

Bulletin Autumn 2010

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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News

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**Britain from
the Air takes off**

About the Society

Need to know

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is a leading world centre for geographers and geographical learning dedicated to the development and promotion of knowledge together with its application to the challenges facing society and the environment. Founded in 1830, it has been one of the most active learned societies ever since. Today, the Society supports and promotes geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, and geography in society; it also advises on policy issues. The Society has substantial Collections, accessible to all.

The Society is a charity with a broad-based membership that supports its mission and aims. The Society welcomes professional geographers, geography graduates and all those with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration to join. Please contact the Membership Office **E** membership@rgs.org **T** +44 (0)20 7591 3080. To find out more visit us **W** www.rgs.org

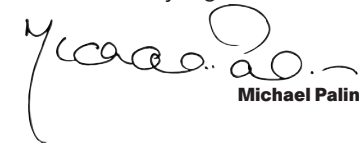
A message From the President

A successful mission to Hong Kong in May provided a final boost to the building appeal, and I'm delighted to report that we now have all the funds in place for the improvements at Lowther Lodge. Tenders for the North Face conservation have gone out over the summer, with a view to starting work in late September and completing by the New Year. Plans for the Members' Room are being finalised and work should be underway by Spring 2011, with an unveiling planned for next year's AGM. This year's AGM was notable for its new format, designed to give the Medals and Awards more prominence. It was generally pronounced a success, and though it's harder work for all the staff, the greater numbers attending encourage us to keep to it in the future.

I greatly look forward to helping launch *Britain From The Air*, the most ambitious feature of our Autumn schedule, and part of the Society's new public engagement

project, *Discovering Britain*. Developed in partnership with Wecommunic8 and supported by the Ordnance Survey, it will be launched in Bath on September 28th with an on-street exhibition of over a hundred stunning images placed around the historic centre of the city – a bold and eye-catching way of making geography both stimulating and accessible.

I shall look forward to continuing my visits to the regions with a trip to the Midlands branch in October and, nearer home, I'll be welcoming Palestinian author and dedicated walker, Raja Shehadeh, to the Society for another of my *Michael Meets* evenings. And of course, I look forward to meeting the Fellows and members, young and old, who I hope will be tempted along to Lowther Lodge by another wide-ranging choice of Monday night lectures.


Michael Palin President



© John Swarwell



with intriguing stories and surprising facts that invite the viewer to explore their local, regional and national environments from above. Thought-provoking quotes and texts will accompany images to engage, enthuse and inform in equal measure.

Britain from the Air will open in mid-September in the historic public spaces of Bath.

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The Society's education team will be providing online learning resources to support teachers and classes visiting the exhibition
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More than 100 stunning images, sourced from a wide range of photographers, plus material from our own Collections will then tour the country in the run up to 2012 to illustrate just how much there is to explore on this island of contrasting landscapes. There are plans afoot to develop the exhibition online too.

Report



Emirates, migrants and money People of an economic exodus

As the cranes and scaffolding of Dubai stood silent in the wake of the world-wide recession, it's not just the noise of continuous building work that was absent for the Emirate. Hundreds of thousands of Indian nationals sought employment and a better way of life in the UAE but many have been left with just a plane ticket home – others have been left with less than that. Following their story back to their towns and villages was journalist Nick Hunt – recipient of the Society's *Journey of a Lifetime* award for 2010.

With a taste for exploration and an eye for a good story, Nick used the support he received from the Society and BBC Radio 4 to focus on Dubai's workforce of Indian migrants whom he considers the unseen, unheard victims of the recession. By day they were responsible for constructing the glittering, glass-fronted iconic buildings of Dubai's once constantly evolving skyline; by night he found they were a population on the periphery, living in often difficult conditions, far from home and from any sense of equality.

Nick met Ramu from Andhra Pradesh who had left his village because his

Ramu, left, migrated to the UAE to find work © Nick Hunt



ethnic group, Telangana, has limited access to water for irrigation. "One man in every family in this region migrates, mostly to the Gulf, because of the lack of equality between ethnic groups with relation to agriculture," Nick said. However, with poor education and a desperate desire to find a better life, touts often step in to take advantage of the situation. "When people like Ramu finally get to Dubai, they are already in debt and can end up working the most menial jobs at the mercy of unscrupulous companies."

Ramu made it home after four years away from his family, meeting his daughter for the first time on his return. Nick explained: "It was a journey through the economic fallout of the current economic crisis. The workers have few rights, but what amazed me was just how dignified they are; full of humour, humanity and warmth."

For Nick, originally from Bristol but now living in London, the journey was far removed from the glossy travel brochures with which tourists from the UK may be familiar. "The most important thing was

seeing that these people are not just statistics, but individuals with diverse and varied lives and histories, thrown together in difficult conditions by the boom and bust of the world's economy," he said. "These are the people who keep the cogs of the world turning and they are rarely noticed or rewarded for their efforts."

Nick's story, due to be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 10 September, is just one of three independent travel grants, open to everyone to apply, and which form just part of the Society's wider programme of grants. Whether you are a teacher who wants to innovate in the classroom, a senior researcher looking to kick-start a research project, or a young team planning their first scientific expedition, get online and find out how the Society can support your project.

W www.rgs.org/grants

To find out more about Nick and other *Journeys of a Lifetime* visit

W www.rgs.org/journeyofalifetime

Deadline for applications is 24 September 2010.

You : **Be involved this autumn** : **Making the most** : **of membership**

The membership of the Society is richly diverse, brimming with experience, enthusiasm and a shared passion to understand the world around us. If you would like to be actively involved, we hope you'll be able to discover something new, share your experience or join a debate this autumn.

Enjoy a discount

Members can get discounts on purchases from Cotswold Outdoor, Stanfords and Nomad stores.

Sponsor a school

Pass on your passion for geography to the next generation. Secondary school membership brings young people to the heart of the Society for events and workshops, and provides a host of online resources. **W** www.rgs.org/JoinUs

Borrow books by post

With our catalogue online, you don't have to travel into London to take advantage of our resources. **T** 020 7591 3044

Bring a friend

Our regional programmes (p.21) and many of our Monday lectures are open to members plus one guest (p.11).

Get online

Watch online lectures in our revamped Members' Only section of the website.

W www.rgs.org/members

Keep informed

The survival of our oceans, the future of sustainability – come along to discuss the hot topics of the day with expert guests and a lively debate guaranteed.

Add your voice

Members can nominate fellow geographers to have their work recognised at the Annual Medals and Awards celebration.

W www.rgs.org/nominate

Get advice

The *Explore Weekend* in November is the place to get ideas and make plans for your own expeditions and fieldwork or visit the *Geography Outdoors* team as they offer this support throughout the year.

W www.rgs.org/eac

Apply for support

Researchers, teachers, travellers, and students are tapping in to the wide range of support that is available through the Society's grants programme.

W www.rgs.org/grants

Visit Lowther Lodge

Come and use the Foyle Reading Room, drop in and see an exhibition in the Pavilion and stay for lunch in the members' tea room.

Use the Foyle Reading Room

Selected Monday evenings will now include extended opening hours exclusively for the use of Fellows, members and their guests. On the 18 October, 8 November and 13 December the Foyle Reading Room will remain open until 9.00pm. In addition, special themed displays from the Collections will also be on show on these evenings.

Attend showcases, talks and displays

The popular showcase programme (p.19) continues this autumn with events covering the history of the Society's headquarters, explorers' manuscript mapping, and the search for the Northwest Passage.

The *Be Inspired* afternoon season is a great opportunity to see how our Collections can inspire study, research and travel. Talks embrace Captain Cook's final voyage in *The Making of a Hero* on 25 October; a history of motorized desert exploration in *Immensity: motoring in the Western Desert 1916-1941* on 22 November; and the links between the Society's Collections and the history of the world's favourite drink in *Tea and the British* on 6 December (p.20).

Join a research group

Participate in seminars, conferences, networking opportunities, receive newsletters and support awards to students for outstanding work, and more.

W www.rgs.org/ResearchGroups

Pictured right

Guests on tour in the Foyle Reading Room at the Annual General Meeting 2010



Foyle Reading Room © RGS-IBG / Howard Sayer



Supporting geographers Generating a passion for geography

While geography student Harry Speak contemplates his final A-Level year and university applications, his grandmother, Christine – a Fellow of nearly 50 years – is adding his name to the growing list of Young Geographers benefiting from membership at an early age.

“Although I worked abroad for much of my career, I always valued my membership of the Society. Even when I returned to the UK from Hong Kong in 1986, I didn’t live in London and so my membership helped me maintain my links to the geography community,” Christine said. “I’ve always found the Society an extremely useful source of information, from when I was teaching, researching and even now in retirement.

“I hope that being a member of the Society will help support Harry through his studies like it did for me when I started out on my career,” she said.

With a Young Geographer’s membership, Harry will receive a monthly copy of *Geographical* magazine, free entry to the

Society’s famous London talks and many lectures across the country as well as discounts on kit and books. Membership also provides unlimited use of our library of maps, books and travel guides as well as advice, expertise and training to help prepare him for expeditions and fieldwork.

We’d love to hear your stories of geography in the family. Famous parent and child teams following in the footsteps of Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Peter Scott, or families working together on research or sharing a passion for travel – get in touch and tell us your story. [E membership@rgs.org](mailto:membership@rgs.org)

Pictured above

Christine with her grandson Harry and son Stephen. Stephen also studied geography at university.

Events Lectures at a glance

Monday evening

London lectures

6.30-7.45pm at RGS (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR

Date	Open to	Title	Speaker(s)
September 27	M+G	Mapping the globe: from the Greeks to Google Earth	Jeremy Brotton
October 4	M+G	Atlantic: an ocean of a million stories	Simon Winchester
11	M+G	Eruptions that shook the world	Clive Oppenheimer
18	M+G	Just deserts	Andrew Goudie
25	M+G	What future for the land of Britain	John Goddard
November 1	M	Harmony: a new way of looking at our world	Tony Juniper & Ian Skelly
8	M	Michael meets... Raja Shehadeh	Michael Palin & Raja Shehadeh
15	M+G	Wolves in Canada’s Great Bear Rainforest	Ian McAllister
22	M	Scott of the Antarctic: from hero to villain?	Max Jones
29	M	Lost Land of the Tiger	George McGavin & Jonny Keeling
December 6	M+G	Flying in space	Piers Sellers
13	M+G	Travelling and policy making	Rory Stewart

London City lectures

7.00pm-8.15pm at The Clothworkers’ Hall, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7AH

September 29	M+G	Tea Horse Road	Michael Freeman
November 2	B	Orissa: Temples and Tribes	Michael Palin
December 14	M+G	Lost Land of the Tiger	George McGavin & Jonny Keeling

London & South East

Society London events

RGS-IBG members are reminded to bring their membership cards to gain entrance to RGS-IBG events. To book events please use the booking form on page 38 book online **W** www.rgs.org/whatson **T** 020 7591 3100. Please note that all tickets are non-refundable.

