Bulletin Spring 2026

Royal Geographical Society

with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

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About the Society

Need to know

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is the UK's learned society for geography and professional body for geographers. We are also a membership organisation and a registered charity.

The Society was founded in 1830 to advance geographical science and this remains our core purpose. We achieve this through supporting geographical research, education, and fieldwork and expeditions, as well as by advocating on behalf of the discipline and promoting geography to public audiences.

We value our independence as well as the breadth of our activities that support the understanding of the world's people, places and environments.

Everyone with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration is welcome to join.

W www.rgs.org T@RGS IBG E membership@rgs.org T +44 (0)20 7591 3080



A message From the President

As usual, this Bulletin is full of activities and initiatives that demonstrate the wide range of the Society's work and the impact we're having as a charitable organisation. While I don't have favourites, I will admit to a partisan interest in the recent redevelopment and relaunch of the Discovering the Arctic website.

This free, interactive resource for schools was first created more than a decade ago as a result result of a partnership between the Society, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and others including the British Antarctic Survey, where I am the Director.

What happens in the Arctic directly shapes our weather, regulates our climate, influences our food and energy, and affects our security. As the climate and geopolitics of the Arctic change, we directly feel the impacts and the updated

content on *Discovering the Arctic* allows young people to get a real understanding of the issues. Please do encourage any teachers or geography students you know to take a look.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Monday night lectures, however do remember that even if you can't make it to South Kensington in person, you can watch the lectures live, or catch up with them later on demand, via the Society's website.

Professor Dame Jane Francis

President

Society News

Council nominations

While there are no Council positions up for election in 2026, there are several vacant committee positions. We are now inviting nominations for: Chair of Conference 2027, Member R&HE Committee, Member Education Committee, Member Professional Practice Committee, Member Expeditions and Fieldwork Committee.

W www.rgs.org/council

Building improvements

We have recently completed the actions identified by a carbon and energy audit of our building including retrofitting LED lights and lagging our boiler room pipework. This was made possible by an Energy Efficiency Grant from Westminster City Council and aims to reduce our energy costs, energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Christmas gifting

When you give a gift of membership you are not only sharing geographical perspectives and a well informed view of our world, but you are actively supporting the work of the Society. Purchase a Membership or Student Membership by 12 December and the recipient will receive their gift in time for Christmas.

W www.rgs.org/gift

Medals and awards

Nominate a friend or colleague for one of the Society's medals and awards, which reward and recognise excellence in geography across the breadth of the discipline. There are awards for research, education, communication, and exploration among other areas. Full information is on our website and the deadline for nominations is 16 February 2026.

W www.rgs.org/medals-and-awards



A great ape at the Society

In early September, internationally renowned Australian artist Lisa Roet installed a 13m (43ft) sculpture of a chimpanzee on the Terrace at the Society as part of a wider call for conversations about climate action and deforestation.

Lisa's inflatable sculptures interrogate human–ape relationships and our environmental safeguarding responsibility.

W www.rgs.org/great-ape

Gertrude Bell's slides

With the support of Newcastle University and a private benefactor we have been able to digitise over 500 negatives taken by Gertrude Bell on her journey to Ha'il, Saudi Arabia in 1913-14. The images will be displayed at the Society in 2026, alongside images from Newcastle's own collections of Bell's photography.

W www.rgs.org/our-collections

Education News

Professional development

The Society's continuing professional development (CPD) programme for teachers has been updated for 2026 with the introduction of new training and guidance sessions alongside our popular, established ones. Through a mix of online and in-person events, our CPD supports teachers in addressing contemporary challenges in the classroom with sessions on 'stretch and challenge' for students, as well as embedding the carbon and water cycles firmly across the A Level curriculum.

Teachers will find many more opportunities to network and stay connected to the latest developments across the discipline with educational visits coordinator training, and careers events that showcase real geographers with real jobs. In addition, recognising the unique needs of geography teachers, our TeachMeets encourage sharing of good practice and networking.

More sessions will be announced in the coming months.

W www.rgs.org/teachercpd

Online careers sessions for schools

The Society has partnered with the team behind *I'm a geographer, get me out of here* to facilitate online geographical careers sessions for schools, introducing students to a host of geographical professionals from employment sectors ranging from coastal management, urban planning, hazard response and sustainability, to GIS, mapping and resource management. Whether you're a teacher interested in booking a session for your students or a professional keen to chat with young people about how you use geography in your job sign up now to get involved.

W www.imageographer.uk



Opportunities with your university

We're making it easier for teachers to find out about the schools outreach provided by the higher education sector across the UK, which inspires students and provides them with a flavour of university life. We are working with universities to ensure schools are aware of what the HE sector offers and how teachers can make the most of it, including guidance on university applications, open days, summer schools and scholarships, workshops and lectures for school students, access to fieldwork and lab facilities, teacher CPD and more.

W www.rgs.org/unioutreach

Ask the geographer

Our popular *Ask the geographer* podcast has a new themed series focusing on climate change and sustainability. Each episode brings the latest geographical insights to classrooms through interviews with a host of experts. The series is available to listen to now on our website, Soundcloud and other major podcast platforms.

W www.rgs.org/resources

From the field News

Funding for exploration, research and teaching

Our grants support the discovery and dissemination of geographical knowledge and the next set of deadlines is fast approaching.

