



Colloquy

SEDA Review 2020



Contacts

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Patron

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Social media

Website - www.seda.uk.net

Twitter - [@scotecodesign](https://twitter.com/scotecodesign)

Instagram - [scotecodesign](https://www.instagram.com/scotecodesign)

Facebook - [The-Scottish-Ecological-Design-Association](https://www.facebook.com/The-Scottish-Ecological-Design-Association)

Connecting to enable ecological change

Like every other organisation, SEDA has had to rethink what it does and how it can do it by the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the following restrictions. On the one hand we were already an organisation that is scattered around the country and communicated remotely with our members, through the magazines, website and emails. On the other we have always thrived on frequent in-person events and networking to connect our members and support one another. We could still do this until February, with our full-packed Sustainable Renovation Event in Edinburgh. It was clear more and more people were looking to attend and engage with what we do. Then all our priorities changed.

The Directors have now tried to come up with additional ways that we can continue to communicate about sustainable design in these crucial times. Some activities suffered, with the KJ Award falling victim to the disruption at Scotland's design schools. We think we have found ways to stay in touch with you and maybe you have been able to join in one of the four on-line events held since Spring. We hope that some of you have taken the chance to catch up on these and previous years' events through the new Website Resources section. We took the step from 2020 to largely distribute the Magazine digitally, partly for environmental reasons, but also due to the diminishing advertisers income. So far we have received positive comments on this, with the team putting out more editions than has happened for several years.

We are aware of additional financial constraints now on our members, but we are very happy to say the membership numbers have not reduced and over the year have increased by the best part of a hundred, our best increase in several years. Our reach through Social media and the website has continued to grow. The Sustainable Retrofit Guide and 100

Sustainable Scottish Buildings have continued to sell well, or be downloaded, supported by a continuing series of events. You will hear all about the anticipated new SEDA Guide at the AGM and from September, we will have fully integrated the former SSEG into the organisation as SEDA Solar. We welcome former SSEG members giving SEDA a new strengthened presence and expertise in solar design. Watch out for their first on-line events soon!

This integration with other groups, our increasing membership and successful previous events have meant that SEDA is in a better financial position than for several years, in spite of taking on new online tools, and clearly this will need to be well managed. We have plans for other publications and roles for SEDA, and major future events, like our Land Conversations events for early 2021, leading up to activities when COP26 finally comes to Glasgow.

I am sure we can come together to achieve this. Please contact me directly on with your ideas at info@seda.uk.net.

David Seel

SEDA Chair (till AGM 2020)



Board of Directors

We have operated with seven directors this year, each giving immense amounts of time, enthusiasm and expertise.

- Alejandro Moreno Rangel (treasurer till Sep 2020)
- Catherine Cosgrove (Vice Chair)
- Chris Stewart
- Clive Bowman (co-opted) (treasurer from Sep 2020)
- David Seel (chair)
- Janice Foster (co-opted)
- Joshua Brown (co-opted)
- Natasha Houchin (co-opted)
- Nick Domminney
- Stephen Farrar

The board has met on 5 occasions this year, in Glasgow and Edinburgh and since March, on-line. (Minutes are available on request administration)

We have been ably assisted by:

- Viktoria Szilvas
- Scott McAulay (Lead social media)
- Reem Al-Kayyem (Facebook and newsletters)
- Kyle Henderson (Website)
- Kirsty Cassels (Email accounts)

Our advisors include:

- Kate Baxter Tax (Accountants since May 2020)
- DotRun (Website maintenance)

We having had to search hard to find another Treasurer, as Alejandro relocated to England, but he continued until August, when Clive Bowman was able to take over. Clive is only looking to do this for the next 12 months, and we are now able to employ non-Directors in this role, thanks to the amendment to the constitution approved in January's EGM. This is a key position for someone responsible and interested in helping SEDA flourish, so please put yourself forward if that's you, or pass on any good suggestions to the Directors.

