Reflections & learning from recent annual gatherings: RSECon25 and CF Workshop 25

Sadie Bartholomew
CMS Weekly meeting
2025-09-25

Sadie Bartholomew

1. RSECon(25)

*i.e. *The Ninth Annual Conference for Research Software Engineering in the UK*
Held 9 - 11th September at Uni. of Warwick, Coventry

RSECon: organised by the Society of Research Software Engineering (SocRSE), brings together RSEs from across the UK (and beyond) to share work, learn new tools & methods, discuss challenges, and build community, covering both technical topics and non-technical topics (career development, community building, reproducibility, sustainability, etc.)

RSECon25 NCAS/UoR attendees:

me, Bryan L (part of a day only to give keynote), Danny Lloyd (CEDA)

Photo: RSECon25 official conference photos, Society of Research Software Engineering

1. Special Interest Groups of possible relevance to CMS

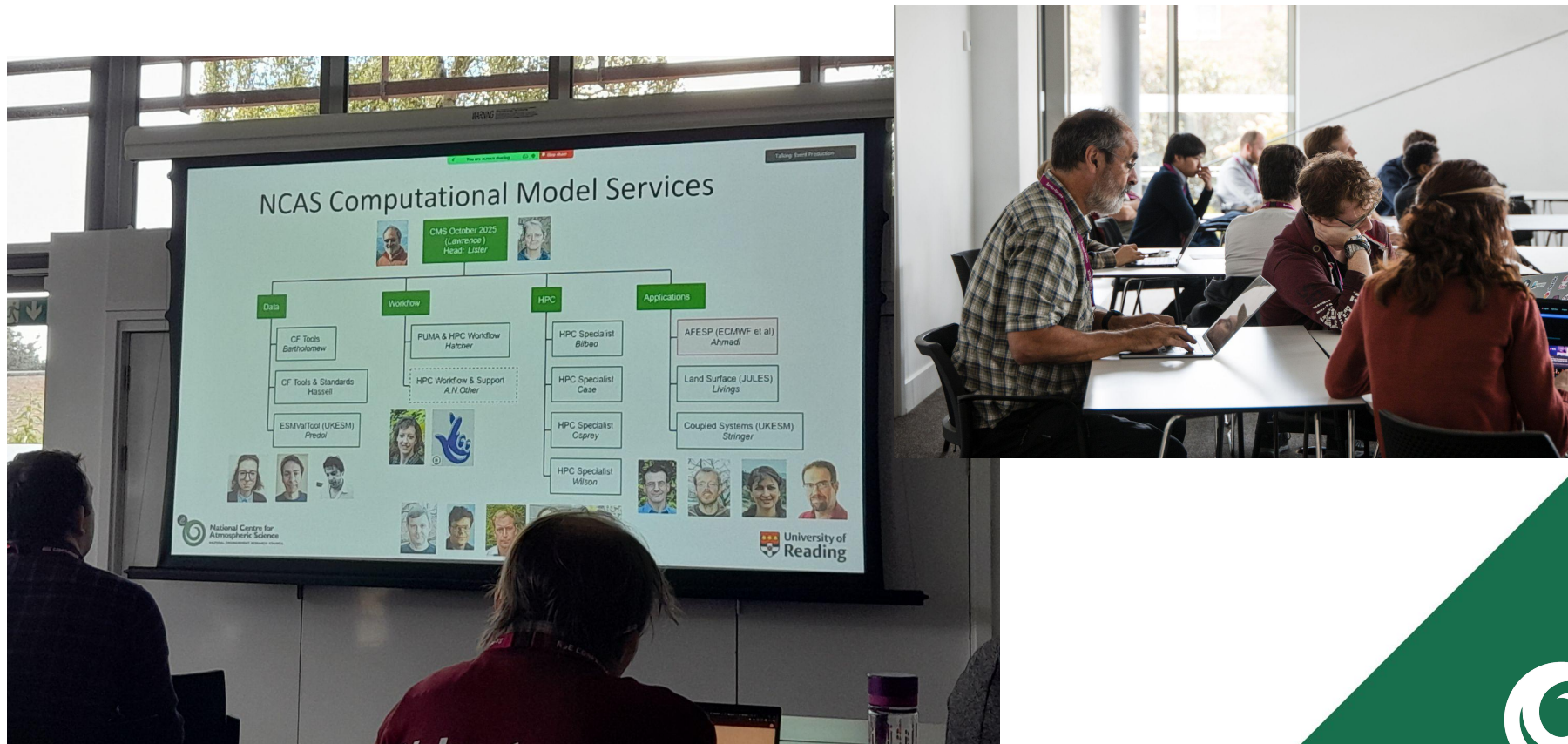○ There are special interest groups that might be useful: Geoscience SIG, HPC SIG, 'Reasonable Performance Computing' SIG, etc. (https://society-rse.org/community/special-interest-groups/) which often host longer 'Birds of a Feather' type sessions at these meetings - I attended the Geoscience and Green SIGs sessions

