

# Chartered Geographer (Teacher) Newsletter November 2011

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

Have you moved house or school  
this term? If so please let me  
know by emailing  
[c.wheeler@rgs.org](mailto:c.wheeler@rgs.org)

**Well done to David Alcock from Fulneck  
School in West Yorkshire for gaining CGeog  
(Teacher) status this October.**

## Chartered Geographer Networking evening

The annual Chartered Geographer networking evening will be held on the evening of **14 November 2011**, from 5.30pm at the Society. This is an opportunity to network with current Chartered Geographers and also speak to those interested in pursuing Chartership.

The event will be followed by the Monday night lecture – Professor Stuart Lane will be speaking on ‘Flood risk in the 21st Century: is it going to get worse?’ (members plus one guest).

I hope you will be able to make this event – please do let me know if you are able to attend, so we can get an idea of numbers. If you want to bring a colleague who is interested in finding more about the Society and CGeog you are more than welcome to do so - you just need to let us know.

## Geography Directions blog <http://blog.geographydirections.com/>

This new look blog links the latest journal content to current events. Run by editorial staff and volunteer early career researchers, posts are aimed at students, teachers, lecturers and members of the public.

## School Membership – support the Society’s work in Education

Become a Schools Member of the RGS-IBG and gain access to our dedicated teaching resources website *Geography in the News*.

Bring students to our renowned Monday night lectures and 21st Century Challenges discussions.  
Discounts on our CPD courses, 50% off the Geographical Magazine and Philips Atlases.  
Specialist curriculum, GIS, fieldwork and expedition advice.  
And much more!

Cost: Annual membership costs £80 [www.rgs.org/joinus](http://www.rgs.org/joinus)

## Closure of [www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk](http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk)

From the end of November 2011 all your favourite materials that are currently on Geography Teaching Today will be relocated onto the websites of the GA and RGS-IBG [www.rgs.org/schools](http://www.rgs.org/schools)

Everything you've previously used will still be available and free to access. However, you may wish to check any bookmarks you previously had to specific pages or resources on GTT and upload the new shortcuts.

With the funding for the Action Plan for Geography having come to an end in April 2011 we are relocating these materials to ensure that they continue to be available for you to use in the future.

Geographical Association and Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

## Society launches new website– *Walk the World* <http://www.walktheworld.org.uk/>

As the eyes of the world turn towards the UK for the ‘greatest show on earth’ – London 2012 – help us to explore our connections to the 206 Olympic and Paralympic Nations, and discover how these countries and their people have shaped our surroundings, often in surprising ways.

Join us in the challenge to find connections, explore your local area and create walks which take you around the world without leaving the UK.

Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment.

## Hold the date...

**Tuesday 13 March at 6.30pm**

## Geographical Journeys: Younger Members’ Microlectures

A fantastic opportunity for 6 RGS-IBG Members to give an illustrated 10 minute geographically themed talk in the Ondaatje Theatre of the RGS-IBG to an enthusiastic audience. Speaker deadline 11 January 2012. Tickets: RGS-IBG members £7, non-members £10. More info [www.rgs.org/membersevents](http://www.rgs.org/membersevents) from mid November. E: [Events@rgs.org](mailto:Events@rgs.org)

# Society events, conferences and training

## Upcoming events

Full details of all Autumn Society events can be found here <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/Whats+on.htm> and here <http://www.rgs.org/teachercpd>

## CPD Opportunities from the RGS-IBG

Every year the RGS-IBG offers a series of events, courses and conferences for geography teachers. **RGS-IBG Fellows and Members (including School Members) are eligible for discounts on all our upcoming CPD events.**

### Subject Knowledge Updates:

Subject Knowledge Updates are a series of evening sessions each focusing on a different theme, covering the basic information for teaching that topic and providing up to date case study material and resources.

#### Topic: Globalisation

**Date: Monday 5 December 2011**

Venue: Xaverian Sixth Form College, Manchester  
Time: evening, 5pm—7pm (registration from 4.30pm for a prompt start). Refreshments will be available.  
Format: 90 minutes lecture style followed by 30 minutes of discussion and questions.

#### Topic: China

**Date: Monday 23 January 2012**

Venue: Royal Geographical Society with IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR  
Time: 5pm to 7pm (registration from 4.30pm for a prompt start). Refreshments will be available.  
Format: 90 minutes lecture style followed by 30 minutes of discussion and questions.

#### Topic: Travel and Tourism

**Date: Monday 12 March 2012**

Venue: Royal Geographical Society with IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR  
Time: 5pm to 7pm (registration from 4.30pm for a prompt start). Refreshments will be available.  
Format: 90 minutes lecture style followed by 30 minutes of discussion and questions.

Please note: these courses are for teachers only.  
Members (School Members/Fellows/ECT Members/Young Geographers) £30 including VAT  
Non Members £40 including VAT

**Booking forms for all Subject Knowledge Updates available at [www.rgs.org/teachercpd](http://www.rgs.org/teachercpd)**

### Joint Edexcel/RGS-IBG events: Controlled assessment

Funded by Edexcel, these events will be run regionally in order for clusters of Edexcel schools to meet and discuss the 2012 controlled assessment.

Monday 7 November 2011, 5pm to 7pm, London

Tuesday 8 November 2011, 4pm to 6pm, Essex

Thursday 8 December 2011, 4pm—5.30pm, Milton Keynes

These events are free to attend and open to all teachers including those who do not teach Edexcel at GCSE.

