



SOCIETY OF RESEARCH  
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

[linktr.ee/  
ResearchSoftEng](https://linktr.ee/ResearchSoftEng)

# Society of Research Software Engineering AGM 2024

Matt Williams, President

# Agenda

- Introduction [5m]
- Trustee reports and updates [5m each, 30m total]
  - President's report
  - RSE Leaders
  - Conference & events
  - Membership
  - Equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility
  - Communications
  - Finance
- Q&A via Sli.do - [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) with code **#agm24** [10m]
- Election results and close [5m]

# Introduction

## Purpose:

- ▶ **To Vote on resolutions** as required by our constitution
- ▶ **For trustees to update the Society's members** on what we have been doing this year to develop the Society and further our shared aims
- ▶ **For members to have the opportunity to ask questions and raise topics** for future consideration.

# Trustees Annual Report



<https://society-rse.org/links/socrse-report-24>

# President's report

Matt Williams

# What is the Society of RSE

A charitable members organisation  
charity number (1182455)

We provide;

- ▶ A conference
- ▶ Financial support
- ▶ **A community and voice for RSEs**



# What is the Society of RSE

We are a UK Charity and aim to support RSE in the UK, provide a home for people who don't have a national organisation and help incubate other organisations internationally.

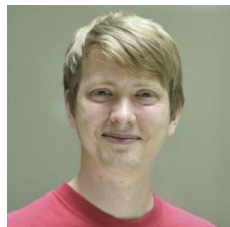
Our Charitable objectives are:

- to advance education particularly but not exclusively amongst research software engineers; and/or
- to promote and advance research particularly but not exclusively in all aspects of research that relies on software engineering and to publish the useful results.

