

Society of Research Software Engineering AGM 2026

David Beavan
President

Agenda

- Introduction [3m]
- Trustee reports and updates [3m each, 27m total]
  - President's Report
  - Special Interest Groups
  - EDIA & Role Diversity
  - Conference & Events
  - Membership
  - Communications & Publicity
  - Mentoring scheme
  - Policy & Funding
  - Treasurer's Report
- Q&A via Sli.do - slido.com with code **#agm26** [10m]
- Resolution on changes to the Constitution [10m]
- Election results and close [10m]

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.

Sli.do

Trustees Annual Report



society-rse.org/links/socrse-report-accounts-26

What is the Society of RSE?

We are a UK Charity (1182455) and aim to support RSEs 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.

RSE

SOCIETY OF RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

President's Report

David Beavan,
President

Highlights from the last year

- I step down as President at this AGM, after two years, the trustees will appoint my successor
- RSECon remains the flagship event, Warwick welcomed over 450 participants
- The community there prompted our Ethical Sponsorship Policy and consultation
- The Trustees navigated the UCU boycott of Sheffield, being very open and consultative
- We rely heavily on volunteers and the 50% FTE contribution from the Institute for Research Software

SOCIETY OF RESEARCH SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

The Trustees

Finishing Term/Stepping Down


David Beavan


Stef Piatek


Lyndsey Ballantyne


Mike Simpson


Twin Karmakharm

Continuing


Elena Breitmoser


Mark Basham


William Haese-Hill


Gillian Sinclair

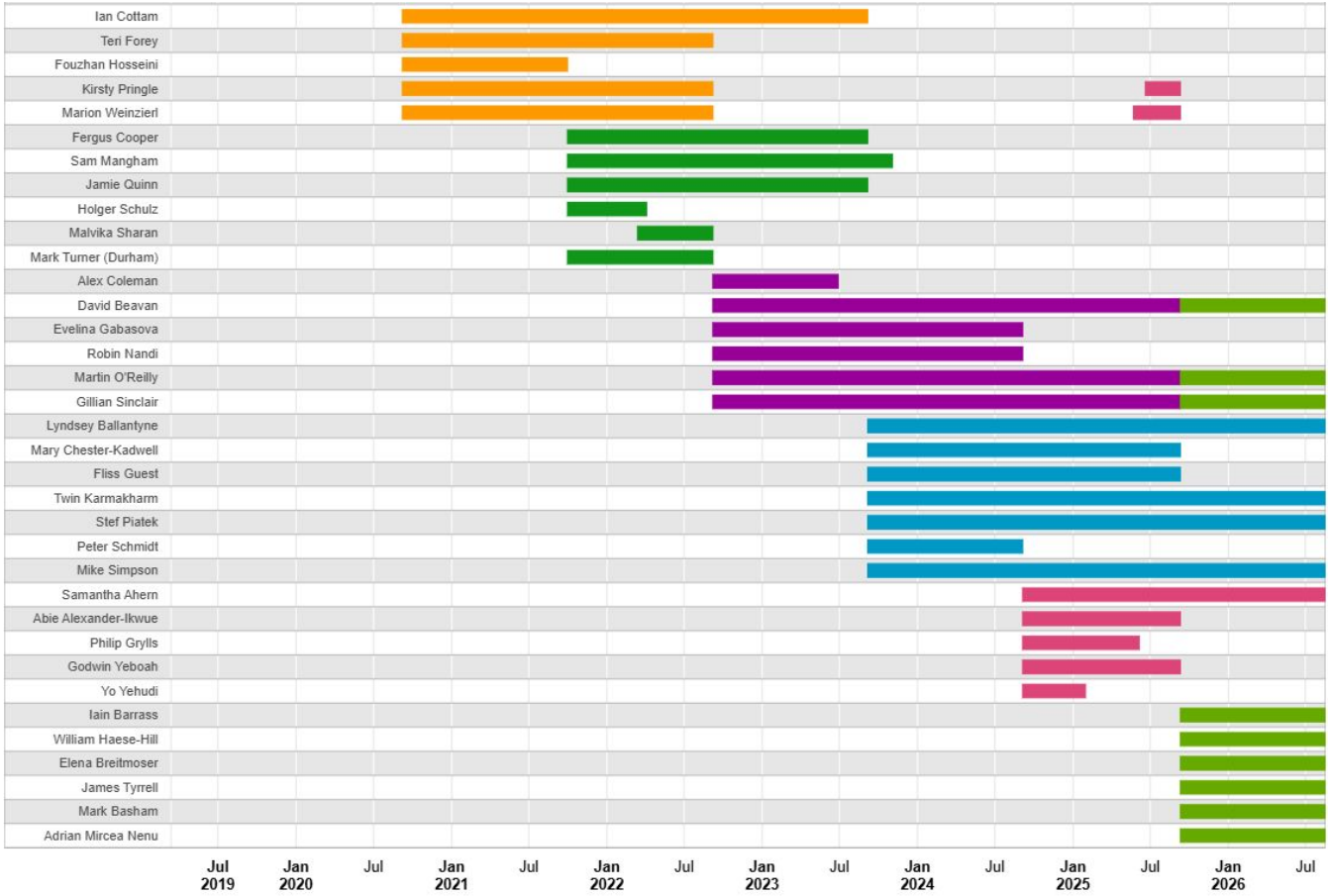

Iain Barrass


Adrian Mircea Nenu


James Tyrrell


Samantha Ahern


Martin O'Reilly



Full Timeline: https://society-rse.org/about/governance/trustee-timeline/

Trustees Standing Down



David Beavan



Stef Piatek



Lyndsey Ballantyne



Mike Simpson



Twin Karmakharm

Gratitude to the Institute for Research Software (formerly SSI)

- Voluntary donation of time to SocRSE