Suppers

Supper is available after Monday night lectures, priced at £25 per head (two courses, two glasses of wine and coffee). Bookings must be made by midday the preceding Friday (please state dietary requirements). We regret that supper bookings cannot be taken on the day or evening of a lecture. Cancellations must be received by noon on the preceding Friday; otherwise a full charge will apply. Please refer to the booking form on page 38 or **T** 020 7591 3100.

Accessibility

Wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje Theatre. A toilet is also provided for wheelchair users. A personal assistant or carer can usually be accommodated. Please contact the Events Office in advance on **E** events@rgs.org Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments.

Key to events

B Prior booking required

M Members only

M+G Members plus one guest

FR Fundraising event

**M+G Saturday 18 September
from 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Open House London

The Society will be opening its doors as part of the Open House celebration where hundreds of great buildings of all types and periods open up their doors to all, completely for free. Collections-based showcases will be available at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 3.00pm in the Foyle Reading Room. Maximum 25 per group. For information visit

W www.open-city.org.uk/activities/london/index.html

M+G Monday 27 September at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Mapping the globe:

from the Greeks to Google Earth

Jeremy Brotton

From Ptolemy to Google Earth, geographers have offered various methods for projecting the globe onto a flat plane. Jeremy explores how different cultures have responded to this problem throughout history, ultimately asking what it means to map the earth accurately.

M+G Wednesday 29 September at 7.00pm

City Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Tea Horse Road

Michael Freeman

Retracing the 2,300km journey from south Yunnan to Lahsa, Michael captures the spirit and history of this ancient trade route that brought tea to Tibet and war horses to China. **Venue:** The Clothworkers' Hall, London EC3R 7AH

M+G Monday 4 October at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Atlantic: an ocean of a million stories

Simon Winchester

Simon, who is passionate about the sea, brings to life the story of the Atlantic Ocean from its birth in the recesses of geological time to its powerful influence on humankind and its uncertain future.

B Thursday 7 October at 6.30pm

Lecture (Hammersmith)

Deserts

Dr Nick Middleton

An illustrated talk on these unique landscapes and how human societies have used and sometimes abused them. **Tickets: free but admission by ticket only.** **Venue:** Edward Latymer Theatre, Latymer Upper School, 237 King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9LR. **Details and tickets:** Mike Ashby

E mca@latymer-upper.org **T** 0845 638 5800

M+G Monday 11 October at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Eruptions that shook the world

Clive Oppenheimer

Drawing on examples from Iceland to Indonesia, a forensic approach is applied to understanding the consequences of Earth's greatest eruptions. What lessons can we learn to help mitigate future volcanic disasters?

B Wednesday 13 October at 7.00pm

21st Century Challenges

Plastic pollution in our oceans

David de Rothschild, Dr Simon Boxall and Peter Davis. **Chair:** David Shukman

Our throw-away society is polluting large areas of the world's oceans with plastics, threatening marine life and food chains. Discover the damage our wasteful habits are having and the possible solutions.

Tickets: RGS-IBG members £7, non-members £10

W www.21stcenturychallenges.org

B Thursday 14 October at 5.30 for 6.30pm

Annual EGR Taylor lecture

Dutch maritime charts between 1550 and 1800

Captain Hans D. Kok

The speaker will explain the central control over navigation and chart-making by the Dutch East India Company as opposed to the ways of the British East India Company. Joint event with RIN, the Hakluyt Society and SNR. **Supper tickets: £25, must be purchased in advance (by midday on 12 October)** **T** 020 7591 3100. **Lecture attendance free.**

M+G Monday 18 October at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Just deserts

Andrew Goudie

Illustrated by images of dust storms, dunes and eroded landscapes, Andrew shows how new technologies have revolutionised our understanding of desert landscapes, and explores how sand seas and dunes – the focus of a Society research network – may respond to global warming.

M+G Monday 25 October at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members+ one guest

What future for the land of Britain

John Goddard

John Goddard looks at how Britain can make the best use of its finite land resources in the face of a 'perfect storm' of global environmental change, population growth and energy shortages, drawing on key findings from the recent Government enquiry.

B Wednesday 27 October from 7.00–9.00pm

Discovering Places travel evening

Discovering West Bengal and Sikkim

An informative evening for travellers wishing to experience West Bengal and Sikkim for the first time, discover more at the exhibitor stands and ask questions of our expert panel including Joe Bindloss, author of the *Lonely Planet guide to Northeast India*.

Tickets: RGS-IBG members £10, non-members £15.

Price includes wine and an information pack.

W www.rgs.org/travel

M Monday 1 November at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members only

Harmony: a new way of looking at our world

Tony Juniper and Ian Skelly

Tony and Ian talk about their collaboration with HRH The Prince of Wales, on a new book explaining why our disconnection from nature invites the greatest crisis in the history of humanity and they explore the key principles behind the Prince's efforts to restore a sense of balance.

B Tuesday 2 November at 7.00pm

City Lecture (booking required)

Orissa: Temples and Tribes

Michael Palin

A visit to one of the lesser known corners of India; home of the finest Hindi temples, the oldest surviving tribes and the richest mineral resources in the country.

Venue: The Clothworkers' Hall, London EC3R 7AH.

Tickets: free, booking essential, 2 per RGS-IBG member. **E** events@rgs.org **T** 020 7591 3100

B Monday 8 November

Chartered Geographer

Annual Networking Evening for Chartered Geographers

This is an opportunity to meet and network with other Chartered Geographers at the Society, also attending the Monday Night Lecture. Further details:

T 0207 591 3023 **E** cgeog@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/CharteredStatus

M Monday 8 November at 6.30pm

Discussion – RGS-IBG members only

Michael meets...**Raja Shehadeh**

In conversation with the President, Raja Shehadeh, a lawyer, passionate hill walker and author of the highly-praised *Strangers In The House* and *Palestinian Walks*, talks about his journey through the Great Rift Valley and his own feelings on walking and travel.

B Friday 12 November at 6.30pm

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Pre-Explore lecture

A lively evening to open this year's Explore weekend (p.18). Speaker details will be announced on the website. Tickets: Students and RGS-IBG members £7, non-members £10. Free to pre-registered Explore delegates. Pay bar before and after lecture.

To book: **T** 020 7591 3030 **E** go@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/explore

M+G Monday 15 November at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Wolves in Canada's Great Bear Rainforest

Ian McAllister

Author and wildlife photographer, Ian, uses stunning images and draws on his intimate observations of a unique wolf population to uncover their fascinating, complex life in one of the last places where they live wild and undisturbed, in northern Canada.

M Monday 22 November at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members only

Scott of the Antarctic: from hero to villain?

Max Jones

Captain Scott's death almost a century ago ignited a frenzy of hero-worship throughout Britain. This talk locates Scott's last expedition at the climax of an age of exploration and empire, and maps his changing reputation as celebrations faded while condemnations grew.

B Tuesday 23 November at 7.00pm

Discovering People

Hugh Dennis

Join Simon Calder in conversation with Hugh Dennis to discover more about this popular comedian, presenter, actor, writer and geography graduate; star of shows including *Mock The Week*, *Outnumbered* and *The Now Show*. Tickets: RGS-IBG members £7, non-members £10

B Friday 26 November at 7.00pm

Younger Members' event

Ceilidh

A fun-filled opportunity to mix and mingle at the popular Scottish celebration dinner with Ceilidh dancing. No dancing skill necessary – come and have fun! All welcome. Tickets: RGS-IBG members £35, non-members £40. Limited places, book early (max 4 tickets per booking). Dress code: black tie.

M Monday 29 November at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members only

Lost Land of the Tiger

George McGavin and Jonny Keeling

The tiger is critically endangered. Loss of natural habitat and hunting have reduced their numbers to an all time low. A BBC team, with Fellow George McGavin, went to Bhutan to see if this small Himalayan Kingdom holds the key to tiger survival.

This lecture will be repeated on Tuesday 14 December in the City.

B Wednesday 1 December at 7.30pm

21st Century Challenges

Can the UK ever be sustainable?

Sir Stuart Rose, Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP and
Andy Hobsbawm

Our way of life is placing an increasing burden on the planet, but how realistic are visions of a sustainable future? With the UK aspiring to achieve more with less, who will help turn theory into practice?

Tickets: RGS-IBG members £7, non-members £10.

W www.21stcenturychallenges.org

M+G Monday 6 December at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Flying in space

Piers Sellers

In May 2010 the space shuttle *Atlantis* launched its final planned mission to the International Space Station. Travelling 4,879,978 miles in 11 days and orbiting the Earth 186 times, British born NASA Astronaut Piers, talks about his third mission into space on board the *Atlantis*.

B Saturday 11 December at 2.30pm

Children’s lecture

Animal diaries

Rory Wilson

Animals can now write their own diaries, Rory explains how his automatic diaries can help us to understand animals’ secret lives and to advance conservation.

Tickets: free to RGS-IBG members (max 5 tickets per member). Apply early to avoid disappointment.

M+G Monday 13 December at 6.30pm

Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Travelling and policy making

Rory Stewart

Rory travelled across Afghanistan alone and on foot; has served as the British governor of an Iraqi province and founded a charity to aid urban regeneration in Afghanistan. Now an MP, Rory reflects on the way in which travelling and travel writing can inform foreign policy.

M+G Tuesday 14 December at 7.00pm

City Lecture – RGS-IBG members + one guest

Lost Land of the Tiger

George McGavin and Jonny Keeling

The tiger is critically endangered. Loss of natural habitat and hunting have reduced their numbers to an all time low. A BBC team, with Fellow George McGavin, went to Bhutan to see if this small Himalayan Kingdom holds the key to tiger survival.

Venue: The Clothworkers’ Hall, London EC3R 7AH.

This lecture is a repeat of the 29 November lecture held at the Society’s premises in Kensington.

B Wednesday 15 December at 7.00pm

Younger Members’ event

Christmas quiz

Come on your own or bring a team (max 5 people) to test your general and geographical knowledge at a festive quiz organised by the Younger Members’ Committee. All welcome. Tickets: RGS-IBG members £8, non-members £10 (includes cold buffet). Limited places, book early (max 5 tickets per booking).