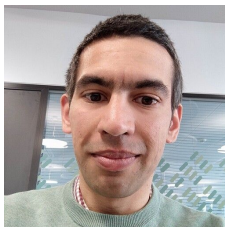


# The Current Trustees

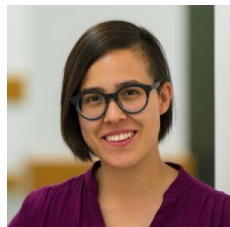
## Finishing Term/Retiring



Matt Williams



Robin Nandi



Evelina Gabasova



Peter Schmidt

## Continuing



Mary  
Chester-Kadwell



Fliss Guest



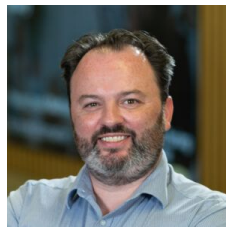
Twin Karmakharm



Stef Piatek



Lyndsey Ballantyne



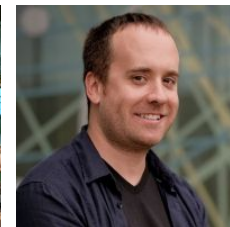
Martin O'Reilly



David Beavan

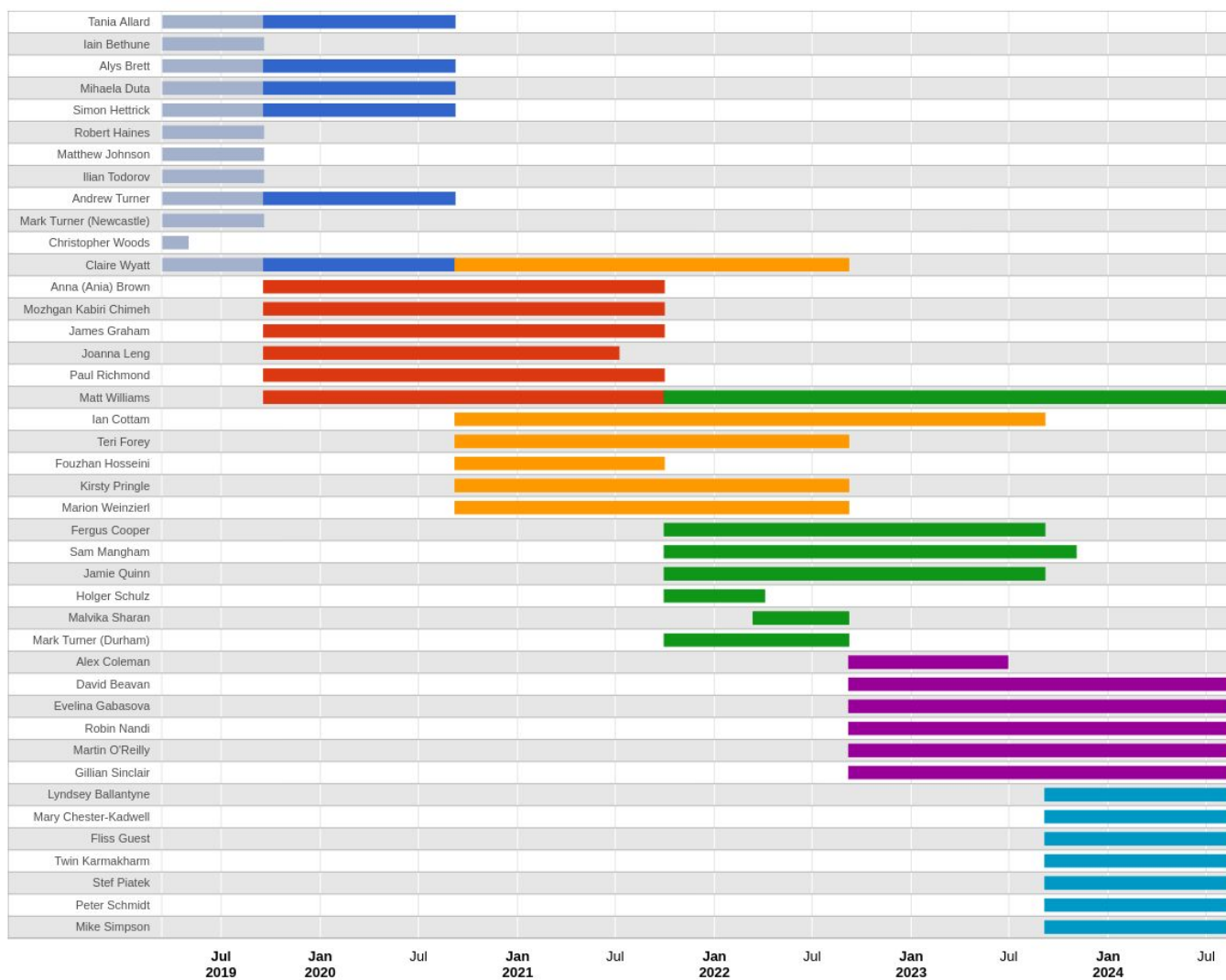


Gillian Sinclair



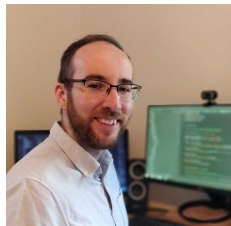
Mike Simpson



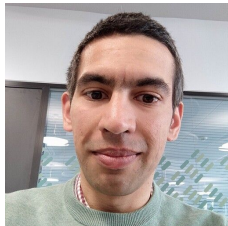


# Trustees standing down

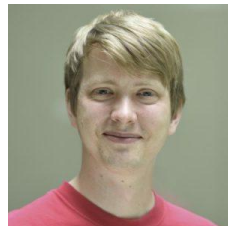
## Leavers since 2023 AGM



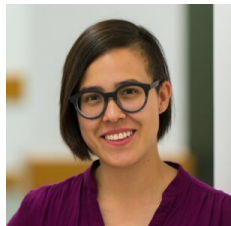
Sam Mangham



Robin Nandi



Matt Williams



Evelina Gabasova



Peter Schmidt

# Gratitude to Software Sustainability Institute (SSI)

- ▶ Voluntary donation from SSI to SocRSE
  - ▶ Currently equal to 50% full-time
  - ▶ Embodied by Lyndsey Ballantyne
  - ▶ So we know it's 50%+++
- 
- ▶ Priorities on conference, comms, events
  - ▶ Flexible

# We want you!

Stand as a trustee

Conference committee for 2025

Society Working Groups:

- **Communications and Publicity** - [comms@society-rse.org](mailto:comms@society-rse.org)
- **EDIA / Role Diversity** - [edia@society-rse.org](mailto:edia@society-rse.org)

Special Interest Groups forming:

- **Medical Devices SIG** - contact James Graham - [james.a.graham@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:james.a.graham@kcl.ac.uk)
- **Project Management SIG** - contact Sarah Jaffa - [s.jaffa@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.jaffa@ucl.ac.uk)
- **Environmental Impact of Computing SIG** - Kirsty Pringle - [k.pringle@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:k.pringle@epcc.ed.ac.uk)

Come and talk to us at the Society booth  
or contact us at [info@society-rse.org](mailto:info@society-rse.org) or  
[society-rse.org/community/get-involved](https://society-rse.org/community/get-involved)



# We want you!

Drop your details here if you're interested, but don't know in what

*Or new ideas like:*

Training and teaching?

