

# ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS: REPORT TO MEMBERS 2002

*'To maximise the use of geographic information  
for the benefit of the citizen, good governance  
and commerce'*

This report summarises some of the AGI's main achievements and activities over the last 12 months. We welcome members' comment and input: in fact without these, the AGI would not be able to achieve anything at all.

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

This year has been one of the most eventful in the AGI's history and it marks the evolution of the Association into something closer to the geographical information institute that was envisaged in Lord Chorley's 1987 report on the Handling of Geographical Information. The AGI's role as the collective voice of the Geographic Information community has been enhanced and links with both central and local government have been enhanced.

The year began with a move to new premises in Clerkenwell. The move, long overdue, became essential as it became apparent that the AGI secretariat had to expand in order to meet members' demands for services. The RICS, with which we retain a very close and constructive relationship, was unable to offer the AGI any more accommodation in its Great George Street Headquarters. The secretariat was already working in overcrowded conditions and it was not possible to take on any new staff without a move. The move was completed early in the year with a minimum of disruption to the AGI's activities, but a great deal of additional work for the secretariat.

The move provided space for a number of new appointments. Ordnance Survey kindly seconded Richard Wareham to the Association, as Events Manager, for a twelve-month period from January. Richard has worked closely with Gayle Gander, the Deputy Director, and many volunteers in the Association, to develop the events programme.

It has been a high priority for the Association to develop its member, and industry, information services based around the web site, which is intended to become 'the one stop shop for geographic information in the UK'. The generous sponsorship of: Autodesk, Cadcorp, ESRI (UK), Geodesys, Hopewiser, Intergraph, Systems Options and Terraquest; has led to the appointment of Lee Rushworth as the Association's New Media Manager and the re-launch of the AGI web site ([www.agi.org.uk](http://www.agi.org.uk)).

At the end of 2000 talks began with the NGDF Board about the incorporation of NGDF's askGIraffe service into the AGI. This metadata and data integration service is funded out of NIMSA (National Interest Mapping Service Agreement) funds channelled by the NIMSA review Board through Ordnance Survey. The objective of this service is to maximise the use of geographic information by providing information about its availability and characteristics. This mission was so close to that of the AGI that it was a logical step that the service should be managed by the AGI following the dissolution of the NGDF Board. As this merger involved nearly doubling the AGI's turnover it was essential that the Association should exercise contractual due diligence in its negotiation. It had been hoped that the process would conclude by the end of the financial year in March, however the process took longer than anticipated and a final contract was signed by Mark Linehan, the Director of AGI and Vanessa Lawrence, Director General and CEO of Ordnance Survey, at the AGI 2001 Conference in September. The process of integrating the askGIraffe operation into the AGI is now underway and benefits greatly from the work put in by Lionel Elliott, who had a foot in both camps as the manager of askGIraffe at NGDF (on secondment from Ordnance Survey) and as Secretary of the Association.

The senior consultative function of the NGDF Board will be taken on by a new Strategic Alliance of senior figures in the GI industry. The formation of this Alliance is currently being managed by Sheila Drew-Smith. The Alliance is currently separate from the AGI, although the Director of AGI is invited to meetings as a participating observer. The future relationship of the AGI and the Alliance will be determined by the eventual constitution and terms of reference of the Alliance.

In another constitutional experiment, discussions are under way about the formation of an Environmental Data Association, which would bring together major producers and distributors of environmental data, possibly under the umbrella of the AGI and sharing AGI secretariat services.

The year has been marked by a number of sad events. The untimely death of Sean Leslie, as a result of a walking accident in the Lake District, earlier in the year and the death of Tom Waugh, a former treasurer of the Association in the summer, left the GI community shocked and saddened.

Less sad, but nevertheless a great loss to the Association was the departure of Gayle Gander, Deputy Director, at the end of September, to a new post with Getmapping. Gayle had been with the Association for over 7 years (more than half the life of the Association). Gayle did much to create the style and the substance of the Association as it is today by enthusing volunteers and developing the events and conference programme that is central to the Association's activities. A new Deputy Director is being appointed and an announcement about the post will be made soon.

The Association's annual conference, run in collaboration with CMP and the annual GIS exhibition, was very successful this year, marking the third consecutive year of growth in delegate numbers. The conference committee this year was chaired by John Glover and thanks are due to him and his committee as well as Gayle Gander for the delivery of a successful event.

The Association's events programme has grown this year and contributes increased revenue. However, the growth has been less than was hoped for and it is clear that developing a proactive, rather than a reactive programme of events will be a longer task than had been expected. The programme relies heavily on commitments from volunteers in the association, who give generously of their time, however an expanded programme will require firmer commitments which are more tightly managed in order to ensure that the Association can deliver what it promises with the limited resources available in the secretariat.

This year is also marked by changes in the Chairmanship of all the main committees of the Association. Chris Corbin has relinquished the Chair of the Corporate Affairs Committee, in preparation for becoming Chairman of the Association next year. His place has been taken by John Alderson, Chairman of Informed Solutions, who has also been elected to Council. Chris's indefatigable approach to corporate affairs has benefited the Association enormously and he is pleased to hand the committee over to a new chair with a fresh outlook. Because of new professional commitments, Richard Ley has left the Chair of the Direct Action Committee after many years of effective Chairmanship. The character of the committee has reflected Richard's crusading zeal in GI and the committee will now be chaired by Peter Clegg, an independent consultant with strong links to local government and SOCITM. In addition to the lively activities of the new Local Government Special Interest Group, this change of leadership reflects the increasing importance of local government as both a supplier and user of Geographic Information. The Education Committee chair has also changed with Julian Swindell of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester – a long time member of the committee taking up the chair.

Another significant change of personnel this year will be the departure of Dr Helen Mounsey from the post of Treasurer following our AGM. The Association has been very fortunate to have its financial health looked after assiduously and responsibly by Helen for many years. She has ensured that the activities of the Association were never curtailed, within the limitations of adequate prudence. She has also worked closely with Mark Linehan, Michelle Brissett, the Association's Financial Controller and the auditors, to implement a new system of management accounting that allows Council to monitor the Association's budget much more easily and with far clearer information than was available before. Helen's combination of a doctorate in a GI related field and a directorship with Price Waterhouse Coopers made her a perfect candidate for Treasurer, however professional commitments in Ireland make it impossible for her to continue.

The general services provided to members are heavily dependent on the contribution of Claire Huppertz, the Association's administrator. Claire has been with the Association for just one year, and, in that time has learnt to handle the very complicated day to day administration of a busy and hard to understand organization with enormous good humour, diligence and tact. It is a tribute to our Mark, our Director, and his new, fresh very hard working and enthusiastic team, that the Association has made the substantial progress that it has this year. Our thanks go out to all of them.

**DR. ROBERT BARR**  
**AGI CHAIR**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

This report provides a short commentary on the audited accounts for the financial year 2000 (1 January – 31 December).