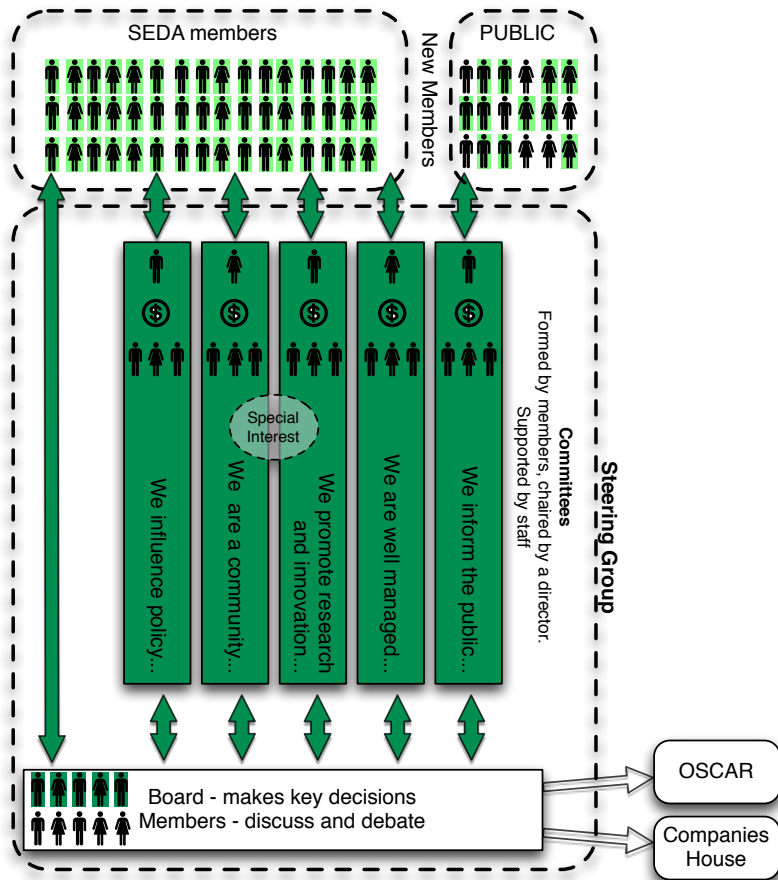
We are now in particular looking for members and volunteers to enable SEDA's work, not just as Directors but to manage communication with other people and bodies and within the organisation.

To this end we are proposing a special online meeting soon after the AGM when any volunteers can say how they would like to contribute. Most roles require a few hours time a week and communication or liaising with a Director to discuss how to carry out the role. We will be asking for people to put themselves forward at the AGM and hope you can assist in this.

Please contact us through the email address:
info@seda.uk.net

Organisation

The basis of the current SEDA organisation was agreed in 2012 with a series of topic-led sub groups, as illustrated in the diagram.



Our work in the last 12 months has been driven by these groups and agendas.



The SEDA Conference 2019 visits the Makar house assembly factory outside Inverness

We are a community

Principle responsibility for making SEDA an interesting and lively organisation to be a member. Particular responsibility for the Christmas Show and Tell, social events and communications.

Over the last year we have held:

- AGM and Conference on Inter-disciplinary approaches to Ecological Design last June in Moray with around 55 participants, saw a great set of talks and visits in the North.
- With the Pebble Trust and Zero Waste Scotland, SEDA, have continued to spread the information in the SEDA Guide to Sustainable Renovation. Including the online event in July around 410 people took part in SEDA's co-hosted talks.
- Howard Liddell Commemoration Lecture presented by Sandy Halliday in November, with Fionn Stevenson, Andy Wightman and more, discussed the ideas of Sherry Arnstein and issues around housing, was a sell out, attended by over 100 people
- Prior to lockdown, 3x Edinburgh Greendrinks events were attended by 264 people, including two organised with the AECB, on topics including Sustainable fashion and Bennetts Associates' new University buildings. There were also two great Glasgow Greendrinks in 2019 on Fungal Remediation and Re-Use of Steel, attended another 50 People
- Since lockdown, four on-line events partnered with other groups (Transition Edinburgh, Zero Waste Scotland and ACAN) have had around 580 Participants, including helping set up a Scottish wing for the campaigning ACAN Group.
- Show and Tell at the South Block, Glasgow had around 45 people attending /speaking, and brought us together at the year's end, before we were all isolated by events.

