Bulletin
Spring 2027



RGS | Royal Geographical Society

About the Society

We are the Royal Geographical Society, the UK's learned society and professional body for geography, and a registered charity.

Since 1830, our community has used geographical expertise and curiosity to make sense of a changing world and help shape what happens next.

With us, geography is welcome in all its forms, from education and research, fieldwork and exploration, to purposeful travel and simple curiosity.

Our membership and network are expansive and cross-sector and we relish our role as the convenor of geographical conversation, collaboration, critique and celebration.

Our building in South Kensington is our physical home, holding a collection of more than two million maps, photographs, books and artefacts spanning centuries.

Today we're here to inspire the next generation of geographers to take on the questions that matter most and help shape a better world.

www.rgs.org
+44 (0)20 7591 3080
@RoyalGeographicalSociety
membership@rgs.org



© James Tye

A Message from the Director

I've been particularly eager to share this Bulletin issue with you as it marks the start of an exciting chapter for the Royal Geographical Society – the introduction of our new brand, reflecting both the richness of our heritage and our ambition for the future. This gives us a refreshed and confident way to share what makes geography so important: its power to help us understand our changing world, connect ideas and people, and shape a better future.

Above all, this work is inspired by you – our members, supporters, partners and wider community – whose enthusiasm, curiosity and commitment continue to show us just how much geography matters. Over the coming month and into the new year you will begin to see our new brand rolled out.

This fresh face will help us to grow our community, including through the launch of our free Student Membership. This builds on our career pathway work, and steady growth in the number of Chartered Geographers. This all demonstrates the appetite for, and importance of, geography in society today.

Your continued support encourages us to reach further, open up new opportunities and do more to bring geography to more people, in all its forms.

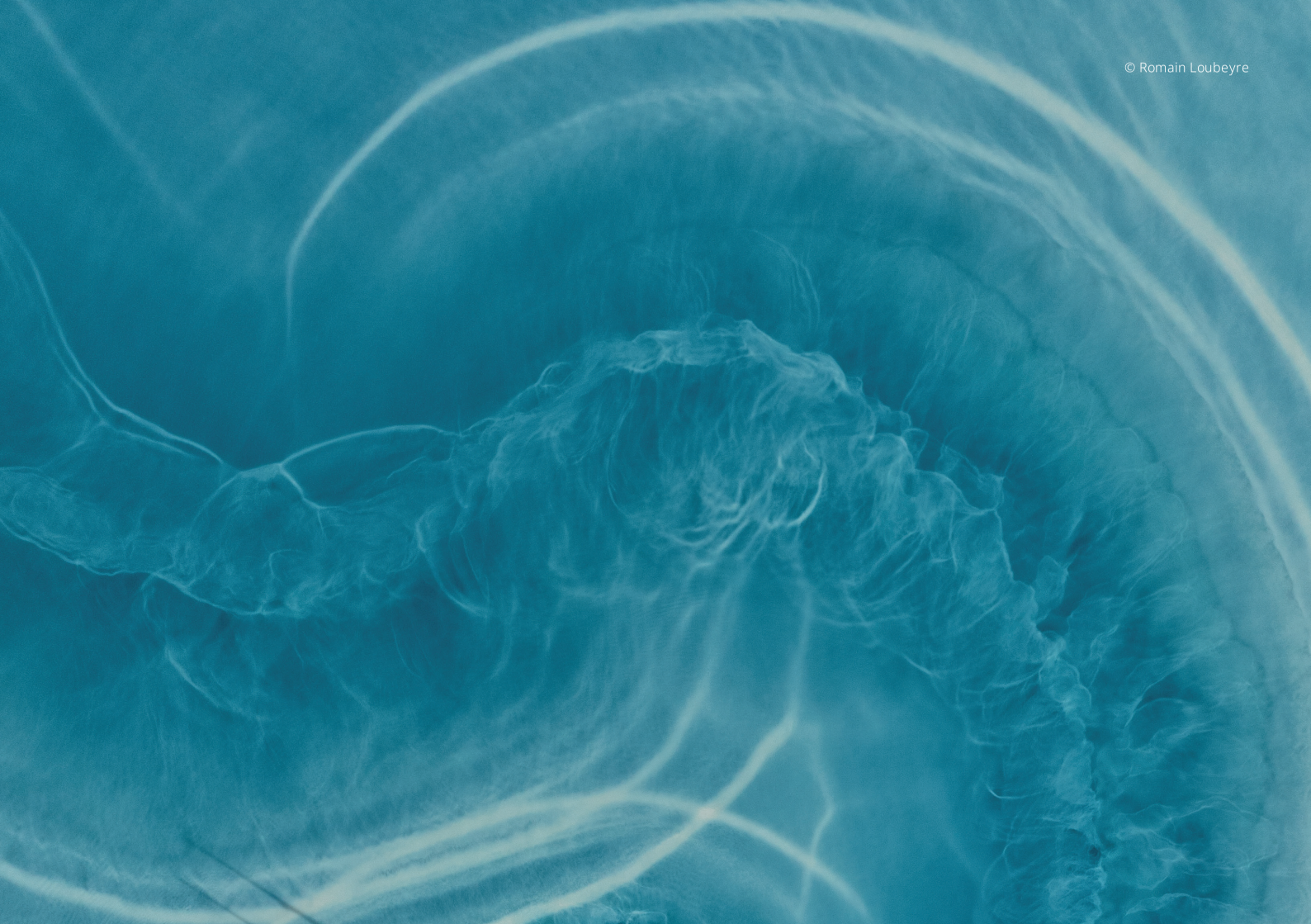
I am certain that this spring events programme will spark your curiosity and offer unique perspectives. And please – spread the word about the value and purpose of your RGS.



Professor Joe Smith
Director

News




© Romain Loubeyre

Society
News

Earth Photo 2027 – Your Invitation to Challenge and Redefine
Through the eye of the lens, we have the power to shape how our world is understood. Share your visual story about our planet in this year's Earth Photo competition and inspire reflection, conversation and change.