Photo: RSECon25 official conference photos, Society of Research Software Engineering

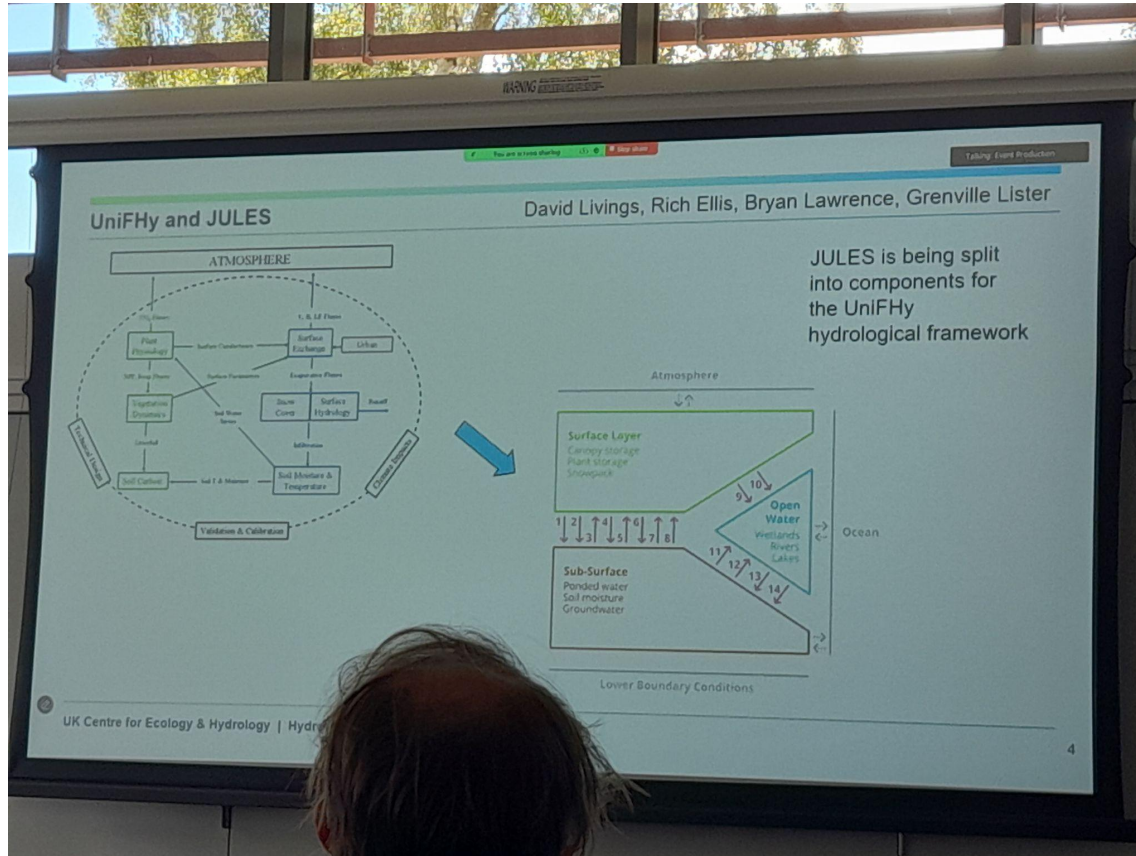# 2a. Bryan keynote showcased CMS work at Geoscience SIG