Mental health?

Green computing?

Outreach and Advocacy?

Accreditation?

Online seminar series?

We can provide resources  
and funding to help



Come and talk to us at the Society booth  
or contact us at [info@society-rse.org](mailto:info@society-rse.org) or  
[society-rse.org/community/get-involved](https://society-rse.org/community/get-involved)

# Regional RSE groups

Set up or in-progress

- ▶ Research Software London
- ▶ N8 CIR RSE Community
- ▶ Community of Edinburgh Research Software Engineers
- ▶ Supercomputing Wales
- ▶ RSE Midlands
- ▶ RSE South
- ▶ Northern England RSEs
- ▶ ScotRSE

# RSE Leaders

Fliss Guest

# RSE Leaders

## Original RSE Leaders Network, est. 2015

- ▶ Back to running meetings every ~6 months
- ▶ Two in 2024 - Cambridge & Newcastle



## Future RSE Leaders Network

- ▶ Society Working Group formed
- ▶ Community Survey: Evolving the RSE Leaders Network
- ▶ Looking to form a SIG to act on survey findings



# Conference and Events

Fliss Guest

## Conferences



- ▷ First hybrid conference (325 in person, 40 online)
- ▷ 44 community-contributed talks
- ▷ 10 interactive workshops and walkthroughs
- ▷ Also, satellite and community-organised events
- ▷ Huge thanks to the conference committee



- ▷ Biggest conference yet! (420 in person, 74 online)
- ▷ Introducing the Emerging Voice Plenary & Community Discovery Day
- ▷ 15 bursaries awarded

# Events

7 of 10 events funded (up from 5 of 7 last year)

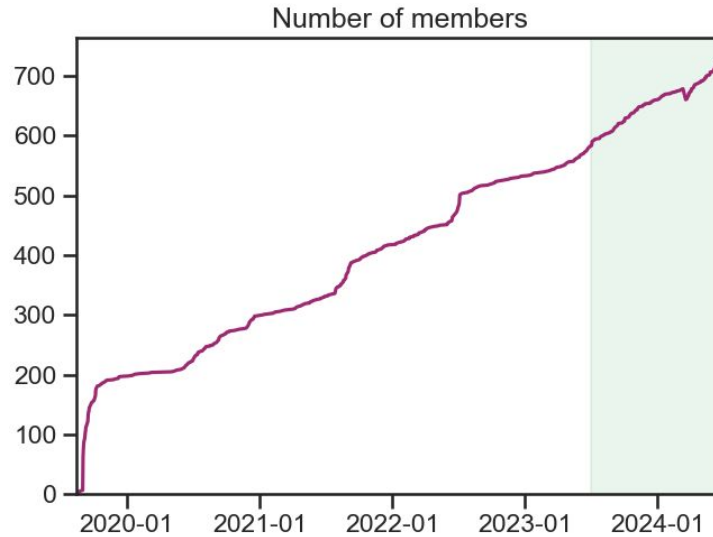
- ▶ PRISM in-person conference
- ▶ 5th Annual Workshop of the Research Software London Regional Research Software Community
- ▶ Research Software Engineer Asia & Australia 2024 Unconference (RSEAA24)
- ▶ Digital Humanities RSE Summer School
- ▶ The Turing Way Book Dash - Accessibility Working Group
- ▶ RSE Midlands 24
- ▶ Mental Health First Aider Training (for RSECon24 +)

# Membership

Stef Piatek

# Membership


- ▶ Migrated membership platform
- ▶ Membership fee still £20
- ▶ > 5,900 members in our slack instance
- ▶ Over 700 paid members



