## Bulletin Summer 2025

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Our work

#### Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning



## 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

Over the last year, the Society's staff team has been implementing the recommendations that came out of the Council's strategic review. The review concluded that while the existing strategy remained fit for purpose, a number of investments were needed to ensure the Society can achieve the impact we want to.

Among these investments has been a research project that has enabled the Membership and Communications teams to better understand what our existing members value about the Society and how we can use this to find and attract new members. Many of you will have been involved in the research element of the project – thank you – and I hope all of you will begin to see the impact of the changes suggested as a result of the research over the coming months and years. We are also investing in a new Deputy CEO role to drive forward fundraising and commercial plans, and support strategy implementation. I very much hope that someone will be in post this autumn.

I look forward to meeting many of you at this year's AGM, medals and awards celebration, and annual reception on Monday 2 June. Before then, if you are a Fellow or Associate Fellow, please do consider nominating yourself or someone else for election to our Council. We are looking for a diversity of experience, genders, ethnicities, and ages for the vacant roles. All details are on the website, please contact the Director's Office if you have questions.

Professor Dame Jane Francis President

## Society News

### **Collections preservation**

Among the Society's treasures are 10 albums of watercolour images created by Victorian naval surgeon, John Linton Palmer. One of the albums, recording a visit to Rapa Nui, has recently been repaired and conserved thanks to a generous grant from the Geographical Club and a legacy gift in the will of Society Fellow Anne Shirley. W www.rgs.org/explore-our-collections

### **National Lottery Open Week**

Engage with our Collections in a meaningful and thought-provoking way, and discover what they can tell us about 500 years of geography, travel and exploration. Join us on Monday 12 March during National Lottery Open Week for an in-person guided tour as we delve into the stories, contexts and interpretations of the objects on display throughout Lowther Lodge.

W www.rgs.org/events

#### **Recent honours**

Congratulations to our Fellows and Members recognised in recent honours including Hari Budha Magar MBE, David Mearns OBE, and Matthew Christian Metcalfe ONZM.

### **Corporate supporters**

Rolex UK have renewed their Corporate Benefactor support for a further three years, demonstrating their long-term commitment to enabling public access to our Collections and supporting conservation. Silversea have also renewed their Corporate Business Membership for a further three years, engaging us to provide informative enrichment materials for their cruise itineraries.

Wwww.rgs.org/corporate-support



#### New membership card for 2025

Elrea Song's Combing the Sea, Combing Peace has been selected to feature on the 2025 Society membership card – our first 100% recycled and recyclable paperboard card. The image series features eight people, including the photgrapher's nieces, who spent a day collecting rubbish from the ocean, which was then rearranged to create emotive sculptural scenes. The litter collected comes from various countries, highlighting how interconnected we are through our environment.

Wwww.rgs.org/membership-card-2025

#### **Donations made easy**

We've recently installed a digital donation station at our Exhibition Road entrance to make it easy for visitors to donate. Growing donation income from visitors to the Society will help secure the future of our charitable work to share our Collections, engage the next generation of geographers, and maintain our strong voice in advocating for the crucial role of geography. W www.rgs.org/support-us

#### Society travel partnership

The Society is delighted to announce its new partnership with Travelsphere, the group touring experts who have been operating extraordinary global travel itineraries since 1962. Travelsphere share the Society's passion for purposeful travel and together we have launched a collection of five cobranded itineraries, to South America, Japan, Canada, USA, and Italy. W www.travelsphere.co.uk

## Education News



#### **Competition winners**

Our judges selected 16 young people from the Young Geographer of the Year competition 2024 entries for special recognition, with two winners and two highly commended entries selected for each age category. This year's winners of the *Choose geography* themed competition are Aarav Kumar from Queen Elizabeth's School in Barnet, Bella Stewart from Walhampton School in Lymington, Aksh Rawal from Wilson's School in Wallington, Libby Hudson from Putney High School in London, Thomas Hurley from Diss High School in Norfolk, Audrey King from Downe House in Berkshire, Zoe Parker from Rugby High School in Warwickshire, and Myrto Kasselaki from Berlin Metropolitan School in Germany. The recipient of the 2024 Rex Walford Award for lesson plans and accompanying resources is Beatrice Spicer from Orleans Park School.