We've doubled the number of Neville Shulman Challenge Awards available for 2026 and doubled the amount each Award is worth to £10,000. As of 2026 the Society will take on the selection of the recipient of the Gino Watkins Fund Award, which offers up to £4,000 to support research and expeditions to polar regions.

If you are interested in storytelling, apply to create a soundscape with the Journey in Audio award, which offers training and audio equipment loans. Support is also available for postgraduate students, early career researchers and teachers.

W www.rgs.org/grants

RGS Explore Resource Hub

Our new searchable, filterable collection of web resources provides detailed information and guidance across key areas of expedition planning, implementation and management.

The library of content is aimed at individuals and teams involved in scientific, exploratory, educational, and media-focused expeditions, with anecdotal and personal perspectives from an array of experts and thought leaders.

The Resource Hub was developed thanks to the support of the Transglobe Expedition Trust and resources associated with the RGS Explore Weekend have been made possible with the support of Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative.

W www.rgs.org/explore-resources

Research and higher education News

Geography for all

The Society coordinates its support of geographers from underrepresented communities and minority ethnic backgrounds through the Geography for all project. The current phase of the project focuses on three key areas: community - creating a hub for connection, support, and shared learning; signposting - sharing a curated directory of opportunities, highlighting programmes, scholarships, internships, and career pathways; amplifying anti-racism and decolonial practice highlighting the work and experiences of those already leading the way in shaping more equitable futures.

The project builds on a pilot study and research undertaken by the Society. It draws on our understanding of the key barriers to participation and progression in geography before, during and after

university, and highlights the experiences of racially minoritised students.

■ geogforall@rgs.org

W www.rgs.org/geographyforall

LSE publication

We are delighted that the next two books in the RGS-IBG book series, the first with LSE Press, will be published open access early in 2026.

In *Climate Hegemony*, Laurie Parsons brings us a human's-eye view of the climate crisis, drawing on two decades research at the frontline of global development in Cambodia.

In Nonauthoritarian Authority, Julian Brigstocke argues that in these shattered times, anti-authoritarianism is not enough: a radical, speculative reinvention of authority is needed.

W www.rgs.org/book-series



New CDAs

We are pleased to be supporting four new PhD students researching our Collections with funding through the Arts and Humanities Research Council Collaborative Doctoral Awards programme. The programme provides an opportunity for doctoral students to acquire new skills while contributing to our Collection's wider interpretation and impact. Erica Deluchi will delve into Cold War Britain and the sonar instrument which transformed seafloor mapping. Doreen Massey's unpublished archive will be investigated

by Colin Fuchs, while Rosalind Hodgson is looking at The Hakluyt Society travel accounts in relation to British imperial culture and its public legacies. Charuta Ghadyalpatil's research asks what lies behind the map, focusing on the textual, visual, and epistemological practices that underpin border mapping.

W www.rgs.org/collaborative-doctoral-research

New research group

We are delighted to welcome the Geographies of the Middle East and North Africa Research Group (MENA) to our community of Research and Working Groups. MENA aims to raise the profile of the geographical ideas and practices of the Middle East and North Africa by working closely with diverse civil society movements, organisations, scholars, artists and academic institutions.

W www.rgs.org/research-groups

Professional News

New accreditation

Professional recognition and accreditation through Chartership is a valuable signal of expertise, skills and experience.

The Government Geography Profession and the Society have worked together to embed accreditation for public sector geographers across the whole range of geographical practice, from GIS to geomorphology. To recognise that there is a group of specialised analysts who require accreditation within the public sector, we have developed a pathway for public sector analytical specialists with the new post nominal 'Chartered Geographer: Analysis Function'. This signals an important professional development route for public sector analytical specialists and builds the community of accredited professionals further.

W www.rgs.org/chartered-geographer

Education guide

Employers and professionals play a crucial part in inspiring the next generation and showing how geography is a career for many. We have published a guide to show how employers can get involved with career education, through events, offering work-based experiences, volunteering for career profiles and much more.

W www.rgs.org/professional-outreach

Webinars for professionals

Many of our webinars explore how geography is being used across a wide range of sectors. Many of these can be watched again in the Talks on demand section of our website. Look out for upcoming events exploring food security, housing and infrastructure, and flooding, featuring collaborations with RICS, the Government Geography Profession, AGI and others.

W www.rgs.org/talks-on-demand

Events Highlights



Wherever you are, our events will transport you to new places, inspire you with new ideas or boost your knowledge with expert discourse. Join us in person at the Society in London and you will find a global community passionate about championing the value of looking at the world through a geographical lens. Most of our London events are available to watch as a livestream or recorded to catch up on later, so you are always part of the conversation.

We believe that learning never stops and that understanding our world equips us to rethink our future.

This summer we will be hosting talks that unpack border dynamics, examine contemporary conservation issues, and explore strategies for resilience. Alongside this you will hear stories of journeys with purpose from the past and present.

With a huge range of webinars and CPD, our events serve to boost your knowledge and skills at all levels.

Spring 2026 events

Monday night lectures at a glance

6.30pm - 7.45pm

RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR or online at **W** www.rgs.org/livestream You will need to **book in advance** to attend our Monday night lectures in-person at the Society

For	Date	Title	Speaker
MG	12 Jan	Conservation in action	Susanna Handslip, Aldo Kane, Declan Burley and Vianet Djenguet
MG	19 Jan	Asgard legacy	Dr Niall McCann
MG	26 Jan	The spirit of the rainforest	Dr Rosa Vásquez Espinoza
M G +	2 Feb	Three rivers: 10 stories	Robert Winder
MG	9 Feb	The material geography of Al	Professor John Naughton
MG	16 Feb	Is agriculture the greatest threat to biodiversity?	Dr James Borrell
MG	23 Feb	Lone wolf: walking the faultlines of Europe	Adam Weymouth
MG	2 Mar	Wayfarer: an outsider's way in to geography and place	Phoebe Smith
MG	9 Mar	Putting the news on the map	
M+	16 Mar	The hidden seasons	Tristan Gooley
MG	23 Mar	The whispers of rock: stories from the Earth	Dr Anjana Khatwa and Mary-Ann Ochota
MG	30 Mar	The United Nations's Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)	Olive Powell

Events

Key to events

Book tickets in advance

M+ Members only

MG Members plus one guest
S Supper to follow lecture
(advance booking required)

E Exhibition



Continuing professional development for the Chartered Geographer scheme

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 **W** 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 26 January, 2 March and 23 March and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £45 per person (two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

Suppers following Monday night lectures are open to RGS-IBG 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 online **W** www.rgs.org/events, email **E** events@rgs.org or call us on **T** 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 **W** 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

W www.rgs.org/talksondemand

Accessibility

Wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje Theatre. A personal assistant or carer can usually be accommodated. Please contact the Events Office in advance on **T** 020 7591 3100 **E** access@rgs.org Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

W www.rgs.org/access

Events listings

In chronological order

E Until Friday 20 February 2026

Exhibition (Farnham)

Earth Photo: Alice Holt

Visit Alice Holt Forest to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this years competition. Alice Holt Forest, Bucks Horn Oak, GU10 4LS. Free.

E Until Friday 20 February 2026

Exhibition (Pickering)

Earth Photo: Dalby

Visit Dalby Forest to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this years competition. Dalby Forest, Thornton-Le-Dale, YO18 7LT. Free.

E Until Thursday 19 March 2026

Exhibition (Exeter)

Earth Photo: Haldon

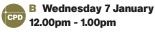
Visit Haldon Forest Park to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this years competition. Haldon Forest Park, Kennford, EX6 7XR. Free.

E Until Thursday 30 April 2026

Exhibition (Cumbria)

Earth Photo: Wray Castle

Visit National Trust Wray Castle to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this years competition. Wray Castle, Ambleside, LA22 0.IA Free



Use geography webinar (Online)

Careers in sustainability

In this lunchtime webinar learn from geography professionals with careers in sustainability, working in sectors such as food, transport and planning and representing a range of organisation types.

Online. Free.

B Monday 12 January 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

Anthony Jenkinson and

the mystery of Aru Sultan

Nick Fielding

In 1560, Aru Sultan, a young Central Asian woman, arrived in London with Anthony Jenkinson, becoming Queen Elizabeth's lady-in-waiting and a fashion sensation. Was she a diplomat or a slave? At the Society and online. Free.

BMG Monday 12 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Conservation in action

Susanna Handslip, Aldo Kane,

Declan Burley and Vianet Djenguet

Join the team from Apple TV's *The Wild Ones* for a behind the scenes look at the challenges of raising awareness about the world's most critically endangered animals and the role of television in achieving positive change. At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 14 January 9.30am - 10.30am

Webinar (Online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer. Online. Free.



B Thursday 15 January 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Choose geography webinar (Online)

Careers in energy transition

In this webinar we will be talking to geography professionals working in the energy sector. Online. Free.



B Thursday 15 January 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Norwich)

Tides of tomorrow: the future of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, confronting flood risk and climate change

Peter Doktor

This talk will explain the approach being taken to develop the Broadland Futures Initiative, which aims to improve the resilience of people, places, and the environment to flooding, as we adapt to climate change, while also reflecting the wide range of interests present, and uncertainty about the future. Organised by the East regional committee. Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £8 (£10 on the door), RGS-IBG members and students free.

BMG Monday 19 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Asgard legacy

Dr Niall McCann

In an expedition led by Founder's Medal recipient Colonel Patrick Baird, Mount Asgard was first climbed in 1953. Seven decades later, Niall and Finn McCann attempted to follow in their grandfather's footsteps. At the Society and online. Free.

B Monday 19 January 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Bath and online)

The spirit of the rainforest

Dr Rosa Vásquez Espinoza

Scientist and author Rosa takes us on a deeply personal journey into the heart of the Amazon, exploring the rainforest not just as an ecosystem, but as a living, breathing entity. Organised by the South West regional committee. Online and Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, 16-18 Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £8, RGS-IBG members £4 with code RGS50. **W** www.brlsi.org

B Tuesday 20 January 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

Why join an RGS-IBG Research Group

This webinar will explain what our research groups are, the opportunities they offer to postgraduate geographers, and ways to get involved in them. Online. Free.



B Wednesday 21 January 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Webinar (Online)

Stretch and challenge in geography

Chris Hoare

In this session we will explore what we really mean by stretch and challenge, how to implement and plan for a successful stretch and challenge and give you the opportunity to critique, plan and share a range of successful activities that can be applied across Key Stages. Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.



B Thursday 22 January 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Professional insights webinar (online)

Mastering CVs, applications and interviews

Join this webinar for an interactive lunchtime discussion on mastering CVs, applications and interviews. Gain valuable insights from experienced professionals as they share their knowledge, experiences and practical advice. Online, Free,

B Monday 26 January 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

The Raleigh Club

Deborah Ireland

Founded in 1826 by Sir Arthur de Capell Brooke, the Raleigh Club was a dining society for travellers whose collective knowledge spanned the known world. This talk explores its history and the extraordinary members who helped shape the Royal Geographical Society. At the Society and online. Free.

BMG S Monday 26 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The spirit of the rainforest

Dr Rosa Vásquez Espinoza

Join scientist and National Geographic Explorer Dr Rosa Vásquez Espinoza as she shares a deeply personal Amazon journey-melding indigenous wisdom with modern science to illuminate biodiversity, resilience and urgent conservation challenges. At the Society and online. Free.

BMG Monday 26 January 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. At the Society. £45 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 22 January and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 27 January 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

Taking part in the Society's

Annual International Conference

The next Annual International Conference is a fantastic opportunity to share your research and build your professional networks. This webinar will offer advice on how to get involved and make the most of your time at the conference. Online, Free.



B Tuesday 27 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

Climate resilience in a changing world

Explore how communities, cities, and ecosystems adapt to climate change. Experts discuss strategies for resilience, sustainable planning, and innovative solutions to protect people and landscapes from environmental uncertainty. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5



B Wednesday 28 January 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Webinar (online)

Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

Join this webinar to learn more about the Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer. We will discuss the programme's framework, highlight key professional development activities and guide you through the application process. Online. Free.



B Wednesday 28 January 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Webinar (Online)

Embedding water and carbon cycles across A Level geography

Kate Otto

This session will include teaching ideas on how to integrate the water and carbon cycles into all A Level topics synoptically, as well as updates on current climate change policies. Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

Thursday 29 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Plymouth)

A sailing voyage from Greece to the Algarve

Hanneke Wharram Boone

A sailing voyage from Greece to the Algarve in the wonderful Wharram Catamaran *Spirit of Gaia*. Hanneke was instrumental in its design and build in their boatyard in Devoran, Cornwall. Organised by the South West regional committee. Roland Levinsky Building, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA. Free.

B Thursday 29 January 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Cambridge)

Driving the ancient sands: photography, archaeology and Libya's desert routes

Toby Savage

Toby will share his stories from his adventures providing expedition support and photographing discoveries on 10 expeditions to Libya (1998–2011) for the Desert Migration Project. Organised by the East regional committee. The Leys School, The Fen Causeway, CB2 7AD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

E Sunday 1 - Saturday 28 February

Exhibition (Saint Austell)

Earth Photo: Heligan Gardens

Visit The Lost Gardens of Heligan to see a stunning selection of the Earth Photo competition's shortlisted images. All images are specially selected from the competition's award categories – people, place, nature, changing forests and a climate of change. Pentewan, PL26 6EN. £28.



B Monday 2 February 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Webinar (Online)

Supporting candidates with university applications

This webinar aims to support teachers with the university application process, with a focus on candidates looking to study geography at university.

Online, Free.

BM Monday 2 February 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Guided walk (London)

New members' welcome tour

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.

B MG Monday 2 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Three rivers: 10 stories

Robert Winder

Three Rivers author Robert Winder explores the ways in which the Rhône, the Rhine and the Po have shaped the entire history and civilisation of Europe. At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 4 February 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (Online)

Careers in international development

In this lunchtime webinar learn from geography professionals with careers in international development. Online. Free.

B Wednesday 4 February 7.00pm - 9.45pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Film screening (London)

Winter film night: journeys with purpose

Join us for a night of thought-provoking short films that illuminate the diverse stories behind a collection of journeys with purpose. Our programme of short films and documentaries feature a diverse range of voices and subject matter, storytelling styles, purposeful journeys and fascinating adventures. At the Society. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.



B Thursday 5 February 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Webinar (Online)

Online secondary geography teachmeet

Teachmeets are a great way to find out what fellow teachers are doing in the classroom and beyond. In this online session, we will be asking geography teachers to share their ideas and innovation with the teacher community. Online. Free.

BMG Monday 9 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The material geography of Al

Professor John Naughton

Every ChatGPT conversation has a physical footprint somewhere. This lecture will challenge the widespread misapprehension that digital technology is, somehow, weightless and immaterial, and explain why geographers should be involved in the conversation about its future. At the Society and online. Free.

E Wednesday 11 February - Sunday 1 March

Exhibition (Edenbridge)

Earth Photo: Hever Castle

Earth Photo is a world leading international photography competition, established in 2018. The exhibition addresses prescient issues affecting our planet, aiming to stimulate conversations about our environment and the impact of climate change. Hever Castle and Gardens, Hever Road, Hever, TN8 7NG.



B Wednesday 11 February 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Webinar (Online)

Geographical enquiry and approaches to data collection KS3-KS5

Run in collaboration with the Field Studies Council, this free online event is an introduction to geographical enquiry for early career teachers. Online. Free.



B Thursday 12 February 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (Online)

What do geographers actually do?

This free event aims to support students, teachers and parents to understand what careers are available for those that choose to study geography. Online. Free.



B MG Monday 16 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Is agriculture the greatest

threat to biodiversity?

Dr James Borrell

Half of the world's habitable land is now farmed, yet we must produce ever more food. Can we bend the curve of agricultural expansion, before it is too late? At the Society and online. Free.

B Monday 16 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Bath and online)

Time to change

James Godman

Join James for an inspiring evening of films, lively discussion and debate as we explore why it is time to change our lives to support the world we live in. Organised by the South West regional committee. Online and Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, 16-18 Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £8, RGS-IBG members £4 with code RGS50. **W** www.brlsi.org



B Tuesday 17 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

Mapping migration: people, policy and place

Understand the patterns, causes, and impacts of global migration. Panelists discuss human mobility, border dynamics, urban pressures, and how geography informs policies for population movement. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wednesday 18 February 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Webinar (Online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

Join this webinar in February to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer. Online Free



Thursday 19 February 7.00pm - 9.00pm Lecture (Belfast)

The geology, archaeology, history and environment of Cave Hill

Cormac Hamill

Cave Hill dominates the skyline of Belfast and this talk will reflect on the geology of the site and human influences upon it from the Mesolithic period to modern history. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University, BT7 1NN. Free.



BMG Monday 23 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Lone wolf: walking the faultlines of Europe

Adam Wevmouth

In 2011, a wolf walked 1.000 miles from Slovenia to Italy, ultimately recolonising the Alps. A decade later Weymouth walked his path, exploring the wolf's resurgence in a divided Europe. At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 25 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Grantham)

A history of polar exploration in 50 objects

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from key periods in polar exploration history, from Cook's circumnavigations in the 1770s to the aviation age of the early 1930s. Guildhall Arts Centre, St Peter's Hill, NG31 6PZ. £14. RGS-IBG members £10.

W www.guildhallartscentre.com



B Thursday 26 February 10.00am - 5.00pm

Conference (London and online)

Postgraduate conference

Organised to bring together the postgraduate community, the conference offers PhD and research masters' students in geography and cognate fields 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: £50, RGS-IBG members £40. Online: £20. In-person on Tuesday and online on Wednesday and Thursday afternon.

B Monday 2 March 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

The very worst journey in the world

Hugh Turner

Apsley Cherry-Garrard's Antarctic classic, *The Worst Journey in the World*, refers to the 1911 Winter Journey to Cape Crozier, undertaken to collect Emperor penguin eggs for research. Its title originated from Cherry-Garrard's description to George Bernard Shaw, who suggested it for the book. At the Society and online. Free.

BMG S Monday 2 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Wayfarer: an outsider's way into geography and place

Phoebe Smith

Join adventurer, multi-award-winning travel writer and 2025 Ness Award recipient, for a lecture exploring how nature and place can offer a pathway to salvation. At the Society and online. Free.

B MG Monday 2 March 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. At the Society. £45 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 26 February and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 3 March 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

Careers beyond academia

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.



B Tuesday 3 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm (doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

Green iourneys: rethinking travel and carbon

How can we travel responsibly in a warming world? Experts explore low-carbon transport options, sustainable tourism, and the role of geography in designing journeys that reduce environmental impact. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wednesday 4 March 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (Online)

Careers in environmental consulting

In this lunchtime webinar learn from geography professionals with careers in environmental consulting, including speakers working in conservation, GIS and planning. Online. Free.



B Thursday 5 March 9.30am - 3.00pm Workshop (London)

Enhancing primary geography with progressive fieldwork opportunities

Gyles Morris

This practical and interactive training day addresses Ofsted's 2024 findings that fieldwork and local area use are underdeveloped in many primary schools. Aimed at both new and experienced educators, it offers support for all school contexts – rural or urban – with a focus on delivering high-quality, enquiry-based geography fieldwork across EYFS to Year 6. At the Society. £100, RGS-IBG members £80.

BMG Monday 9 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

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. At the Society and online.



B Tuesday 10 March 9.45am - 4.30pm Workshop (London)

Educational visits coordinator training

Essential training for new EVCs responsible for the policies and practice around risk management for out-of-school visits. At the Society. £280, RGS-IBG members £252.

B Tuesday 10 March 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

Becoming a journal reviewer

This webinar will provide a crash course on how to become a reviewer, and how to provide a writer with collegiate and helpful feedback on their research and writing. Online. Free.

B Tuesday 10 March 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Choose geography webinar (Online)

Careers in global governance

This event is appropriate to all secondary school students who study global governance units in geography, as well as students who are interested in this topic generally. Online. Free.



B Tuesday 10 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Portsmouth)

A history of the world in 47 borders

Jonn Elledge

Jonn shares the stories of borders that explore how political identities are shaped, why the world looks the way it does. Organised by the South East regional committee. Joint event with University of Portsmouth. University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, PO1 2EG. Free.



B Wednesday 11 March 9.45am - 4.30pm

Workshop (London)

EVC update workshop

This course gives trained EVCs the opportunity to revalidate while looking at current issues and sharing good practice. At the Society. £280, RGS-IBG members £252.



B Thursday 12 March 12.00pm - 1.00pm Webinar (Online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

Join this webinar in March to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Chartered Geographer.

Online Free



B Friday 13 March 1.00pm - 4.00pm Webinar (Online)

Teaching sustainability and climate change within a progressive primary geography curriculum

Gyles Morris

This online CPD session supports primary geography educators in delivering high-quality, progressive teaching on sustainability and climate change – both in the classroom and through use of school grounds. Online. £70, RGS-IBG members £50.

B M+Monday 16 March 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Guided walk (London)

New members' welcome tour

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.

B M+Monday 16 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The hidden seasons

Tristan Gooley

The changing seasons take on new meaning when seen through the lens of nature's clues and signs. Exploring changes in the land, sky, plants, animals and water. At the Society and online. Free.



B Monday 16 March 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Norwich)

Rethinking the future of our seas and what you can do to help

Stephen Akester

Stephen will describe the state of the world's fisheries and also cover how the push for marine conservation areas has fared and the importance of consumer awareness and behaviour – with practical advice on the fish you can eat in support of a sustainable industry. Organised by the East regional committee. Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £8 (£10 on the door), RGS-IBG members and students free.



B Tuesday 17 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

Nature, biodiversity and

conservation in the 21st century

Delve into contemporary conservation issues, from habitat loss to species protection. Panelists discuss human impacts, policy responses, and strategies to safeguard biodiversity for the future. At the Society and online. In person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

B Tuesday 17 March 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm) Lecture (Cambridge)

The Big Oardeal: crossing the Atlantic Ocean by rowing boat

Richard Janes and James Bracey

Richard and James will recount the story of their 41-day-long Big Oardeal, illustrated with pictures and video clips, taken along the route from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean. Organised by the East regional committee. The Leys School, The Fen Causeway, CB2 7AD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.



B Wednesday 18 March 5.00pm - 6.30pmWebinar (Online)

Assessment and feedback in geography: debunking theory into practical approaches Chris Hoare

Chris will explain how his departments have worked on developing new strategies for assessment and feedback, what has worked for them and offer teachers practical advice and strategies on where to begin when implementing new assessment and feedback methods in the classroom. Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35



Wednesday 18 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Penryn)

When the Andes rose: unlocking the mountain range's uplift story

Laura Evenstar

This talk examines how integrating multiple geological and climatic datasets can reconcile these contrasting views, highlighting the dynamic interplay between tectonics, surface processes, and climate in shaping the modern Andes. Organised by the South West regional committee. Joint event with The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall and CAMS Students at Penryn. University of Exeter Penryn Campus, Penryn, TR10 9FE. Free.



B Thursday 19 March 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Webinar (Online)

Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

Join this webinar to learn more about the Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer. We will discuss the programme's framework, highlight key professional development activities and guide you through the application process. Online. Free.

Thursday 19 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Chasing shadows: Tuva, a hidden country

Bill Thompsom

Bill will talk about leading two expeditions to Tuva, Southern Siberia, which provided scientific studies of unknown caves and karst features. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University, BT7 1NN. Free.

B Thursday 19 March 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Stamford)

Threads of Empire: a history of the world in twelve carpets

Dr Dorothy Armstrong

Historian and textile scholar, Dr Dorothy Armstrong, tells the stories of some of the world's most fascinating rugs. Dorothy Armstrong explores how these objects have always travelled in the slipstream of power – and how the unwritten histories of those who made them are woven into the warps, wefts and knots of the fabric beneath our feet. 27 St Mary's Street, PE9 2DL. £14, RGS-IBG members £10.

W www.stamfordartscentre.com

BMGS Monday 23 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The whispers of rock: stories from the Earth

Dr Anjana Khatwa and Mary-Ann Ochota

Deftly weaving science, Indigenous knowledge and her own experiences as an Earth Scientist, join Dr Anjana Khatwa in conversation with Mary-Ann Ochota as they discuss her new book which explores how rock has shaped our world and our lives. At the Society and online. Free.

B MG Monday 23 March 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. At the Society. £45 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 19 March and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



B Tuesday 24 March 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

Applying for postdoctoral fellowships

This webinar will offer advice for postgraduate researchers about the process of applying for a postdoctoral fellowship and how to increase your chances of getting one. Online. Free.

B Wednesday 25 March 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (Online)

Choosing the right university and geography course

This online session is aimed at Year 12 geography students who are considering studying geography at university. Online. Free.

B Wednesday 25 March 5.00pm - 6.15pm

Lecture (Ely)

Microlectures: Ely

King's Ely will host an evening of microlectures on fieldwork and personal explorations of geographical thinking. Students will present a series of short lectures, chaired by the Society's Vice President (Education), Alan Parkinson. Old Palace, King's Ely School, Ely CB7 4DB. Free.

B MG Monday 30 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The United Nations's Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)

Olive Powell

Linking how statistics and geography transforms fragmented data into powerful insights to tackle global challenges. Discover, with Olive from the Office for National Statistics, how this framework helps unlock smarter, place-based decisions worldwide. At the Society and online. Free.

Non-Society events

Wednesday 11 March 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture

An evening with Michael Portillo:

a life of two halves

The inimitable Michael Portillo joins us live on stage to share funny, insightful, and poignant stories from his extraordinarily rich and varied life. From £30.

W www.fane.co.uk/michael-portillo

Friday 27 - Saturday 28 March

Conference

Student global leadership conference

Delegates will explore what it means to lead with integrity, adaptability, and compassion during moments of crisis. Through a series of engaging and thought-provoking sessions, participants will develop the skills and mindset needed to lead effectively under pressure.

W www.fie.org.uk/sglcconference

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.

Get involved

All of our regional committees welcome new faces and the new ideas they bring, so if you're looking for a way to support geography and the Society, why not join your regional committee and get involved in organising events and activities in your area?

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



Vice President Membership

Matt Pycroft

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Jonathan Stevens

Owen Kelly

Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside

North East

Andy Suggitt

Yorkshire and the Humber

David McEvoy

East Midlands

Vacant

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Martin Haslett

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James Firebrace

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Annabel Illingworth

South East

Henry Hogger

James Norris

South West

Derry Corey and John Page

Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Devon

Sam Scott

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset

Wales

Vacant

Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

Singapore

Ian Coppell

E singapore@rgs.org

Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

E admin@rgshk.org.hk

W www.rgshk.org.hk

Conservation technology Turning data into action

For the last 20 years, Dr Jake Wall has harnessed technology to create freely available geospatial tools for the benefit of wildlife conservation and people. His work demonstrates the growing role of data in driving more effective conservation efforts in Africa and beyond.

In spring 2025, Jake was awarded the Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize for his efforts to equip conservationists with the tools and methods to protect the natural world.

This career path was sparked by a chance encounter with renowned conservationist and founder of Save the Elephants, Dr lain Douglas-Hamilton. Jake's passion grew upon seeing the possibilities of science and research when applied to conservation, in particular, of elephants.

As individualistic and highly adaptable generalists, elephants aren't always seen as the most immediate victims of climate change and human encroachment. However, expanding agriculture, increased fencing, poaching and deforestation are all creating real and unique problems for elephants, and the landscapes they depend on. Their intelligence and problem-solving skills often bring them into conflict with people - from breaking electric fencing to raiding crops - making coexistence a key priority for conservationists. Mapping and visualising data from tracking collars over the last 25 years has revealed the subtleties of elephant movement ecology and identified where targeted intervention can have greatest impact. "Tracking data provides us with an incredible and intricate view into where an elephant went and when" Jake told us, "from which we can figure out the environmental conditions



it experienced, the types of vegetation it encountered, and possibly who it met along the way. The challenge is to know why the elephant chose the path it did and how can we use that information."

Research by lain and Professor Fritz Vollrath in 2004 into 'streaking' – the sudden movement of an elephant across long distances – revealed sections where elephants often retrace the same routes in such large numbers that their path forms vital wildlife 'corridors' across the landscape. Visualising these movement patterns is persuasive, powerful and brings to life an overlooked issue

Today, those corridors are under growing threat. The rapid expansion of fencing in recent years – increasing by 170% in the Greater Mara alone since 2010 – has disastrous impacts on movement-based ecological processes. Sharing and

analysing movement data enables conservationists to identify and protect these critical corridors and maintain habitat connectivity. Such insights have already driven practical solutions, from building wildlife underpasses to allow safe road crossings, to generating support for collaborative initiatives specifically focused on corridors, or community-based conservation institutions which seek to keep different regions free of fences.

The accessibility of these datasets and the tools to easily interpret them is essential in a field where funding and resources are limited. Through strategic partnerships, Jake's ideas and technical solutions have been scaled up, placing greater power and potential in the hands of conservationists worldwide.

In 2014, Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen funded EarthRanger: an open-source

platform for ecosystem monitoring, research and management. It brings together data from hundreds of different types of sensors including tracking collars, satellite imagery and weather stations to present data feeds and create tailored alerts such as when an elephant crosses a virtual boundary. Today, it delivers cutting-edge monitoring to more than 10,000 users globally, and tracks over 23,000 animals via GPS.

Ecoscope is the latest project that builds on these years of work in movement ecology tools. The recently launched platform provides access to ready-made analytics from sources of conservation and remotesensing data streams. Acting as a library of analysis tools, it allows users to easily engage with the data and generate meaningful outputs, thereby turning conservation data into information to improve decision making, insight and the protection of ecosystems. For Craig Millar

at Big Life Foundation the benefits are significant, "Ecoscope has changed the game entirely; at the click of the button, we can make sense of it all, seeing patterns and trends that help us to design more effective conservation responses. This tool completes the loop, quickly turning data inputs into useful outputs."

It is pressingly urgent that we build a future for people and wildlife to coexist. Geographers and GIS specialists are crucial to laying those foundations. "To succeed, we require a new generation of quantitative conservationists" Jake says, "who are not only able to collect and use data to understand and protect ecosystems, but who are, at the core, in love with nature".

The deadline for nominations for the 2026 prize is 15 December 2025

W www.rgs.org/EBMRGSPrize

Summit and beyond Photography and the power of storytelling

How can photography address the global challenges of our time? This was the question we sought to interrogate by bringing together internationally-renowned photographers, explorers, and experts to converse and connect while offering powerful and thought-provoking discussions on environmental and humanitarian topics.