## 700th member

Congratulations!  
Come and get it



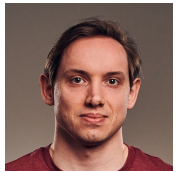


# **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) & Role Diversity**

Stef Piatek

## EDIA & Role Diversity

- ▶ Mix of members from community and trustees
- ▶ Public slack channel, minutes and github board
- ▶ Published RSEStories from RSECon23
- ▶ Surveyed RSE leaders on EDIA in their groups
- ▶ Updated website, resources and slack greeting





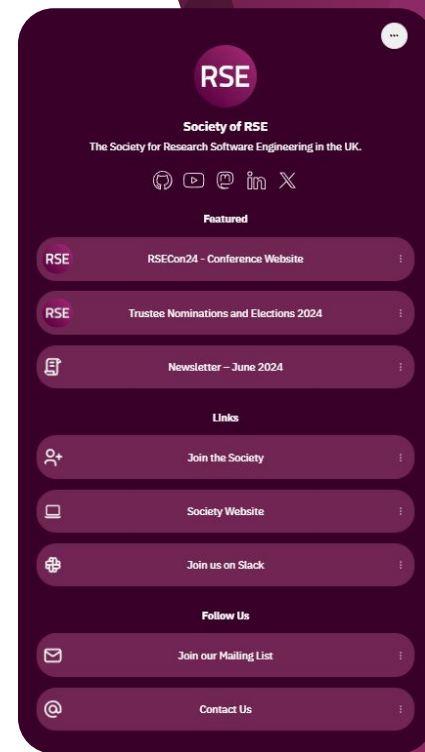
# Communications

Mike Simpson

# Communications

- New Mailing List Platform: **SendGrid**
  - New features coming soon!
- **Linktree** - [linktr.ee/ResearchSoftEng](https://linktr.ee/ResearchSoftEng)
- **Mastodon** - [mastodon.social/@ResearchSoftEng](https://mastodon.social/@ResearchSoftEng)

Improving EDIA (e.g. enforcing Alt-text on Images)



# Communications

- **Twitter/X** (7,193 followers):
  - [x.com/ResearchSoftEng](https://x.com/ResearchSoftEng)
- **Mastodon** (372 followers):
  - [mastodon.social/@ResearchSoftEng](https://mastodon.social/@ResearchSoftEng)
- **LinkedIn** (322 followers)
- **Slack** (5,898 in #general, 750 active monthly users)
  - Looking to supplement with an alternative.

# Communications

Get involved!

- **Working Group** open to non-trustees
  - Thanks to Alex Coleman for help with SendGrid
  - Thanks to Ian Cottam for help with the Newsletter
- **Communications Forums** to continue

[comms@society-rse.org](mailto:comms@society-rse.org)

# Treasurer's report

Robin Nandi

# Treasurer's Report

- ▶ Income comes mostly from:
  - ▷ Sponsorship
  - ▷ Conference ticket sales
  - ▷ Membership fees
- ▶ Expenses are mostly conference related, but also include:
  - ▷ Community grants (Events and Initiatives)
  - ▷ Mentorship scheme
  - ▷ Community infrastructure
- ▶ Effective cash balance ~£134,500 due to:
  - ▷ -£139,000 unpaid RSECon24 costs
  - ▷ -£25,000 VAT owed to HMRC
  - ▷ -£5,400 Events and Initiatives awards
  - ▷ +£35,000 post-June conference income

	2024	2023	2022
<i>Income</i>			
Sponsorship	103,500	50,500	5,000
Ticket sales (in-person)	107,914	98,820	24,810
Ticket sales (remote)	5,038	1,428	4,710
Membership fees	14,180	13,520	11,740
Donations	950	1,018	6
Merchandise	65	61	134
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>231,648</b>	<b>165,348</b>	<b>46,400</b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
Infrastructure	6,548	4,961	4,389
Audit & Accountancy fees	3,200	1,775	1,650
Community grants	8,700	3,665	1,556
Conference Expenses	107,480	91,417	16,731
Mentorship scheme	33,750	2,150	3,350
Insurance	480	468	456
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>160,158</b>	<b>104,436</b>	<b>28,132</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>71,489</b>	<b>60,912</b>	<b>18,268</b>
<i>VAT movements</i>			
VAT Collected	52,810	37,408	4,962
VAT Paid	36,264	33,903	3,728
<b>Net VAT movement</b>	<b>16,545</b>	<b>3,505</b>	<b>1,234</b>
<i>Foreign Currency</i>			
Foreign currency gains	(88)	(57)	(68)
<b>Net Cash Movement</b>	<b>87,947</b>	<b>64,359</b>	<b>19,434</b>
<i>Summary</i>			
Opening Balance	181,046	116,687	97,253
Net Cash Movement	87,947	64,359	19,434
Cash Balance	268,993	181,046	116,687

# Treasurer's Report

- ▶ Conference surplus is main source of funds to support Society activity
- ▶ Average surplus is £22,000 but ranges from £15,000 loss to £38,000 surplus
- ▶ RSECon23 was loss making due to combination of low sponsorship and hybrid streaming costs
- ▶ RSECon24 will make a £35,000+ surplus, even with hybrid costs
- ▶ Sponsorship also subsidises conference costs (bursaries, free registrations, cheaper tickets)

Account	RSECon22	RSECon23	Total
<b>Turnover</b>			
Donations	1,000	0	1,000
Event sponsorship income	45,500	31,000	76,500
Event ticket sales (in-person)	86,640	70,623	157,263
Event ticket sales (remote)	0	3,587	3,587
Merchandise	61	65	126
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>133,201</b>	<b>105,275</b>	<b>238,476</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>			
Event administration	6,797	13,063	19,860
Event attendance bursaries	8,847	1,678	10,526
Event catering	28,799	33,978	62,776
Event promotion	3,589	1,708	5,297
Event social and networking (catering)	25,719	16,515	42,235
Event social and networking (entertainment)	3,167	5,000	8,167
Event social and networking (venue)	1,775	5,150	6,925
Event speaker expenses	2,699	343	3,041
Event speaker honoraria (non-professional)	0	828	828
Event streaming costs	0	21,830	21,830
Event transaction fees	1,313	5,327	6,640
Event travel and accommodation	1,620	2,531	4,151
Event venue hire	11,407	12,687	24,095
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>95,733</b>	<b>120,638</b>	<b>216,370</b>
<b>Administrative Costs</b>			
Realised Currency Gains	21	84	105
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>37,448</b>	<b>(15,447)</b>	<b>22,001</b>

# Treasurer's Report

- ▶ Our financial position is healthy as we have accumulated a surplus over the last 5 years
- ▶ Continue to target a sustainable surplus for our annual conference to support the community activity throughout the year
- ▶ Use our surplus to fund community groups and events through our Events & Initiatives fund and community infrastructure
- ▶ Looking at how we can increase support for community activity - e.g. via regional RSE groups and special interest groups
- ▶ Keen to hear from community about how we can best support you with additional funds



# Treasurer's Report

- ▶ Huge thank you to SSI, who provide very generous in-kind support of 50% of Lyndsey's time as Society Community Manager



Q&A



slido.com #agm24

# Trustee elections

Mike Simpson

## Election Process

- We can have up to 14 trustees
  - We had 14 trustees after the AGM in '23
- $\frac{1}{3}$  of Trustees have to stand down each year.
  - A total of 5 trustees stood down this year
  - 2 new trustees have been nominated
  - No need for a competitive election

# Candidates

- ★ Godwin Yeboah  
Senior Research Software Engineer  
(University of Warwick)



- ★ Philip Grylls  
Senior Research Software Engineer  
(University of Warwick)



# Vote

**Motion:** To elect Godwin Yeboah and Pip Grylls to the board of trustees for the Society.

- ▶ People joining remotely, please click the “Raise Hand” button on Zoom.
- ▶ People in the room, raise your hand, if you are able.

*Please note: You must be a member of the Society to vote.*

## Trustees elected

- Congratulations! 🎉



## Trustee Elections - Part 2

Nominees have agreed amongst themselves

- **Yo Yehudi**  
Executive Director - OLS
- **Abie Alexander-Ikwue**  
Intern - Alan Turing Institute
- **Samantha Ahern**  
Education Co-lead - ARC, UCL



# Vote

**Motion:** To elect Yo Yehudi Abie Alexander-Ikwue and Samantha Ahern to the board of trustees for the Society.

- ▶ People joining remotely, please click the “Raise Hand” button on Zoom.
- ▶ People in the room, raise your hand, if you are able.

*Please note: You must be a member of the Society to vote.*

# Conclusion and Close

**Thank you to  
the Conference  
Committee!**

**Thank you to  
the Trustees**

**Thank you to you,  
our members**