rather than just the single-sheet News Update which had originally been planned.

**No. 78 (March 2021)** was one of the longest Newsletters that the Society has produced, the equivalent of 61 A4 pages, with an abundance of photos, comprehensive features and shorter articles making up for the understandable lack of field trip reports. With no delays for printing, it was able to be emailed to 290 members on February 16th, well ahead of the early March deadline.

While the Newsletter still needs to be edited, designed, proof-read and issued, ceasing the printed version eliminates the need for a graphic design support, as all production can be done by the Editor.

The cost of printing and mailing out No. 77 to the 20 or so non-email members was disproportionately high due to Covid restrictions reducing choice and necessitating a quick fix. We have now secured the services of Perry Print, who some of you may recognise as being the printer of the BMS Newsletter. Their bill, a very modest £95.93, was the only cost incurred in the production of No 78, allowing the future budget for the Newsletter to be cut dramatically to just £300 a year.

All contributions over the past 12 months or so have been excellent and their authors – regulars and first timers alike – must be thanked for taking the time to contribute and so ably inform and entertain members.

While No. 78 was a bumper edition, No 79 is already looking rather lean, so please send any contributions as soon as you like! And don't forget – 2022 is the Society's 50th Anniversary, so if you have any special stories or images from the past please do share them with me.

Susan Tyzack  
Newsletter Editor  
newslettereditor@russellsoc.org

## 6.8 Conservation Officer

Nothing to report.

## 7. Appointment of Honorary Officers and Trustees for 2021 – 2022

The General Secretary stated that at the specified closing date of 3 March 2021, nominations had been received for each Council position for 2021 / 2022. As there was only one nomination received for each position, a ballot of the membership was not required. The nominations received are as follows:-

Honorary President	Steve Warren
Honorary Vice-President	David Aubrey-Jones
Honorary General Secretary	Alistair Napier
Honorary Treasurer	Stuart Wagstaff
Honorary Membership Secretary	Phil Taylor

A proposal was made by John Davidson that all nominations should be accepted and this was seconded by Susan Tyzack. Vote: in favour 48. The nominations were unanimously approved.

## 8. Date of next Annual General Meeting – 2 April 2022

## 9. Any Other Business

Council and all those present thanked the North Branch for all their hard work in organising a very enjoyable weekend.

The 2022 ASM will be hosted by the Central Branch from Friday 1 – Sunday 3 April. 2022 is the Golden Anniversary of the formation of the Russell Society on 27 October 1972 (see the latest newsletter). Offers of presentations and displays will be gratefully received. Please contact Frank Ince.

Marco Marchesini asked whether it might be possible to have a virtual element to next year's ASM weekend. Frank Ince replied that this was under consideration and that it may be possible to have a 'hybrid' event.

Pamela Todd drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is enjoying a high profile at the moment and wondered if that offered any possibilities to gain new members through offerings related to that. Something that Council will consider.

Margaret Ince suggested that the Golden Anniversary event might include an event where members could display any Russell duplicate specimens in their personal collections.

Hilary Barton proposed a vote of thanks to the whole committee, who've done an amazing job in very difficult circumstances, adding that she also offered congratulations and many thanks to ALL the speakers; a wonderful variety of fascinating subjects and all the presentations were of a very high standard. This was warmly agreed with.

The meeting closed at 17.15.

Roy Starkey  
General Secretary  
18 April 2021