- Michael Donnay - Community Manager
- Currently equal to 50% full-time

- Conference Logistics Chair
- Leaders Network Steering Group member
- SIG Coordinator
- Policy & Funding Working Group member



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH SOFTWARE

We want you!

RSECon27 Conference Committee - *call opens tomorrow!*

Society Working Groups:

- **Communications and Publicity** - *comms@society-rse.org*
- **EDIA / Role Diversity** - *edia@society-rse.org*
- **Web** - *web@society-rse.org*

Special Interest Groups (*sig-coordinator@society-rse.org*):

- Regional RSE Groups SIG
- Reasonable Performance Computing SIG
- HPC RSE SIG
- Green RSE
- Teaching and Training
- Geoscience
- Fortran Specialist Group
- RSE Leaders Network SIG



Talk to us at the Society booth, contact us at **info@society-rse.org**
or **society-rse.org/community/get-involved**

We want you!

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



Contribute new ideas, such as:

Outreach and Advocacy?

Mental health?

Organisational membership?

Fellowships?

Online seminar series?

We can provide resources and funding to help!

Talk to us at the Society booth, contact us at info@society-rse.org or **society-rse.org/community/get-involved**





Special Interest Groups

Lyndsey Ballantyne

Special Interest Groups

- RSE Leaders Network
- Green RSE SIG
- Reasonable Performance Computing RSE
- Teaching and Training
- High Performance Computing RSE
- Geoscience
- Fortran Special Group
- Regional RSE groups

SIG's now each have an annual budget of up to £500 to support their activities

https://society-rse.org/community/special-interest-groups/








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

Mark Basham

EDIA & Role Diversity

- Mix of members from community and trustees
- Public Slack channel, minutes and GitHub board

  #edia-and-role-diversity-wg
- Community support in publishing RSEStories
- BoF around hiring for diversity for digital research technology professionals.
- Website accessibility.
- Promoting internships and work experience.