Each year we invite photographers and filmmakers of all ages, working anywhere in the world, to submit compelling work that explores the natural world, its peoples and environments, and the urgent issues shaping our time.

Enter before 3 February 2027 to celebrate the art of image-making, with a chance to join our national touring exhibition and to win fantastic awards.

www.earthphoto.world

© Craghoppers



A New Members' Perk – Just in Time for the Cold Weather!
We are thrilled to share that Craghoppers are offering all Members and Fellows 15% off their wide range of products.

Built for real journeys, Craghoppers creates high quality and considered clothing that helps you focus on the experience – not the conditions.

www.rgs.org/members-area/member-discounts

© David Anderson



© Lucy Pope



Honouring Excellence and Contribution
Our medals and awards have a long history of recognising remarkable people making a difference through outstanding contributions within their field.

Our Gold Medals are the highest international accolades for the encouragement and promotion of geography, science and discovery and Fellows and Members are warmly invited to nominate geographers from across the breadth of geographical communities.

The deadline for nominations is 15 February 2027.

www.rgs.org/medals-and-awards

Council Nominations – Amplify our Collective Voice
Help steer us towards an impactful future by sharing your expertise and unique insight.

We are inviting nominations from Fellows for a number of Council positions to be elected in 2027 with the following opportunities: Vice President (Professional), Vice President (Membership), Councillor Research and Higher Education. Committee vacancies are as follows: Chair of Conference 2028, Member Research and Higher Education committee, Member Professional Practice committee, Member Expeditions and Fieldwork committee.

We will be welcoming nominations until 18 March 2027 and holding an election ahead of our June AGM.

www.rgs.org/council

Society
News

Protecting our Rare Map with the Big Give
Our Collections consist of over 2 million artefacts from across the world, each with a unique story and provenance, shining a light onto a different time, place and – sometimes challenging – perspective.

It is both a labour of love and our responsibility to preserve this heritage so we're excited to be taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge – and we invite you to play a vital role in helping us raise £100,000 between 1–8 December 2026 to conserve and share the Kunyu Wanguo Quantu.



© Fabio Burrelli

Displayed in our Map Room and known as the 'Map of the Ten Thousand Countries of the Earth', it is a rare record of global knowledge exchange. During the Big Give campaign any donations made up to £39,500 will be doubled through match funding, allowing you to make twice the difference.

Help us preserve this remarkable 400-year-old world map by giving during the campaign week.

bit.ly/3WnyySV

Education
News

From Questions to Career
Our commitment to helping young people make informed decisions about their future comes from our belief that nurturing interests and inquisitiveness can open the door to new possibilities and meaningful careers.

With our virtual work experience programme we take young people aged 13 and above on a journey through the world of work with a geographical lens. Exploring careers in hazards and risk, sustainable resources, cities and communities and mapping and GIS, they hear from real people with real jobs about how geographers make a difference and have impact in the workplace.

To provide further career inspiration, we've compiled additional resources on our website linked to the programme themes, showing young people opportunities where they can make a difference.

The programme sits alongside regular free online events where young people can engage with professional geographers, hear more about their roles and ask questions. We also ensure teachers are supported by providing professional development to upskill around careers education, and teaching resources to embed geographical careers firmly in the classroom.

Our careers education programme links directly to the Gatsby Benchmarks too.

www.rgs.springpod.com
www.rgs.org/careers-and-progression

Teacher to Teacher Tips
Hear from teachers and educators from the geographical community in our Ideas for Teachers blog. Recent blog posts include climate education, inclusive fieldwork, Greenland StoryMaps and enquiry in the classroom. Please share your own tips and help us continue sharing and learning together!

www.rgs.org/ideasforteachers

From the Field
News

Unexplored Cave Systems and Beyond
2026 was a bumper year for the Society's grants programme, with almost 100 recipients supported. Among them was cave biologist Dr Iva Njunjić, who explored Montenegro's remote Komarnica Canyon, charting previously unexplored cave systems and documenting endemic organisms. A planned hydropower dam threatens to flood the canyon, formed by one of Europe's last free-flowing rivers, and the expedition is providing vital scientific evidence to support efforts to advocate for the long-term protection of Komarnica.

A better understanding of our world creates opportunities for positive change. By connecting researchers with vital funding, we can support work that informs policy, strengthens communities, addresses global challenges and helps shape a more sustainable future. From improving our understanding of how people and places are connected to finding practical solutions to real-world problems, grants enable research to make a lasting difference.

Looking ahead, the 2027 grant cycle is underway. Applications for teaching and research awards close 30 November 2026, while expeditioners and explorers have until 8 January. Award values for most grants have increased, and the new Kensington Fieldwork Grant offers four awards of £25,000 for researchers, storytellers and expeditioners.

www.rgs.org/grants



© Iva Njunjić



© Iva Njunjić

Audio of Exploration
During our 50th Explore Weekend we took visitors on an immersive journey with the Listening Post, a showcase of seven short audio pieces by participants of the Society's Journey in Audio workshop. Exploring diverse topics and landscapes they each demonstrate the power of sound to tell stories and build a narrative.

Among them, Julia Massey Stewart FRGS showed the soaring symphony created by the orchestra of creatures that live in healthy soil, while Mark Heinersdorff took us to the world's largest wetland ecosystem, the Pantanal of Brazil. Scan the QR code and treat your ears to the sounds of, and reflections on, life on Earth.

The annual award offers professional training and access to high-quality equipment to document travel, fieldwork or a research expedition through audio recorded in the field.

To be considered for the 2027 awards submit a short form and audio pitch by 8 January 2027.

www.rgs.org/journey-in-audio



© RGS

Research & Higher Education
News

Enhancing Graduate Employability
The world needs more geographers. And we know that geographical skills are in high demand with employers. To ensure emerging graduates are ready to showcase their value we're helping them identify, understand and communicate the skills they have developed through their degree studies.

