

## DEVELOPING RSGS: A PERSONAL VIEW FROM A NEW BOARD MEMBER

Thanks to all those who voted for me to join the RSGS Board at the recent election. I have been reflecting about the future. First, I am delighted to see that RSGS has made so much progress in recent years: the move from the inaccessible base in Glasgow, the opening of the excellent facilities at the Fair Maid's House, the stimulating content of *The Geographer*, and the continuing engagement of the members' centres.

But, there is always more to do and challenges to be met and overcome. Top of my list is the need to address the declining financial position through a combination of generating new income sources and having a hard look at our costs of operation, especially those activities which make a loss. The Board has the responsibility to come up with answers and I hope that we will pursue these at our planned away day in June.

There are two key words in our name: Royal and Geographical. Many Royal Societies have an almost automatic voice in the media and with key influencers. Geography has too often been pushed off the agenda: for example the declining place of geography in the schools curriculum and in some universities. But we all know the formative role which geography and geographers can play in addressing many of today's societal and environmental problems. So I would like the Society to lead in putting geography higher up others agendas and to be the oft quoted voice on issues of the day. This means capturing the intellectual capital within our membership, convening debate and ideas about new futures and addressing issues which others are concerned about. Also, I would like to see how we can use the members groups around the country to be the points of outreach on geographical issues, as well as organising talk's programmes.

Not all will agree but, at least, we must debate our future to secure the active longevity of the society and geography.

Roger Crofts