**Full programme and booking form available at [www.rgs.org/teachercpd](http://www.rgs.org/teachercpd)**

## International Baccalaureate CPD Day

Find out more about geography in the IB. Speakers include Dr Simon Oakes, Chief Examiner for the IB Diploma Programme geography.

*Next event in this series:*

**Monday 16 January 2012, RGS-IBG, London**

Members £100 / Non Members £180 (includes RGS-IBG School Membership)

W: [www.rgs.org/teachercpd](http://www.rgs.org/teachercpd) E: [s.brace@rgs.org](mailto:s.brace@rgs.org)

## Fieldwork Masterclass Weekends

Aimed at teachers from maintained schools who want to improve field teaching skills at A level and GCSE. The Learning and Leading fieldwork masterclasses are held twice a year with each course focusing on either human or physical fieldwork. Supporting schools facing challenges in their fieldwork.

**Future events include: London (23-25 March 2012) and North Yorkshire 20-22 April 2012.**

These courses are free.

W: [www.rgs.org/learning&leading](http://www.rgs.org/learning&leading) E: [landl@rgs.org](mailto:landl@rgs.org) T: 020 7591 3180

## Fieldwork summer school for AS students

16 fully funded places are available on a fieldwork summer school for AS geography students. The course is aimed to give students who would not normally have such opportunities a chance to experience high quality residential fieldwork. These courses are free.

**Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire from 20-24 August 2012**

Students investigate and build-up case-studies; use ICT and a variety of fieldwork techniques, plan and carry out group fieldwork investigations and take part in team building and personal development activities.

W: [www.rgs.org/learning&leading](http://www.rgs.org/learning&leading) E: [landl@rgs.org](mailto:landl@rgs.org) T: 020 7591 3180

For more information about these events and details of how to book, go to <http://www.rgs.org/teachercpd> or contact Claire Wheeler:  
E: [c.wheeler@rgs.org](mailto:c.wheeler@rgs.org) T: 020 7591 3053

# Spotlight on Adrian Manning, CGeog (Teacher)

In May 2011 I was lucky enough to be awarded the [Fawcett Fellowship at UCL](#) for the autumn term (September-December 2011). The Fellowships are designed to enable teachers in mid-career to study at UCL, spending the time, for example bringing themselves up-to-date with aspects of the discipline, exploring new teaching fields, developing new skills, or preparing new teaching materials. The Fellowships are awarded on the basis of the strength of the work planned to be undertaken and its usefulness back at school/to the wider geographical community.

I am now mid-way through my time at UCL, and enjoying every minute of it (other than the fact that it is going far too quickly!). I set myself three key areas of work/research:

- To evaluate the two principal commercial GIS programmes on the market and to create a KS3 scheme of work for teaching with GIS and to integrate GIS lessons into my school's KS4 GCSE Geography course
- To refresh my subject knowledge, particularly with respect to Earth Sciences/Geology (my school offers GCSE Geology as well as GCSE Geography) via sitting in on lectures/courses
- To develop virtual fieldwork/practical activities to support the teaching of GCSE Geography and more especially GCSE Geology

So far I have spent most my time working with the two GIS packages – the Advisory Unit's AEGIS-3 and Esri's DigitalWorlds/ArcView programmes. To start with I was kindly provided with a free copy of each programme and set about loading them onto my laptop. I then spent a week or so intensively 'test driving' each by working through the instruction manuals and sample lesson activities which come with them to build up my knowledge of each and discovering each has its strengths and weaknesses. I then took both into my school and got a group of students to complete a simulated lesson using each programme to see how they got on with each, what difficulties they encountered and which ultimately they preferred. This research has shown there appears to be no utopian programme in the world of GIS; however, from what I have thus-far established, DigitalWorlds seems to offer greater flexibility to support how I intend to use it back at school.

I am now beginning to build a half term's worth – approx. 12 x 1hour – of lessons for a KS3 course which will enable students to learn the basic functionality of GIS but more importantly how it can be used to solve geographical problems. I intend this to be largely constructed from the 'sample' lessons that come with the programme. Then I intend to add 'occasional' GIS-based lessons to our GCSE course to extend the learning of our existing lessons – these will be a mixture of pre-constructed sample lessons (where they contain appropriate material to the course) and 'home made' lessons created to meet the course's specific content. Overall, one lasting point I have learnt during the Fellowship is that the key to success is not *teaching* GIS but teaching *with* GIS – i.e. use GIS to help/enhance the existing geographical learning of the student.

Also, since lectures started a few weeks ago, I have been sitting in on a range of first-year courses in both Geography and Geology and reading around the areas being taught this term. My intention is to then adapt these materials, especially the Geology practical activities, for inclusion in the teaching programmes we already operate. Later on this term I shall be accompanying the first-year students on their residential field trip to Slapton Ley FSC Centre in Devon to both gather information, data and images for my own virtual field trips for use back at school and to help deliver the teaching on the field course itself.

Therefore, as you can see, the Fawcett Fellowship at UCL offers a fabulous and unique opportunity to create your own personal professional development programme, to re-connect with the world of academia, and ultimately to enhance the learning and teaching of Geography at your school. I would highly recommend the Fellowship to others, and cannot thank UCL enough for giving me this exciting and rewarding opportunity.

**Adrian Manning CGeog, FRGS, RMetsS**  
**Head of Geography & Geology**  
**St Helena School, Colchester**