During our practical workshops, students will be guided through a structured skills audit, reflecting on the knowledge, competencies and experiences gained through all learning opportunities.

This might include coursework, fieldwork, research projects, placements and extracurricular activities. We'll help attendees translate these experiences into clear, compelling examples for CVs, applications and interviews, building confidence in presenting the value of their geographical training to employers.

The workshop is designed to support students in recognising their strengths and articulating them effectively in the graduate job market. Updates on these workshops and many more opportunities are shared through our careers LinkedIn group.

www.linkedin.com/groups/13090096



© Brendan Foster Photography

Annual International Conference 2027
We're delighted to be bringing the Annual International Conference 2027 to the University of Bristol in their newly opened Temple Quarter campus.

Each year we engage with leading research and interrogate today's pressing challenges together with academics, researchers and practitioners from across the discipline.

You can expect hundreds of sessions both online and in person with geographers from around the world between Tuesday 31 August and Friday 3 September 2027. Chaired by Professor Richard Harris (University of Bristol), this conference will explore the theme of Civic Geographies.

There's more to Annual Conference than intellectual enrichment – our past attendees have given feedback highlighting the friendly, relaxed and inclusive atmosphere and the opportunity to meet and socialise with geography peers from across the world.

Our call for sessions, papers and posters is open from mid-November – look out for further announcements in our email newsletters and online to find out more about getting involved.

www.rgs.org/annual-conference

Professional
News

Impact and Insights
Every day, professionals apply geographical thinking and approaches to tackle a huge range of topics, across many sectors, making a substantial, real world impact. Whilst some may not identify as geographers, they are still applying geographical skill sets to their roles, demonstrating the discipline's integral contributions to society, business and decision-making. Through our activities and case studies around geography in practice, we highlight and demonstrate the daily, real-world impact of geography in action within the workplace.

A strong theme of recent resources has been how geographical practice supports communities to thrive and grow. We have explored health care, where the NHS is using spatial data to tackle digital exclusion, and to transform emergency and urgent care, and how the RNLI deploys geographical data to assess and communicate risk.

We have an extensive collection of case studies and ways to demonstrate impact which can be used by students, professionals or those interested in specific topics or themes whether environmental intelligence, food security, international development or transport and mobility, and much more.

www.rgs.org/geography-in-practice

A Growing Chartered Community
This year we approved a record number of Chartered Geographer applications, reaching over 100. As the only internationally recognised accreditation for geographers, each new CGeog is demonstrating their competence, experience and professionalism, as well as commitment to maintaining their expertise.

www.rgs.org/cgeog

Legacy Giving
Impact Beyond a Lifetime

The RGS was built from the passion and support of people who for nearly 200 years have cared deeply about driving positive change through the cultivation and spread of geographical knowledge. Our Members, Fellows and friends have been intrinsic in shaping who we are today.

One of the ways our supporters ensure our work continues to bring together voices, expertise and insights is by giving a gift that stretches well beyond a lifetime. In the 2025 financial year, 18% of our income came from donations and gifts in wills. These generous donations of all sizes are vital in supporting tomorrow's geographers to better protect and understand our planet.

Former teacher Judith Mansell was a key member of the geographical education community, who alongside many other accomplishments was Education Officer at the RGS for 11 years. She further committed to supporting the next generation of geographers by pledging a £2,000 legacy gift in her will. This gift reflected her passion for geographical fieldwork and her generosity funded the creation of a suite of free multi-media training materials for teachers on fieldwork pedagogy.

Judy's gift now provides a lasting educational legacy that will support teachers and their pupils for years to come.

Now more than ever, the world's complexities need to be understood – your support will help us plan for the future and sustain our work.

www.rgs.org/leave-a-legacy



Events


RGS
Royal
Geographical
Society
ROYAL
GEOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY
(WITH IBG)

© James Tye

Events
Highlights

We're constantly looking beyond the map at the wider world applications of geography – and yet there's still so much to discover and be inspired by much closer to home.

Our regional committees bring the geographical community of Fellows, Members and enthusiasts together for talks, social events and field trips around the UK. In your local area you can explore the geography around you or welcome speakers from around the world to share their insights. Stay connected to what's happening in your region by signing up to our regional event newsletters and following your region on Bluesky.

You'll be the first to hear about upcoming events, discover new ideas and meet people as enquiring and engaged with the world as you are. Join the conversation, feel connected and inspired and feed your love of discovery and lifelong learning!

www.rgs.org/regions

Key to events

- B — Book tickets in advance
- M — Members only
- +1 — Members plus one guest
- S — Supper to follow lectures
- E — Exhibition
- CPD — Continuing professional development for the Chartered Geographer scheme

Accessibility

Wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje Theatre. A personal assistant or carer can usually be accommodated. Please call the Events Office in advance on 020 7591 3100 or email access@rgs.org

Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available. For more information visit www.rgs.org/access

Monday Night Lectures

Fellows and Members can access the live stream of our Monday Night Lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our live stream page www.rgs.org/livestream

If you haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgot password' link on the login page.

You will need to book in advance to attend our Monday Night Lectures in-person at the Society. We take bookings to guarantee you a seat in the Ondaatje Theatre, and be able to contact you should there be any late changes to the programme.

Suppers

Stay for supper at the Society after Monday Night Lectures on 25 January, 1 March and 22 March and meet other members and their guests.

Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £50 per person (two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

Suppers following Monday Night Lectures are open to members and one guest. Book by noon on the preceding Thursday. Payment will be taken at the time of booking and is non-refundable.

Events Booking

You can find more information and book tickets via our website www.rgs.org/events by emailing events@rgs.org or call us on 020 7591 3100 (10.00am–5.00pm, Monday to Friday). Our staff will be more than happy to guide you through the booking process and answer any questions you may have.

