

Leading from the front

Alister Hendrie, RSGS Vice-Chair

Our recent Annual General Meeting saw Roger Crofts complete his second three-year term as Chair and finally step down from the role he has fulfilled in such an outstanding manner over the past six years.

Prior to joining the Board of RSGS, Roger had been well known to us as a distinguished academic geographer who had worked with the Scottish Government and as Chief Executive of Scottish Natural Heritage. He also had long-standing connections with the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers, serving for an extended period as one of their Honorary Presidents. From the outset Roger was able to bring all of this wide-ranging experience to bear in helping to focus the Board on a clear set of strategic targets for his term of office. During this time our credibility, profile and financial sustainability have all been significantly enhanced, not least through Roger's leadership, energy and enthusiasm.

Another of the ways in which Roger has hugely contributed to our corporate targets has been through his networking both within and outwith Scotland. His high-level contacts in the universities, government, NGOs and wider civic society have served RSGS well and greatly helped develop our profile. Over his second three-year term Roger has put a lot of time and effort into developing

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a fundraising strategy, including a case for support, in order to ensure the financial future of the Society. While the implementation of this strategy has been put on hold due to the coronavirus epidemic, we are now well placed to progress it at an appropriate time in future.

During his first two years as Chair, Roger visited every one of our 13 Local Groups, and throughout his tenure he delivered as many as 30 talks on our behalf. He also contributed at least 20 articles to *The Geographer* and used his personal contacts around the world to help commission numerous other articles from a wide variety of different contributors. Roger co-edited the spring 2020 edition of *The Geographer* on 'nature's solutions'. Yet another aspect of his work has been in building our international links, in particular with the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Overall RSGS owes a huge debt of gratitude to Roger for his inspirational leadership and contribution to so many facets of our work over the last six years. He has truly led from the front. We are

delighted to report that he will continue to serve RSGS in future as a Vice-President of the Society. We wish both Roger and his wife Lindsay well and look forward to their continuing interest, friendship and support in the years to come.