B Thursday 16 December at 6.00pm

Social

Christmas carols

Join us for our annual carols and readings with a geographical theme. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Tickets: £7.50 (free for children)

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Courses and conferences

Unless otherwise stated, the courses and conferences listed below are held at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

B Thursday 16 September from 5.30 - 7.30pm

The first of a three session certificated training course

Building confidence with GIS

Dr Joana Barros and Sam Waples

Hands on session for teachers and educators using freely available web-based materials and proprietary software to achieve a range of GIS competencies including mapping data, interrogation and analysis. Limited places. Cost (for all three sessions) £180 (inc VAT). Details: **W** www.rgs.org **E** education@rgs.org

The second session will take place on **Thursday 7 October**. The third and final session will take place on **Thursday 11 November**.

B Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 September

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event (Hereford)

Land Rover Driver Training

Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury

Geography Outdoors has teamed up with our corporate benefactors Land Rover to provide a practical driver training course covering key driving and safety techniques for people undertaking expeditions or fieldwork in remote areas. Cost: £150

incl VAT. Details: **T** 020 7591 3030 **E** go@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/GOseminars

B Tuesday 21 September

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Coping with Psychological

Issues on Expeditions

Run by Interhealth, this workshop is for team leaders from GAP, volunteer and expedition agencies, to enable expedition leaders to spot and cope with early warning signs of psychological health issues in the field.

Cost: £129.25 incl. VAT includes lunch. To book:

T 020 7902 9016 **W** www.interhealth.org.uk/workshops

B Thursday 30 September

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

BSI Compliance Workshop

A workshop for commercial, charitable or educational providers who want to use BS 8848 to benchmark their existing safety management systems and make a claim of compliance with the British Standard. Cost: £176.25 incl VAT includes lunch. To book: **T** 020 7591 3030

E go@rgs.org **W** www.rgs.org/GOseminars

Please see our South West regional events on page 26 for details of a one day conference **Achieving Success in Geography** for A2 students and their teachers at Exeter School on **Friday 8 October** or visit **W** www.rgs.org/southwest

B Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 October

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Humanitarian Mapping course

Geographical information systems (GIS) and related tools are becoming crucial in disaster preparedness and response. This innovative 3-day course developed and delivered by the international NGO MapAction provides training in methods proven in the field. **Cost: £350 incl VAT includes notes and lunch. Discounted price for small charities. Accommodation not provided. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/GOseminars**

B Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 October

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Off-Site Safety Management Course

A must for those involved in planned visits either in the UK or overseas, it offers an in-depth look at the safety management issues involved in planning, managing and evaluating local visits, fieldtrips, residentials and exchanges. **Cost: £211.50 incl VAT includes lunch. Accommodation is not provided. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/GOseminars**

B Monday 18 October

Research Programmes Event

Global Sand Seas: Past, present, future

A one-day meeting for researchers interested in sand seas in hot and cold deserts. For geomorphologists and those studying and researching climate and surface interactions in sand seas in the Quaternary, today and in the future. **Further details: T 0207 591 3027 E SandSeas@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/SandSeas**

Please see our Yorkshire and North East regional events on page 29 for details of a **Bush Mechanics Workshop** taking place on **Saturday 23 October** in York.

B Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12- 14 November

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Explore 2010

Expedition and fieldwork planning seminar

Over 100 field scientists and explorers will give lecturers, run workshops and exhibits, to provide inspiration, contacts and practical advice on projects in a variety of environments and research disciplines. **Cost: Student price £75, Full price £110. Group rates available. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/explore**

B Tuesday 16 November from 10.00am -4.00pm

Environment and Society Forum Policy Seminar

A 'Perfect Storm' Ahead?

Geographical perspectives on food, water and energy security to 2030

According to UK government Chief Scientist Sir John Beddington, by 2030 a 'perfect storm' that combines food, water and energy shortages will unleash public unrest and international conflict. Join us for a day-long policy seminar discussing these issues. **For further details, including booking, please visit W www.rgs.org/environmentandsociety**

B Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 November

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event (Hereford)

Land Rover Driver Training

Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury
Geography Outdoors has teamed up with our corporate benefactors Land Rover to provide a practical driver training course covering key driving and safety techniques for people undertaking expeditions or fieldwork in remote areas. **Cost: £150 incl VAT. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/GOseminars**

B Tuesday 23 November

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Educational Visits Coordinator training

Essential training for EVCs in the importance of planning and proper risk management, helping to fulfil Health & Safety obligations for out-of-school visits. **Cost: £176.25 incl VAT includes notes, lunch and refreshments. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/GOseminars**

B Wednesday 24 November

Fieldwork and Expeditions Event

Update EVC course

For existing Educational Visits Coordinators
Safety management practices and procedures evolve over time. This course gives trained EVCs the opportunity to look at recent materials and share good practice through scenario-based discussion. **Cost: £176.25 incl VAT includes notes, lunch and refreshments. To book: T 020 7591 3030 E go@rgs.org W www.rgs.org/GOseminars**

Exhibitions

Unless otherwise stated, the exhibitions listed below can be found in the Pavilion of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Please use the Exhibition Road entrance. All exhibitions in the Pavilion are free and open to members of the public from Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm.

Monday 13 September-Thursday 21 October

Patagonia through a Pinhole – an exploration of Southern Chile

Photographs by Nicholas Livesey

Monday 25 October - Friday 26 November

SPECIES

Exhibition held by the Michele Vitaloni Studio to celebrate 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, with 50 hyper-realistic wildlife sculptures. **For more information please visit W www.michelevitaloni.com**

Foyle Reading Room

Courses and Society showcases

A popular range of daytime courses and showcases open to all and providing an ideal way to learn more about the Society's unique Collections. All events start at 2.30pm and last for approximately 2 hours. **Tickets: Free to members and educational users, non-members £5, payable in advance. Meet at the Exhibition Road reception. These events are led by a member of the Collections team. Booking essential, refreshments provided. To book: T 020 7591 3044 E showcase@rgs.org**

B The search for a Northwest Passage

The search for a Northwest Passage was one of the great geographical enterprises of the 19th century encompassing both triumph and tragedy. Follow the expeditions of Ross, Parry, Franklin and Amundsen striving to make the first transit of this ice-choked region. **Tuesday 5 October, 12 October Thursday 7 October**

B How to use the Foyle Reading Room course

An excellent introduction to the Foyle Reading Room, showing users how to get the best out of the Society's Collections. **Tuesday 19 October Thursday 14 October, 21 October**

B Maps of the explorers

Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries explorers ventured into interior of South America, Africa and Asia. Producing sketch maps as they went they helped fill in the blanks on the map; see original manuscript maps by Schomburgk, Livingstone Bell, Fawcett and others.

Tuesday 26 October, 2 November

Thursday 28 October

B How to use the Foyle Reading Room course

An excellent introduction to the Foyle Reading Room, showing users how to get the best out of the Society's Collections.

Tuesday 9 November

Thursday 4 November, 11 November

B 1 Kensington Gore, Part 2

Continuation of the history of 1 Kensington Gore from the Society's acquisition of the house in 1912, illustrated with enlightening and rarely seen items from the Collections. (Attendees of Part 1 please book early to avoid disappointment)

Tuesday 16 November, 23 November

Thursday 18 November

Foyle Reading Room

Lecture-related Collections Displays

Pre- or post- Monday night lecture why not visit the Foyle Reading Room to see lecture-themed Collections displays on the following dates from **5.30-9.00pm**:

18 October **Deserts**; 8 November **The Great Rift**

Valley; 13 December **Afghanistan**

Be Inspired

A series of afternoon talks based on the Society's Collections from 2.30 - 4.00pm.

A new series of Collections-specific, monthly afternoon talks, given by speakers who have used the Collections to inspire their writing, travel or personal researches, intended to kindle interest from members and non-members alike in using our rich resources for their own projects. **Tickets: free to RGS-IBG members and educational users. Non-members: £5 payable in advance.** Venue: Education Centre, Lowther Lodge. Pre-booking required: **T** 020 7591 3044

E showcase@rgs.org

Monday 25 October

The making of a hero: Captain Cook's last voyage

Professor Glyn Williams

Monday 22 November

Immensity: motoring in the Western Desert, 1916-1941

Professor Andrew Goudie

Monday 6 December

Tea and the British

Roy Moxham

Society regional events

RGS-IBG members are reminded to please bring their membership cards to each event. A bar serving drinks and/or tea and coffee is available at some regional lectures. As a variety of venues are used, please contact the venue directly to ascertain the level of facilities available, and disabled access.

For events in Singapore contact the Events Office in London **T** 020 7591 3100 or **E** events@rgs.org

For events in Hong Kong contact Rupert McCowan **T**+852 2583 9700 **W** www.rgshk.org.hk.

For events in Scotland contact RSGS **T** +44 (0)1738 455050 **W** www.rsgs.org

Cheshire & North Wales

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's Cheshire and North Wales Regional Committee. Local contact: Chris Rodway, 12 Kipling Way, Crewe CW1 5JQ. For tickets and details of events below please telephone (evenings only) **T** 01270 582803 **W** www.rgs.org/cheshireandnorthwales

Friday 15 October at 7.30pm

Lecture (Wilmslow)

Fire Breathing Dragons

Roger Croston

The world's last steam trains of China. Join Roger on a winter journey across modern day northern China; looking at the people, landscapes, cities and occasional Buddhist temple. Joint lecture with the Wilmslow Guild. Venue: 1 Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD.

Sunday 24 October at 3.00pm

Lecture (Chester)

Chasing the Devil: the search for Africa's fighting spirit

Tim Butcher

The best-selling author of *Blood River* will be speaking about his latest 350 mile trek through Sierra Leone and Liberia, exploring how rebel groups were able to thrive and whether the devil of war has been chased away. Joint lecture with Chester Literature Festival (18 places). Venue: To be confirmed, please check **W** www.chesterfestivals.co.uk

Monday 15 November at 7.30pm

Lecture (Chester)

A solo walk across Africa

Fran Sandham

Hear how writer and traveller, Fran Sandham, crossed Africa on an epic solo walk from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean, near Zanzibar. Joint lecture with the Society of Thirteen. Venue: The Grosvenor Museum, Grosvenor Street, Chester, CH1 2DD.

Friday 26 November at 7.30pm

Lecture (Chester)

Saving Rhinos

Cathy Dean

Learn about the fight to save the rhinos. Cathy Dean, Executive Director of Save the Rhino International (SRI), will be speaking about their projects in Africa and Asia which hope to ensure the survival of critically endangered rhino populations. Joint lecture with Flora and Fauna International. Venue: Chester Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off A41, Chester, CH2 1EU. Buffet costs £3.50.