A great turnout at the SEDA / Zero Waste Scotland event on the Circular Economy in late 2019



Visiting the John Gilbert Associates' Duneland Housing at Findhorn during the 2019 SEDA Conference

In the next 12 months we intend to reach more people virtually, supporting the Scottish ACAN group, restarting live events when safe, and hosting the ambitious Land Conversations series in Spring 2021, with The Hutton Institute and others, and has a great roster of participants.

We promote research and innovation

Primarily responsible for the dissemination of research to members and wider community together, fostering and developing research projects within SEDA, and working with education

The SEDA research conference did not progress again this year. **We are looking at other areas in education we can focus on in the upcoming year, including potentially more direct involvement in architectural and secondary education?**

Krystyna Johnson Award / Architectural teaching

In the past year, SEDA has supported the Anthropocene Architecture School and the Crisis Studio project with SEDA members contributing to the learning of over 100 architecture students in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Krystyna Johnson award unfortunately did not run this year. In preparation for next year the award's criteria and scope has been developed and expanded to enable and encourage second year students to tackle sustainability issues in greater depth and detail.

Through The RIAS Sustainability Working Group we have also been able to contribute to representation lobbying the heads of the 5 Scottish Architecture Schools to place sustainability at the forefront of the curriculum.

Overall KJ Scotland Award Winner Rachel Thompson receives her award (also on behalf of Pauls Rietums) at the SEDA 2019 Conference in Moray from Catherine Cosgrove and 2018 winner Bex Browne



We inform the public

Principle responsibility for events and information that informs the public of ecological issues and ideas.

Publications

On the back of promotion with The Pebble Trust, SEDA's Design Guide to Sustainable Renovation has sold well and been downloaded many times, with 62 copies sold though us in the last year. Chris Morgan is now working on a second new Guide, on Healthy Internal Air Quality, which is due at the end of the year and will be previewed at the AGM. The Guides have been reaching a wide range, from the public, authorities and housing bodies. We will look to hold a launch event for this Guide early next year.

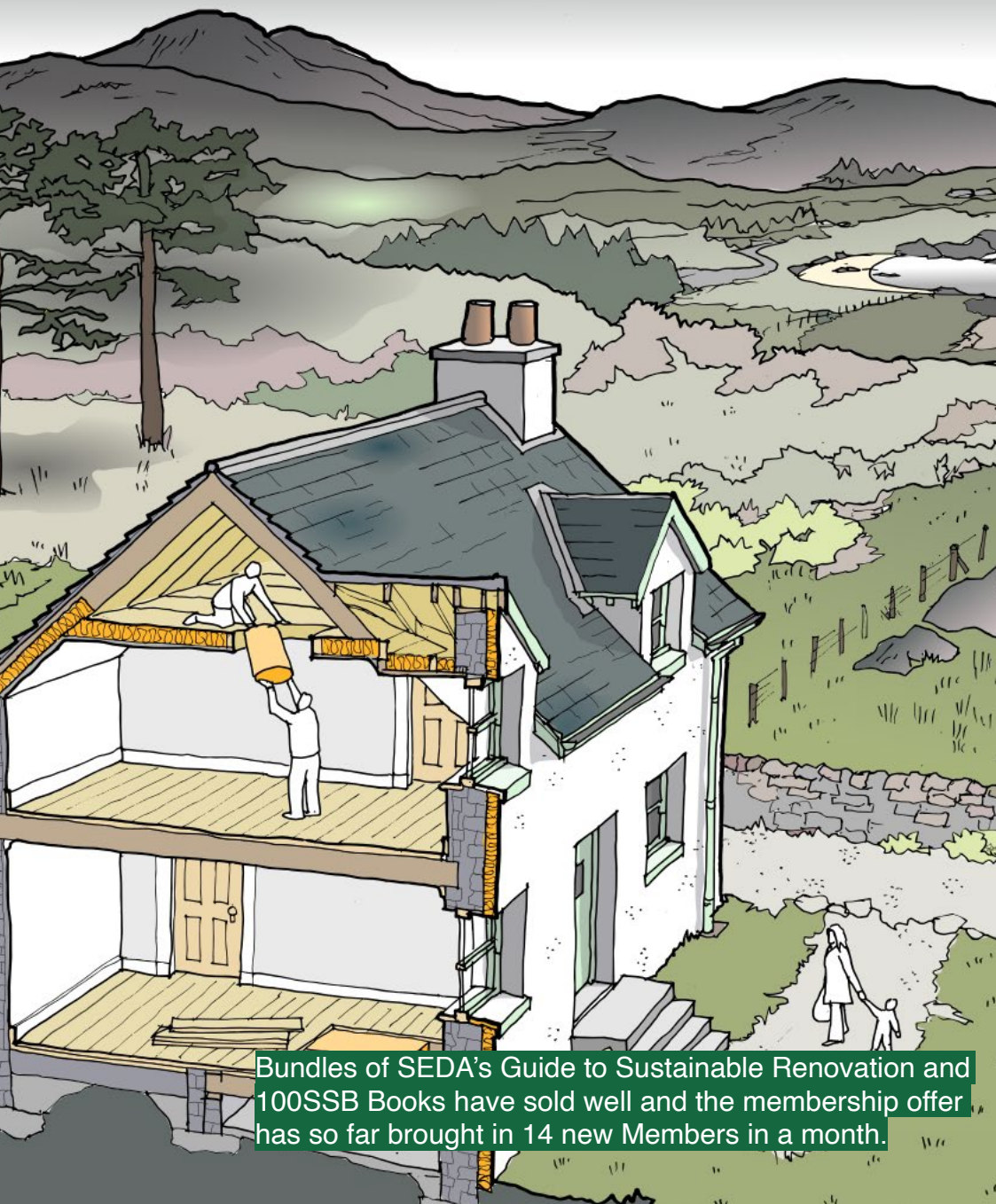
Our 100 Sustainable Scottish Buildings has continued to sell well through the website and specialist book stores, with now over 1040 sold or issued to members, including 52 copies sold in the last year. The Bundles of both books, with and without Membership, have proven very popular and maintained sales now a couple of years after the big initial launches.

This is the first time in several years when we expect to be able to issue four copies of SEDA's Magazine in one year and the recent editions have responded to the climate of urgency in finding sustainable solutions, with editions on the preparation for COP26, Housing, and Recovery from the Pandemic.

The Magazine team is now Nick Domminney, Viktoria Szilvas and Adam Winstanley. We want to thank all of them, and Raina Armstrong for all her layout editorial work on previous editions of the SEDA magazine's Autumn edition will have been issued by email before the AGM. Zero Waste Scotland are guest editing the Winter edition, so look forward to wide ranging pieces on recycling, the circular economy, reuse, retrofit, renovation, and design for longevity, comprising think pieces, case studies, policy proposals, horizon scanning and more.

SUSTAINABLE RENOVATION

IMPROVING HOMES FOR ENERGY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT



Bundles of SEDA's Guide to Sustainable Renovation and 100SSB Books have sold well and the membership offer has so far brought in 14 new Members in a month.

We influence policy

Promotes SEDA's aims within the wider policy arenas and make connections with other bodies with similar aims.

RIAS Sustainable Working Group

The RIAS Sustainable Working Group was established in February 2020 with a remit to collaborate, research, harness and share knowledge to ensure the RIAS (Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland) will remain an influential voice in the field of sustainable architecture and more widely within the construction sector. The Group is chaired by SEDA Director Chris Stewart and includes a number of SEDA members. This has helped forge a strong connection between SEDA and the RIAS which has allowed a coordinated approach to a number of important activities. SEDA were also invited to present at last year's RIAS Convention in 2019 and have been invited to contribute to this year's RIAS Convention 2020 to discuss 'How to Build Back Better'.

To-date the Sustainable Working Group have made a number of representations to the Scottish Government including the ongoing Circular Economy Bill, 2040 Housing, National Planning Framework 4, Just Transition Commission, Climate Coalition Mass Lobby, Net Zero Carbon Building Standard and the Sustainable Retrofit and Renovation Working Programme. They are also preparing proposals for a community collaboration programme entitled Cone on the Cop coordinated with COP26; working with Scott McAulay and Chloe Yuill made a funding application for Studio Up a Net Zero Carbon Incubator; are supporting Re Action Day for Scottish Architecture Students; and working with Sandy Halliday and Julie Wilson are looking to promote and improve the RIAS Sustainability Accreditation.

SEDAbuild

Again the focus in the last year has been on enabling the building of the Ecobothy at Bridgend Farmhouse. Construction had progressed very well through late 2019 and early 2020, with a core of volunteer builders working with site leader Simon Hackin and our clients at Bridgend Inspiring Growth. The straw bale walls were erected in autumn 2019 and were rendered by the end of the year, with the building really coming together. Virtually all funding was raised, including a great fundraising Burns Supper, before the works were stopped in March. After reviews of procedures, the volunteers have returned to site since last July and they are now progressing to fit the windows, inevitably at a slower rate. But with the people and the funds ready to go, all parties are keen to bring this to a successful conclusion and putting it into use, for 2021.



We are well managed

Principle responsibility for making sure SEDA is well run, including ensuring membership lists are maintained, finance is accounted for and communications are kept up to date.

Website

The running of the revamped website has been taken on by Kyle Henderson, working with new Director Natasha Houchin, and guided by Calum Ross at DOTRun. It continues to evolve, with the new Resources page added this summer, with brilliant videos and summaries of past events, particularly of the Howard Liddell Lectures, and we thank Sandy Halliday for providing many of these.

Following the Conference we will make the new SEDA Solar page live, adding a whole new string to SEDA's bow. This includes making all the past copies of the SSEG Suntimes available to members, like the SEDA Magazine archives. These should be a really useful resource for all members with an interest in solar design. We thank Colin, Gloria and the team for making these available.

Membership

SEDA membership to August has increased significantly for the first time in a number of years, from 143 to 235 members. This was in part through well attended events through 2019 and on line in 2020 with other organisations. We also brought in a small number of former SSEG members for free as part of the set up of SEDA Solar. Viktoria Szilvas has continued to oversee the membership, and she has reported that after a steady increase to this summer, we may be starting to see some companies not renewing due to cost issues, with individuals numbers rising and student numbers holding up.

There are some reports that some long time members are unable to switch to the new system and request that you contact Viktoria who will help you get set up.

Finances

We continue to use the Co-operative for our banking with a savings account with Ecology Building Society. SEDA relies heavily on membership subscriptions for its income, plus income from events and book sales, and all of these sources have been productive in building up SEDA's funds in the last year. We also received a sum of £1500 from the SSEG when they formally merged as SEDA Solar, and we have to thank the board of the former SSEG for their offer. We felt this was a good time to restore the balances, given the upcoming uncertainty in the economy, and we cannot assume membership will continue to grow. The switch to on-line events for now has reduced in- and outgoings as there are no venue or refreshment costs, especially for the Conference.

We have tried to balance expenditure: at the same time we have set up new subscriptions to online tools required for better communication and archiving: GoogleDrive and Zoom. The change to a largely electronic magazine was a big decision to and has reduced costs. We have committed to regular payments for our media managers as well as our membership secretary to maintain a good virtual route for communications, plus the usual sums towards insurance and our new accountant Kate Baxter's fees.

The current account sums have increased in the last year (sums moved from Paypal), and you will see in the summary that the money available after commitments has increased a lot. Some sums continue to be spent on the SEDABuild bothy as it has dragged out, but the main costs are covered by the client's grants. All book sales now profit after their previous sales paid off our investment in the printing of 100 Sustainable Scottish Buildings, which continues to sell, alongside the last SEDA Guide. It is unclear if SEDA can see some income from print copies of the new Guide, as it is intended to be offered again as free to download, but it will be explored.

SEDA Accounts as on 31 July 2020

Co-operative Bank Main Account:	£19,466.42
(Stand at 31.05.2019)	£15,540.12)

Items previously committed to:

Chris Stewart sums for publication	£500.00
Sum for launch next SEDA Guide	£500.00
Expenses for books to Richard Atkins	£142.24
Accounts auditor fee	£840.00
<u>KJ Award money</u>	<u>£110.00</u>
Total	£2092.24

Total remaining after future commitments:	£17,373.96
(Stand at 31.05.2019)	£7,755.75)

Additional monies to be drawn from Paypal:	£101.33
(Stand at 31.05.2019)	£1,825.93)

Reserves Ecology Building Society:	£6,387.00
(Stand at 31.05.2019)	£6,386.00)

Full accounts to the end of 2019 have been lodged with Companies and can be supplied