The 2024 School Essay Competition, organised in partnership with the *Financial Times*, asked students to answer the question: *Drawing on information from your daily life, what sustainability action points would you prioritise*? Santiago Souto from Hastings School in Madrid was selected as the most outstanding entry to include key ideas, with justifications and reference to the *FT* and other sources. **W** www.rgs.org/competitions

### **Teacher conference**

The Society is excited to be working closely with the Geographical Association on an upcoming joint professional development event for teachers – the Festival of geography. Taking place this coming June at the Society in London, the event will be a celebration of excellent geography from inspiring speakers and will showcase creativity, fieldwork, careers education and support subject knowledge development. **W** www.rgs.org/festival-of-geography

#### **Jewel of Arabia resources**

The Jewel of Arabia expedition took place earlier this year with the aim of spotlighting inspiring people, places and stories of Oman's green transition. From 6 January to 3 February it followed the route taken by British explorer Bertram Thomas in 1928 from Ras Al Hadd, the most easterly point of the Arab world, along the coast to Salalah, the second largest city in Oman. As a partner the Society produced a range of educational resources as the team made their way along the route, passing through, or close to, many of Oman's biodiversity hotspots.

The resources, including an ArcGIS StoryMap, focus on KS2, KS3 and A Level, while also being relevant to wider audiences, such as young Omanis, considering working in industries using green skills. To encourage and support use of the resources, the Society's Education team are working with the British School Muscat to provide online training tailored to schools in the Middle East and British schools overseas, as well as schools in the UK.

Wwww.rgs.org/jewel-of-arabia

## From the field News

### **Fieldwork Apprenticeships**

The deadline for this year's Fieldwork Apprenticeships on 1 April is fast approaching. The scheme enables first year undergraduate students, who would not otherwise have the opportunity, to participate in an overseas fieldwork project led by an academic member of staff at their university this summer. Recent Apprenticeships have seen students join teams studying glaciers and hydropower in the Alps through to atmospheric processes using weather balloons in Zambia.

Wwww.rgs.org/grants

### **Journey in Audio**

The Society's new small group workshop, taking place this spring, will provide professional training and access to high-quality equipment for those going into the field in 2025, supporting the documentation of their travel, fieldwork or research expedition through audio recorded in the field. Look out for their stories across the Society's channels later in the year.

Wwww.rgs.org/journey-in-audio

### **Ran and Ginny Fiennes Award**

The Society has taken on the important grant awarding work of the Transglobe Expedition Trust and is supporting the next generation of travellers and expeditioners through the Ran and Ginny Fiennes Award. The Awards will be given in support of humanitarian, scientific or educational projects which follow in the Transglobe Expedition's tradition of challenge and perseverance, and enable those benefiting from the Award to achieve worthwhile ambitions and inspire others to do likewise. Applications for projects taking place in 2026 are welcomed ahead of the deadline of 15 September 2025.

Wwww.rgs.org/ran-and-ginny-fiennes-award

## Research and higher education News



### New journal appointments

We are pleased to announce a number of new editorial appointments for the Society's journals.

In *The Geographical Journal*, a new team has been appointed: Professor Peter Hopkins (Newcastle University), Professor Paul Milbourne (Cardiff University), Professor Joanna Bullard (Loughborough University), Dr Rebecca Collins (University of Chester) and Dr Trivik Verma (University of Bristol). In *Area*, we welcome three new editors: Dr Eli Lazarus (University of Southampton), Professor Mary Lawhon (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Jonny Darling (Durham University).

In Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, we have appointed six new members to the Editorial Board: Dr Sabina Lawreniuk (University of Nottingham), Dr Francesco Chiodelli (Università degli Studi di Torino), Dr Ida Andersson (Örebro University), Dr Ye Junjia (Nanyang Technological University), Dr Eloisa Berman-Arévalo (Universidad del Norte), and Dr George Adamson (Kings College London).

We are very grateful to all of our outgoing editors and board members for their hard work and strategic direction throughout their tenures.