Please note that unexpected changes to events may occur, please check our website for up-to-date information.

Online Events

All Society-organised online events can be booked and watched via our website. Search for the individual event page on www.rgs.org/events

You will be able to ask your questions and interact with the speakers if you join live.

Fellows and Members are able to catch up on many of our events, including our Monday Night Lectures, online at www.rgs.org/talksondemand

Monday Night Lectures

Free for members

18:30–19:45
Royal Geographical Society,
1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR

Or online at www.rgs.org/livestream

View recordings afterwards at www.rgs.org/talks-on-demand

11 JAN
B +1

South America: A Journey Through the Land of Gold
Levison Wood

Levison Wood returns to the RGS to share stories from his exhilarating journey across South America: from the Darién Gap in Colombia to the wild and windswept tip of the continent: Tierra del Fuego.

18 JAN
B +1 CPD

Sustainable Livelihoods, Forest Conservation, Climate Resilience and Inclusive Development
Wanjira Mathai

Wanjira Mathai, Managing Director, Africa & Global Partnerships at WRI, champions Community-Led Forest Economies, advancing sustainable livelihoods, forest conservation, climate resilience, and inclusive development across Africa and globally.

25 JAN
B +1 S

The Making of Netflix's New Landmark Natural History Series: *Arctic*
Alastair Fothergill OBE

In a lavishly illustrated lecture, Alastair Fothergill tells the stories behind the making of Netflix's *Arctic* and how the wildlife and people are adapting to a new Arctic shaped by the fastest global warming on our planet.

1 FEB
B +1 CPD

Rivers of the Future
Craig Bennett OBE, Dr Tony Juniper CBE, Wouter Helmer and Rachel Bennett

The UK's rivers face a raft of pressures, but public concern alone won't revitalise them. Can learnings from local and global projects inspire a transformation, making our rivers work for nature, climate, communities and the economy?

8 FEB
B +1 CPD

How Do You Tell a Story About Antarctica?
Professor Mark Brandon MBE

Having visited Antarctica more than 30 times, Brandon reflects on the diverse perspectives that shape our understanding of this unique continent and its significance for the future of our planet.

15 FEB

B +1

Easter Island: New Mapping and Excavations in the Monolithic Statue Quarries

Dr Jo Anne Van Tilburg

Rapa Nui (Easter Island) possesses over 1,000 monolithic statues (moai) as a visual reminder of voyaging ancestors. Modern mapping of the statue quarries reveals new insights into ancient production methods and statue meaning.

22 FEB

B +1 CPD

The Science Reshaping Our World

Melanie Challenger and Dr Rowan Hooper

Join authors Melanie Challenger (*Alive*) and Dr Rowan Hooper (*Togetherness*) as they discuss what the latest discoveries in science means for the way we understand the world – and why that is vital for the future.

1 MAR

B +1 S

An Evening with Monisha Rajesh

In conversation with Monisha Rajesh

Monisha Rajesh is a British journalist whose writing has appeared in *Time* magazine, the *New York Times*, and *Vanity Fair*. Join her for an evening discussing writing and her multiple award-winning travel books.

8 MAR

B +1 CPD

Coastal Change and Community Futures

Professor Briony McDonagh

Across the UK, communities are adapting to changing coastlines. Professor Briony McDonagh will discuss emerging research on coastal resilience, adaptation and relocation, exploring how governments, communities and researchers are responding to long-term environmental change and considering the future of places at risk.

15 MAR

B +1 CPD

Putting the News on the Map

Leading journalists and media watchers will place the stories of the week within the wider geographical landscape, making connections across environmental, political and social forces.

22 MAR

B +1 S

QUEST: Shackleton's Last Ship and the End of the Heroic Age

John Geiger

The story of Shackleton's final, ill-fated Antarctic voyage and the 2024 discovery of *Quest* in the Labrador Sea, followed by the 2026 submersible dives and first closeup look at the storied wreck.

Society Events

In Chronological Order

WEDNESDAY
6 JANUARY 2027
13:00 – 13:45

B

Applying for RGS Grants Webinar
(Webinar)

Join us for top tips on grant applications, followed by a Q&A to ask questions, refine your pitch and discuss project ideas.

Online. Free

MONDAY
11 JANUARY
10:00 – 16:00

B CPD

Getting Started with ArcGIS
(Workshop – London)

This CPD event is for school teachers with little or no previous GIS experience.

At the Society. £30, members £22.50

MONDAY
11 JANUARY –
FRIDAY
26 MARCH
10:00 – 17:00
Monday – Friday

E

George Marston, Shackleton's Artist
(Exhibition – London)

Visit the Society this spring to view a wonderful exhibition of original works by Antarctic artist George Marston RA. George accompanied Ernest Shackleton on both the *Nimrod* and *Endurance* expeditions.

Rarely seen, his artwork provides a fascinating insight into the camaraderie and hardships faced on both expeditions.

Check the website in the New Year for details of curator and behind the scenes tours for this exhibition.

At the Society. Free

TUESDAY
12 JANUARY
10:00 – 16:00

B CPD

Going Further with ArcGIS
(Workshop – London)

This event is for school teachers who have previously attended *Getting Started with ArcGIS* or acquired equivalent experience in another way.

At the Society. £30, members £22.50

TUESDAY
12 JANUARY
13:00 – 14:00

B

Taking Part in the Annual International Conference

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

This webinar will guide you through the different ways to participate, with a focus on submitting an abstract to the open call and convening or contributing to organised sessions.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
13 JANUARY
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Chartered Geographer Introductory Webinar

(Webinar)

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer and how to apply.

Online. Free

TUESDAY
19 JANUARY
17:00 – 18:30

B

Using Metacognition to Structure Revision in Geography

Rachel Hawke

(Webinar)

Rachel will explore how an understanding of metacognition for staff and students can help to improve geography revision so that it is more effective.