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East Anglia

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's East Anglia Regional Committee. Local RGS-IBG contact: Mike Hand, 4 Cotman Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4AF. **T** 01603 616427 **E** hands.on@talktalk.net **W** www.rgs.org/eastanglia

Monday 20 September at 7.30pm

Lecture (Easton)

What is Geography all about?

Tony Escritt

To this Geographer it is all about getting off your backside and out into the field. Recommended for 6th form students but clearly of interest to all geographers! Joint event with Norfolk GA. **Venue:** Sports and Conference Centre, Easton College, Norwich, NR9 5DX

Thursday 23 September at 8.00pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Stamford)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. **Venue:** Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2DL. **Tickets:** RGS-IBG members and one guest £9 (quote membership number) **T** 01780 763203

Monday 11 October at 7.30pm

Lecture (Norwich)

David Wright Memorial Lecture

Ashley Hale

Adventurer and former student of David's, Ashley will lead the recounting highlights of his journeys and teaching. Those who knew David will be welcome to contribute. Joint event with Norfolk GA. **Venue:** Sewell Park College, St Clements Hill, Norwich, NR3 4BX

Sunday 7 November at 3.30pm

Regional Theatres Programme (King's Lynn)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. **Venue:** King's Lynn Arts Centre (presented by King's Lynn Festival and the RGS-IBG), 27-29 King Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1HA. **Tickets:** RGS-IBG members and one guest £8.50 (quote membership number) **T** 01553 764864

Thursday 25 November at 7.30pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Lake Victoria, the people and their fisheries

Professor Inigo Everson OBE

For the past five years Inigo has been working in close collaboration with local scientists to assess the status of the commercial fish species of Lake Victoria. His talk will include photographs of the lake, its people and their way of life. **Venue:** Sexton Room, Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich, NR2 1RQ.

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Midlands

Regional Chair: Martin Haslett 16 Beverley Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 6PJ **T** 01926 429254 **W** www.rgs.org/midlands

Wednesday 13 October at 7.30pm

Lecture (Worcester)

An Evening with Kenton Cool

Kenton is the most prolific British climber on Everest, with eight successful summits. He has skied off Cho Oyu, and will shortly make an attempt on the world's eighth highest peak, Manaslu. **Tickets:** £10 (£8 RGS-IBG members) available from the Box Office, John Moore Theatre, King's School, Worcester WR1 2LL **T** 01905 721794 **E** ccrosswell@ksw.org.uk (Regrettably electronic payment cannot be accepted and tickets can only be posted with the inclusion of a self stamp addressed envelope)

Wednesday 20 October from 7.00-9.00pm

An evening with the President

A special evening for Fellows and Members. There will be a brief update on the Society followed by a talk from Michael Palin; there will be plenty of time to chat over wine and nibbles afterwards. **Venue:** Ratray Lecture Theatre, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH. This event is open to all our Fellows and Members in the Midlands region (and one guest). **Tickets** cost £5 each with all proceeds going towards the President's Appeal. **To book:** **T** 020 7591 3100 (or fill in the booking form enclosed with the Midlands regional bulletin mailing). Places are limited, please book early.

Wednesday 24 November at 7.30pm

Lecture (Worcester)

Ben Osborne's Ladakh

Ben Osborne is one of Britain's leading wildlife photographers with many credits to his name, including *Life in the Freezer* for the BBC. Ben's journey along the frozen Zanskar Gorge is stunning. **Tickets:** £10 (£8 RGS-IBG members) available from the Box Office, John Moore Theatre, King's School, Worcester WR1 2LL **T** 01905 721794 **E** ccrosswell@ksw.org.uk (Regrettably electronic payment cannot be accepted and tickets can only be posted with the inclusion of a self stamp addressed envelope).

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North West

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's North West Regional Committee. Regional Chair: Robin Ashcroft. For all events please contact the organisers listed below. **W** www.rgs.org/northwest

Sunday 31 October at 8.00pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Keswick)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. **Venue:** Theatre by the Lake, Lakeside, Keswick, CA12 5DJ. **Tickets:** RGS-IBG members and one guest £10.50 (quote membership number) **T** 017687 74411

Wednesday 3 November at 8.00pm

Lecture (Kendal)

Brabant Island – An Antarctic Expedition

Paul Flint FRGS

First ascents of remote peaks, arduous man hauling traverses and remote voyages by sea kayak enabled a full scientific survey (1983-1985) to be made in the tradition of Scott and Watkins.

Venue: Brewery Arts Centre, Highgate, Kendal, LA9 4HE. Tickets: RGS-IBG members £5 (RGS-IBG membership card to be presented upon collection), non-members £10. To book **T** 01539 725133 or visit **W** www.breweryarts.co.uk

Thursday 11 November at 7.00pm

Refreshments from **6.30pm**

Lecture (Windermere)

British Schools Exploring Society – How Murray Levick Inspired Me!

Nigel Harling

Nigel has led many BSES expeditions to some of the world's great wildernesses. Currently the chairman of their Expeditions Committee, he tells of how the inspiration of Murray Levick – doctor on Scott's last expedition – lives on.

Venue: Crampton Hall, Windermere School, Browhead, Patterdale Rd. (A592), Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1NW. Tickets: free, but please indicate attendance. Contact: Windermere School **E** reception@windermereschool.co.uk **T** 015394 46164

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South

Lectures in the Regional Theatres Programme are organised by RGS-IBG Headquarters. Other events listed are organised by the Society's Southern Region Committee. Local RGS-IBG contact: John Leonard CBE, 15 Elan Court, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 7LN **E** jp.leonard@btinternet.com **T** 01962 886 380. When tickets are required in advance, please enclose s.a.e. and make cheques payable to 'RGS-IBG'.

Thursday 16 September at 6.30pm

Lecture and supper (Canford)

Thomas Hardy and the Wessex and Dorset locations in his novels

Anne King

Anne relates Hardy's novels to their local landscapes by comparing early photographs or paintings with today's images, and enlivens her presentation with lapses into Hardy's Dorset accent.

Venue: Layard Theatre, Canford School, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3AD. Optional supper to follow. Lecture tickets free to members of RGS-IBG and the school, non-members £7.50. Supper tickets £13 Contact: David Palmer, 5 Banister Gardens, Southampton, SO15 2LX

Thursday 14 October at 7.00pm

Lecture (Southampton)

Coastal monitoring in the 21st century – the South Coast leads the way

Professor Andrew Bradbury

Andrew will demonstrate how coastline changes are measured using traditional surveying techniques allied to highly sophisticated instrumentation at the cutting edge of coastal research, and why monitoring is vital. Venue: National Oceanography Centre, European Way, Southampton, SO14 3ZH. Tickets: Lecture is free to all but space is limited. To be certain of a seat please book in advance.

Contact: Dr Travis Mason **T** 023 8059 8467

E Travis.Mason@noc.soton.ac.uk

Tuesday 2 November at 7.00pm

Lecture (Winchester)

The Jurassic Coast – issues affecting a World Heritage Site

Sam Scriven

Earth Science Adviser for the Jurassic Coast, Sam will illustrate the astonishing geological record that the site provides, and explain the impact on management that its World Heritage status creates.

Venue: Science Centre, Peter Symonds' College, Berewecke Road, Winchester SO22 6RX (use northern entrance) Tickets: free to RGS-IBG and GA members (non-members £5) Contact: Dr Debbie Milton, 12 Heathlands Close, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire SO53 1GY **E** milton.debbie@googlemail.com

Thursday 11 November at 8.00pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Southampton)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet.

Venue: Turner Sims Southampton, Highfield Road, Southampton, SO17 1BJ. Tickets: RGS-IBG members and one guest £10 (quote membership number) **T** 023 8059 5151

Thursday 25 November at 11.00am

Lecture followed by optional lunch (West Sussex)

Dover Castle

Paul Pattison

As Senior Historian of English Heritage, Paul will sketch the history of Dover Castle, explain its importance and expense to the nation it defended, and consider its status today. Venue: Danny House, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, BN6 9BB. Tickets (in advance please): £5 for lecture, £20 for lecture and lunch. Contact: David Palmer, 5 Banister Gardens, Southampton, SO15 2LX

Thursday 2 December at 7.30pm

Social (Romsey)

RGS-IBG Members' Evening

Share your experiences: 10 minute presentation with a maximum of 12 slides on a specialist subject or travel account. Either traditional or digital slides are acceptable. Non-speakers are very welcome. Venue: King John's House, Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT. Tickets: £6 including refreshments (please apply by 25 November and state proposed topic). Contact: Paul Newby, 9 Merrytree Close, West Wellow, Romsey, SO51 6RB

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South West

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's South West Regional Committee. Local RGS-IBG contact: Chris Brightman, 61 Exeter Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon EX3 0LX. **T** 01392 877630. For ticketed events, please enclose a s.a.e. and make cheques payable to RGS-IBG South West region. **W** www.rgs.org/southwest

Saturday 18 September at 10.00am

Field Day (Torbay)

An introduction to the English Riviera Geopark

Leader: Pat Wilson

The day will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the UNESCO endorsed concept of a 'global geopark' by exploring two contrasting 'gateway sites' in the English Riviera Geopark around Torbay. Tickets and further details: £12 (including boat hire and entrance fees). Cheques (payable to 'RGS-IBG SW Region') with s.a.e. from Pat Wilson, 9, Andrea Court, Yannon Drive, Teignmouth TQ14 9GX **T** 01626 772506 by 8 September. Attendance limited to 20 adults ONLY. Wear boots/strong shoes as there are steep, slippery cliff tracks, bring a packed lunch, drive between sites.

Tuesday 28 September at 7.00pm

Lecture (Wellington)

Adventures with the British Schools

Exploring Society (BSES)

Tori James

Tori works for BSES, two of her achievements include being in the first female team to the Magnetic North Pole and the youngest British female to reach the summit of Mt Everest. Venue: Wellington School, Alan Rogers Building, South Street, Wellington TA21 8NT. Joint organisers: Helen Sail of the GA and Chris Brightman.

Friday 8 October at 9.30am

Conference (Exeter)

Achieving success in Geography

A one-day conference for A2 students and their teachers at Exeter School

A 'not to be missed' essential part of A Level preparation based on the format of the successful RGS-IBG London based annual A Level conferences. There will be advice on A2 examination techniques, UCAS applications and the opportunity to meet RGS-IBG Geography Ambassadors.

Venue: Exeter School, Victoria Park Road, Exeter EX2 4NS. Organisers: Pat Wilson (RGS-IBG) with Helen Sail (GA/Exeter School) supported by Devon Learning and Development Partnership. Tickets: (incl sandwich lunch): £7.50 (£5 if RGS-IBG School member) per student. One free teacher place for every five students, otherwise £10 (£7.50 if individual RGS-IBG Fellow or Member) per teacher. Further details and application forms from Pat Wilson. **E** pat_wilson_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 12 October at 7.00pm

Lecture (Tavistock)

Expedition Medicine: Desert and Jungle

Expedition medic James Moore explores some of the issues he has faced when working on location, from the extreme heat of the Nubian Desert through to the humidity of the jungles of Borneo and Brazil. Venue: Kelly College, PL19 0HZ, one mile north of Tavistock, west of A386. Meal afterwards at *Peter Tavy Inn*, book with Derry Corey. **T** 01752 703354 Organisers: Steve Martin and Derry Corey

Wednesday 13 October at 7.45pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Taunton)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. Venue: The Brewhouse Theatre, Coal Orchard, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1JL. Tickets: RGS-IBG members and one guest £11 (quote membership number) **T** 01823 283244

Tuesday 16 November at 7.00pm

Lecture (Tiverton)

Zaire, Expeditions and Ebola

Adrian Ferraro

Hear the trials and tribulations of five weeks in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) as part of a six month Trans-Africa expedition. Venue: The Ondaatje Hall, Blundell's School, Halberton Road, Tiverton EX16 4DN. Meal after talk at Tiverton Hotel EX16 4DB, book with Alison Nelson **T** 01884 855276 Organisers: Guy Bucknell and Peter Offord **T** 01884 855511

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West of England & South Wales

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's West of England and South Wales Regional Committee. Regional Committee Chair: Dr Kathryn Monk. **E** west_swales_chair@btinternet.com. For tickets and event details please see details below. **W** www.rgs.org/westandsouthwales

Saturday 11 September at 10.00am

Field Visit to Port Eynon, Gower

Dr Simon Jones

To explore the climatological history of the region, the social history of this popular tourist spot, and the current (and controversial) geomorphological processes. Tickets and further details: Dr Simon Jones, Dept of Geography, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd CF37 1DL **T** 01443 654490

Saturday 18 September at 2.30pm

Tour (London)

Behind the Scenes Tour of Lowther Lodge

Tour of the house, viewing a selection of the RGS-IBG's historic artifacts and visiting the Foyle Reading Room. Max 20 people, so please book early. Tickets from Chris Parnell **T** 01793 790496. The Society is opening its doors as part of the Open House celebration where hundreds of great buildings of all types and periods open up their doors to all, completely for free. Further information **W** <http://open-city.org.uk/activities/london/index.html>

Please see our Courses and Conferences section on page 17 for further details on **Land Rover Driver Training** on **Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 September** at Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury.

Tuesday 28 September

A date for your diaries as the *Britain from the Air* exhibition launches formally in Bath. As part of the launch the Society's President, Michael Palin, will be giving a talk in Bath Abbey. Further details and ticketing arrangements will be available in early September on **W** www.rgs.org/whatson

Wednesday 6 October at 7.45pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Brecon)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. **Venue:** Theatr Brycheiniog, Canal Wharf, Brecon, LD3 7EW. **Tickets:** RGS-IBG members and one guest £8.50 (quote membership number) **T** 01874 611622

Thursday 7 October 7.00pm

Lecture

An holistic paradigm for volcanic risk assessment: Volcán de Colima, Mexico

Mr. Owen Landeg BSc MSc FGS

Having investigated the threat posed by Volcán de Colima to its indigenous population, Owen introduces the concept of modern volcanic risk assessments underpinned by both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. **Tickets and further details:** Dr Simon Jones, Dept of Geography, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd CF37 1DL **T** 01443 654490

Wednesday 13 October at 5.15pm

Lectures and discussion (Bath)

Wind, Waves, Waste or Whatever

Hear experts in energy generation from wind, wave and tidal, waste, solar and nuclear argue their case; there will then be opportunity for the audience to debate with the panel. **Part of the Joint RGS-IBG / University GULP lecture series.** Admission free. **Venue:** Bath University Lecture Theatre 8 West 1.1, Claverton Campus, BA2 7AY **Further details:** Brigadier John Hemsley **T** 01761 221675

Tuesday 16 November at 7.00pm

Lecture (Bristol)

Mary Kingsley: A remarkable Victorian explorer and an account of the re-enactment of her 1895 climb up Mount Cameroon

Jacki Hill-Murphy, expedition film maker

When Jacki and her party climbed Mt Cameroon they found out a great deal more about Mary Kingsley as a female explorer, than they had expected. **Venue:** The Peel lecture theatre in the School of Geographical Science at The University of Bristol BS8 1SS. **Further details:** Jacki Hill-Murphy **T** 07748 904699

Please see our Courses and Conferences section on page 18 for further details on **Land Rover Driver Training on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 November** at Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury.

Yorkshire and North East

Unless stated otherwise, events in this region are organised by the Society's Yorkshire and North East Regional Committee. Local RGS-IBG contact: Sam Watson **T** 01653 648227 Ext. 35 **E** watsonsam@talk21.com Please check the website for details of other forthcoming events. **W** www.rgs.org/yorkshirenortheast

Tuesday 28 September at 8.00pm

Regional Theatres Programme (Darlington)

Bug World

George McGavin

Insects are the most diverse and successful animals on Earth – join George McGavin (of the BBC's *Lost Lands* series) in a creepy-crawly voyage of discovery to some of the richest habitats on the planet. **Venue:** Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington, DL3 7AX. **Tickets:** RGS-IBG members and one guest £8.50 (quote membership number) **T** 01325 486555

Saturday 2 October

Field Day (near Barnsley)

From Coal to Conservation

A day event at the RSPB Old Moor Reserve to experience the change from a once thriving coal mining community to an area which offers a unique biodiversity. The Dearne Valley is one of the RSPB's prime visitor sites. **Cost** £7.50 per person. **Further details** **E** watsonsam@talk21.com

Saturday 23 October

Workshop (York)

Bush Mechanics Workshop

An opportunity for owners and users of Land Rover vehicles who intend to take their cars into remote areas on fieldwork or expedition to get to grips with essential field maintenance plus fault diagnosis and repair with minimal tools. **Cost** £250 per person including lunch. Accommodation is available, please enquire. Places limited, so book fast! This course is being provided by York Land Rover Services. **Further details** **E** watsonsam@talk21.com

Tuesday 23 November at 7.30pm

Lecture (Huddersfield)

The changing landscape and flora of Greece

Margaret Atherden

Talks of the landscape and especially the vegetation of Greece and how it has changed over the many years she has been studying it. Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax GA. **Venue:** University of Huddersfield. **Further details** **E** watsonsam@talk21.com

Non-Society events

The following events are not organised by the Society but are held on our premises (1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR). **For further information and tickets please contact the organisers listed directly.**

Monday 6 - Friday 10 September 10am - 5pm daily

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Exhibition

Protector of the Giants

Photographic exhibit of the planet's largest living land mammal, the elephant. Featuring a stunning selection of pictures of elephants of all ages, wild and orphaned. **Free entry.** **W** www.forellies.org **E** infouk@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org **T** 01372 844608

Tuesday 7 September at 7.30pm

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Lecture

Protector of the Giants Keynote Speech

Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE Internationally respected conservationist, Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE will talk about her lifetime's work protecting the elephant and other animals. **FR** The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. **Tickets:** £21 **W** www.forellies.org **T** 01372 844608

Wednesday 8 September at 7.30pm

Lecture

Makalu (8463m) – the unclimbed ridge

Squadron Leader Colin Scott MBE

An illustrated presentation on the 2010 British Services expedition to the South East Ridge of Makalu (8463m).

FR in aid of SOS Children's Villages. Tickets: £10**W** www.makalu2010.co.uk **E** colin.scott@caa.co.uk**T** 020 7453 6583**Monday 13 September at 7.00pm**

BookPower Lecture and book signing

Last Travels with a Tangerine

Tim Mackintosh-Smith

Tim passionately pursues the medieval Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta to remote tropical islands, torrid Indian Ocean ports and dusty towns on the shores of the Saharan sand-sea.

FR BookPower Tickets: £20**T** 020 7843 1938 **W** www.BookPower.org**E** info@Bookpower.org**Wednesday 15 September at 6.00 for 7.00pm****Galapagos: Where Next?**

Stanley Johnson, HE the Ambassador of Ecuador

Mrs Ana Alban Mora, Dr Sarah Darwin

and Dr J Gabriel Lopez

Each speaker will talk about their experiences of Galapagos, from different perspectives, and discuss the future of the islands. This event is in celebration of GCT's 15th Birthday. **FR** Galapagos Conservation Trust. Tickets: £30 lecture & reception. **T** 020 7629 5049**W** www.savegalapagos.org **E** abigail@gct.org**Thursday 16 September at 7.00pm**

Lecture and reception

War that changed the British Empire

Raymond Heron, specialist Boer War lecturer

and raconteur from South Africa

A fascinating lecture on the complex strains enmeshing the British Empire in war with the Boers and how this then transformed future directions for South Africa, Britain and the Empire. **FR** Volunteer Stretcher-Bearer Memorial Trust. Tickets: £16. **T** 020 7221 4359**W** www.spionkop.co.za **E** spionkop@futurenet.co.za**Friday 17 September from 9.30pm - 1.30am****Maggie's 2010 London Night Hike**

A through-the-night hike of 20 miles, taking in new buildings and old, including an opportunity to visit the Society's public rooms and enjoy a cup of tea, a biscuit and a rest, whilst raising funds for new Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres.

FR Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres**W** www.maggiescentres.org/nighthike**Saturday 18 September from 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Architectural festival

Open House LondonThe Society will reopen the doors to the general public on Saturday as part of the capital's biggest celebration of excellence in architecture. 'Show and Tell' from the Collections in the Foyle Reading Room at 10.00am, 12.30pm and 3.00pm; maximum 25 visitors per tour. **W** www.openhouse.org.uk**Tuesday 21 September at 6.00pm**

World Architecture News event

Icons of Architecture

Hosted by Peter Murray

In 'an-audience-with' format, WAN's Icons of Architecture brings you the second in the series, welcoming (speaker to be confirmed) hosted by Peter Murray, Chairman of New London Architecture. Further information coming soon on **W** www.worldarchitecturenews.com**Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 September**

Conference, workshops, networking

Littoral2010**– Adapting to Global Change at the Coast**

Keynotes and speakers from UK,

Europe and worldwide

Littoral2010 - a pivotal moment in coastal and maritime research. Supporting the EC's Integrated Maritime Strategy. Conference themes spanning environment, economy and society. Further details (including cost): **W** www.coastnet.org.uk/littoral2010 **T** 01206 728644 **E** admin@coastnet.org.uk**Wednesday 22 September at 7.00pm**

Venice in Peril Lecture

Unfamiliar aspects of Titian

Sir Timothy Clifford

The former Director of the National Galleries of Scotland has a reputation for being flamboyant and at times controversial. This promises to be an entertaining and enlightening evening.

FR Venice in Peril Tickets: £20. **T** 020 7736 6891**W** www.veniceinperil.org **E** info@veniceinperil.org**Tuesday 28 September at 6.30pm**

Awards presentation

Wanderlust World Guide Awards 2010

Hosted by Lyn Hughes and Bill Bryson

The winners of the annual *Wanderlust World Guide Awards*, the world's only independent award celebrating the work of tour guides, will be announced.Invited guests only. **W** www.wanderlust.co.uk**E** topguide@wanderlust.co.uk **T** 01753 620426**Wednesday 29 September at 2.00pm**

Copyright Licensing Agency Annual Open Meeting

How Intellectual Property will save the British Economy

Key panellists: Benjamin Mitra Kahn, UK Intellectual Property Office and Sara Draper, Head of Knowledge Economy, CBI.

Importance of creative industries to the UK economy. How government can help creators. Followed by networking and drinks reception. **RGS-IBG members must RSVP to attend.****W** www.cla.co.uk/about/events **E** rsvp@cla.co.uk**Wednesday 29 September at 7.00pm**

Abercrombie & Kent and Duncan Laurie Lecture

Relive the drama of the Anglo Zulu battles

Rob Caskie

The Anglo Zulu battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. A remarkable tale of epic human struggle and triumph, as told by historical orator, Rob Caskie.

FR David Rattray Foundation and Breast Cancer Haven. Tickets: £30. **T** 020 7978 4534.**W** www.abercrombiekent.co.uk/anglozulu

Thursday 30 September

Stanfords Travel Lecture

See website for further details. Tickets: £10

W www.stanfords.co.uk/events

E sales@stanfords.co.uk **T** 020 7836 1321

Thursday 7 October at 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Reception and lecture

National Trust for Scotland Annual Lecture 2010

The Marquis of Lothian – 'Michael Ancram'

The stewardship imperative in the 21st century.

FR National Trust for Scotland Tickets: £35 reception and lecture; £20 lecture only. **W** www.nts.org.uk

E camitchell@nts.org.uk **Carol Mitchell** **T** 01799 584167

Friday 8 October at 7.00pm

The Durrell Lecture

Mark Carwardine, Lee Durrell and Andrew Terry

Mark Carwardine will talk about his trip to Madagascar in the BBC series *Last Chance to See* encountering Durrell supported species the aye aye. Also speaking will be Lee Durrell and the Durrell Field Programmes team. **FR** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

£10 suggested min. donation for non-members.

W www.durrell.org/Visit-Durrell-In-Jersey/Durrell-Events

E Natalie.ranise@durrell.org **T** 01534 860013

Tuesday 12 October at 7.30pm

Trailfinders Charity Quiz

Trailfinders 40th Birthday

– Test The Travel Experts

Good natured contest, hosted by presenter Mary Nightingale with foremost travel journalists Simon Calder, Frank Barrett & Nick Trend vs Trailfinders Staff. Questions by Wanderlust. **FR** £13,000 prize money to charity. Audience prize draw worth £2,000. Tickets £10 (£5 for RGS-IBG members). Information:

W www.trailfinders.com/travelquiz

Booking (RGS-IBG Events Office): **T** 020 7591 3100

W www.rgs.org/whatson

Thursday 14 October at from 9.00am - 4.00pm

Forum, debate, networking

TEP Annual Forum:

Changing Times – Changing Tides

Brian McDonald, *Natural England*, Sue Wells, *Balanced Seas*, and other speakers
The election of a new Government in 2010 and current European and Government legislation, such as the *Marine and Coastal Access Act* and the *Water Framework Directive* will have an impact that concerns us all. Tickets: £53 / £73. **W** www.thamesweb.com

E tep@thamesweb.com **T** 020 7679 0540

Thursday 14 October at 7.00pm

Earthwatch Debate

Battle for the planet: Citizen Scientists speak up

Andrea Catherwood, Judy Ling Wong CBE,

Dr George McGavin, Tony Juniper

Finalists from Earthwatch's *Citizen Scientist*

Competition will argue that their originally conceived volunteer-based research project would help to solve a critical environmental issue. Price: free.

W www.earthwatch.org/europe/debate

E events@earthwatch.org.uk **T** 01865 318856

Wednesday 20 October at 7.00pm and 8.30pm

Lecture and reception

Rock, ice, and eggs – the science of Scott's final and tragic expedition

Andy Clarke and Meredith Hooper

Andy Clarke, retired scientist of British Antarctic Survey and Meredith Hooper, author, will talk about the influence of Scott's expedition on the science of Antarctica.

FR Fuch's Foundation. Tickets: £35 lecture & reception; £15 lecture only. **W** www.fuchsfoundation.org

E peter@fuchsfoundation.org

Thursday 21 October at 7.00pm

Homes in Zimbabwe Annual Lecture

The Past is Another Country

Lauren St. John and Brian Chikwava

Lauren St. John, author of the acclaimed Zimbabwean memoir *Rainbow's End*, and Brian Chikwava, author of *Harare North*, his award-winning novel about the Zimbabwean diaspora, talk about their conflicted relationships with their home country and why Africa exerts such a powerful hold over writers. **FR** Homes in Zimbabwe. Tickets: £15. **W** www.hiz.org.uk

T 0161 236 4177 **E** info@hiz.org.uk

Friday 22 October at 4.40pm

Lecture

The Powerful Art of Underwater Photography

David Doubilet

A unique chance to hear from this legendary photographer, who has been documenting the changing underwater world since his first assignment with National Geographic in 1971. Tickets: £9 (£7 for RGS-IBG members).

E wildphotos@wildscreen.org.uk **T** 0117 328 5975

Friday 22 and Saturday 23 October

Nature Photography Symposium

Wildphotos 2010

Speakers include Chris Packham and Wildlife Photographer of the Year winners

A two-day event bringing together many of the world's best wildlife and landscape photographers to offer insights, tips and visions. A must for everyone with an interest in nature imagery. Single day £110 / £90 concessions; both days £180 / £140 concessions.

W www.wildphotos.org.uk **T** 0117 328 5975

Tuesday 26 October at 7.00pm

World Monuments Fund Lecture

The Great House in the Twenty-First Century

Sir Simon Jenkins

Sir Simon, as Chairman of the National Trust, explores the circumstances, values and opportunities of great houses in the twenty-first century. Sponsored by Symm.co.uk. **FR** World Monuments Fund Britain. Tickets: £10 WMF Britain members; £15 non-members.

W www.wmf.org.uk **T** 020 7730 5344

Wednesday 27 October at 7.00pm

Illustrated lecture, book launch and signing

The Lebanon

Max Milligan

Max will show pictures from his fourth book and talk about the two years that he spent touring Lebanon. From vineyards and religious festivals to the ancient ruins and revelry of Beirut nightlife. **FR** MAG – the Mines Advisory Group. Tickets £12. Details on **W** www.maxmilligan.com from 27 August

Friday 29 October at 7.00pm

Stanfords Travel Lecture

Human Planet

Dale Templar and Timothy Allen

Awe-inspiring and breath-taking, *Human Planet* is published to accompany the first BBC natural history series to turn the camera on ourselves, the human species. **Tickets: £10. W** www.stanfords.co.uk/events
E sales@stanfords.co.uk **T** 020 7836 1321

Tuesday 2 November at 7.00pm

The Spiti Projects Lecture and Exhibition

Buddhist Architecture of the Himalayas, China and India

Dan Cruickshank

Dan Cruickshank, Architect, Historian & TV Presenter, gives his personal insight and extensive knowledge of the architecture and culture of these Buddhist regions. **FR** *The Spiti Projects in association with Adventure Ashram*. Sponsored by Globalenduro. **Tickets: £15; gala dinner on request. W** www.spiti.org **T** 020 8901 7437

Thursday 4 November at 7.00pm

Mount Everest Foundation Annual Lecture

Annapurna 1970

Sir Chris Bonington and Colonel Henry Day

An account of the simultaneous first ascent of the South face and second ascent of the North face by British expeditions of Annapurna 1, the world's 10th highest peak. **FR** *Mount Everest Foundation*. **Tickets: £15 (£10 students). E** mef@scott.cx
W www.mef.org.uk **T** 020 7722 3687

Thursday 4 November at 6.30pm

(Kensington Gore)

Bushmeat, bullets and bananas – on the Cameroon frontline with Great Apes

Rachel Hogan

The face of Ape Action Africa, makes a rare appearance in Britain to talk about her heart-wrenching job working with critically endangered gorillas in Cameroon. **FR** *Ape Action Africa*. **Tickets £30. W** www.apeactionafrica.org

Tuesday 9 November at 6.30pm

Lecture and sale of merchandise

Thin on the Ground. Land Resource Survey in Malawi and the Commonwealth

Professor Anthony Young

The speaker's publications on environment, resources, and development problems of Malawi extend over more than 40 years. His work has been recognised by the RGS-IBG with its Cuthbert Heath Award. **FR** *Nyika National Park / Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve*. **Tickets: £18. W** www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org **T** 01752 892632

Wednesday 10 November at 7.00pm**Ethiopia – A Journey to the Lost Kingdom A celebration of Ethiopian Culture**

Jonathan Dimbleby and Gus Casey-Hayford

Jonathan Dimbleby (*An African Journey*) and Gus Casely-Hayford (*Lost Kingdom's of Africa*) discuss the ancient, modern and often misunderstood Ethiopia. With a RGS-IBG Collections display, films and coffee ceremony. To be followed by a reception at the nearby Ethiopian Embassy. **Tickets: Debate alone £10 (includes drink – doors open at 6.00pm) Debate and Embassy reception £20. Cash bar also available after the talk. Booking (RGS-IBG Events Office): T** 020 7591 3100
W www.rgs.org/whatson

Thursday 11 November at 7.00pm**Transglobe Expedition Trust Event – Walks on the Wild Side**

Michael Palin, Ran Fiennes, Ed Stafford, Ben Thackwray, Rachel Leger. Hosted by Paul Heiney
 Palin speaks on *Walking With Camels*, Stafford on *Walking the Amazon* and Thackwray on *Crossing Greenland*. Also, *Blue Peter* producer Alex Leger + Fiennes & Co with old footage of *Transglobe Expedition*. **FR** *Transglobe Expedition Trust (TET)*. **Tickets: £25 W** www.transglobe-expedition.org **T** 01728 604434

Tuesday 16 November at 7.00pm**The Spectator Debate**

Details to be confirmed on *The Spectator's* website. **W** www.spectator.co.uk **T** 020 7961 0044

Wednesday 17 November 10.00am - 9.30pm**Community Action Nepal & Promise Nepal present First on Everest**

The greatest ever assembly of Everest pioneers will gather to celebrate significant events on the world's highest mountain, its geology and sacred landscape. They include Band, Habeler, Hornbein, Loretan, Messner and many others. Introductions by Michael Palin. Interviews by Rebecca Stephens. **FR** **Tickets from £15 (school children £5). E** Maggie@shopwyke.co.uk **T** 01243 771177
W www.canepal.org.uk

Thursday 18 November at 6.45pm

Tusk Conservation Lecture and Reception

The future for conservation in Africa?

Kate Silverton, Jackson Looseyia, Tom Lalampa and Tony Fitzjohn OBE
 BBC's Kate Silverton celebrates Tusk's 20th anniversary with 3 great conservationists with a talk on the benefits and challenges of African wildlife conservation, education and community development. **FR** *Tusk Trust*. **Tickets: £15 talk only / £25 (incl. Reception) W** www.tusk.org **E** bob@tusk.org **T** 01747 831005

Wednesday 24 November at 6.30pm for 7.15pm

Exodus Lecture and reception

Something Wild 2010

Chris Packham and Paul Goldstein

Good friends and outstanding wildlife photographers for years, Paul and Chris will present a dazzling look at their wildlife calendar from 2010. This event will be forthright and inspiring. **FR** **profits to Exodus projects via Friends of Conservation. **Tickets: £25 includes drink and canapés. T** 0845 8639631
W www.exodus.co.uk/somethingwild**

Thursday 25 November at 7.00pm

Porters Progress UK Lecture

Adventures in survival and modern fatherhood

Will Gadd

The world renowned Canadian multi-sport mountain athlete – whose legendary exploits have included setting some of the hardest mixed ice climbing routes in the world – shares the angst of the 21st century climber. **FR** *Porters Progress UK*. **Tickets: £10. W** www.portersprogress.org **T** 020 8545 9030

Saturday 27 November at 7.00pm

The Berghaus Adventure Series

An Evening with Leo Houlding and Mick Fowler

Leo Houlding and Mick Fowler

Leo and Mick, world renowned climbers will each lecture on their recent expeditions to the greater ranges.

Tickets: £18. **W** www.heason.net **E** matt@heason.net

Thursday 2 December at 7.00pm

Lecture

The First Afghan War: Lessons for Today

General Sir David Richards and Jules Stewart

Presentation by General Richards, Chief of the General Staff, on Afghanistan today and the future outlook. Stewart will speak on the First Afghan War.

FR Afghan Appeal Fund. Tickets: £10.

W www.julesstewart.com **T** 020 7229 4774

Thursday 9 December at 7.00pm

World Monuments Fund Britain Lecture

Sponsored by SYMM

Further details to be advised on website.

FR World Monuments Fund Britain. Tickets: £10 WMF members / £15 non-members. **T** 020 7730 5344

W www.wmf.org.uk/activities

Tuesday 14 December at 6.45pm for 7.15pm

Friends of Conservation Lecture

Lions: The Truth

– One Species' Struggle for Survival

Jonathan Scott

Celebrated wildlife presenter, Jonathan Scott, talks about the challenges facing this increasingly vulnerable Big Cat, featured in his upcoming TV Series. With award-winning photography by Jonathan and Angela Scott.

FR Projects in Kenya's Masai Mara. Tickets: £18 talk and reception / £15 talk only. **T** 020 7348 3408

W www.foc-uk.com **E** focevents@aol.com

Wednesday 15 December at 7.00pm

Stanfords Travel Lecture

See website for further details. Tickets: £10

W www.stanfords.co.uk/events

E sales@stanfords.co.uk **T** 020 7836 1321

Thursday 16 December at 7.00pm

ICZN Fundraising Lecture

What's in a name?

Attenborough & Fortey on animals

Sir David Attenborough and Professor Richard Fortey

With his delight and enthusiasm for biodiversity, Sir David shares some of his favourite encounters with animals. Prof. Fortey explains why scientific names are more than just labels, with stories of trilobites and field adventures.

FR ICZN / ITZN. See website for ticket information.

W www.iczn.org **T** 020 7942 5653

Travel events

In addition to our Discovering Places series, the Society is continuing to develop its travel events and reach wider audiences. The Hidden... series will be returning in the autumn. Please visit

W www.rgs.org/travel for the latest information on all our travel events. In addition, why not visit the Members Only pages of the website to take advantage of our country-based travel resources, linked to our travel events, and which are intended to support informed travel planning,

W www.rgs.org/members

RGS-IBG members

Booking form autumn 2010

Non-Society event bookings

Refer to the organiser's contact details as listed

Book online

Visit our website for online booking

W www.rgs.org/whatson

Book by post

Fill in the booking form overleaf and return to

Events Office

RGS-IBG

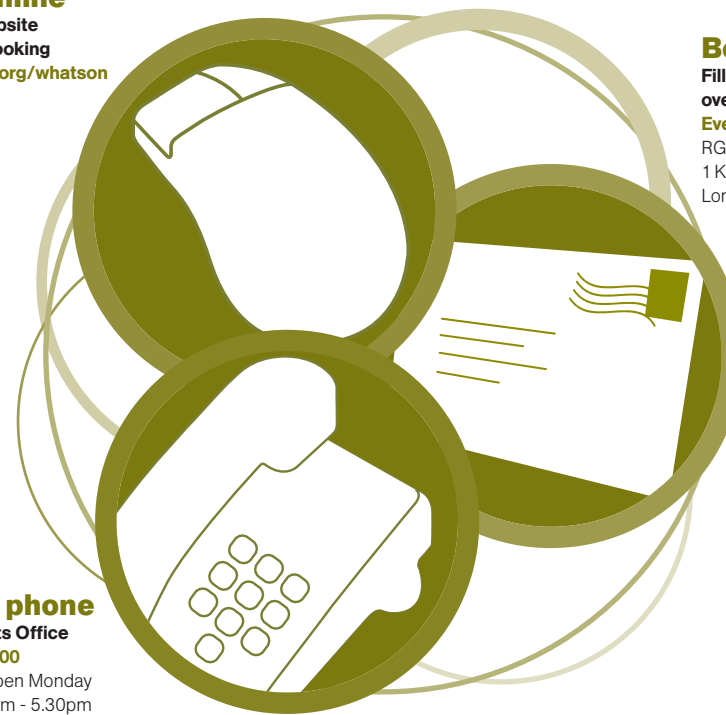
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR

Book by phone

Call the Events Office

T 020 7591 3100

The office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm



RGS-IBG members' booking form Autumn 2010

Please indicate the **quantity** and **costs** of the tickets you wish to purchase. Tickets are non-refundable.

Date	Event	No.	Cost	Total
13 Oct	21st Century Challenges			
	Plastic pollution in our oceans Member		£7	.....
	Non-member		£10	.....
14 Oct	EGR Taylor supper			
	Please list any dietary requirements		£25	.....
27 Oct	Discovering West Bengal & Sikkim			
	Member		£10	.....
	Non-member		£15	.....
23 Nov	Discovering People			
	Hugh Dennis Member		£7	.....
	Non-member		£10	.....
26 Nov	Ceilidh			
	Max. 4 tickets per booking Member		£35	.....
	Non-member		£40	.....
1 Dec	21st Century Challenges			
	Can the UK ever be sustainable? Member		£7	.....
	Non-member		£10	.....
11 Dec	Children's Lecture			
	Max. 5 tickets per RGS-IBG member		Free	.....
15 Dec	Younger Members' Quiz			
	Max. 5 tickets per booking Member		£8	.....
	Non-member		£10	.....
16 Dec	Christmas Carols			
	.....		£7.50	.....
	Total .....			.....

Monday Evening Suppers

For Monday suppers please book by midday on the preceding Friday. Please check the status of the lecture as bookings can not be taken for guests when the lecture is for members only. We regret we cannot take bookings on the day or evening of the supper. To cancel a booking at no charge please inform us by midday on the preceding Friday otherwise a charge will need to be made.

Date	Status	No.	Cost	Total
.....	£25 each	.....
.....	£25 each	.....
.....	£25 each	.....
.....	£25 each	.....
.....	£25 each	.....
.....	Total	.....

Please list any dietary requirements and whether you would like fruit salad or pudding for dessert

Please complete the address details below

RGS-IBG Membership No. _____
 Name _____
 Address _____

 Postcode _____
 Daytime Tel Number _____
 Email address _____

Please complete the payment details below

Please note tickets are non-refundable

Payment

- I enclose a cheque (payable to RGS-IBG)
 Please debit my VISA/MASTERCARD/ MAESTRO (not AMEX)

Card No _____
 Valid from date _____ Expiry date _____ Issue No. _____
 Security code 3 digits on reverse _____

The information you have given on this form will be held by the Royal Geographical Society with IBG on a computer file in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998 and will be used for administrative purposes only in relation to events held at the Society. We will not disclose your details to any third parties.

Please return form to Events Office, RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR
T +44 (0)20 7591 3100 **F** +44 (0) 0207 591 3001

News Society



The proposed Members' Room © Silvio Dornani



Appeal success

Thanks to outstanding support from Fellows and members we have reached the President's Appeal target of £860,000 in less than one year from its launch. We thank all who have kindly donated money or 'experiences', and in particular those who supported the fundraising events and auction in Hong Kong, led by our Hong Kong branch, which raised an impressive £310,000 for the Members' Room. Appreciation too must go to the donor who pledged the final £20,000 at the AGM itself. Meanwhile, a large grant from Viridor Credits kindly completed the funding required for the North Face repairs with work due to start this autumn. If any Fellows and members would still like to give, please do send your donations and we will put these towards the much-needed repair of the entrance courtyard below the North Face.

W www.rgs.org/supportus

To book **Foyle Reading Room** courses and showcases see page 19

Elections to the Council

The following people were elected to the Society's Council at the AGM: Benedict Allen as Ordinary Councillor, Expeditions and Fieldwork; Professor Michael Bradshaw as Vice-President for Research and Higher Education; Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop as Ordinary Councillor for Education; Professor Stephen Daniels as Chair of the Annual Conference 2011; and Professor Tony Parsons as Ordinary Councillor for Research and Higher Education.

Calling all corporates

The Society is seeking to develop 'Corporate Friend' partnerships with up to five businesses that have a keen interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) relating to education, environment, society and GIS and who welcome opportunities for employee involvement. We wish to secure partners, initially for three years at between £20,000 and £25,000 each per



year, in support of our highly successful *Ambassadors programme* (pictured above) and the stimulating *21st Century Challenges* discussion series.

E.j.wells@rgs.org

Geography News

Highly satisfied geography graduates

Geography graduates are among the most satisfied with their education across the country according to the latest National Student Survey results. Some 88% of students were satisfied with their geography studies placing the subject amongst the top results.

"Satisfaction with geography is reflected in the majority of responses from students – from the enthusiasm of staff to how intellectually stimulating the courses are," Director Dr Rita Gardner said.

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to:

- The six newly-elected MPs who have backgrounds in geography, some of whom we are pleased to note are Fellows of the Society.
- Fellow Professor Paul Curran on his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of City University.

EUGEO 2011

The Society will host the European Geography Society's (EUGEO) Biennial Congress on 29-31 August 2011, just before its own conference. EUGEO provides a forum for academic and professional geographers to present and debate research on Europe and key policy issues.

Making the case for geography

With public spending cuts announced – and undoubtedly more to follow – in both universities and schools, the Society is actively advocating for geography and its practitioners. We continue to gather evidence and data in support of the essential role that geography plays in the curriculum, in educating the decision makers of tomorrow, and in research that contributes to the environment, society and the economy.

E.policy@rgs.org

Members and public engagement Events



21st Century Challenges

The thought-provoking discussion series continues this autumn with two events on the theme of sustainability. In October our panel will examine the growing problem of plastic pollution in the world's oceans, while December's event will explore whether the UK can ever be sustainable. David de Rothschild, who recently sailed the Pacific Ocean onboard *The Plastiki*, and Chairman of Marks & Spencer, Sir Stuart Rose, are among our speakers. Watch previous events and interviews online including former London mayor Ken Livingstone.

W www.21stcenturychallenges.org

Monday Night Lectures

The autumn season commences with *Mapping the Globe: from the Greeks to Google Earth* as Jeremy Brotton explores how different cultures and technologies have tackled the challenge of mapping our globe. In December, Rory Stewart MP will be reflecting on the way in which travelling and travel writing can inform foreign policy. Other highlights examine the impact of volcanic disasters and the future of land resources in Britain (p.11).

Regional Committees

Our volunteer Regional Committees continue to put on an entertaining programme of events. Highlights this term include lectures on an Antarctic expedition to Brabant Island (p.24), Thomas Hardy and the Wessex & Dorset locations in his novels (p.24), a wildlife photographer's journey along the frozen Zaskar Gorge, Ladakh (p.23) as well as expedition medicine (p.26).



Dr George McGavin © BBC

Regional Theatres Programme

Author, lecturer, television presenter and explorer – entomologist Dr George McGavin is taking the Society's popular London lectures on the road this autumn to seven regional theatres. *Bug World* will be putting the most successful animals on earth – insects – under the microscope for all to see. From the tropical forests of Papua New Guinea to the savannahs of Tanzania, Dr McGavin has appeared on television screens across the world with popular programmes including the BBC's *The Lost Land of the Tiger*. **W** www.rgs.org/regions

Meet the President

Society President, Michael Palin, is looking forward to meeting Fellows and members in the Midlands this autumn, followed by the South West region in the spring and West of England and South Wales regions in the summer. The Midlands event will be on 20 October at the University of Leicester (p.23).

Discovering...

Join us to discover West Bengal and Sikkim (p.14) with travel writer Joe Bindloss on 27 October. Meanwhile, travel journalist Simon Calder will be in conversation with the comedian, actor and geography graduate, Hugh Dennis (p.15) on 23 November.

Education Encouragement

The winner of the 2010 Young Geographer of the Year, Joe Benson, with Paul Rose



Young Geographer of the Year 2010

Sorting the wood from the trees: the future of forests, is the theme to inspire young geographers. Completed as part of a school project, entries can take the form of a written report, short film, photographic essay, annotated map, audio file, or a mix of all of the above. Deadline for entries is 25 October 2010.

W www.rgs.org/YG-of-the-year

From Pole to Pole

We are delighted that the website **W** www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk developed by the Society in partnership with British Antarctic Survey, has received additional funding from the British Antarctic Territories/FCO to support the project into 2012. In addition, its sister website **W** www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk recently gained a Silver Award from the Geographical Association.

Back to school

As classes resume this autumn, secondary schools can bring our expertise and resources into the classroom with our School Membership for only £80pa. Alternatively, our Young Geographer membership (from £40) is an ideal way to get young people involved in the subject and the Society. Both subscriptions can be given as gifts. **W** www.rgs.org/JoinUs

Fieldwork and expeditions Support

Explore: Expedition and planning weekend

The highlight of the autumn term for Geography Outdoors is the *Explore* weekend, 12-14 November. The conference provides essential training, information, support and encouragement for anyone planning expeditions and fieldwork. *Explore's* speakers are experts in their field (p.15 and p.18). **W** www.rgs.org/explore

Training

The autumn term sees a full complement of *Geography Outdoors* courses spanning Land Rover Driver Training, Off-Site Safety Management and training for Educational Visits Coordinators. A new course, run jointly with Map Action, provides training on the use of open source software for rapid data collection and analysis in the case of humanitarian emergencies (p.18). **W** www.rgs.org/GOseminars

Learning & Leading

Deadlines are approaching for our scholarships that provide opportunities and motivation for self development among young people through fieldwork:

Gap Scholarships

Funding and support for final year A level students to take a geographically-themed overseas gap year. Deadline: 24 September 2010.

Teacher fieldwork master-class weekend, London 5-7 November 2010

Funded courses to support teachers to develop their school's fieldwork provision. Deadline: 8 October 2010.

Fieldwork Apprenticeships

Bursaries for first-year geography undergraduates to take part in a summer overseas field project. Deadline: 28 January 2011. **W** www.rgs.org/learning&leading

Field projects

Enhancing understanding

This summer saw more than 80 projects supported by the Society set off to undertake geographical research in the UK and in far-flung locations. From undergraduate students carrying out their first overseas scientific expeditions to senior researchers undertaking studies of some of the most pressing global issues, all these projects share the Society's conviction of the importance and value of understanding our world.

W www.rgs.org/grantrecipients

Teaching grants

The *Innovative Geography Teaching* grant offers five awards of up to £800 each to support teaching in secondary schools. The Society also supports higher education lecturers and secondary school teachers to develop innovative teaching and learning to share across the discipline through the Ray Y Gildea Jr Award. The deadline for both is 15 October. **W** www.rgs.org/grants

Independent travel grants

Do you or someone you know have a great idea for a geographically interesting journey that you would like to make a reality? The Society is now accepting applications for three special travel awards: Journey of a Lifetime Award (see p.5), for budding radio journalists interested in undertaking an inspiring journey; the Neville Shulman Challenge Award for those wanting to push themselves through physical or mental challenges; and the Land Rover *Go Beyond* Bursary, for a team who would like to 'go beyond' their normal limits on a geographical expedition. Deadline 24 September.

W www.rgs.org/grants

Research and higher education

Academia



Sand Seas © Oliver Wiggins, University of Oxford

Sand Seas and Dunes

Sand seas today cover around 5% of the global land area and these sensitive environments will be markedly influenced by future climate change. The Society's Sand Seas and Dunes research programme will be presenting its findings at a workshop at the Society on 18 October followed by the Monday night lecture (p.18).

W www.rgs.org/SandSeas

Chartered Geographers

Interest in the professional accreditation, Chartered Geographer, continues to grow, particularly amongst GIS professionals and teachers. A networking evening for Chartered Geographers and those interested in learning more will be held at the Society on 8 November 2010.

W www.rgs.org/CharteredStatus

Research Groups

The Society's Research Groups bring together active researchers and those with a professional interest in a particular aspect of geography and related disciplines. Activities across the groups vary – from conferences and workshops, to prizes and publications. This autumn, for example, the Economic Geography Research Group is publishing a new text *The Economic Geography of the UK*.

W www.rgs.org/ResearchGroups

Lowther Lodge

The home of geography



Lowther Lodge in print

At the instigation of the President, the Society has published *The Home of Geography: a history of Lowther Lodge* to coincide with the appeal to raise funds for the building. The 40-page publication celebrates the history of the much-loved building which has been home to the Society since 1913. The booklet was provided as a token of appreciation to all members who donated £100 or more. Written by John Price Williams and designed by Ian Chilvers at AtelierWorks, both kindly donated their time to the appeal. **W** www.rgs.org/members

House lettings

Do you have corporate links?

A reminder to Fellows and members that the Society's building is a unique historic venue and a very flexible space for AGMs, conferences, training courses, workshops, launches, networking and team events and, of course, weddings.

The lettings business is a vital part of the Society's income, and it is one of the aspects of our activities that will come under most pressure as public sector spending reduces. So, we are asking members for a little extra help and support at this time. Members from the corporate sector in particular are encouraged to promote the venue to colleagues looking for a suitable location to hold an event or film their documentary. **W** www.rgs.org/venuehire

Membership

Trailfinders donation

To mark its 40th anniversary, Trailfinders has kindly offered to donate 1% of the value of all individual bookings worth £250 or more made by our Fellows and members during the year to the President's Appeal. Email your name and your Trailfinders booking reference to **E** anniversary@rgs.org or call **T** 020 7591 3009.

Making membership go further

Use your membership to make significant savings on books, maps and travel kit – either for your own use or as gifts for friends and family. Members are entitled to a 10% discount off all merchandise either online or in-store at Stanfords, 15% off all products at Cotswold Outdoor as well as 10% off kit at Nomad Travel Stores. Look out for special offers from the Society's regular e-update.

Website update

The Members' Area of the website is being expanded and re-designed, with sections on member news including: books published by Fellows and members, honours and obituaries, news from our grants and other activities, as well as new Monday lectures available to watch online. **W** www.rgs.org/members

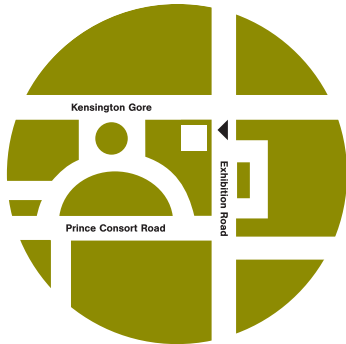
Membership Ties

Two striking new tie designs are available. Produced from 100% silk, the ties include the Society's crest and are available online at £15.00 each plus p&p.

Christmas Cards and 2011 Antique Maps Calendar

Society Christmas cards and the 2011 calendar are available online.

How to find us



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The Society is the learned society and professional body for geography. We support and promote geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, and geography in society; we also advise on policy issues. The Society has substantial collections available to all.

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