Photos: (left only) SLB's own; (right only) RSECon25 official conference photos, Society of Research Software Engineering

2b. Other CMS mentions at the Geoscience SIG

- Slide from talk by Matt Dalle Piagge (UKCEH)

Photo: SLB's own

3. Specific talks/workshops I found interesting, or of note to CMS (but there is a full programme with parallel sessions so lots to choose from)
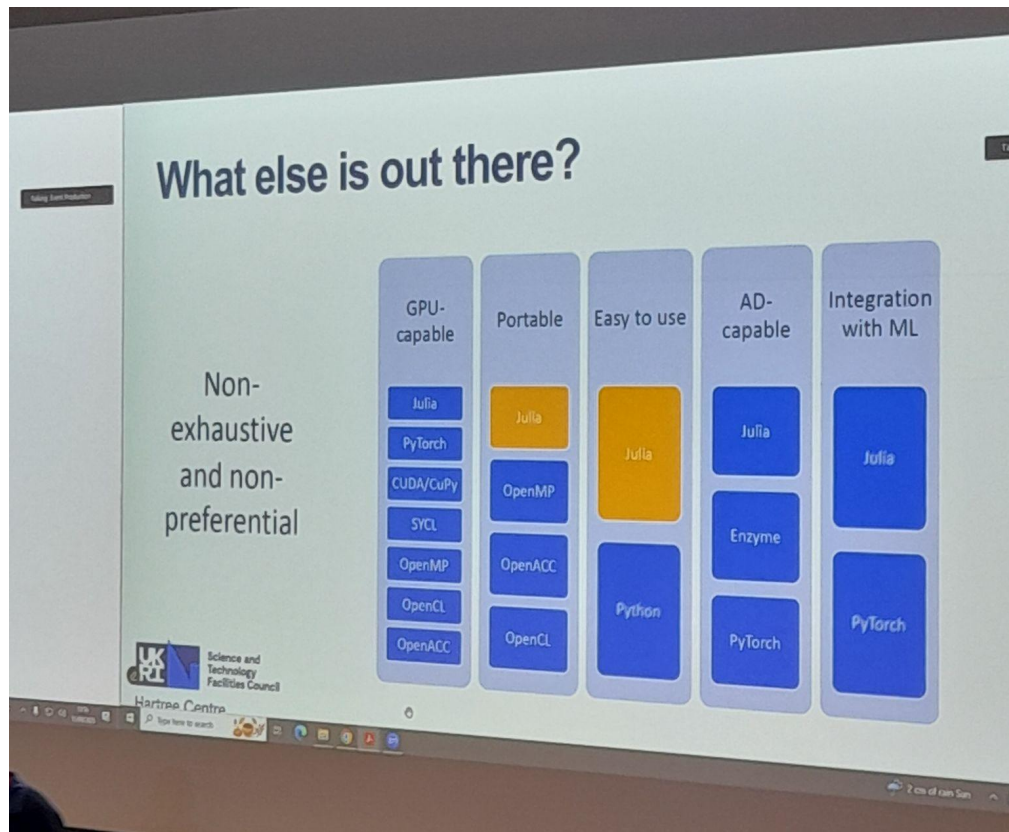

Photo: SLB's own

- There was a talk on **JAX** ('JAX for Scientific Computing: Bridging the gap between performance, productivity and portability', Ubaid Ali Qadri at STFC Hartree Centre) but it didn't tell me much more than I'd learnt to present on it for our CMS Away Day
- Did note alternative solutions for the 'three Ps' of the title (see slide photo)

3. Specific talks/workshops I found interesting, or of note to CMS (but there was a full programme with parallel sessions so lots to choose from)
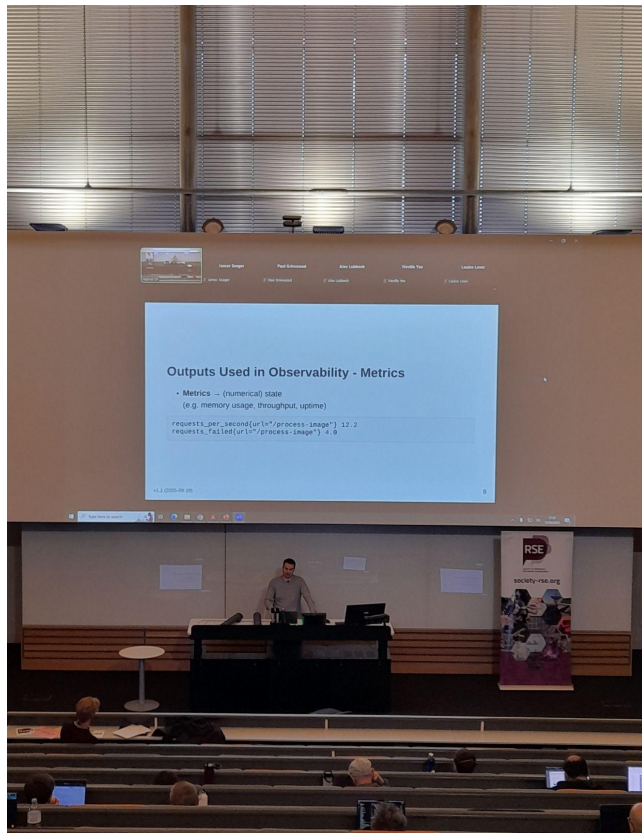

Photo: SLB's own

- **<u>Observability</u>** walk-through: 'Observability: A Practical Primer' by Alex Lubbock of the Rosalind Franklin Institute
- More obvious example is, for HPC/batch computing - logs e.g. Cylc logs
- From the abstract: "The three main telemetry types will be introduced - metrics, logs, traces"
- Dedicated solutions/libraries were showcased - Python applications in "batch" mode using Microbench (pypi.org/project/microbench) and in "server" mode using OpenTelemetry(opentelemetry.io) and Prometheus (prometheus.io)
- Doubt the above would be useful to us in CMS but in e.g. cf-python, cfdm we do have standard Python logging set up already - but user has to share the output for it be useful!
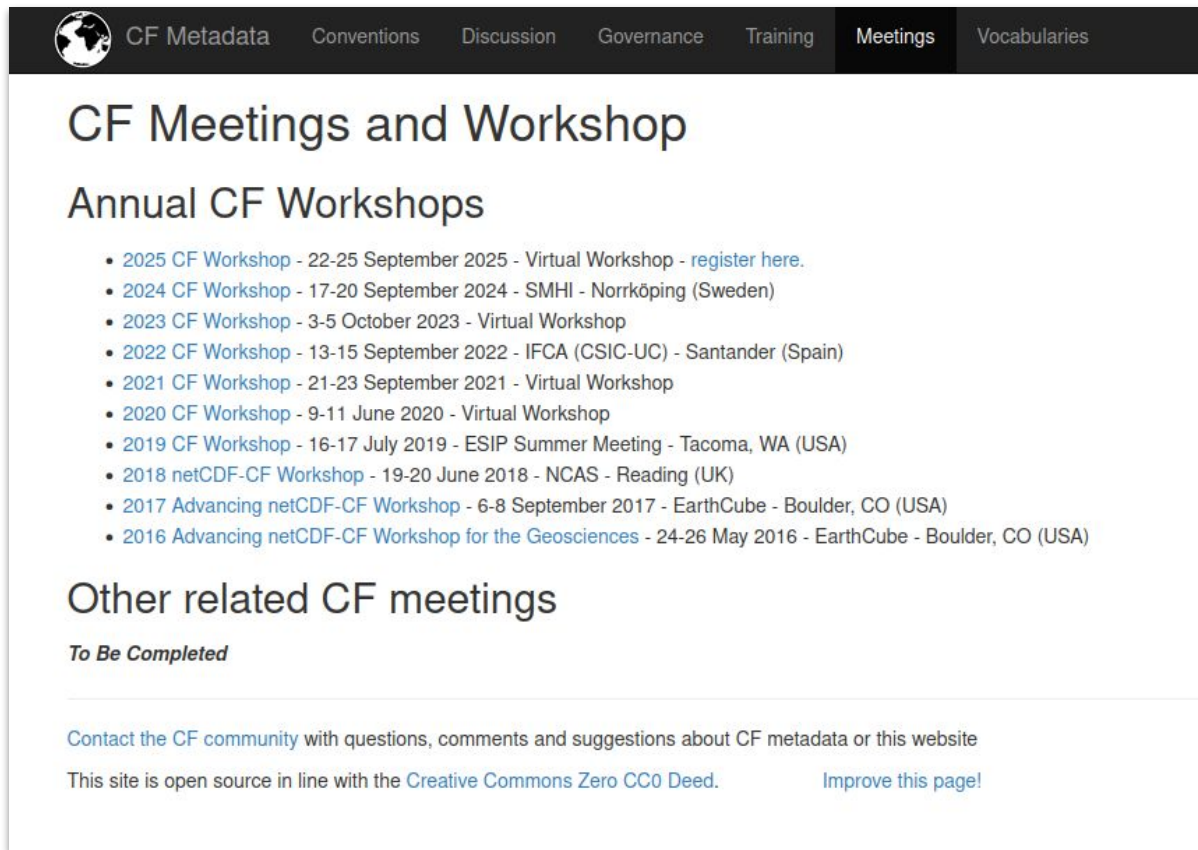
2. *CF Workshop (2025)*