Conference & Events

Iain Barrass

Conferences

RSECon25



- 434 in-person & 53 online attendees
- 5 full tracks of 36 Talks, 11 Walkthroughs, 9 Workshops and 6 BoFs
- Introduced new meet & greet events
- 25 bursaries awarded and an introduction of bursary for ‘hidden costs’

RSECon26 Sheffield 9-11 Sep 2026



- 375 in-person & 49 online attendees
- 5 tracks again: 53 talks, 8 walkthroughs, 9 workshops and 8 BoFs
- Introduced the Research Software Papers and lightning talks sessions
- 27 bursaries awarded, including ‘hidden costs’

Events

18 of 20 events funded (up from 8 of 19 last year and 7 of 10 in the previous)
Budget was increased from £10,000 to £17,365

- Crick Bioimage Analysis Symposium (CBIAS)
- Open Science Retreat
- Edinburgh CERSE meetings
- Training Community Day @ RSECon25
- Google Develop Group Devfest
- miniHPC Hackday: Building, Testing, and Sharing Best Practices
- RSE Finland and friends meetup
- RSE South West Meeting
- RSE & WHPC Meeting – East Anglia 2026
- 195th European Study Group with Industry
- RSE Midlands 2026
- Neuroinformatics Unit Open Software Summer School
- Digital Humanities Research Software Engineering Summer School
- RSE Leaders meeting: Policy and Funding
- RSE South West 2026 Meetup in Bath
- Research Software Asia Australia 2026 Conference
- Teaching and Training Community Day
- Glasgow CompBio Hackathon 2026 prize



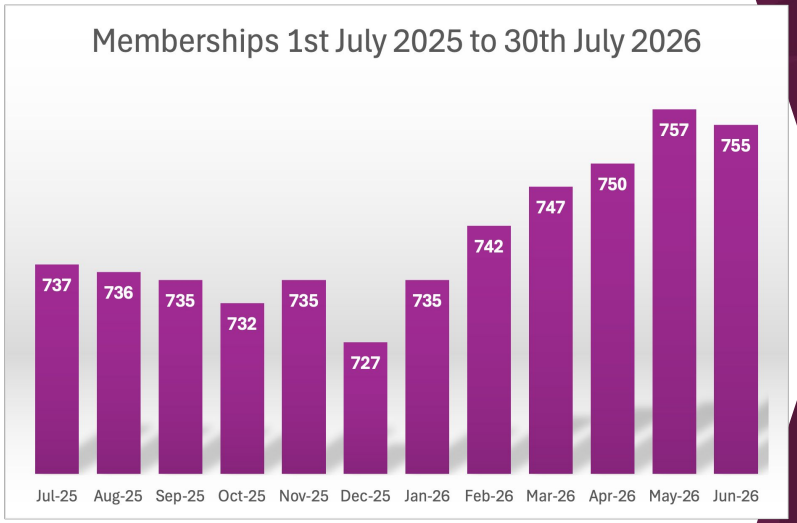


Membership

Samantha Ahern

Membership

- Resolving recurring payment issues with Finance.
- Membership fee still £20.
- > 7,000 members in our slack instance.
- Over 750 paid members.







Communications & Publicity

Gillian Sinclair

Communications

- Mastodon 638 (+84)
- LinkedIn Page: 1489 (+584)
- LinkedIn Group: 396 people
- Bluesky: 320 (+83)
- Mailing List: 1,887 (+132)
- Slack: 7,730 (+839)
- YouTube: 538
- Twitter: 6,740 (-147)



Get Involved!

Help us with our social media, blog posts, newsletter and more.

Help us improve our accessibility and increase our reach.

Comms Working Group

- Open to non-trustees
- comms@society-rse.org





Mentoring scheme

Elena Breitmoser

Mentoring scheme

- Cohort of 26 pairs (37 last year)
  - 4 mentees could not be matched
- Run by CoachMentoring
  - Pairing
  - Training & workshops
  - Collation of feedback
- Please grab a sticker if you've been in any cohort





Policy and Funding

Elena Breitmoser

Policy & Funding (new in 2025/26)

- **Goals:**
  - New policy strategy for the Society to help…
  - Engage with funders to lobby for RSE community
  - Support collaboration between government/funders/employers
  - Create national policies for academic RSE career path

- **Get involved:** Looking for new members
  - 3 members & 2 just joined

- **Website:** society-rse.org/get-involved/policy-and-funding-working-group/





Web Working Group

Adrian Mircea Nenu

Web Working Group (new in 2025/26)