### Overview

At our strategy weekend in November 1999, the Management Committee faced some tough decisions on the proposed budget for the year 2000. On the one hand, we wished to continue our policy to invest in the Association's activities to provide a secure platform for growth in the GI marketplace. Set against this, 1999 had proved an extremely difficult year for us, resulting in a significant deficit and further drain on our reserves. Eventually, and after much discussion of priorities, we agreed another deficit budget (-£23k), but one which we hoped would allow us to continue to build on our earlier investments, and which with careful financial management would mark a turning point in the Association's finances.

I am extremely pleased, therefore, to report a surplus on the year of £9k, which represents a variance of +£32k against budget. My thanks go to everyone who helped achieve this excellent result, particularly to the members of the Secretariat for keeping us on track during the year. The following table summarises our results for 2000:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Income  | £321,451 |
| Expenditure                                       | £316,280 |
| Operating (deficit) / surplus                     | £5,171   |
| Bank interest receivable                          | £4,764   |
| (Deficit) / surplus on activities before taxation | £9,935   |
| Reserves at year end                              | £68,099  |

### Income

Membership subscriptions contribute our major source of income each year. Detailed comparisons against budget for 2000 are difficult, as the methods by which we account for subscription income changed in several areas. However, overall our membership numbers rose by approx 200 to 1400 at year-end, and our annual income increased to £168k (1999: £137k). Income from the annual conference and exhibition fell slightly to £56k (1999: £64k). However, the seminar programme showed a significant improvement to £60k (1999: £35k), representing a good outcome for our increased efforts in this area during 2000. Finally, publications and other sundry income contributed £42k to our total income for the year.

## **Expenditure**

On the expenditure side, there were no major exceptional items during the year. We welcomed on board two new members of the Secretariat. A commensurate increase in the salaries budget, plus increases in administration and seminar expenses to cover our expanded programme raised our overall fixed expenditure, but this still remained in line with budgeted expectations. A new format for the conference dinner and party helped us to contain expenses and avoid a repeat of the 1999 loss on this event. Committee chairmen were able to manage within the tight budgets set for them at the outset of the year, whilst covering an extremely diverse range of activities.

### *And finally ...*

... to end on a personal note. The vagaries of life as a management consultant have now dealt me a couple of years in Dublin. In the light of this, I shall be standing down both from Council, and the role of Treasurer, at the end of December. I would like to place on record my great thanks to all members of the Secretariat, Management Committee and Council who have helped me to carry out my role over the last seven years. The Association has changed enormously during that period, and we have faced some tough challenges. However, I believe I am handing over to my successor sound financial foundations on which to build over the coming years.

**HELEN MOUNSEY**  
**TREASURER**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### *Introduction*

2002 has been, without a doubt, the busiest and most challenging year since I took up the post of Director. The strategy weekend, held at the end of 2001 and attended by the AGI's Management Committee, concluded that the AGI should increase its activity in the area of policy development and responding to government consultations during 2002. However, this was not to be at the expense of the existing programme of membership benefits and activities. I am pleased to confirm, as we approach the end of the year, that we have achieved success in all a number of areas in 2002 and that the AGI can look forward to 2003 with confidence.

### *GIgateway*

In September 2001, AGI took over responsibility for the running of the askGIraffe services, previously delivered by a team at Ordnance Survey Great Britain, under the auspices of the National Geospatial Data Framework Board. Up until April this year, askGIraffe continued to be run by the same staff team based in Southampton, but seconded to AGI. However, early this year we began the process of recruiting staff to be employed directly by AGI and based in the AGI offices.

By the end of May a new team was in place and began the task of reviewing askGIraffe and making recommendations for its improvement. At Geosolutions 2002 at Earls Court in September, the team revealed a redesigned user-interface to the service under the new name GIgateway. The overwhelming response has been that GIgateway is huge improvement on its predecessor, both in terms of design and user-friendliness. The team is currently working hard to overhaul the technical infrastructure of the service to make it more reliable and efficient, in time for a full relaunch in the first half of next year. This will be followed by a concerted marketing campaign aimed at increasing the number of organisations providing metadata and the usage of the site. Additionally, the advent and approval of a new international metadata standard (ISO19115) has created an opportunity for the GIgateway team to assess the content of GI metadata records and to create a new interpretation of the previous NGDF and FGDC standards. This will also be part of the GIgateway message that they will take on the road.

The GIgateway team is well supported by a voluntary Advisory Group, which includes representatives from Edinburgh University, Intelligent Addressing, Manchester University, the Office of National Statistics, Ordnance Survey Great Britain and Royal Mail. The AGI is sub-contracted to deliver GIgateway by Ordnance Survey Great Britain, using National Interest Mapping Agreement funds from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

### *Premises*

As in 2001, the AGI was again faced with an office move in 2002. A combination of the increased staff team and uncertainty over the future of our offices in Farringdon Road, made another move inevitable. At the end of April the AGI moved into larger and more suitable office accommodation in nearby Old Street, which provides us with meeting facilities and room for further expansion, should that be necessary. Having signed a five-year lease on the offices, we can be fairly confident that another move will not be imminent!



*Ordnance Survey Great Britain Quinquennial Review*

During 2002 I continued to sit on the Ordnance Survey Great Britain Quinquennial Review Steering Group, representing AGI members and the wider GI community, as it met at stage two to take forward the recommendations of the stage one review. At the end of stage one the Minister responsible for Ordnance Survey, Sally Keeble MP, announced that she was minded to accept the recommendation that Ordnance Survey move to become a wholly government-owned PLC, and this caused widespread concern amongst AGI members. This concern was fed back into the Steering Group and at the end of stage two the new Minister, Tony McNulty MP, announced that the option of government-owned PLC had been rejected and that Ordnance Survey would remain a trading fund. The AGI responded in detail to his announcement, and a copy of the response is on the AGI web site.

*Transport, Local Government and the Regions Urban Affairs Sub-Committee*

At the end of 2001 the AGI submitted written evidence to the Urban Affairs Sub-Committee inquiry into Ordnance Survey Great Britain. On 18 March this year, AGI Senior Vice-Chair Spencer Chainey and I sat before the committee and gave oral evidence as part of the inquiry. Many of the views of the AGI are reflected in the committee's report, which has been published. AGI submitted a response to this report to the Minister, Tony McNulty MP, and this is available on the AGI web site.

*Round Table meetings*

As part of the move into policy development, the AGI held Round Table meetings on two important subjects during 2002. The first was held in February in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetric Society, and looked at the issue of digital imagery and user requirements. Despite a good turn out and the wide variety of evidence being provided, the attendance from the user-community was disappointing. However, the AGI is looking to remedy this with a follow-up meeting.

In September the AGI also held a Street Names Round Table meeting to explore the issues surrounding a consistent, authoritative and definitive street gazetteer. Again the meeting was well-attended and a full report is awaited.

*Ordnance Survey Great Britain Pilot Pan-Government Agreement*

2002 saw the launch of the pilot agreement between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ordnance Survey Great Britain for the supply of Ordnance Survey data across central government. Throughout the year, the AGI has been represented on the agreement's Implementation group, which, amongst other things, considers applications for data under the agreement from those organizations that do not appear in the Civil Service Year Book.

*thepowerofgeography.com*

Coming out of the Pilot Pan-Government Agreement was a growing recognition of the need to raise awareness of the power and benefits of geographic information generally within government. This led to a joint initiative between the AGI, IGGI (the Intra-government Group on Geographic Information) and Ordnance Survey Great Britain, which can be found at [www.thepowerofgeography.com](http://www.thepowerofgeography.com) The web site includes a "tool

kit" - containing a PowerPoint presentation, a leaflet and a series of case studies – aimed at clearly demonstrating the important role GI has to play within government. The web site also features links to other not-for-profit organizations in the GI sector and a series of quotes about the benefits of GI.

#### *Seminars and meetings*

Although the AGI's programme of meetings and seminars started slowly in 2002, the second half of the year has seen a considerable amount of activity. As ever, the range of topics and issues covered by the seminars is diverse and far-reaching. In addition to the Round Table meetings, regional seminars and the seminars organized by the AGI Special Interest Groups, there have been some notable events this year including seminars on the impact of patents on the industry and on fair trading and regulation. A series of positional accuracy improvement seminars around the country started in November and will continue into next year, and the successful VIP seminar for senior figures from central and local government was repeated at the AGI Annual Conference in September.

The AGI's thanks must go to Ordnance Survey Great Britain - who extended Richard Wareham's secondment as Events Manager to the AGI to April this year, to Angus McDonald who stepped in to fill the gap when Richard left, and to Shell for seconding Angela McMahon to us until September next year.

#### *AGI Northern Ireland*

Following the launches of AGI Cymru and AGI Scotland in 1999, April 2002 saw the successful launch of AGI Northern Ireland by Michael McGimpsey, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, at the Waterfront Centre in Belfast. This event was followed by two well-attended seminars later in the year, one focusing on the public sector, the other focusing on the public sector.

#### *Membership*

2002 has been a difficult year in which to maintain a buoyant membership and the GI sector, like all others, has seen cut-backs in expenditure. However, the only category that has not been sustained at the level of previous years is that of individual membership. There are two possible reasons for this – either we have not focused sufficiently on delivering benefits to individual members to make their subscription good value for money, or by giving corporate and sponsor members the opportunity to add multiple names to our membership database, we have taken away the need for some people to register as individual members. The AGI will certainly focus on delivering benefits that are valued by all categories of membership during 2003.

#### *AGI team*

I have already referred to the growth of the AGI during 2002, and the staff team now stands at ten full-time employees, all of whom I would like to thank for their hard work and commitment during the year. The AGI team is: -

Michelle Brissett – Financial Controller  
Caroline Brown – Team Administrator (starts January)  
Romina Ercolanoni – Web and Information Officer  
Claire Huppertz – Senior Administrator  
Judy Jerome – Services Manager

Mark Linehan – Director  
 Angela McMahon – Events Manager  
 Matteo Mode – Technical Officer  
 Sallie Payne – Deputy Director  
 Louise Scofield – Services Coordinator

*Sponsorship and support*

The work of the Association would not be possible without the many organisations that provide us with sponsorship or support in-kind. During 2002 the following have ensured the AGI has been able to deliver its work: -

*AGI sponsor members: -*

- Autodesk
- Defence Geographic & Imagery Intelligence Agency Defence Geographic Centre
- Environment Agency Anglian Region
- ESpatial
- ESRI (UK) Ltd
- Getmapping
- HM Land Registry
- Hopewiser Ltd
- Intelligent Addressing
- Intergraph (UK) Ltd
- Landmark Information Group
- Laser-Scan Ltd
- MapInfo Ltd
- National Joint Utilities Group
- ODPM
- Ordnance Survey
- Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland
- QAS Ltd
- Richards Gray Company Services
- Sitescope Limited

*Sponsors and supporters of other activities: -*

- Autodesk
- British Geological Society
- British Telecom
- Cadcorp
- Cliff House Associates
- Deloitte and Touche
- ESRI Ireland
- ESRI (UK) Ltd
- Getmapping
- GIGateway
- HM Land Registry
- Homecheck/Sitescope
- Hopewiser
- IDeA
- IGGI
- Intelligent Addressing
- Intelliscan
- Intergraph
- Katalysis

- Macaulay Institute
- MVM
- NTL
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
- Oracle
- Ordnance Survey Great Britain
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- PRONET
- Richards Gray
- Shell
- Systems Options
- Taylor Wessing
- TerraQuest

**MARK LINCHAN**  
**DIRECTOR**

## CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The CAC has had another active and successful year. It has held 5 meetings, all of which have been hosted by HM Land Registry (HMLR). The CAC would like to thank HMLR for continuing to provide facilities, with special thanks to Pauline Leadbitter for handling the meeting logistics,

The CAC has submitted written reports to each Council meeting during the year, detailing the progress made on the agreed CAC work programme that supported the AGI strategy for 2002.

### *CAC Membership*

During 2002 the Committee has been served by 23 members (see list at back of report). This number includes two new members: Brigitte Colombo from Oracle and Ian Drury from BT.

### *CAC Terms of Reference*

At the start of the year the CAC changed its Terms of Reference (with the approval of Council) and is now responsible for the following areas:

- National Affairs, including lobbying activities
- International Affairs, including liaison with EUROGI
- Membership Affairs, including benefits and new member initiatives
- Public Relations, including assistance with the AGI newsletter
- Constitutional Affairs
- Internal Affairs, including the AGI Awards programme and annual dinner
- Partnerships
- Education working group

### *Major Achievements*

The CAC was responsible for delivering a number of the AGI's Level 1 objectives for the 2002 financial year, most notably:

- To produce, review, publish and implement the procedures by which partnerships are formed and developed and integrated within the AGI structure
- Undertake a Membership Survey
- To undertake a review of the Education Committee
- To undertake an AGI SWOT analysis
- To implement the recommendations of the Education committee review
- Ensure that the AGM, annual lecture, awards dinner and annual regional conferences are a success

All these objectives have been met in full!

### *National Affairs*

The CAC continued to monitor parliamentary activities and provide input to Council as appropriate. A good paper was produced by Dave Lovell outlining parliamentary lobbying activities.

### *International Affairs*

The CAC continued to monitor European activities and produced and circulated several papers summarising key European initiatives. The CAC recognises the increasing influence of European matters on the UK and particular thanks go to Chris Corbin for his significant contribution in this area.

### *Membership Affairs*

The CAC undertook a membership survey this year which was designed to gain a better understanding of members needs. Particular thanks are due to Nigel Mason, Mike Curtis, Sallie and Claire for their efforts in compilation and subsequent analysis. As a result of the questionnaire, an analysis document was produced which will be used as input to future decision making.

The CAC also undertook a review of membership fees for the 2002 to 2003 year.

### *Public Relations*

The CAC worked closely with Sallie to solicit content for the AGI newsletter. The newsletter has grown significantly in stature over the year and credit is due to all those involved.

The CAC also alerted Council and the Secretariat to a number of areas effecting the AGI's public image.

### *Internal Affairs*

(a) *AGI Awards.* This year the CAC reviewed the existing awards structure, changing the categories to the following, AGI Central Government Award, AGI Local Government Award, AGI Student of the Year, AGI Award for Innovation, AGI Industry Leadership Award, Best Poster Award, Best Overall paper, Best GISRUK paper, Past Chair's Award. The CAC thanks both the sponsors and the panels of adjudicators for their contributions and support, which made the awards possible.

(b) *Annual Lecture.* The AGI Annual Lecture as in previous years was presented after the AGI AGM and was given by David Warlock. The CAC thanks David for supporting this annual event.

(c) *Annual dinner.* The CAC contributed to the organisation of the AGI Annual Dinner. The dinner was held at the Insurance Hall in the City of London on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2002 and was well attended and received.

### *Partnerships*

The CAC produced a paper on how the AGI should engage with other professional bodies and produced a list of candidate organisations. Particular thanks go to Gayle Gander and Paul Sommerfeld for their contributions.

### *Education Working Group*

The CAC took on responsibility during the year for the Education Committee. The CAC hosted an education working group, presided over by Jerry Larthe de Langladure, that made recommendations to Council on the future of the Education Committee. As a result the Education Committee was dissolved and the working group took over responsibilities for the future of the CPD and other related educational matters.

### *CAC Social Club*

Mike Curtis performed the role of CAC Social Secretary for 2002 and has ensured the CAC members have the opportunity to attend a suitable watering hole after each meeting to continue their discussions.

I would like to thank all members of the CAC for their time and the valuable contributions that they have made throughout 2002 which has ensured that the AGI as a whole has successfully met its 2002 work programme. The CAC also thanks HM Land Registry for sponsoring and hosting the CAC meetings throughout 2002.

John Alderson  
Chair for 2002

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

We all know that last year the IT sector was particularly hard hit, especially in the stock market. This sudden down-turn in the technology market impacted a wide range of marketing activities in 2001, such as exhibitions and conferences. In fact CMP, our conference partners, informed us that on average we could expect a 15-20% fall in attendance!

I am therefore pleased to report that attendances were actually up by 8% and that the AGI also benefited from a slight increase on revenue over the previous year. As the Conference Chair, I was obviously very pleased with this outcome, especially as it reflected directly on the quality of the programme put together by my Committee members. One of our guiding principles behind the construction of the programme is, that you the members will continue to derive a real benefit from attendance and participation in the UK's leading GI event. Only by providing real value will you continue to support this unique event.

The theme of AGI 2001 was 'Location, Location, Location', and this thread allowed us to reflect on the significant value of GI in both public and private sector decision-making. It also allowed us to embrace the new market of Location Based Services into the AGI Community and look at new ways to exploit the vaults of digital mapping currently squirreled away. Of course, the conference success was also due to the quality and quantity of VIP speakers who added a strategic and visionary view of how our industry could assist both service value and commercial return.

You will be pleased to learn that my committee and I are already planning for AGI 2002, and our challenge is to improve on last year. Tough indeed!

As expressed above, I would like to thank: -

- You, the AGI members for your support.
- The speakers and VIPs that contributed so much.
- The on-site support from our helpful 'Yellow Shirts'.
- CMP our partner and event organiser.
- The AGI Conference Committee.
- and especially Gayle Gander, Deputy Director of the AGI.

I look forward to seeing you all at AGI 2002.

**JOHN GLOVER**  
**CHAIR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

## DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE

On 2 April 2001, Peter Clegg took over from Richard Ley as Chair of DAC. DAC would like to record their thanks for Richard's very effective chairmanship over the last four years. Other changes on the committee include the resignation of Gesche Schmid as DAC Secretary and her replacement by Andy Wilson. DAC would also like to thank Ralph Smith who is also standing down from DAC Committee after a fruitful period as SIG Coordinator. Ralph will, however, continue as Chair of the Health SIG.

The DAC would also like to record its thanks to Ordnance Survey for hosting DAC Committee meetings throughout the year at no cost to the AGI.

Perhaps the major activity for DAC was the establishment of the Local Government SIG under the dynamic chairmanship of Gesche Schmid. This got off to an excellent start at its inaugural meeting on 12 December 2000, *Where Next for GI in Local Government*. A second meeting in Newcastle on May 16<sup>th</sup>, *Are You Being Served*, which focused on Call Centres, drew a smaller but equally enthusiastic audience and demonstrated support for events away from London and the South East. The LG SIG has also set up an LG SIG website including an interchange/forum area where Local Government members can share experiences and provide mutual support. This has been done in close liaison with Lee Rushworth and is integrated with the main AGI site.

Other SIGs have also held successful events, most notably: an Address SIG meeting on the theme of *Address Geography - How Joined up?* in London on 14<sup>th</sup> June, which was so popular that the AGI had to turn a number of people away; and a Health SIG meeting on *Opportunities for Joint Working* in Birmingham on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

DAC also arranged, through the SIG Co-ordinator, a meeting for all SIG chairs to raise and resolve a number of issues surrounding the working relationships between the DAC, the SIGs and the Secretariat.

DAC identified a need to ensure close working with askGIraffe and they are now represented on the DAC committee. This is beginning to ensure greater integration with the AGI's work on standards and has also born fruit in the collaboration of the LG SIG and the IDeA to set up a Local Government askGIraffe Node.

The Standards Committee have undertaken their usual wide range of activities. In the UK, the IDeA has been promoting the idea of a 'people' standard or 'N-People Initiative', BS8766, to support the Government's rolling electoral register. It would appear, however, that this has stalled awaiting further clarification as to its purpose from the IDeA. Some of the ISO/TC 211 Working Groups have been closed, including WG3, which was convened by Rob Walker on behalf of the OS. DAC have agreed that the UK should instead convene the new working group on location-based services. There are also difficulties between OGC and ISO over the divergence of GML from ISO/TC211's encoding rules.



The UK has been requested to lead on an international project to promote the certification and qualification of Personnel. DAC agreed with standard committee's suggestion that we do not lead, as there was no value in the UK for professional certification, beyond the qualifications already available academically. Standards committee will however remain engaged with the project to monitor developments and will supply examples of established nationally recognised qualifications.

For next year, DAC is looking to continue with an extensive programme of SIG events and to develop an overall strategy for developing the web site as a major information tool for the GI community.

Finally, the Remote Sensing Society has asked DAC to convey an open invitation to AGI members to join the RSS GIS SIG and help bring the GI and Remote Sensing communities closer together.

**PETER CLEGG**  
**CHAIR DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE**

## AGI CYMRU

*Steve Gill, AGI Cymru Chair, reports on a year in which the tragedy of foot and mouth disease brought the value of GI to the fore in Wales*

2001 in Wales has been dominated by one major issue of immense proportions, which has had deep and widespread impacts socially, economically and even environmentally. Foot and mouth disease brought GI and GIS to the fore and proved their value beyond all doubt. It also highlighted the need for agencies and organisations to work together to resolve problems and to deliver joined-up services. Even though the incidence of new cases has ceased, the effects will be felt for a long time to come. Coordinated spatial planning, applying the best GI techniques available, will help us overcome the problems and move forward.

As we approach the climax of our year, the annual national GI Conference in Cardiff City Centre, there is an invigorated air of cooperation and optimism regarding the collection of data and the application of appropriate information to address both strategic and local issues. AGI Cymru is working closely with all sectors, but especially welcomes closer relationships with the various divisions within the National Assembly.

### Programme during 2001

The Steering Group was very active throughout the year and was involved in the following events:

- GISRUK 2001 (18–20 April, Glamorgan and Cardiff Universities)
- akGiraffe Metadata Seminar (6 July, Caernarfon)
- Coastal Management/Remote Sensing (11 July, Porthcawl)
- Regional Forum of the National Land and Property Gazetteer (19 July, Builth Wells)
- Common Land/Right of Access Seminar (26 July, Builth Wells)
- Formal national launch of LandMap (26 October, Builth Wells)
- Annual GI Conference (4 December, Cardiff)
- OS MasterMap Seminar (5 December, Cardiff).

### Programme for 2002

The Steering Group is now putting together an interesting programme of events for the coming year, to be finalised in January. These will include:

- GI/GIS in Education (venue and date to be announced)
- GI/GIS in the Health Sector (venue and date to be announced)
- Environmental Management with GI (venue and date to be announced)
- GIS 2001 – Poster Session and Reception (September, London)
- Annual GI Conference (December, Cardiff City Hall).

**Next meeting**

Following the December conference, which once again boasts a line-up of top quality speakers, the Steering Group is due to meet on 8 January at the Environment Agency Offices in Bangor.

**STEVE GILL  
CHAIR AGI CYMRU**

## AGI SCOTLAND

OUR PURPOSE - **is to promote the benefits of using [Geographic Information \(GI\)](#) in Scotland.**

Our aims are:

- To provide a forum for sharing information and debating issues
- To promote good practice and appropriate standards
- To consider wider issues and facilitate joined-up-geography
- To influence policy makers and policy implementers
- To promote the benefits and encourage membership of AGI
- To articulate the Scottish dimension within the context of UK activity

Our activities will be:

- Annual Seminar: engaging the wider user and potential user community
- Two or more topic specific Workshops per year
- Encourage topic specific Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to hold seminars and workshops in Scotland to address Scottish issues
- Web Site: providing information - receiving information - facilitating debate
- Production and distribution of Case Studies: applications and benefits
- Using appropriate individual organisational channels to promote our aims
- Networking with other representative bodies e.g. RICS with a GI interest
- Liaising with AGI, AGI Wales and AGI Northern Ireland

### ACTIVITIES

Although acknowledging the tasks already in train, the group in Scotland agreed a re-scoped work plan for 2002. This was essentially informed by outputs from our annual conference in November 2001. The overarching ambition in developing and progressing such a plan however was to focus on the need to deliver tangible results and begin to develop a greater level of continuity in approach to our efforts. Perhaps this is the key area where we have made the greatest impact over the year.

Specifically this schedule of activities has involved the following:

#### GI Gateway (AskGiraffe)

Our desire to create a user friendly Scottish node to encourage greater participation in building AGI sponsored metadata services has allowed us, through Bruce Gittings, to play an influential role in a fundamental re-design of the service. Once the new central structure has been established, corresponding consideration will be given to supporting the means for easier input and links from Scottish organisations.

#### AGI Scotland Web Site

After a fair amount of deliberation a distinct Scottish site has now been established. Although still properly linked to the main AGI site, subtle changes have been effected and new content added to reflect our particular role and progress in Scotland. In order to ensure the content is dynamically maintained detailed procedures have also been put in hand to regularly reflect appropriate changes and incorporate new material. Through these measures the group hopes that this will become the obvious medium for anyone wishing to keep apace with activities of the AGI north of the border. Special thanks are due to John Maslen who, without complaint and a fair amount of perseverance, completed the majority of the revision through liaison with the Secretariat staff and others on the Scottish group.

### AGI Scotland Events

The annual conferences and exhibitions we have staged since the inception of the group have been universally well received. Clearly they have provided an ideal platform for 'experts' in GI and novices alike to share views and opinions. An emerging theme however from past events has been the need to develop a greater continuum in our endeavours and establish more regular opportunities for dialogue and debate throughout the year.

To some extent we have already been progressively moving towards more interactive events by curtailing formal presentations thus allowing more time for discussion. Likewise we have also been making deliberate attempts to build on each event by maintaining a more structured, iterative approach to topic matter. Further advances still have been made this year by planning a range of separate workshops as complementary adjuncts to our main conference.

- **Community Needs – The Rural Dimension, June 2002**

This one day workshop was held at the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Inverurie. It purposefully followed sessions on 'Rural development Issues' and 'Investing in Scottish Neighbourhoods' which formed part of our annual conference in 2001. Despite some early anxiety regarding the level of interest the event proved extremely popular. The day offered all in attendance the opportunity to discuss many issues which surround the support and development of rural communities. Helen Cunningham did a sterling job in organising and managing the event and has written up a report that documents hard outputs. This case study will be added to our web site in due course in an effort to continue debate on the many attendant issues.

- **Common Geographies – August 2002**

Jointly, and very ably, organised by John Maslen and Neil Mackinnon this event sought to explore the benefits that could be accrued from neighbourhood statistics. This workshop also turned out to be most successful and stimulated a significant amount of informed debate. Topical issues here centred on the use of geographically referenced data to better support socio-economic and demographic research and planning. Outcomes have been fully documented and will be shared with those in attendance and the wider community via our web site.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – November 2002**

The working title for our showcase event this year is '**Towards a GI strategy for Scotland to Deliver Better Services to the Citizen**'. The aim of this event as the theme suggests is to promote views and debate on developing a GI strategy for Scotland in support of improved public service and commercial enterprise. The scene for this is due to be set by Alan Fraser, Head of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Unit at the Scottish Executive and Mick Cory, Director General, Ordnance Survey, Northern Ireland. Alan will present his vision for improving public services and the logical links to GI and Mick will illustrate his recently formulated GI strategy for Northern Ireland.

Delegates will then have the opportunity to join a wide range of breakout sessions themed by sector, to exchange opinions on exactly how a GI strategy for Scotland would assist their particular area of business. Sectors to be covered will include, Customer Relationship Management, Developing Markets, Emergency Services, Education and Academia, Energy and Utilities, Environment, Health, Land and Property, Planning and Transport. Facilitators have been identified and have agreed to participate to allow outcomes from these interactions to be reported on in abstract as part of a plenary session. Furthermore it is hoped that detailed output can be further utilised in the compilation of a potential plan for Scotland.

As usual an exhibition will be run in parallel with the main proceedings and exhibitors will be afforded a brief slot to showcase their wares as part of the overall event. Special; thanks are due to both Angus McDonald of AGI Scotland and Angela McMahon of the Secretariat for their detailed preparatory work for this important event.

#### AGI Council

We have been particularly fortunate this year to have had three members of the Scottish group also active on the Council, viz., Hugh Buchanan, Angus McDonald and Mike Traynor. As a result the group is kept well informed of the deliberations of council and has been well placed to fully contribute to a wide range of matters, which have been reviewed by council.

A particular issue that caused some concern north of the border, was the way in which the AGI had tackled some of the generic issues in relation to the operations of Ordnance Survey. There was general concern raised that discussion and decisions on issues of this nature did not sufficiently reflect the wide interests of AGI membership. The group in Scotland felt quite strongly that a single opinion from AGI is often not necessary in such circumstances. If anything this incident did serve to encourage a greater level of interest in the deliberations of council.

#### Links with other AGI Groups and Professional Bodies

Initial contact has been made with our opposite numbers in both AGI Cymru and AGI Northern Ireland. The rationale behind this is to explore opportunities to develop closer working relationships and tackle issues of common interest with some consistency. We intend to strengthen these preliminary discussions with more regular structured exchanges.

An open invitation has been extended to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland to allow one of their members to occasionally join our monthly meetings.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On a personal note I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Scottish team. Notwithstanding increasingly busy personal workloads in their mainstream roles they have all managed to commit a considerable amount of time and effort in helping advance the role of AGI in both Scotland and the UK.

Thanks also to Mark Linehan and the secretariat team for all their collective input and support over the past year.

Mike Traynor  
Chair, AGI Scotland  
12 November, 2002

<http://www.agi.org.uk/scotland/>

## AGI ADDRESS GEOGRAPHY SIG

The AGSIG exists to provide information and promote development in the important area of address geography.

The AGSIG was created in 1998 out of the AGI Postcode Round Table. However, its remit is wider and extends to the geography of all kinds of addressable objects. The focus of the SIG is about the location of addresses, rather than just the addresses themselves. The SIG aims to highlight the benefits of attention to this area and the possible consequences of neglect and poor quality.

The SIG Web site is available, and includes:

- A [resources list](#), containing references to paper and WWW material on address geography.
- A [newsletter](#), currently in its fourth edition.

The Web site and resources list are maintained by Prof. David Martin of Southampton University. Nick Walker of Dolphin Consulting is the Newsletter editor.

Harry Bruhns of the Developments Sub-group has been monitoring developments in the methodology of spatial referencing, and made a detailed submission to the BS7666 review.

A successful seminar was held in June 2001 at the Imperial War Museum. Entitled *Address Geography – How Joined Up?*, it was attended by over 120 people, and considered the status of the various address geography initiatives and whether they are all working together in the common interest. The next SIG Seminar will be held at the London Chamber of Commerce on 19 November 2002, and is entitled *Address Geography - What do the Users Want?*

It is intended to arrange further seminars in future. Ideas for topics would be appreciated. Membership of the SIG is not formal. The meetings and Web site are open to anyone with an interest in the subject. Hopefully, the interest will grow, and people will seek to contribute and extend the effectiveness of the SIG.

Hugh Neffendorf  
 Chair Education sub-group  
 Harry Bruhns  
 Chair Development sub-group

## CRIME AND DISORDER SIG

### **Introduction.**

The AGI Crime and Disorder SIG was formed in early 2000 in recognition of the increasing use of geographic information and desktop mapping applications for the measuring and analysis of patterns of crime and disorder. The aim of the SIG is to share expertise on crime and disorder mapping techniques, discuss concepts, present best practice, exchange ideas, and offer leadership and guidance on the use of geographic information, crime mapping methods, geographic profiling and crime pattern analysis.

The SIGs target audience are local community safety partnerships, intelligence management reporting units and crime analysis units/personnel who employ or have a need to employ GIS and mapping technology. The Group is user focused, with vendor input where the SIG's community can benefit from knowledge of new technology and application developments.

In its third year the Crime and Disorder SIG has continued to develop, offering a wide range of services to its members. Achievements of the SIG this year include,

- Hosting two well attended seminars
- Provided the AGI's feedback to the Cabinet Office's consultation on 'Privacy and data sharing'.
- SIG committee member presentations at international conferences & seminars.
- Management committee expansion and re-structuring.

### **Crime & Disorder SIG hosted seminars.**

The SIG hosted two seminars in 2002 and both were well attended and received.

*March 2002, Birmingham. AGI Crime and Disorder SIG and Local Government SIG joint seminar.*

### **"What's the Deal? Delivering Community Needs through Neighbourhood Renewal and better information"**

A one day seminar offering the opportunity to explore and tackle neighbourhood renewal issues - not only bricks and mortar regeneration, but also problems of social exclusion experienced by a wide range of communities in the UK.

The days theme related to good quality information at the local level being a powerful tool to help identify and diagnose problems, target resources and monitor the effect of their impact. Geographical information was highlighted as vital to the collation, management, analysis and presentation of information for Neighbourhood Renewal.

Presenters included Spencer Chainey, events chair, Andrea Whitworth, Team Leader of the Neighbourhood Renewal Team at the Government Office for the West Midlands, Dev Virdee, Head of the Local and Regional Statistics Unit at the Office of National



Statistics, Kevin Sugrue, Chief Executive of Renaisi (a London based regeneration agency), and Martin Roberts from the University of Wolverhampton.

The day finished off with a short informal panel session that discussed some of the topics that had been raised on the day.

Effective use of geographic information for supporting Neighbourhood Renewal was demonstrated on the day and examples were requested by the Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey for a meeting with the Cabinet Office later in the year.

*July 2002, Sheffield. AGI Crime and Disorder SIG seminar.*

### **"Applying Criminology Through GIS - spreading best practice and promoting awareness"**

This one-day seminar offered the opportunity for speakers to present and explain the application of different spatial analysis techniques to GIS, along with criminology theories employed to monitor crime and disorder. The seminar attracted a variety of delegates from a range of crime and disorder reduction partnerships, Police forces and universities.

Presenters included Spencer Chainey, event chair, Dr Alex Hirschfield from the University of Liverpool, Joanne Fear, from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Max Craglia from Sheffield University, Nick Tofiluk from West Midlands Police, and Mark Patrick from Infotech Enterprises Europe. The day finished off with a short informal panel session that discussed some of the topics raised on the day.

### **Response to Cabinet Office consultation on "Privacy and Data Sharing".**

The Crime & Disorder SIG provided the AGI's feedback to the Cabinet Office's consultation on 'Privacy and data sharing'. The contribution was acknowledged by the Cabinet Office but their findings and recommendations are yet to be published.

### **Expanding the management committee.**

Late in 2001 Spencer Chainey, SIG Chair, decided to step down to concentrate on his role of Senior Vice Chair of the AGI in 2002. However, the umbilical ties were too strong because early in 2002 Spencer requested that he return to the SIG committee. His request was unanimously accepted and Spencer continued with the role of Crime & Disorder SIG Chair once again.

The SIG's management committee membership continued to expand and has adopted a process of "rolling-activity". That is, each members supporting role will roll from one activity to another during the course of the year. This process enabled members to gain valuable hands-on experience in different elements of the committee's management and thus become versatile committee members.

Members of the Crime & Disorder SIG Management Committee during 2002 were:

- Spencer Chainey (Chair) - Infotech Europe
- Phil Spivey (Secretary) - Crawley Borough Council
- Mark Patrick - Infotech Europe (Formerly Metropolitan Police)

- Sue Harley - Surrey Community Safety Unit
- Andy Brumwell - West Midlands Police
- Romy Conroy - Sussex Police
- Dr Alex Hirschfield - University of Liverpool
- Dr Mike McCullagh - Nottingham University
- Helen Cook - London Borough of Bromley Council
- Caroline Duckworth - Durham County Council

The management committee meets every four months to agree and task its action plan for delivering services to its SIG community.

### **International conference & seminar round-up.**

Members of the SIG made presentations and supported a number international conferences & seminars this year. Their presence promoted both the SIG and their own personal profiles in an international arena.

#### ***5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Crime Mapping Research Conference, Dallas, Texas, December 2001.***

The Crime Mapping Research Centre (CMRC) funded by the US Dept of Justice held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference in Dallas, Texas last December. The theme of the conference was "Translating Spatial Research into Practice" and was attended by a good mix of academics, criminologists, crime analysts, police officers, vendors, consultants and research students from around the world, primarily North America and Europe but also Asia and Australia. Three members of the C&D SIG management board attended and found the conference very rewarding, making good contacts for possible future events back here in the UK.

#### ***Ford Foundation International Crime Mapping and Community Policing Seminar, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, February 2002.***

The second in a series of three seminars on "Policing in Democratic Societies" held during 2001/2002, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the VERA Institute of Justice (New York). This seminar focused on crime mapping and was hosted by the University of Minas Gerais and the Minas Gerais Military Police in Brazil's third largest city, Belo Horizonte. Attendees were invited from as far afield as Europe, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, USA, and India to share experiences, showcase successes, and confront common challenges. Spencer Chainey was asked to present on current and new perspectives in crime mapping for volume crime reduction and for supporting serious crime investigations.

#### ***Jill Dando Institute (University College London) Crime Science and GIS seminar, London, February 2002.***

With support of the AGI and the AGI Crime and Disorder SIG, the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science held its first one-day conference dedicated to the subject of the integration of GIS and Crime Science. The meeting brought together Crime Science specialists drawn from Police forces, Local Authorities and the Home Office with GIS experts to explore how emerging GI science could assist in crime reduction

applications. A number of the management committee attended the seminar and once again promoted the tireless work being done by the SIG on behalf of the AGI.

### **The Year Ahead.**

The Crime & Disorder SIG plans to cement its position within the Crime Mapping & Analysis community and hold two seminars next year. The first being on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and the other possibly in October. The January conference will be looking at different information systems being developed within a Crime & Disorder / Community Safety environment to enable data sharing across the web. This seminar will be offering an opportunity to various partnerships to demonstrate their products, utilising a case study of their choice, to the user community. It will, we anticipate, produce constructive discussions amongst the delegates and possibly be a point for designing a "best of breed" solution.

In addition, the SIG will be supporting the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science's National Crime Mapping Conference. (March 2003) This will be the first national conference of this kind to be held in the UK and a great deal of interest has already been shown from around the world.

*Spencer Chainey*

*Chair, AGI Crime and Disorder SIG.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Environmental Special Interest Group (ENV.SIG) is an established group of over 200 members within the Association of Geographic Information (AGI). This is a very active SIG, organising meetings and visits for its members, keeping members informed through its web pages and assisting AGI at the annual conference etc.

### Our Mission

To facilitate the application of Geographic Information Systems to natural environment issues and related information.

### Our Objectives

1. Provision of advice on the potential of GIS in the implementation of existing policies.
2. Liase with other environmental groups, nationally and internationally.
3. Increase awareness of GIS applications in the natural environment and its relationship with the built environment.
4. Facilitate access to environmental information, both analogue and digital.
5. Act and advise any existing and future environmental agency on the need, content, cost and quality of environmental data.

To help facilitate these aims the committee meets 3 or 4 times a year to discuss and organise future activities of the SIG. This year our committee has seen many changes, with new committee members from different organisations.

### Committee members (November 2001)

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nigel Brown      | Centre for Ecology & Hydrology        |
| Brian Wilson     | Environment Agency, Thames Region     |
| Dan Glading      | Consultant                            |
| Rob Deakin       | Sir William Halcrow & Partners,       |
| Micky Allen      | Layla Resources Limited               |
| Alan Lodwick     | Dorset County Council                 |
| Tim Brewer       | Cranfield University                  |
| David Henderson  | ADAS                                  |
| Helen Balcombe   | e-street.com Ltd.                     |
| Chris Parker     | Ordnance Survey                       |
| David Askew      | Farming and Rural Conservation Agency |
| Glen Hart        | Ordnance Survey                       |
| Tolu Oni         | Brent Council                         |
| Andrew Marchant  | British Geological Survey             |
| Lynn Dyson-Bruce | Essex County Council                  |
| John Lee         | Oxford Brookes University             |
| James Cutler     | eMapSite.com Limited                  |

## Site Visits

One of the most successful roles of ENV.SIG is to co-ordinate a series of site visits to organisations that work within the environmental field. The year 2001 has seen a series of visits. Below is a description of our visit to Scott Wilson.

Scott Wilson, Basingstoke - Friday 7th December, 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Scott Wilson is a multi disciplinary consultancy with offices in over 50 countries. Traditionally, concerned with civil infrastructure, the profile of the firm has changed to encompass all aspects of development and sustainability.

The Information Systems Department of Scott Wilson was formed in 1985, with the objective of developing and harnessing potential applications of satellite imagery for use in capital construction projects undertaken by the Firm, and in-house GIS software. Since then the department has grown into a group that deals with all applications of Information Technology within the company.

The department works in two different capacities; as a service area providing support to other departments and as a discreet department managing its own projects. The scale of jobs varies enormously from short one-week assignments to long-term contracts, which span several years. The work is also diverse in the number of disciplines utilising information systems. A brief portfolio of current projects includes 3D fly-throughs, system design, habitat mapping, asset and facilities management, database design, aerial photography interpretation, and environmental impact assessments.

The success of the site visits has been due to the hard work of Tim Brewer, the AGI Secretariat and the organisation's which host the visits. Many thanks to everyone involved.

## Web Site

The ENV.SIG web site has been looked after by a succession of people over the last couple of years and is an important feature of the groups activities. Micky Allen has now taken over this activity. We use it primarily to keep members, and future members, informed of what we are doing. It contains information such as details of our latest site visits, membership and contact details of our committee members, our mission statement and a list of useful links to relevant web sites.

We aim to update the web site after each quarterly committee meeting and are always looking for suggestions on how we can improve this service. If you have any ideas, news or information, which you would like to see posted on the web site, then please contact us.

### **Env.Sig Membership**

There are currently over 200 members of ENV.SIG from a wide range of organisations. If you are interested in joining email Nigel Brown at [njbr@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:njbr@ceh.ac.uk). If you would like to become more actively involved, then please do volunteer to become a committee member. The committee meets every quarter, usually in London, and currently has a dozen active members. This gives me the opportunity to make my usual plea for volunteers to become committee members.

The ENV.SIG could not be so successful without the combined efforts of the committee. All this work is undertaken voluntarily and with good humour! My thanks to all the committee members for their contributions. I look forward to a future of continued involvement with the Environmental GI community and hope we can continue to be of benefit to all our members.

**NIGEL J BROWN**  
**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIG**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Since the launch of the local government special interest group (LGSIG) one year ago, the Group has had a busy year. The LGSIG staged two regional seminars, the first one entitled “*Where Next for Geographic Information in Local Government*” was presented to a full house in Birmingham. The seminar demonstrated needs and ways forward to manage information within Local Authorities to address N-initiatives and e-government. The second seminar in Newcastle on “*Are we being served: Does GI hold the key for delivery of customer services*” addressed issues surrounding how to provide up-to-date information to serve the customer. In addition, many local authorities visited the LGSIG drop in centre at the AGI stand during GIS 2001 where LGSIG members gave advice and handed out a small guide on how to implement GIS in local authorities.

Thanks to Tim Gibbs, the LGSIG hosts its own website ([www.agi.org.uk/lgisg](http://www.agi.org.uk/lgisg)) providing case studies, seminar presentation and links to other organisations. In addition to the website, the LGSIG aims to keep the members informed by publishing a newsletter twice yearly.

The LGSIG also contributed to the set-up of a local government askGiraffe HUB to publicise metadata about geographic information held in local authorities.

The chair of the LGSIG wishes to thank all members for their contribution. The agenda for next year will be equally ambitious and aims to foster closer relationships with other government organisations such as IGGI and IDeA. To improve the website so it becomes a one stop shop for GIS applications and implementation in LA’s. Any contributions of case studies or voluntary membership would be greatly appreciated.

Members:

- Gesche Schmid, Medway (chair): [Gesche.Schmid@medway.gov.uk](mailto:Gesche.Schmid@medway.gov.uk)
- Tim Gibbs, Halton (Web Co-ordinator): [Tim.Gibbs@halton-borough.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Gibbs@halton-borough.gov.uk)
- Dave Yarwood, Kensington & Chelsea (Local & Regional group co-ordinator): [dave.yarwood@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:dave.yarwood@rbkc.gov.uk)
- Peter Clegg, Cliffe House Associates (AGI conference representative): [Peteclegg@cha.solis.co.uk](mailto:Peteclegg@cha.solis.co.uk)
- Peter Thorpe, Peter Thorpe Consultants (CPD): [PThorpe@compuserve.com](mailto:PThorpe@compuserve.com)
- Peter Cridland, Barnet (Member awareness raising): [peter.cridland@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:peter.cridland@barnet.gov.uk)
- Gayle Gander, AGI (Secretariat): [gayle@agi.org.uk](mailto:gayle@agi.org.uk)
- Steve Brandwood, IDeA: [steven.brandwood@idea.gov.uk](mailto:steven.brandwood@idea.gov.uk)
- Robert Heyward, LGA: [Robert.Heyward@lga.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Heyward@lga.gov.uk)

**GESCHE SCHMID**  
**CHAIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SIG**

## MARINE & COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GIS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

FutureCoast 2002, the MCZM GIS SIG's main annual event was held this year as a half-day workshop at Littoral 2002 in Oporto, Portugal on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Entitled **Using geospatial technologies for ICZM**, papers were included by Mark Dickson (University of Wollongong), Branko Bogunovic (University of Aberdeen/Slovenia), David R. Green (University of Aberdeen), and Geerten Blessing (CARIS). The proceedings of this workshop will be included in a special issue of Geocoast ([www.geocoast.co.uk](http://www.geocoast.co.uk)). In 2003 we hope to hold additional seminars, one of which will be a joint one with the Environmental SIG, some site visits, as well as FutureCoast 2003. The SIG is supported by two websites: [www.theukcoastalzone.com/agisig](http://www.theukcoastalzone.com/agisig) and [www.futurecoast.co.uk](http://www.futurecoast.co.uk)

**David R. Green & Stephen D. King - University of Aberdeen - 2002**



## SCHOOLS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The main activity of the SIG this year has been attendance at the Geographical Association Conference and Exhibition in Manchester, where I manned a stand for the duration of the event. We were visited by a large number of people interested in developing GIS in school education, with many of the teachers coming from abroad. Subsequently we have planned a number of local evening visits for school teachers to major UK organisations involved in various aspects of the GI industry. The first of these is in Aberdeen on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2002, and will be hosted by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI) and The University of Aberdeen's Department of Geography and Environment. In the New Year we also plan to host a 'hands-on' workshop in Aberdeen for school teachers. It is hoped that we will be able to involve as many of the SIG members as possible in the workshop. Visits to the Ordnance Survey (OS), the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), the Environment Agency, English Nature, and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are also planned for 2003. The SIG is supported by a website: [www.gis-education.com](http://www.gis-education.com).

**David R. Green & Stephen D. King - University of Aberdeen - 2002**

**AGI SEMINARS AND SPONSORED EVENTS DURING 2000**

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>                     | <b>Location</b> |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| January      | 09/01/02    | Env Sig Site Visit: Emapsite     | Hampshire       |
|              | 25/01/02    | Use of GIS in the NHS            | Leeds           |
| February     | 14/02/02    | Jill Dando Crime Seminar         | London          |
|              | 15/02/02    | Digital Imagery Round Table      | London          |
| March        | 08/03/02    | AGINI Launch                     | Belfast         |
|              | 13/03/02    | Whats The Deal?                  | Birmingham      |
| April        | 17/04/02    | Data for LBS                     | London          |
|              | 24/04/02    | Pub Quiz                         | London          |
| May          | 23/05/02    | Mike Goodchild Lecture           | London          |
| June         | 18/06/02    | Environmental Data Seminar       | Nottingham      |
|              | 21/06/02    | AGINI Public Sector GIS Seminar  | Belfast         |
|              | 26/06/02    | Scotland Rural Seminar           | Aberdeen        |
| July         | 02/07/02    | Golf Day                         | Pryford         |
|              | 05/07/02    | Locate Your Partner              | Birmingham      |
|              | 11/07/02    | Applying Criminology Through GIS | Sheffield       |
| August       | 23/08/02    | People and Places                | Edinburgh       |
| September    | 11/09/02    | Street Naming Round Table        | London          |
|              | 17-19/09/02 | GIS 2002                         | London          |
|              | 18/09/02    | Conference Party                 | London          |
|              | 19/09/02    | VIP Session                      | London          |
| October      | 17/10/02    | Fair Trading and Regulation      | London          |
| November     | 07/11/02    | Patents Seminar                  | London          |
|              | 08/11/02    | BGS Site Visit                   | Nottingham      |
|              | 14/11/02    | AGM                              | London          |
|              | 14/11/02    | Lecture and Awards Dinner        | London          |
|              | 14/11/02    | Plan your Perspective            | London          |
|              | 19/11/02    | What do the Users Want?          | London          |
|              | 22/11/02    | AGINI GI in the Private Sector   | Belfast         |
|              | 25/11/02    | PAI Seminar                      | Oxford          |
|              | 27/11/02    | Annual Scotland Seminar          | Edinburgh       |
| December     | 04/12/02    | PAI Seminar                      | Leeds           |
|              | 10/12/02    | Annual Cymru Conference          | Cardiff         |

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Caroline Brown – Team Administrator (starts January)  
Romina Ercolanoni – Web and Information Officer (started June 2002)  
Claire Huppertz – Senior Administrator  
Judy Jerome – Services Manager (started June 2002)  
Mark Linehan – Director  
Angela McMahon – Events Manager (started August 2002)  
Matteo Mode – Technical Officer (started June 2002)  
Sallie Payne – Deputy Director (started January 2002)  
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