Wwww.rgs.org/research-publications



#### **Peer review academy**

The inaugural RGS-IBG Peer review academy took place from October to December 2024. Twelve postgraduate participants were selected from over 100 applicants to attend workshops and complete a supported practice review. The scheme will run twice a year with the aim of improving the confidence of peer reviewers and quality of reviews in our postgraduate geography community. Please look out for upcoming calls for applications.

W www.rgs.org/peer-review-academy

#### **Society grants**

Each autumn, our Research Groups can apply for funding from the Society to support activities in the upcoming year. The Research Groups bring together active researchers and those with a professional interest in a particular aspect of geography and related disciplines. We have now awarded 10 groups / projects grants this year, which are enabling the sharing of expertise and providing support to the wider research community. These grants will be funding academic workshops, travel bursaries, training days, and more. ₩ www.rgs.org/research-groups

## Professional News



### **Undergraduate LinkedIn network**

The Society has launched an online network to support students in the transition from university to a career in geography.

The LinkedIn group, for undergraduates and recent graduates, shares resources, opportunities and guest blogs providing insight for early career professionals across the wide range of sectors geography graduates work in. The group seeks to address the challenges of what to do next and how to get there.

Wwww.linkedin.com/groups/13090096

#### **CPD for Chartered Geographers**

Employers or training providers delivering professional development to geographers are invited to have their professional development activity recognised as contributing towards Chartered Geographer CPD requirements.

The Society offers a CPD mark to recognise activities that support geographers in their professional development, for example in developing the competencies described in the Chartered Geographer framework of competencies, or in teaching skills and knowledge specific to one of geography's sub-disciplines. The CPD mark can help courses stand out and demonstrates that the content and delivery of the course has been determined suitable for Chartered Geographers and others. **W** www.rgs.org/cpd-mark

## **Events** Highlights



#### Summer events programme

With a stellar line up of regional events and continually growing number of talks on demand, our thoughtful discussions and fascinating lectures are here to inspire you any time, wherever you are.

Our summer regional programme brings you a fantastic range of in-person events, including a guided walk around Brighton's historic and contemporary LGBTQ spaces, an exploration of the different legal and cultural concepts of an urban common in Norwich, and in Tavistock artist Tony Foster's discussion on the expeditions he made to paint the three faces of Everest.

## Summer 2025 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

For	Date	Title	Speaker
M+G	7 Apr	Informing action: Esmond B. Martin lecture	
M+G	14 Apr	The Mappa Mundi project: changing the world by changing how we view it	Sandi Toksvig
M+G	28 Apr	Mulu: a remarkable rainforest mountain in Sarawak	Dr Paul Chai
M+G	12 May	Pristine seas: the last wild places in the ocean	Enric Sala
M+G	19 May	Seneca and Franklin were right	Sir Kenneth Olisa

#### **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 Wwww.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 14 April, 28 April and 12 May and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £42 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**

#### Key to events

 B Book tickets in advance
 M+G Members plus one guest
 S Supper to follow lecture (advance booking required)
 E Exhibition
 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 contact the Events Office in advance on  $\mathbf{T}$  020 7591 3100  $\mathbf{E}$  events@rgs.org Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

#### **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.

## **Events listings**

In chronological order

#### E M+G Tuesday 1 April - Tuesday 10 June 10.00am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday

Exhibition (London)

Nyapun

#### Robin Hanbury-Tenison

An exhibition of black and white photographs to acknowledge the friendship given and knowledge shared by Nyapun, his family and the Penan community, living in and around the Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak in 1977 and 1978. At the Society, in the Director's Gallery. Free.



### B Tuesday 1 April 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

#### **Getting started with ArcGIS**

This CPD event is for teachers with little or no previous GIS experience. At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.



#### B Wednesday 2 April 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

#### **Going further with ArcGIS**

This event is for teachers who have completed the Getting started with ArcGIS one-day CPD course and wish to further develop their knowledge and skills. At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.



### B Wednesday 2 April 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Geography in practice webinar (online)

#### **Digital twins in the transport sector**

The Society and Ordnance Survey are collaborating on a webinar series focusing on digital twins. Online. Free.

#### B Thursday 3 April 7.00pm - 9.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm) Lecture (London and online)

#### **Geographical journeys: microlectures**

An evening packed with tales of adventure and discovery to entertain and inspire. Discussion encouraged afterwards in the Map Room. Organised by the London regional committee. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5. Students free.