- **Goals:**
  - Create and deliver a web presence plan for the society, working closely with Comms & Publicity WG.
  - Create, maintain and administer web contents and resources provided by the society.
  - Review and improve the UI, UX, and Accessibility of society website.
- **Get involved:** We're looking for members!
- **Website:** society-rse.org/get-involved/web-working-group/





Finance & Treasurer's Report

James Tyrrell,
Vice-Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

- Income comes mostly from:
  - Conference sponsorship (47%)
  - Conference ticket sales (46%)
  - Membership fees (6%)
- Expenses are mostly for:
  - Conference (79%)
  - Community grants (7%) ⬆️
  - Community sponsorship (5%) ⬆️
  - Mentorship scheme (3%)
  - Community infrastructure (2%)
  - Administration (4%)
- Effective cash balance ~£145,971, a function of:
  - Money currently in the bank
  - Money owed to the Society
  - Money owed by the Society
- The distribution of the effective cash balance differed this year - partly a result of changes in RSECon ticket / sponsorship trends.

Income	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	Average
Donations	£3,750	£1,120	£0	£1,623
RSECon ticket sales	£107,603	£103,774	£74,210	£95,196
RESCon sponsorship	£110,000	£107,500	£31,000	£82,833
Memberships	£14,541	£13,480	£14,780	£14,267
Other	£44	£48	£65	£52
Total	**£235,938**	**£225,922**	**£120,055**	**£193,972**
Expenditure	**2025-26**	**2024-25**	**2023-24**	**Average**
Community grants	£16,101	£8,727	£8,245	£11,024
Community infrastructure	£4,443	£6,461	£5,417	£5,440
Community sponsorship	£11,000	£0	£0	£3,667
Mentoring scheme	£5,660	£7,410	£3,375	£5,482
RSECon	£173,857	£165,093	£120,615	£153,188
Administration	£8,380	£8,446	£7,251	£8,026
Total	**£219,441**	**£196,137**	**£144,903**	**£186,827**
Surplus / (Deficit)	**2025-26**	**2024-25**	**2023-24**	**Average**
Total	**£16,497**	**£29,785**	**-£24,848**	**£7,145**

Cash and money owed to Society	30 Jun 2026	30 Jun 2025	30 Jun 2024
Income owed to Society	£36,360	£25,286	£13,108
Advance expenditure for following year	£36,793	£6,989	£27,626
Funds in bank	£169,014	£273,440	£269,308
Total	**£242,167**	**£305,715**	**£310,042**
Money owed by Society	**30 Jun 2026**	**30 Jun 2025**	**30 Jun 2024**
Expenditure owed by Society	£9,897	£8,048	£8,816
Advance income from following year	£73,137	£144,804	£171,001
Grants awarded but not claimed	£7,887	£0	£4,045
VAT collected for HMRC but not paid	£4,937	£23,160	£26,339
Other	£338	£139	£62
Total	**£96,196**	**£176,151**	**£210,263**
Effective available funds	**30 Jun 2026**	**30 Jun 2025**	**30 Jun 2024**
Total	**£145,971**	**£129,564**	**£99,779**

Treasurer's Report

- Conference surplus is main source of funds to support Society activity
- Average surplus is £26,000 but varies
  - RSECon23 made £15,000 loss
  - '24 and '25 made a £47,000 surplus
  - '26 is looking like it will also generate a surplus
- Sponsorship is about 50% of conference income and supports
  - Attendance bursaries
  - Hybrid streaming
  - Surplus to fund Society activity throughout the year

Income	**RSECon25**	**RSECon24**	**RSECon23**	**Average**
Donations	£3,750	£1,120	£0	£1,623
Sponsorship	£110,000	£107,500	£31,000	£82,833
In-person ticket sales	£100,335	£94,054	£70,623	£88,337
Remote ticket sales	£7,268	£9,720	£3,587	£6,858
Merchandise	£44	£43	£65	£51
Total	**£221,397**	**£212,437**	**£105,275**	**£179,703**
Expenditure	**RSECon25**	**RSECon24**	**RSECon23**	**Average**
Administration	£11,348	£21,826	£13,063	£15,412
Attendance bursaries	£5,846	£6,270	£1,678	£4,598
Catering	£78,835	£61,965	£33,978	£58,259
Promotion	£1,250	£3,137	£1,708	£2,032
Social and networking (catering)	£25,646	£13,491	£16,515	£18,551
Social and networking (entertainment)	£0	£0	£5,000	£1,667
Social and networking (venue)	£453	£420	£5,150	£2,008
Speaker expenses	£602	£629	£343	£525
Speaker fees (professional)	£6,000	£10,000	£0	£5,333
Spekear honoraria (non-professional)	£0	£0	£828	£276
Streaming costs	£22,148	£23,436	£21,830	£22,471
Transaction fees	£5,902	£6,384	£5,304	£5,863
Travel and accommodation	£127	£3,427	£2,531	£2,028
Event venue hire	£15,700	£14,160	£12,687	£14,182
Bank fees / currency gains	£92	£449	£107	£216
Total	**£173,949**	**£165,594**	**£120,722**	**£153,422**
Surplus / Deficit	**RSECon25**	**RSECon24**	**RSECon23**	**Average**
Total	£47,448	£46,843	-£15,447	£26,281

Treasurer's Report

- Our financial position remains healthy. We have accumulated a surplus over the last 5 years but made a concerted effort to increase spending in the last year.
- Accumulated surplus lets us plan more stable expenditure based on a rolling 3-year average.
- Continue to target a sustainable surplus for our annual conference to support the community activity throughout the year.
- Average net income of £40,000 to fund non-conference activity (£26,000 RSECon + £14,000 membership).
- Will continue investing more of our surplus in support of community activities, including via Event and Initiatives Grants, Special Interest Groups, and strategic sponsorship of other events.
- If you have ideas for how the Society can best invest its surplus to support the community we want to hear from you!

Q&A

slido.com
#agm26



Special Resolution

Samantha Ahern,
Vice-President

Changes to the Constitution

Proposal: Change the constitution to increase the maximum number of trustees from 14 to 15.

Why?

- The Society has grown, more roles, working groups and other activities have been created.
- We need more help!
- We've had to say no to a single person in three separate elections.

Proposed Change

12.3.2:

- From:

  “The maximum number of charity trustees is **14**. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.”

- To:

  “The maximum number of charity trustees is **15**. The charity trustees may not appoint…”

Vote

Motion: To increase the maximum number of Society of RSE trustees from 14 to 15.

- Requires 75% agree to pass.
- Please vote via the poll in Slido

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

slido.com
#agm26





Trustee Elections

Samantha Ahern,
Vice-President

Election Process

- We can have up to 14 trustees
  - We had 14 trustees after the AGM in ‘25

- ⅓ must stand down at the AGM each year
  - 5 are standing down today
  - 6 new trustees have been nominated

Voting process

- 5 available Trustee slots
- 6 candidates stood for election
- Elections ran from 27 July to 23 August

- Scrutineers:
  Jonathan Cooper and Simon Hettrick

Candidates

Mike Simpson	Newcastle University
Ryan Pepper	Autodesk Research
Christine Stawitz	University of Birmingham
Laura Crawford	Rosalind Franklin Institute
Stephen Thompson	UCL
Isabel Fenton	The Alan Turing Institute

Technicalities

- Single Transferable Vote
  - Modified Droop quota: valid votes / (seats + 1)
  - Fractional transfer of surplus votes
- Implemented in Python using pyrankvote
  - Same code as previous elections except for additional support for token mapping
- 140 votes, 135 valid (5 duplicates) => quota = 22.5
- 2 rounds of STV required to reject 1 candidate

Sanity checking

- Checking results in Google Forms confirms the number of votes received
- Distributions of preferences for each candidate are consistent with the outcome

Trustees Elected

Mike Simpson	Newcastle University
Ryan Pepper	Autodesk Research
Christine Stawitz	University of Birmingham
Laura Crawford	Rosalind Franklin Institute
Isabel Fenton	The Alan Turing Institute

Conclusion & Close

Mike Simpson
(Hopefully still a trustee!)

Thank you to the conference committee & volunteers!

Thank you to the trustees!

Thank you to David Beavan!



Thank you to all our volunteers!



Thank you to you, our members!