

RSGS CHAIR'S REPORT AGM 2016-17 6 MARCH 2018

An effective year despite all of the surrounding noise off stage.

1. Report

Membership is critical to charities. Survey showed that average age is 66, and with good continuity 62% members over 5 years. General interest in geography is key reason for joining followed by entrance to talks and receipt of The Geographer, and also access to contact network.

Increased profile further through talks programme, The Geographer, discussions with RGS, SFC, Ministers and others, and through our medals and awards especially the Paris FCCC agreement trio.

Redefined our direction through new Strategic Plan for 2017-222. Not radical as we are on good track. Clear vision of "promoting geographical understanding of people, places and the planet" entirely fitting for the learned society for geography. Identified specified targets for increasing membership, and income from members, total and unrestricted income, our profile through outreach activities, and our credibility through engagement with academic geographers and with schools. Delivery through corporate activities and work of the 4 committees.

We had a good year **financially**. Probably some one-off elements. We review our financial position and our investments regularly with our expert advisers. Thank especially Tim and Linda.

And we keep our **governance** up to date. New constitution is proving fit for purpose. Reformed the research and the education committees. And welcomed new Board members. Gender balance excellent 7 of 12 are women.

2. Future priorities

Fund raising developing Case for Support, identified need for funds to employ a specialist fund raiser. Lots of ideas being discussed.

Geography is schools continuing our campaign focussed on Cab Sec for Education, other politicians, SQA, parents' associations

RSGS as a knowledge exchange network developing proposals for bid on health inequalities in Scottish cities. Lobbying for funds for RSGS as network for improving understanding on big issues such as sustainable development and climate change.

Profile raising especially through targeted one-off events

International links already done with RCGS, will do this with new CEO of RGS,

3. Thanks

All Board members for focussed input, especially to Ness, Alister and Tim who come to the end of their terms, to committee chairs for leadership, to all volunteers on committees, in local groups, at FMHouse and in the office. And to Staff.