

Chairman's Message

A new image, a new celebration

Hello all, and welcome to the brand new RSPSoc Newsletter! I suppose this may come as a bit of a surprise, following Mark Cutler's understated announcement in the last issue, but I hope a pleasant surprise nonetheless. Our aim is for the Newsletter to be an informative and attractive summary of topical stories in remote sensing and photogrammetry, and the Society. What do you think? This is very much a preliminary version, to develop further in response to RSPSoc members' comments and contributions. We'll canvass feedback at the Annual Conference in September, but in the meantime please do let us know what's good, what's bad and what's missing: m.e.j.cutler@dundee.ac.uk.

It's not just the Newsletter's image that's changing at the moment; there are many changing faces around the Society too. First, the big news: our President, Prof David Rhind, ends his term this year and will stand down at the AGM. It's been wonderful working with and benefiting from David's knowledge and standing in the discipline, and he will be missed. We're confident though his successor can continue this good work and continue to move the Society forward. He will be unveiled at the AGM!

Other personnel changes include a new Newsletter editorial team, though I'm delighted to say Paul Mather will continue to contribute and entertain with his news and views. Three Council members end their terms, so many thanks to Jane Drummond, Jonathan Shears and Mark Cutler for their great efforts. All three currently chair RSPSoc Committees, so new chairmen have been appointed, but I'm also particularly keen to expand committee membership with Society members, especially students. Getting involved in committees and other RSPSoc business can provide valuable professional experience and strengthen CVs, and it can be even be fun working with new people and getting away from everyday chores! Join a committee, write a Newsletter article, organise an event... Remember we're a voluntary Society relying on the energy of our members, so we need your input.

Finally, a few celebrations. I'm delighted to announce that RSPSoc's Executive Secretary, Karen Laughton, will attend a summer Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of her longstanding contribution to the Society. It's also pleasing that we'll have a full roster of awards at this year's Annual Dinner, including the prestigious and occasional RSPSoc and Founders Award, though these recipients haven't yet been informed. Could it be you! David Rhind has often urged us to honour and celebrate our members' achievements more, and provided a leading role in this by commissioning a new President's Cup for the best Annual Conference presentation. This was awarded for the first time at the recent RSPSoc Conversazione in Nottingham's Trent Bridge Cricket Ground – congratulations to Peter Fretwell. Ok, so here's my offer: I will commission a trophy (probably small and plasticky; my pockets don't go as deep as David's) and award this to the winner of the inaugural Chairman's 11 v Students' 11 football match at this year's Annual Conference. Who's up for this challenge?

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