#### Monday 7 April 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm) Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online) Integrating maps and instruments in art

#### Kristina Chan

Kristina will discuss her current art exhibition, *Habitable Climes*, which includes images of instruments in the Society's Collections. In-person attendees will be able to see the instruments following the talk. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B Monday 7 April 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social (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+G Monday 7 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

#### Informing action: Esmond B. Martin lecture

The lecture will explore examples of how careful research can be the foundation of progress towards a better world. The 2025 Esmond B. Martin RGS Prize will also be presented. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B Tuesday 8 April 7.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (Exeter)

#### Map, chart, slide and artefacts evening

A chance to hear members' own stories, talking for 10 minutes about their travels and experiences. Buffet supper at half time. Organised by the South West regional committee. Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. £20, book by 28 March.



#### B Wednesday 9 April 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Plymouth)

#### The study of landscapes of extraction

#### Dr Tom Greeves

Tom discusses the study of landscapes of extraction, focusing on the region between Dartmoor to West Penwith. Organised by the South West regional committee. Plymouth Athenaeum, Derry's Cross, PL1 2SW. Free.

#### B Thursday 10 April 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm) Lecture (Norwich)

Reimaging our urban spaces

#### as future green spaces

#### Chris Rodgers

Our urban commons are a precious resource with enormous significance for promoting biodiversity, and for health and wellbeing in an urban context. Chris will explore the different legal and cultural concepts of an urban common, illustrated by examples from research that includes Mousehold Heath in Norwich. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

#### Thursday 10 April 7.45pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Oxford) Wildly different: how five women reclaimed nature in a man's world

#### Sarah Lonsdale

Sarah recounts five trailblazing women's adventures across the globe, challenging for their right to work helping to save the Earth's wild places. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. St Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, OX2 6TN. £2, RGS-IBG members free.

#### B M+G S Monday 14 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm) Monday night lecture (London and online) **The Mappa Mundi project: changing** 

#### the world by changing how we view it Sandi Toksvig

Inspired by a map of the world made in 1300 by German nuns, Sandi is reassessing how we chart what we know. Despite always having represented half of the population, women only appear in 0.5% of recorded history - the continued use of 16th century world maps is not helping. It's time for a change. At the Society and online. Free.

## B M+G Monday 14 April 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. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 10 April and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

#### B Wednesday 16 April 12.30pm - 1.30pm



#### Geography in practice webinar (online)

#### Digital twins in the energy sector

The Society and Ordnance Survey are collaborating on a webinar series focusing on digital twins. Online. Free.

B Wednesday 16 April 1.00pm - 2.00pm Webinar (online)

#### Chartered geographer introductory webinar

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

#### **B** Tuesday 22 - Thursday 24 April 8.30am - 6.00pm

Conference (London and online)

#### Postgraduate forum mid-term conference 2025

The conference will include research presentations by postgraduate geographers, keynote lectures by guest speakers, interactive workshops, networking opportunities, and an evening reception. Tuesday will be online, with Wednesday and Thursday in-person. At the Society and online. £80.

## B Monday 28 April - Tuesday 20 May 10.00am - 5.00pm

Exhibition (London)

#### Siam through the lens of John Thomson

An exhibition of large format photographic prints taken by John Thomson FRGS during his time in Thailand. At the Society. Free.

#### B Monday 28 April 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Lecture (London and online)

**The Mulu (Sarawak) expedition 1977-1978** Robin Hanbury-Tenison, Andy Eavis, members of the Mulu Caves Project and others from Sarawak Hear Robin and his colleagues share their first-hand stories, sounds, artefacts, maps and images associated with the original geographical survey of the Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak by the Society and the Foresty Department in 1977-78 and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B M+G S Monday 28 April 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Social (London)

#### Mulu expedition reunion tea party

Join us for a reunion tea party with members of the Mulu expedition and guests from Sarawak. Enjoy a selection of teas and cakes in the historic Main Hall of the Society. At the Society. £10, RGS-IBG members £8.

