

Publication and communications committee AGM report

Communications with members

The committee's primary objective continues to be to improve communication between the society and its membership, via the website, email and social media and to strengthen links between the BSG and Wiley/ESPL.

Wiley Negotiations

In 2027 we will begin negotiations with Wiley for the ESPL contract for the next 10 years. This is a critical moment for the society as a significant amount of our income (and therefore ability to award grant funding) is tied to this contract. Over the past three years this committee has been working to strengthen the relationship between Wiley and the BSG and to demonstrate the value that we provide to ESPL.

A core metric that Wiley uses to represent society engagement with a journal is the number of papers published led by authors from the country the society is based in. Therefore we would like to encourage members in the UK to strongly consider ESPL as a venue for their research. This metric has been trending downwards in recent years, and arresting that would help to emphasise our support for the society journal.

Email

We have continued with regular fortnightly email communications to members, reaching 95% of our membership. Please ensure that your email address is up to date on your BSG account, so that we can keep you informed about society activities and news relevant to the community. As ever, please contact us if you have something that you would like to be shared with members, using the addresses at the bottom of each email.

Social Media

Members can connect with the society on Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook and LinkedIn. Our LinkedIn page in particular is growing well and helping to drive engagement with BSG content, members and research.

Newsletter

The latest issue of the BSG newsletter was released in July and can be found [here](#). We continue to publish two newsletters per year, and are grateful to members who have contributed articles for recent issues.

Website

Over the past three years, members have raised a number of issues with the current BSG website, particularly focusing on back end processes which make managing memberships, paying subscriptions, applying for grants, managing the grants and award process, and administering the society challenging. The executive committee identified this as a significant risk to the running of the society.

In March 2025 we commissioned our developers, Spindogs, to review our existing website and develop a plan to resolve these issues and add additional required functionality. The outcome of this review was that much of the underlying infrastructure that the website was built upon was not fit for purpose and could not be repaired without significant redesign from scratch. This work was quoted as costing in excess of £13,000 before any new features could be added.

Following this quote we also developed a full technical proposal for a new website, seeking input from each subcommittee vice chair and other relevant parties. Using this requirements document, we spoke to six other developers, requesting quotes for a full redevelopment of the website along this technical specification.

Following meetings with each developer, detailed proposals were reviewed by the executive committee alongside the option to remain with the current developer. It was agreed that the most practical and cost effective solution was to contract a new developer, LUV, to build us a new website rather than trying to reengineer the existing site. LUV have experience of working with academic societies, having previously developed the QRA's new website.

We signed a contract with LUV in February 2026 and over the past 6 months have been working closely with them to refine our requirements, write and update website content and develop new workflows that will make managing memberships, payments, grants, awards and paperwork much more straightforward for ordinary members, and members of BSG committees.

We are aiming to have the new website live in the early autumn. We are currently developing plans on the process of migrating every member account across to the new website, this will require some level of manual intervention from each member (e.g. setting a new password and updating payment details), and we will communicate this process with every member via email as soon as possible.

Stuart Grieve 13/8/2026