Held this very week - hot off the press!
Held virtually (Zoom for 3 hours over 4 days)

**National Centre for
Atmospheric Science**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

CF Workshops: yearly, as of 2021 alternate between virtual and in-person at some international location of a core CF community member willing to host

CF Metadata — Conventions · Discussion · Governance · Training · **Meetings** · Vocabularies

CF Meetings and Workshop

Annual CF Workshops

- 2025 CF Workshop - 22-25 September 2025 - Virtual Workshop - register here.
- 2024 CF Workshop - 17-20 September 2024 - SMHI - Norrköping (Sweden)
- 2023 CF Workshop - 3-5 October 2023 - Virtual Workshop
- 2022 CF Workshop - 13-15 September 2022 - IFCA (CSIC-UC) - Santander (Spain)
- 2021 CF Workshop - 21-23 September 2021 - Virtual Workshop
- 2020 CF Workshop - 9-11 June 2020 - Virtual Workshop
- 2019 CF Workshop - 16-17 July 2019 - ESIP Summer Meeting - Tacoma, WA (USA)
- 2018 netCDF-CF Workshop - 19-20 June 2018 - NCAS - Reading (UK)
- 2017 Advancing netCDF-CF Workshop - 6-8 September 2017 - EarthCube - Boulder, CO (USA)
- 2016 Advancing netCDF-CF Workshop for the Geosciences - 24-26 May 2016 - EarthCube - Boulder, CO (USA)

Other related CF meetings

To Be Completed

Contact the CF community with questions, comments and suggestions about CF metadata or this website

This site is open source in line with the Creative Commons Zero CC0 Deed.   Improve this page!

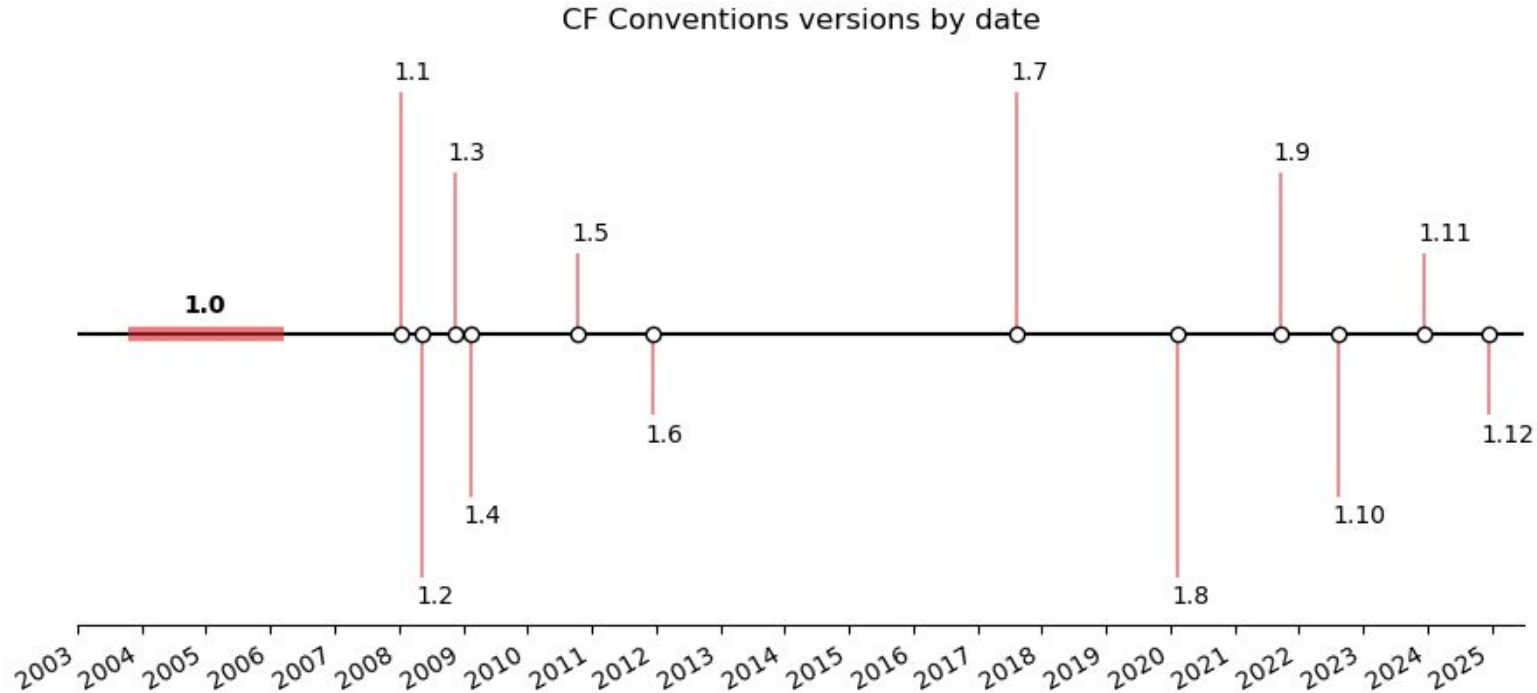CF Workshop 25 NCAS-CMS attendees*: me, David H

Other NCAS or UoR attendees*: Ag Stephens, Alison Pamment, Jonathan Gregory, Ellie Fisher

(With apologies if I missed anyone out in these lists)

Screenshot of the CF Conventions official website page 'Meetings'

Note RE releases - v1.13 due out early December

CF Conventions versions by date

Schematic: SLB's own, made using Python based on a [matplotlib recipe for a software library versioning timeline](#)

*Note the controlled vocabularies have their own independent versioning, mostly since the standard names are released much more often than the Conventions document itself (with current Standard Name Table version **92**, released late July 2025)

CF Workshop 2025

↪ *2025 meeting homepage with held agenda etc.:*
https://cfconventions.org/Meetings/2025-Workshop.html

Major theme: the CF Roadmap

↪ *Roadmap presentation by Luke Marsden:*
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1irLEi2ZUOqhN_C3KkN6ytiVRc_u28TLQukFvnfDHKgM/edit?slide=id.g2f20de2f004_0_0#slide=id.g2f20de2f004_0_0

In summary:

- I went to Coventry to RSECon25 earlier in the month for three days
- I went to the virtual CF Workshop this week, for 3 hours in the late afternoon
- A good and informative time was had at both
- It's useful to interact with collaborators and community members I only otherwise get to do in 'get on with it' work mode or in formal meetings
- **RSECon25**: key points to convey to CMS:
  - RSE Soc membership is £20 a year, besides you can join the Slack and various RSE-related groups which may be of interest
  - There are special interest groups that might be useful: Geoscience SIG, HPC SIG, 'Reasonable Performance Computing' SIG, etc. (https://society-rse.org/community/special-interest-groups/)
- **CF Workshop 25**: key points to convey to CMS:
  - We (the CF community) are planning a 'Roadmap' document ('A 5 year plan') with aim to publish in a journal, which will cover gaps and requirements for the standard, with a plan for each gap/requirement, challenges, risks, resources