In September we hosted the inaugural Summit Photo, a three day event dedicated to photography and photojournalism relating to environmental and humanitarian issues.

The Society has a long relationship with photography. Our Collections contain over half a million photographs, artworks, negatives, lantern slides and albums dating from around 1830 which demonstrate the power of an image to document, tell a story, and sometimes cause pain. Today, we see the power to

cultivate a greater understanding of our planet's people, places and environments – to challenge and inspire.

Over the course of the event these powerful talks, panel discussions and exhibitions revealed shared experiences and examined salient issues. The first morning saw Marissa Roth and Simon Townsley sit down to examine Simon's work and the importance of shining a light on some of the most difficult subjects, including combat and poverty-stricken global regions.

In these environments trust and truth are exceptionally important. "You cannot rely on images that are presented to you in the way that you used to because who knows how they were generated and where they come from," Simon said when asked about the future of photojournalism, "We need to send writers and photographers and



broadcasters into the field who we can verify. Whose experiences are validated and shared with us, who we can trust". He continued to explain that photojournalism has an irreplaceable value in its ethics, balance and ability to interpret context.

Trust is required not just in the audiencephotographer dynamic but the subjectphotographer relationship where there is great risk of exploitation. Anastasia Taylor-Lind, a British-Swedish photojournalist reporting on issues related to women, war, and violence, spoke at Summit Photo about her work documenting the effects of the war in Ukraine on communities living just behind the front. "An estimated 14% of people in the world live within 5km of an active frontline". Anastasia told the audience when introducing her project, 5K from the Frontline. Over several years she returned to the same communities and families to document how war can

reshape the ordinary. Dedicating time to understanding who someone is not only shows respect but allows an image to become a document.

"I am not an activist," stated Simon during his talk, feeling instead that he is a witness. An image has power, to raise awareness, funds, or alter our understanding. When faced with a new view it is our responsibility to look, and perhaps act.

Summit Photo, organised in partnership with the Royal Photographic Society and Photoworks, with official sponsor Rolex, will return next year.

W www.rgs.org/events/summit-photo

Meet the conference chair Q&A with Peter Hopkins

The next Annual International
Conference will be chaired by
Professor Peter Hopkins (Newcastle
University, UK) and will take place
in London and online, from
Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 September
2026. The conference theme,
chosen by Peter, is Geographies of
inequalities: towards just places.

Tell us about your background and career to date?

As a social geographer, I have always focused on issues of inequality, particularly those relating to the intersections of race, religion, gender, and youth. I've recently been working on projects about refugee youth and about primary school children's experiences of racism. I also have a new book, *Everyday Islamophobia* (published by Bristol University Press).



What inspired you to choose your theme?

Different forms of inequality – whether associated with the environment, housing, health, or community, and so on – are all around us. Geographers bring a diverse conceptual and methodological skillset to these issues and so are ideally placed to explore different spatial inequalities, understand how, why, and where they exist, and offer possible solutions.

What are the challenges around this topic?

The challenges around researching and understanding inequalities are many and include conceptual and theoretical approaches; the methodological technicalities of charting, mapping, measuring and monitoring injustices, and the ethical, political, and activist sensibilities involved in doing such work.



How do you hope delegates respond?

My hope is that delegates reflect on the challenges of inequalities in their work and organise engaging sessions, present important papers, and connect with other geographers on this and related issues. My hope too is that those from many different sub-fields take up this challenge – there really is something here for everyone, irrespective of where your interests sit within geography or the type of research or geographical activities you are drawn to.

Do you have any stand out moments from previous conferences?

There are so many it feels impossible to select only one or two moments. I also often find that connections at conferences or moments of inspiration take a while to settle and come to fruition whether this be through a new contact who you develop an email conversation with after the conference or through people you re-connect with at the conference having not been in touch for a while.

What do you hope to give or take from your role as chair?

As conference chair, I hope to give the geographical community an important and engaging theme around which to organise sessions, alongside thought-provoking keynote sessions on important topics and issues. As with all conferences, I hope to return home feeling energised by the new connections made and the

interesting ideas and important research I've learnt about.

Who/or what inspires you in the discipline today?

I am inspired by research that is theoretically engaged, empirically rich, and rigorously conducted. I'm also inspired by work that is hard-hitting, politically engaged, critical and focused on real-world issues. There are many people involved in doing such work and this is the research that I find most inspiring in the discipline.

W www.rgs.org/annual-international-conference

Venue hire At the Society

With its entirely unique historical charm and modern facilities our building elevates all events to memorable and impactful occasions. Host a variety of gatherings at the home of ideas and knowledge-sharing in the heart of South Kensington. From hybrid corporate seminars to lavish receptions we have spaces that will cultivate conversation and connection.

Our state-of-the-art, versatile rooms can adapt to fit your needs perfectly, ensuring a smooth, worry-free experience for event organisers and a pleasant experience for guests.

We are here to make your event unforgettable with the unique blend of heritage and contemporary excellence only the Royal Geographical Society can offer. Contact us to discuss your vision and save with reduced member rates when you book!

W www.rgs.org/venue-hire

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Entrance is on Exhibition Road Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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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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