

Council Members 2011-2012

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Profiles

Benedict Allen **Ordinary Councillor Expeditions and Fieldwork Committee**

Benedict has led numerous expeditions to remote regions over the last thirty years, resulting in ten books and six major BBC TV series. He has a degree in Environmental Science, has frequently lectured at the Society and has served on the Journey of a Lifetime Award panel since its inception.

Michael Ashby **Honorary Secretary Education**

After several years in business Michael did teacher training and later an MSc in Geography at King's College London. Michael is currently Head of Geography at Latymer Upper School, London, and previously at Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. He is a Chartered Geographer assessor and has organised seventeen RGS-IBG regional lectures, published seven papers and was the Geographical Association's International Working Group Secretary.

Robin Ashcroft **Ordinary Councillor Regions**

Robin is a practical geographer, having trained at Sandhurst on remote operations. He is the manager and curator of the National Mountaineering Exhibition, a PR consultant to an NGO and director of Kendal Mountain Film Festival, and is experienced at promoting geography to wider audiences.

Professor Michael Bradshaw **Vice-President Research**

Michael is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Leicester. His research

interests lie in the economic geography of Russia and in energy security, globalisation and climate change. He was the recipient of the Society's Back Award in 2007 and was Editor of *Area* between 2000 and 2005. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Geography Compass* and holds a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship. He has held honorary positions at Chatham House and the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

Jamie Buchanan-Dunlop **Ordinary Councillor Education**

Jamie is an experienced teacher (recipient of the Innovative Geography Teaching Award (RGS-IBG) and short listed for European E-Learning Award) and Director of the educational non-profit Digital Explorer that delivers pioneering class-based resources from expeditions. He has developed and delivered training on educational uses for Google Earth and other technologies in schools across the UK. An experienced educational consultant (British Council, HSBC, Google), he has worked extensively across the Society (Education, Expeditions & Fieldwork and Geography Outdoors).

Professor Sir Gordon Conway KCMG DL HonFREng FRS. Immediate Past President

An agricultural ecologist by discipline and closely connected to geography, Gordon has spent the past 40 years working and living in developing countries, engaged in development issues including agriculture, health and the environment. He was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department for International Development at the beginning of 2005 and is a Professor of International Development at Imperial

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broadens the mind. Nick is also author and presenter of three four-part series – *Going to Extremes*, *Surviving Extremes* and *Extremes along the Silk Road* for Channel 4 and National Geographic Channel TV. He was the recipient of the Society's 2002 Ness Award.

**Professor Susan Owens OBE
Ordinary Councillor Research**

Susan is Professor of Environment and Policy at the University of Cambridge, with major research interests in environmental governance and policy processes. She is a member of the Strategic Research Board of ESRC and has served for ten years on the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. In 2002, Susan was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences. She was awarded the RGS-IBG Back Award in 2000 and was made an OBE in 1998.

**Professor Tony Parsons
Ordinary Councillor Research**

Tony is a Professor of Sediment Systems at the University of Sheffield; prior to this he was a Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Leicester. He was Chair of British Geomorphological Research Group 1999-2000, Chair of its Research Committee 2001-2 and Chair of the Strategy Committee 2004-5. He is currently Chair of the IGU Commission of Geomorphic Challenges for the 21st Century (since 2000), and representative for Geography on the Royal Society's Scientific Unions Committee (since 2007).

**Professor David Petley
Honorary Secretary Expeditions and Fieldwork**

David is a field scientist at Durham University. His research focuses on the understanding and mitigation of landslide hazards, with a particular emphasis on less developed countries. This research originated in an RGS-IBG grant funded expedition to the Central Mountains of Taiwan in 1991. Since then fieldwork in remote areas and

expeditions has formed a central part of his research, and projects are currently underway in Pakistan, Taiwan, Nepal and Bhutan.

**Paul Rose
Vice-President Expeditions and Fieldwork**

Paul has had a lifelong involvement in exploration, adventure and ocean science. Formerly Base Commander in Antarctica, Paul is active in the field (Antarctica and Greenland), supporting science and guiding. He is a media professional, communicating science and exploration through programmes such as the BBC's 'Britain's Secret Seas' series. He has been a long-term supporter of the Society, chairing Explore, lecturing, and previously as a vice-president between 1999 and 2002.

**Peter Smith
Ordinary Councillor Education**

Peter is an Honorary Fellow of the Society, chair of Society's Yorkshire Branch and a Chartered Geographer Final Assessor. He taught geography at school and university level before becoming HM Inspector of Education and the national specialist advisor for geography. Pete is President of the National Association of Field Studies Officers, former secretary of the Council of British Geography and a former trustee of the Field Studies Council.

**Professor David Thomas
Ordinary Councillor Research**

David, Professor of Geography and Head of School at Oxford University, is a geomorphologist, investigating environmental change past and future, and intersections with human and climate dimensions, especially in Africa. He served the RGS-IBG as vice-president for Fieldwork and Expeditions (2002-05) and was seconded to Research Committee for 2010-11. He is a member of the REF2014 Geography sub panel, and was a member of the RAE2008 sub panel.



Cheryl Willis

Postgraduate Representative

Cheryl is studying for a PhD in the Department of Geography and Politics at the University of Exeter. Prior to beginning her PhD, Cheryl gained a BA in French and Geography from Keele University and later an MSc in International Development from the University of Bath. Cheryl's PhD research focuses on tourist experiences, the non-economic value of tourism and how local participation can be utilised to achieve sustainable ends, and is an ESRC CASE studentship with Dorset County Council.