Online. £48, members £36

WEDNESDAY
20 JANUARY
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Careers in Environmental Consulting

(Use geography webinar)

Join this webinar and hear directly from geography professionals working in environmental consulting. They'll share real world insights, personal career journeys, and practical advice to help you take your first steps into this exciting sector.

Online. Free

MONDAY
25 JANUARY
14:30 – 15:45

B

Thomas and Lucy Atkinson: Their Life of Exploration in Correspondence and Documents

Nick Fielding

(Be inspired afternoon lecture – London)

Discover the remarkable lives of Victorian explorers Thomas and Lucy Atkinson through a newly uncovered family archive. Biographer Nick Fielding reveals fascinating connections spanning Siberia, St Petersburg and London.

At the Society and online. Free

MONDAY
25 JANUARY
17:00 – 18:30

B M

New Members' Welcome Tour

(Guided walk – London)

Recent joiners are warmly invited to join us at the Society in London to discover more about the history of the Society, who we are today and how to make the most of their membership.

At the Society. Free

TUESDAY
26 JANUARY
13:00 – 14:00

B CPD

Careers Beyond Academia

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

Join us for an informative session where you can bring your questions to a panel of experts who have made the transition beyond academia.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
27 JANUARY
16:00 – 17:00

B

Careers in Changing Places

(Choose geography webinar)

A careers webinar for geography students exploring jobs linked to A Level *Changing Places* topics.

Online. Free

TUESDAY
2 FEBRUARY
17:00 – 18:00

B

Breaking the Barriers to Fieldwork: Accessibility, Approaching SLT and Embedding Fieldwork Opportunities

Jo Harris

(Webinar)

We will explore how to make fieldwork more accessible and inclusive, share effective approaches for gaining support from senior leaders, and discuss how fieldwork can be embedded across KS3–KS5 to maximise its impact on teaching and learning.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
3 FEBRUARY
19:00 – 21:00

B

Winter Film Night

(Film screening – London)

Join us at the Society for an exploration-themed night of thought-provoking short films that illuminate the diverse ways outdoor storytellers are putting their talents to task.

At the Society. £14, members £12

THURSDAY
4 FEBRUARY
19:30 – 20:45

B

Across Frontiers: from War Zones to Wild Islands

Organised by the East regional committee

(Lecture – Norwich)

Jake Zarins shares stories from remote landscapes, threatened wildlife and communities living at the sharp end of accelerating environmental and social change.

Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, Norwich NR1 4DD. £8 (£10 on the door), members free

TUESDAY
9 FEBRUARY
13:00 – 14:00

B CPD

How to Make the Most of PhD Opportunities

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

This webinar will explore how to make the most of the wide range of opportunities available during a PhD, including teaching, fieldwork, placements, conferences, publishing, training, public engagement, and collaboration.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
10 FEBRUARY
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Careers in Housing, Planning and Infrastructure

(Use geography webinar)

Join this webinar and hear directly from geography professionals working in environmental consulting. They'll share real world insights, personal career journeys, and practical advice to help you take your first steps into this exciting sector.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
10 FEBRUARY
17:00 – 18:00

B

School Member Lecture: High Street Geographies

Professor Alison Blunt

(Lecture – London)

Focusing on the challenges, opportunities and future of our high streets, this lecture will introduce how and why geographers study high streets before focusing on research on revitalising East Ham High Street in Newham, East London, and the role of high streets in supporting inclusive growth, particularly for young people.

At the Society. Free, School and Student Members only

THURSDAY
11 FEBRUARY –
MONDAY
29 MARCH

E

Earth Photo: Mussenden Temple

(Exhibition – County Londonderry)

Visit National Trust Northern Ireland Mussenden Temple and Downhill Demesne to see a stunning selection of shortlisted images from our international competition dedicated to engaging with still and moving image makers working across multiple genres sharing the prescient issues affecting the climate and life on our planet.

Mussenden Temple and Downhill Demesne, Mussenden Road, Castlerock, County Londonderry, BT51 4RP. £10.00

MONDAY
22 FEBRUARY
14:30 – 15:45

E

Women in Antarctica

Katherine MacInnes

(Be inspired afternoon lecture – London)

When three women sought to join Shackleton's 1914 Antarctic expedition, he refused. Katherine MacInnes explores the remarkable history of women in Antarctica, uncovering surprising stories and challenging the continent's gendered history.

At the Society and online. Free

TUESDAY
23 FEBRUARY
10:00 – 17:00

B

Postgraduate Conference

(Conference – London)

The Postgraduate Conference provides a snapshot of the exciting and important research being undertaken by postgraduate geographers on novel topics and in diverse contexts.

Organised to bring together the postgraduate community, the conference offers PhD and Master's students in geography and cognate disciplines the opportunity to network with peers, develop new insights, and present their research in a friendly, constructive and informal setting.

At the Society and online. In-person: £55, members £45. Online: £25

MONDAY
1 MARCH
17:00 – 18:30

B M

New Members' Welcome Tour

(Guided walk – London)

Recent joiners are warmly invited to join us at the Society in London to discover more about the history of the Society, who we are today and how to make the most of their membership.

At the Society. Free

TUESDAY
2 MARCH
09:45 – 16:30

B CPD

Educational Visits Coordinator Training

Andrew Dimberline

(Workshop – London)

This full day workshop supports EVCs in their roles by covering the legal and practical procedures required of their position, and providing the information that establishments need to manage off-site visits.

At the Society. £320, members £240

TUESDAY
2 MARCH
13:00 – 14:00

B

Peer Review: How to Give and Receive Feedback

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

This webinar introduces the purpose and process of peer review and explores how to both give and receive feedback effectively.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH
09:45 – 16:30

B CPD

Educational Visits Coordinator Update Workshop

Andrew Dimberline

(Workshop – London)

The issues faced by school EVCs change over time and although EVC training does not formally lapse it is good practice for EVCs to 'revalidate' their award by attending update training.

