

Scientists for Global Responsibility

Annual Report 2019-20



Part of the campaign awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.



Front Cover Photos (L-R): Farhana Yamin speaking at the Responsible Science conference – Stuart Parkinson with Polly and Isla Bradbury at a School Climate Strike protest in Lancaster – Students at St Aidan's School, Lancashire, take part in a One Planet – One Life workshop

Design: [theArgumentbyDesign](http://theArgumentbyDesign.com) - www.tabd.co.uk

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Dr Stuart Parkinson

Assistant Director:
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NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

Chair:
Dr Philip Webber

Vice Chair:
Dr Jan Maskell CPsychol

Treasurer:
Alasdair Beal CEng

Secretary:
Martin Bassant MPhil¹

Committee Members:

Steve Ballard
Dr David Hookes
Dr Paul Marchant CStat
Simon Reed
Dr Gillian Smith CEng²

¹until 16th November 2020

²from 16th November 2020

Reporting period:
March 2019 to
February 2020
(inclusive)

SUMMARY

As we write this, the world is still gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic. The health, economic and social impacts of Covid-19 are immense – and we extend our sympathies to all those affected. This report covers the year up until February 2020 before the virus had significantly affected the UK. Looking forward, our priorities remain the ongoing climate emergency, the risk of nuclear war, and broader issues of irresponsible science and technology. This not only aligns with the organisation's expertise, it is also because these represent even greater threats, and action to tackle and recover from the pandemic needs to be consistent with this bigger picture.

This year's key achievements:

- We published a new in-depth report revealing financial links between the fossil fuel and arms industries on the one hand, and some of the UK's leading professional engineering and science organisations on the other. The report led to high-profile media coverage in *The Sunday Times* and *BBC News online*.
- We ran 29 'One Planet – One Life' workshops for over 900 students in schools in North West England. These workshops covered climate change, carbon footprinting and sustainable living – and coincided with the national upsurge in demand for environmental science education as a result of the School Climate

Strikes. Hundreds of students also participated in our Science4Society Week activities.

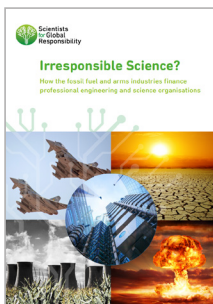
- We held a sell-out conference in London on the climate emergency and the responsibility of scientists and engineers. We also published a report highlighting action being taken by science and technology professionals in this area.
- We launched our upgraded website, redesigned to appeal to larger and more diverse audiences. There were 55,000 page-views during the reporting period.
- SGR speakers gave over 20 other presentations, on topics including military carbon emissions and rapid transition to tackle the climate emergency.
- Our campaigning and education work also covered issues including: nuclear arms; coal mining; military involvement in science; and new weapons technologies.

We would like to thank our membership, our trust funders, and individual donors – all have been essential in SGR's successes. We also thank our staff and volunteers who worked very hard during the year.

Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
Philip Webber, Chair

PROJECTS

CORPORATE INFLUENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



In October 2019, SGR published a new in-depth report, *Irresponsible Science?* It revealed a previously unrecognised pattern of financial

links between the fossil fuel and arms industries on the one hand, and some of the UK's leading professional engineering and science organisations on the other. The links revealed included: funding and branding of school education programmes; sponsorship of prestige conferences and dinners; investments; major donations; and corporate membership. The professional organisations that received the most significant funding from these controversial industries were the Royal Academy of Engineering, EngineeringUK and the Energy Institute. The research also revealed that the Royal Society had high levels of investments in the fossil fuel industry. Our revelations received high profile coverage in *The Sunday Times* – the UK's highest circulation broadsheet newspaper. Following the report's publication, Prof Bill McGuire resigned from the Geological Society in protest over its links to the fossil fuel industry. His action was covered by *BBC News online*. Over 200 copies of the full report and 1,200 summaries were disseminated during the reporting year. The report was

written by Stuart Parkinson and Philip Wood, the latter being employed as a 'Peaceworker' through a scheme funded by Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Additional project funding was provided by the Martin Ryle Trust.



SGR's latest school science education project went from strength to strength during the reporting year. In all, Jan Maskell ran 29 workshops on climate change and carbon footprinting for over 900 students in the Morecambe Bay area of North West England. The workshops were run in primary and secondary schools (years 5–9), and covered sustainable lifestyle choices in food, transport, home energy, and possessions. The feedback from teachers and children alike has been very positive. Jan also ran sessions at the Responsible Science conference in November showcasing the exercises she uses in schools (see p.4). The project was funded by Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund.



A 'One Planet – One Life' workshop participant shows off her learning chart

CLIMATE CHANGE: SCIENTISTS BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY

During the summer of 2019, we carried out a survey of about 150 scientists and engineers about their personal actions to help tackle the climate emergency. In particular, we asked about lifestyle choices, for example, related to transport, home energy and food. The results were published in a report written by Andrew Simms and launched at the Responsible Science conference in November (see p. 4). The work found encouraging signs that scientists and engineers were taking notable action. This is especially important as social science research shows that, firstly, senior climate scientists often have high carbon footprints and, secondly, that personal environmental action by climate scientists significantly improves their credibility with the public. Sixty copies of the full report and 170 summaries were disseminated during the reporting period.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MILITARY

In June 2019, Stuart Parkinson calculated a new estimate for the UK's military carbon emissions – and this was used as the basis for five presentations during the reporting period: at two London conferences (organised by the Movement for Abolition of War and the International Peace Bureau) as well as events in Leeds and Birmingham. The estimate was also publicised extensively at Extinction Rebellion protests during the year. In February 2020 – just before the end of the reporting period – SGR was commissioned by Declassified UK to produce a report entitled *The environmental impacts of the UK military sector*. One aim of this report was to carry

out a more detailed examination of the carbon emissions of the UK's military and arms industry. The publication of this report will be covered in next year's annual report.



Science4Society Week 2019 took place as usual in March, co-ordinated by Jan Maskell. We launched our new teaching resource 'Rewrite the

Headlines', which helps students to critically examine how science news stories are (mis)reported in the media. Tours of eco-houses and renewable energy projects in Lancaster were also conducted for 150 university students and school children. The competition theme this year was 'What is a globally responsible career?' – and it spurred a record number of entries. There were winners in three age categories: Jeslyn Vijeyanathan (11y); Katie Bean (14y); and Ellen Hutton (16y). There are now over 50 teaching resources available to download from the S4S website, www.s4s.org.uk.

OTHER PROJECTS

- SGR's work on nuclear weapons also continued. In May 2019, Philip Webber published an article on the *Metro* website about the risks of nuclear war. He also provided similar material for use in a YouTube video commissioned by the International Red Cross.
- SGR also continued to promote ethical careers in science and technology. During the reporting period, SGR ran stalls at science fairs in Leeds and Preston, as well as at Cambridge University's ethical careers fair. Keith Baker gave a talk on ethical careers at Glasgow Caledonian University.

EVENTS

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE CONFERENCE



Prof Kevin Anderson speaking at the Responsible Science conference

The theme for our 2019 conference was *Scientists behaving responsibly: should science walk the talk on climate breakdown?* Speakers included: Prof Kevin Anderson, Universities of Manchester/ Uppsala; Prof Lorraine Whitmarsh, Cardiff University; Prof Bill McGuire, University College London; Prof Rebecca Willis, Lancaster University; Farhana Yamin, Track-0; and Andrew Simms and Dr Jan Maskell from SGR.

The speakers covered the scale of the climate threat, the important role of behaviour change, and the necessity of leadership from scientists and engineers in helping to spur wider political, industrial, and public action. The event also included the launch of our new report on the issue (see p.3). The sell-out event was one of our largest conferences, with over 80 people filling the central London venue.

OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

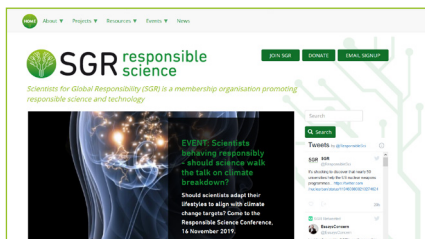
SGR speakers also took part in over 20 other events during the reporting period. During summer and autumn 2019, Andrew Simms spoke about rapid transition and the climate emergency at the Glastonbury Festival, Green Gathering Festival, Extinction Rebellion/ School Climate Strike protests and several other events. Jan Maskell, Philip Webber and Andrew also spoke at conferences specifically focussed on the climate emergency, including one on local government action. Stuart Parkinson gave five presentations on military carbon emissions (see p.3). He also gave the 2019 Bristol Peace Lecture, entitled *Science for a secure and sustainable future*. Philip Webber covered similar issues at a public meeting in Bath. Stuart also spoke at the 'No to NATO' counter-summit in London in December about the threat from emerging weapons technologies. Martin Bassant gave two talks at climate events in Leeds, Gillian Smith spoke at a peace exhibition in Bristol, and Keith Baker spoke at a careers event at Glasgow Caledonian University.



Participants at the Responsible Science conference take part in a 'One Planet - One Life' exercise

COMMUNICATIONS

SGR WEBSITE



We launched our upgraded and redesigned website in May 2019. Not only does it have a much more appealing design, it's easier to use on smartphones and tablets – and this markedly increases accessibility for diverse audiences, including young people. We also streamlined the joining pages, improved website security, and installed more accurate web statistics software. We estimate that there were 55,000 web-page views during the reporting period, a respectable figure for an organisation of our size.

MEDIA



Our most significant media coverage during the reporting year was in the *Sunday Times*, which covered our new

report *Irresponsible Science?* (see p.2) in October 2019. Prof Bill McGuire's resignation from the Geological Society following the revelations in that report was covered in *BBC News online*. Our arguments opposing the proposed new Cumbrian coal mine (see p.6) were reported in *Business Green*, *Green World*, *The Chemical Engineer*, *The Conversation* and the *ENDS report* during the year. In May 2019, Philip Webber wrote an article for the website of the *Metro* newspaper warning of the threat from nuclear weapons. The Researchers for Peace campaign – run by SGR in collaboration with European peace organisations (see p.6) – received coverage in *Nature*, *The Guardian* and *Research Europe*. Meanwhile, our report *Scientists Behaving Responsibly* (see p.3) gained coverage in *Climate News Network* and *Brave New Europe*. SGR's research on military involvement at UK universities also received some coverage in the peace and student media during the year.

RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE JOURNAL

We published the second issue of our new *Responsible Science* journal at the end of the reporting period in February/March 2020. It included 12 feature articles, most based on presentations at the Responsible Science conference (see p.4) or our project work (see pp.2–3). Other articles covered: the use of UK arms exports in the war in Yemen; the prospects for biomethane as a sustainable fuel; nuclear arms control; and ethical pension funds.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to run two email lists – **SGRforum** and **SGRupdate** – as well as using Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to promote our activities. Including

social media accounts run by staff and committee members, at year end, we had about 15,000 followers through these channels – an impressive figure.

OTHER CAMPAIGNING

SGR's other campaign activities during the reporting year have focussed on the climate emergency – especially challenging UK coal mining – and military involvement in science.

A flurry of planning applications in recent years for new UK coal mines led SGR to prioritise work with campaigners on this issue. We submitted objections to a huge new deep coal mine in Cumbria and a smaller open-cast coal mine in County Durham. Stuart Parkinson presented SGR's counter-arguments to a Cumbrian council planning meeting in March 2019. Despite support from local councillors and ministers, the project has still yet to get the final go-ahead – hence the campaign continues. In Durham, local councillors rejected the new application and thus all coal mining in the county will end in August 2020.

SGR has also supported campaigners on the climate emergency. Numerous SGR members signed scientists' open letters in support of the School Climate Strikes. Several SGR speakers spoke at strike rallies and Extinction Rebellion protests. We also helped the UK Student Climate Network draft a scientists' sign-on letter in support of a TV general election debate on climate issues. Over 500 scientists signed, and the resulting debate

was broadcast on Channel 4, with Boris Johnson famously being replaced by an ice statue when he declined to take part!

SGR also continued to support the Researchers for Peace campaign against the new EU Defence Fund. During ongoing political negotiations on the fund, its size has been reduced, but it is still likely to be a multi-billion-euro pot for military R&D.

SGR's work on military carbon emissions (see p.3) contributed to a motion being passed on this issue at Green Party national conference in October 2019.

Finally, the first meeting of the 'SGR Scotland' working group took place during the year organised by Keith Baker.



Climate protesters outside the planning committee meeting considering approval of a huge new coal mine in Cumbria

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

STAFF:

Stuart Parkinson continued as Executive Director, Andrew Simms as Assistant Director, and Vanessa Moss as Office Manager. Jan Maskell continued to run the One Planet – One Life project and Science4Society Week (see pp.2–3). We thank all our staff for their hard work.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:

The NCC – chaired by Philip Webber – continued to provide oversight of SGR's activities. In November, Martin Bassant stepped down as Secretary. We thank him for his hard work. Also in November, Gillian Smith was elected as a new Committee Member. A full list of NCC members is given on the inside front cover. Many thanks to NCC members for all the effort and expertise they provide for the organisation.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

These were:

Responsible Science journal/ blog

authors: Kevin Anderson, Emily Heath, Wiebina Heesterman, Bill McGuire, Anna Stavrianakis, Lorraine Whitmarsh, Rebecca Willis, and Farhana Yamin

SGR stall volunteers: Richard Jennings, Harald Molgaard

We thank them for their very useful contributions.



Andrew Simms speaking at the Responsible Science conference (see p.4)



Jan Maskell speaking at the Climate Emergency UK conference in Lancaster



Stuart Parkinson speaking at a joint CND/IPB conference in London

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SGR's finances for this reporting period (from March 2019 to February 2020 inclusive) continued to be in good health – which will be especially important in helping us cope with the global economic downturn in the months following.

A detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure is shown in the tables and figures.

OVERALL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Balance on 01.03.19	£28,768
Income	£53,422
Expenditure	£59,538
Income minus expenditure	-£6,116
Balance on 29.02.20	£22,652

NB All figures rounded to nearest pound

INCOME

Income from membership subscriptions was stable, although donations (both to the annual appeal and throughout the year) fell significantly. At the end of the reporting period, we had nearly 690 members. We received grants towards core costs this year from The Martin Ryle Trust (£5,205) and The 1970 Trust (£4,950). For project work, we received: a grant of £10,176 from Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund for One Planet – One Life; grants of £1,004 and £272 from The Martin Ryle Trust for our Corporate Influence and Scientists Behaving Respectably projects respectively; and £845 from Declassified UK for our work on Climate Change and the Military. We are very grateful to all who supported SGR's work this year.

Income (£)	2018-19	2019-20
Membership subscriptions	£19,607	£19,681
Membership appeal	£9,885	£7,711
Grants	£15,024	£22,452
Donations	£1,195	£757
Conference income	£1,634	£2,668
Sales of publications	£172	£119
Interest	£39	£34
Total	£47,555	£53,422

NB All figures rounded to the nearest pound; totals may not sum exactly due to rounding

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on salaries for core staff rose by 17% above that for the previous reporting period as this was the first full year employing a part-time Assistant Director in addition to other staff. Other core costs fluctuated, but the total of these was broadly stable. Project expenditure was in line with grant income received in this and the previous financial year, although it should be noted that some project work included core staff time while other projects included significant voluntary input.

As a result of all these factors, SGR entered its new financial year with a healthy bank balance. However, given the shortfall over the reporting period – and especially the economic shock provided by the Covid-19 pandemic – some ‘belt-tightening’ is likely to be required going forward. As ever, our finances continue to depend on the success of grant applications and the generosity of donors.



Jan Maskell conducts a tour of an eco-project during Science4Society Week

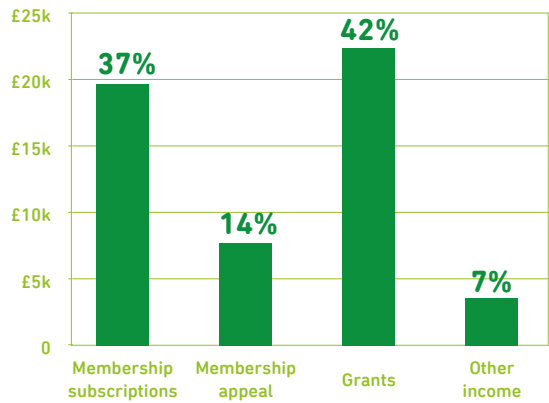
Expenditure (£)	2018-19	2019-20
Core wages and NI	£28,995	£32,844
Rent, insurance and utilities	£3,668	£3,380
Recruitment	£480	£814
<i>Responsible Science Journal</i>	£3,275	£2,585
Conference and AGM	£2,756	£3,252
Other core costs	£4,441	£5,783
One Planet – One Life project	£0	£7,348
Corporate Influence project	£0	£1,004
Website redesign/ upgrade project	£2,869	£956
Ethical Careers project	£2,000	£750
Scientists Behaving Responsibly report	£0	£581
Climate Change and the Military project	£0	£242
Science4Society Week project	£2,411	£0
Shale Gas project	£97	£0
AI project	£330	£0
Total	£51,324	£59,538

NB All figures rounded to nearest pound

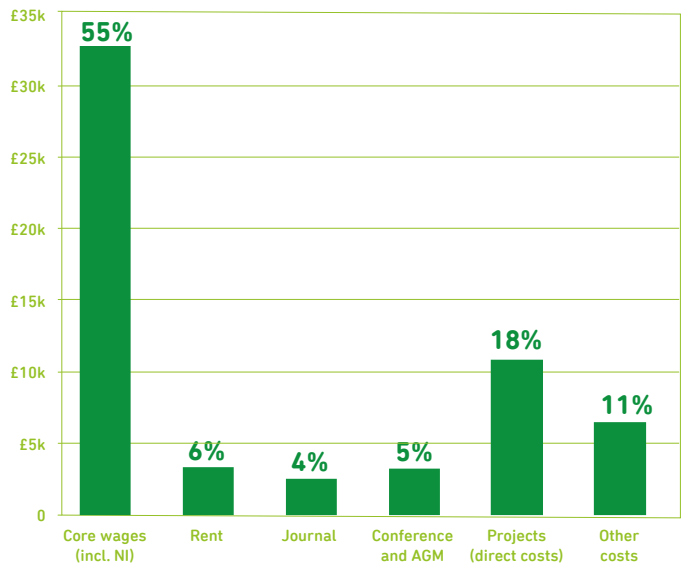


Prof Lorraine Whitmarsh speaking at the Responsible Science conference

INCOME 2019-20



EXPENDITURE 2019-20



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