#### B Monday 28 April 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Film screening (London and online) **The mysteries of the green mountain** Introduced by Robin Hanbury-Tenison and Max Goldzweig from the BBC Natural History Unit Showing of the BBC *World About Us* documentary by Barry Paine and first shown in the UK in 1978. This award-winning film chronicles the work of the Society and the Sarawak Government's 15-month geographical survey of the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B M+G Monday 28 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm) Monday night lecture (London and online) Mulu: a remarkable rainforest mountain in Sarawak

#### Dr Paul Chai

Paul, the senior forest botanist on the survey of the Gunung Mulu National Park by the Society and the Sarawak Forestry Department in 1977-78 gives an update on the park, highlighting past and future research opportunities for those visiting the magnificent limestone caves and tropical forests of this legendary UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B M+G Monday 28 April 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. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 24 April and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



#### B Wednesday 30 April 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Geography in practice webinar (online)

#### **Digital twins for climate resilience**

The Society and Ordnance Survey are collaborating on a webinar series focusing on digital twins. Online. Free.



#### B Wednesday 30 April - Thursday 21 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Webinar (online)

#### CGeog application accelerator for Government geography professionals

A four-week accelerator programme specifically designed to support Government geography professionals and public sector employees, helping you focus your efforts and effectively prepare your application for Chartered Geographer. Online. Free.

#### B Thursday 1 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm) Lecture (Cambridge)

#### Using rights of nature to protect rainforest and paramo grassland ecosystems in Ecuador: a new paradigm for effective conservation Dr Mika Peck

Learn how Rights of Nature principles are being used to empower local communities in defending valuable wildlife habitats from exploitation. Organised by the East of England regional committee. The Leys School, Trumpington Road, CB2 7AD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

#### B Thursday 1 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 7.00pm) Lecture (Norwich)

#### The rise and rise of the French Riviera Jim Ring

Jim traces the story of the Riviera back to the British aristocrats who discovered it in the late 18th century, and identifies the qualities that have enabled the Cote d'Azur to stay ahead of the pack. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.



#### **B Thursday 1 May 5.00pm - 6.30pm** Webinar (online)

#### NEA grade booster workshop for teachers

This teacher workshop will explore approaches to help students raise the grades they achieve in the Non Examined Assessment (NEA). Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.

#### B Tuesday 6 May 9.30am - 3.00pm Workshop (London)

#### I can see the sea: teacher walkthrough

A chance for educators to implement the *l* can see the sea module into their classrooms. At the Society. Free.

#### B Tuesday 6 May 5.30pm - 7.00pm

Lecture (Newcastle)

CPD

#### The making of the white working class: race, class and identity in contemporary Britain Kenan Malik

Why has the white working class become such a significant concept? Does the label best serve the people it refers to? Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building, Newcastle University, Claremont Road, NE1 7RU. Free.

#### **B Tuesday 6 May 4.30pm - 5.30pm** Webinar (online)

Climate justice and fieldwork: teaching the human geographies of climate change in Year 9

An introduction to a scheme of work focusing on climate change, human geography and climate justice designed for Year 9. Online. Free.

#### B Wednesday 7 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (online)

#### **Careers in sustainability**

In this webinar learn from geography professionals with careers in sustainability. They will share their insights and advice and explore opportunities for starting your career in the diverse and dynamic sector of sustainability. Online. Free.



#### **B Wednesday 7 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm** Webinar (online)

#### **Chartered Geographer introductory webinar**

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

#### B Wednesday 7 May 7.30pm - 9.30pm

## Lecture (Stamford) Stories from the wild edges

#### Ted Simpson

Award winning environmental filmmaker talks about his filmmaking journey exploring the wild edges of Britain. The event will feature a screening of Ted's latest short film, *The Pine Hunters*, followed by a Q&A. Stamford Arts Centre. £14, RGS-IBG members £10.

#### B Saturday 10 May 7.00pm - 8.50pm

Lecture (Penrith)

#### Stories from the wild edges

Ted Simpson

Award winning environmental filmmaker talks about his filmmaking journey exploring the wild edges of Britain. The event will feature a screening of Ted's latest short film, *The Pine Hunters*, followed by a Q&A. Rheged Centre. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.

#### B Monday 12 May 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm) Be inspired afternoon (London and online)

#### **Overnight adventures**

#### