

Highlights from the RSCDS Board meeting on 27 November 2021

- The Marketing Officer, Lyndsay Walker, attended the start of the meeting to update the Board on her current marketing activities, and plans for the months ahead.
- Lizzy Conder, recently elected Treasurer, discussed her planning paper for assumptions preparing a 5 year financial forecast. Further consideration was given to costs, the Centenary, and the use of designated funds. The Board will look at central costs and the flexibility of a mix of in-person and virtual meetings. FGAP, and Board members, welcomed Richard Austin (an experienced lawyer, former Board and FGAP member) back onto the team.
- Following a review of the Autumn Gathering weekend, where there was much use of paper, the Board will discuss sustainability at the March meeting.
- Unfortunately, it has recently been brought to our notice that Fiona Grant, being appointed as magazine Editor in September 2020, and elected as a Trustee in November 2020, meant a breach of the Society Rules & Procedures in holding two such positions. Recent legal advice confirms that Fiona was ineligible to take on the Trustee role a year ago, and so cannot continue on the Board at present. We have much valued her input over the past year and do hope she will stand again for election, when she finishes her tenure as Editor in two years' time. A review of all governance procedures will aim to ensure that such a difficult situation is avoided in future.
- Planning for both the Winter and Summer Schools in 2022 is now under way with bookings open for Winter School. Details are available on the website. Spring Fling 2022 will be virtual, and worldwide, due to ongoing concerns around the viability of international travel.
- The Board will hold an Away Day in January, when a wide-ranging discussion will focus on how we manage communications and decision making in all areas of the Society. Reflecting on the advantages of digital communication during the pandemic, we hope to create more efficient management processes. This will include a review of all Committee and working group remits, linking these to the work of our staff, and Business Plan targets, so we can all work more effectively together. We will also fine-tune our planning for the Centenary year.