This course gives EVCs the opportunity to look into current material in more depth and share good practice with other EVCs.

At the Society. £320, members £240

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Professional Pathway Introductory Webinar

(Webinar)

Join this webinar to learn more about the Professional Pathway. We will discuss the programmes framework, highlight key professional development activities and guide you through the application process.

Online. Free

THURSDAY 4 MARCH
17:00 – 17:40

B CPD

Fieldwork Skills: Traffic Counts, Walkability, and Sustainable Urban Design

Richard Peasland

(Webinar)

Education Team Leader Richard Peasland from FSC Blencathra centre will lead you through a practical demonstration of how to deliver high-quality data collection methods around urban areas and help you think about how you can incorporate these methods into your planning and deliver engaging fieldwork.

Online. Free

FRIDAY 5 MARCH – SUNDAY 7 MARCH

E

Endurance 22: The Discovery. The legacy. The Future.

(Conference – London)

Join the Society and the Falkland Maritime Heritage Trust to celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the rediscovery of Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance*. Found in 2022 by an international team of experts using cutting edge technology.

Hear from the people who found it and see exclusive unseen images and footage.

At the Society. From £30

MONDAY
8 MARCH
14:30 – 15:45

B

Irreconcilable Perspectives: Seeing Antarctica Through the Painter's Eye

Tatyana Kulida

(Be inspired afternoon lecture – London)

How do we capture a continent no single view can hold? Artist Tatyana Kulida explores Antarctica through large-scale paintings, reflecting on art, exploration and the power of seeing to inspire care.

At the Society and online. Free

TUESDAY
9 MARCH
13:00 – 14:00

B

How to get your First Academic Job

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

Considering a career in academic geography? This webinar offers an introduction to the academic job market and the steps involved in securing your first postdoctoral or lecturing role.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
10 MARCH
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Careers in International Development

(Use geography webinar)

Join this webinar and hear directly from geography professionals working in international development.

They'll share real world insights, personal career journeys, and practical advice to help you take your first steps into this exciting sector.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
10 MARCH
12:00 – 13:00

B CPD

Chartered Geographer Introductory Webinar

(Webinar)

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer and how to apply.

Online. Free

WEDNESDAY
10 MARCH
19:30 – 21:30

CPD

Discovering the Importance of our South Devon Estuaries

Organised by the South West regional committee with Plymouth Branch of Devonshire Association

(Lecture – Plymouth)

Nigel Mortimer, Estuaries Officer for South Devon, shares the stories of the regions waterways.

Plymouth Athenaeum, Derry's Cross, Plymouth, PL1 2SW. Free

TUESDAY
16 MARCH
16:00 – 17:00

B CPD

In Vavilov's Footsteps: Exploring and Using Crop Diversity for Food Security
Michael Jackson OBE

Organised by the North East regional committee

(Lecture – Newcastle upon Tyne)

Drawing on five decades working with potatoes, rice and genetic resources, Michael traces this remarkable scientific journey, and some unexpected personal connections with scientists who knew Vavilov, to ask what his legacy means for global food security today.

Ellison Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST. Free

WEDNESDAY
17 MARCH
19:00 – 21:00

B

Mapping Britain: The Story of an Island Through the Ordnance Survey Archives

(Lecture – Falmouth)

Join explorer, writer, and broadcaster, Will Millard, for an evening immersed within the extraordinary archives of the Ordnance Survey.

The Poly at Falmouth, 24 Church Street, Falmouth, TR11 3EG. £15, members £12

FRIDAY
19 MARCH
19:00 – 21:30

B

Mapping Britain: The Story of an Island Through the Ordnance Survey Archives

(Lecture – Stamford)

Join explorer, writer, and broadcaster, Will Millard, for an evening immersed within the extraordinary archives of the Ordnance Survey.

Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, PE9 2DL. £14, members £10

TUESDAY
23 MARCH
13:00 – 14:00

B

Time Management and Wellbeing as a PhD Student

(Postgraduate insight webinar)

Managing your time and maintaining your wellbeing are essential to a successful geography PhD, particularly when balancing research, writing, teaching, and fieldwork.

Online. Free

THURSDAY
25 MARCH
19:30 – 20:45

B

Ways to Say Goodbye: Journeys into Vanishing Landscapes

Organised by the East regional committee.

(Lecture – Norwich)

From a glacier funeral in the Alps to the shrinking Aral Sea, Nick Hunt shares how journeys into vanishing landscapes can reveal new beginnings.

Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, Norwich NR1 4DD. £8 (£10 on the door), members free



© David Anderson



© James Tye



© James Tye



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Take Part

Get Involved in Our Events
Whether you're interested in proposing a lecture, or joining our regional committees, there's a way for everyone to get involved in our programme of events.

Proposing to Speak at the Society
If you are interested in sharing your expertise and passion for geography, we encourage you to propose a lecture for an upcoming event at the Royal Geographical Society.

To submit your proposal, please email the Lectures Team at lectures@rgs.org

Include the following details in your email:

Lecture title
A concise and descriptive title for your lecture.

Overview
A brief summary of the lecture content, highlighting key themes and topics.

Location
Let us know if you are looking to speak at the Society in London, as part of our regional programme, or online, or both.

Example
A couple of links to previous talks for us to view.

Biography
A short biography outlining your background, expertise, and relevant experience.

Geographical Journeys: Microlectures
The London regional committee hosts an inspiring series of short talks known as the microlectures.

If you are interested in learning more or applying to be a speaker at our next event, please visit www.rgs.org/microlectures

Regional Committees
Whether you have a great idea for an event or simply want to volunteer, our regional committees would love to hear from you.

Join us in championing geography in your area. For more information, please get in touch with our regional committees.

To find our more scan the QR code or email us at events@rgs.org

Regional Committees

We have regional committees across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as two international branches based in Hong Kong and Singapore. Thank you to all our Fellows and Members who are involved in organising regional events.

North West
Jonathan Stevens
(Cumbria, Lancashire)
Owen Kelly
(Chesire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside)

North East
Andy Suggitt

Yorkshire and the Humber
David McEvoy

East Midlands
Vacant

West Midlands
Vacant

East
James Firebrace
(East Anglia)
Simon Smart
(Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)

London
Annabel Illingworth

South East
James Norris

South West
Derry Corey and John Page
(Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly)
Sam Scott
(Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset)

Wales
Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane

Northern Ireland
Tim Campbell

Singapore
Ian Coppell
singapore@rgs.org
www.rgs-sg.org

Hong Kong
Rupert McCowan
admin@rgshk.org.hk
www.rgshk.org.hk

Access at the Society

We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all our visitors. The Society's building includes a range of features to support individuals with access requirements. If you have specific needs or questions, please contact us in advance so we can help ensure your visit is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Accessible Parking
A limited number of accessible parking spaces are available for Blue Badge holders at our Kensington Gore entrance.

These must be reserved in advance. Please provide your vehicle make, model and registration details.

Wheelchair Spaces
Designated wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje Theatre.

Please let us know in advance if you require one, and if anyone is accompanying you so we can reserve a seat next to you.We can also set-up other rooms with spaces for wheelchair users.

Induction Loops
Induction loops are available in the Ondaatje Theatre and the Education Centre. Please turn your hearing aid to the **T** position in the Ondaatje Theatre. A portable hearing loop system is also available for use in our meeting rooms.

Please let us know in advance if you require this.

Assistance Dogs
Registered assistance dogs are welcome throughout the building.

Companions and Carers
We welcome personal assistants and carers. In most cases, they can attend events free of charge.

Please notify the event organiser in advance so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Event Recordings with Captions
Many of our events are recorded and made available online. These recordings include auto-generated captions, which help make the content accessible to D/deaf and hard of hearing audiences.

We are working to improve caption accuracy over time and welcome feedback to help us enhance this service.

External Events
Please note that not all events held at the Society are organised by the Society. For events hosted by external organisers or private hires, accessibility provisions may vary. Additionally, some Society-organised events take place at external venues, which may have different facilities and access arrangements.

Where possible, we provide links to the access information for these venues on our event pages.

If you have specific access requirements, we recommend contacting the event organiser or the Society team in advance to confirm details.

Contact Us
If you have any additional access needs or would like to discuss your visit in advance, please contact us: access@rgs.org or 020 7591 3100

We are happy to provide additional information or support to help make your visit as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Featured Stories





© RGS

Attention All Shipping
By Lisa Drewe

I set out this year with a question: what can Britain's islands teach us about living with environmental change?

Attention All Shipping, supported by the RGS Neville Shulman Challenge Award, uses the Shipping Forecast as the framework for a journey around Britain.

My goal is to explore an island in each of its fourteen sea areas, travelling around the entire coast on foot or by paddleboard. Along the way, I'm looking at the changing relationships between sea, land and people – observing what is happening above and below the water, contributing to established citizen-science projects, and, crucially, talking to people who know the place.

> "...nine islands in, I'm beginning to think that exploration isn't always about travelling further. Sometimes it is about looking more closely at somewhere we thought we already knew."

So far I've completed nine islands. I've paddled beneath cliffs and alongside dunes, saltmarsh and sea walls, sharing the water with container ships and warships, curious seals, flotillas of yachts, rafts of puffins – and one rogue water-skier who covered me in a perfect arch of spray.

Each island has felt like an expedition in itself. The neat framework of the Shipping Forecast meets the messy reality of each island every time. And I'm finding the same is true of environmental change.



© Lisa Drewe

Warming seas, sea-level rise, shifting species and biodiversity loss operate across borders. But when they reach a particular coast, geography gets involved. Geology, tides, habitats, infrastructure and history shape what happens next – and how people respond. On Berneray in Hebrides, an eroding shoreline retreats through machair shaped by generations of crofting.

Here, the timing of grazing and harvesting has long been entwined with the timings of migrating birds – and as those rhythms shift, crofting practices are shifting with them. On Thorney Island in Wight, sea defences create coastal squeeze, prompting discussions about breaching the seawall to give the saltmarsh space to move.



© Lisa Drewe

Different places, different responses. But all of them depend on recognising that something is changing in the first place. And that may not be as straightforward as it sounds.

Paddling around Canvey Island in Thames – the most urban island in this study – took me past tanker jetties and fuel terminals. Inland, Canvey Wick occupies the remains of an oil refinery project. Nature has moved back in so successfully that the site is now nationally important for its invertebrates. Yet a resident looked around and said: “Where’s the nature then?”. That stayed with me.

Perhaps before we can notice change, we need to understand what we're looking at. On Ynys Gybi in Irish Sea, I found projects bringing younger people together with older residents, passing on memories and knowledge that give meaning to features in the landscape.

Their stories reveal what happened where, how places were used and how they have changed. Perhaps passing that knowledge on helps another generation look more closely at a place – and recognise when something is different and understand enough about it to respond.

On Arran, local divers saw destruction from trawling in a seabed they knew intimately. They gathered evidence and organised through the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST). Their work helped establish the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone and South Arran Marine Protected Area.



© Lisa Drewe



© Lisa Drewe

Formal monitoring, research and structured citizen science are essential. I'm now talking to scientists and have been introduced to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to explore what happens to potentially useful observations that fall outside established monitoring. If someone notices something unusual, what happens next? Who listens? And how can the rest of us make what we notice useful?

Perhaps that is the question I'm carrying to the remaining islands: what helps us notice change, and what enables us to do something about it?

There are still five islands to go. I don't yet know what I'll find there. But nine islands in, I'm beginning to think that exploration isn't always about travelling further. Sometimes it is about looking more closely at somewhere we thought we already knew.

www.rgs.org/grants

Geography Today
Learning in Focus

Through one subject there is a whole world to explore, which may explain why geography remains the sixth most popular subject for GCSE students. It is vital that we apply our knowledge to the next generation and ensure they get the most out of their studies. We're exceedingly proud to now offer students additional guidance through *Geography Today*.

The new termly publication for schools was launched in October 2026 and is included digitally at no extra charge for all School Members, and available in print for all as an additional subscription. The debut of *Geography Today* coincides with the revitalisation of our membership offer for young people. We're providing wider access to resources, events and support – helping students engage their curiosity and expand their understanding of people, processes and environments.

> "...from the extremes of the Atacama, to Robinson Crusoe Island where an international team is trying to save one of the world's rarest plants, to the human geographies of the UK's high streets."



© Geography Today

The online and in-print publication features curriculum-relevant case studies written by expert geographers, real-world stories that highlight the role of geography in topical issues and events, and content linked to the wider work of the Society.

Echoing the breadth of the discipline, our launch edition covers a fascinating range of topics transporting readers from the extremes of the Atacama, to Robinson Crusoe Island where an international team is trying to save one of the world's rarest plants, to the human geographies of the UK's high streets.

Showing geography in action brings classroom concepts to life through real places, people and challenges. Timely topics such as these offer fresh perspectives on how physical and human processes shape our world, while encouraging students to question, make connections and explore the subject beyond the syllabus.

Geography Today builds on the 39 successful years of educational publication *Geography Review*. With the same editorial team in place, *Geography Today's* new home at the RGS creates opportunities to extend the magazine content and widen readership, backed by in-house resources, support and expertise. Its publication marks an exciting new achievement in our mission to advance geographical learning by providing students with insights for a changing world.

This new publication closely follows a refresh of the School Membership and Student Membership, aimed at broadening access to high-quality geography education and careers support for young people.

This September saw the introduction of a lower price for RGS School Membership, which now costs just £50 per school per year. As well as free digital access to *Geography Today*, School Members receive a digital subscription to *Geographical* magazine, and discounts on equipment, atlases, teacher CPD, fieldwork CPD and residentials for students (including those offered through our partnership with Field Studies Council). By being there at every stage for every geography we believe we can inspire positive and lasting change.

Visit www.rgs.org/geography-today for further details or www.rgs.org/join-us/school-membership for more details about membership.

Bringing Negatives into the Light
Preserving our Collections

This year the Society completed the digitisation of its holdings related to that iconic and complicated figure of archaeology and exploration, Gertrude Bell. Over 560 original celluloid negatives and hundreds of pages of notes – related, primarily, to her travel in Saudi Arabia prior to the First World War – have been digitally preserved.



© RGS, Gertrude Bell

The value of the Gertrude Bell materials we hold is seen in their impact on the British war effort during the First World War, as that conflict expanded rapidly across different theatres of war around the world. Bell's mapping from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East became particularly valuable, as reliable cartographic information was lacking in those regions.

> "The value of the Gertrude Bell materials we hold is seen in their impact on the British war effort during the First World War, as that conflict expanded rapidly across different theatres of war around the world."

The archaeological notes and records preserve important observations of places rarely visited by western travellers and academics at that time. Her correspondence also provides a valuable insight into the changing role of women in British society.

This important work was completed with the assistance of Newcastle University, who hold the bulk of Bell's archives. The final phase of this project will be to place this material on a dedicated Gertrude Bell portal so that this material can be studied for the first time as a whole, in one place and by all.



© RGS, Gertrude Bell

Digitisation work such as this is of huge importance and global interest. Our Collections sit within a vast ecosystem of global archives. But often these collections sit in isolation and in the case of ours, remarkably well hidden.

The sheer breadth, both geographically and historically, of the RGS Collections means that they overlap with or directly connect to collections of material in other global institutions. Finding ways to connect them not only makes study and access easier but more democratic. Importantly it also allows these collections to be seen in their whole, hopefully sparking new stories, research and ideas.

The proactive digitisation of our Collections continues to be an important part of our pursuit to enable meaningful exchange and convene ideas. Alongside this work we are actively raising funds to digitise the Society's Collections related to Captain Scott's National Antarctic expedition of 1901 – 1904. Hard baked into this initiative is the goal of delivering our own web portal to make public the exceptional digitisation work we have been quietly delivering behind the scenes.

If you would like to support this work and help us further open the doors to our Collections, then please consider giving by visiting our website and donate today.

www.rgs.org/support-us



A Gift That Sparks Inspiration all Year
Giving RGS Membership

At the RGS we care about curiosity, because curiosity sparks engagement and positive momentum. It's what drives us and our community to explore the why of where. Give someone you care about a gift of RGS Membership and we'll take them on a journey beyond the map to meet inspiring people, discover remarkable places, and understand complex environments.

Membership offers lasting connection and new perspectives to uncover. For anyone with an enthusiasm for learning in a welcoming and insightful space we are here convening the brightest minds and most active challengers of the difficulties facing our planet. Through our events, publications and connections we nurture a balanced understanding of our changing world.

Purchase your gift easily online and give your loved one the energy and joy that comes with broadening horizons, understanding global issues through a trusted lens and seeing familiar surroundings in a new way.

www.rgs.org/gift-membership



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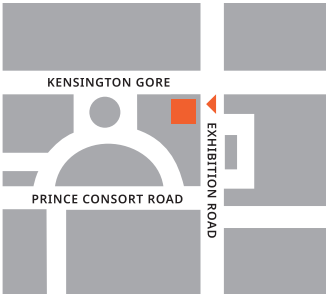

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Ordnance Survey

The Royal Geographical Society is the UK's learned society and professional body for geography, and a registered charity. Since 1830, our community has used geographical expertise and curiosity to make sense of a changing world and help shape what happens next. With us, geography is welcome in all its forms, from education and research, fieldwork and exploration, to purposeful travel and simple curiosity.

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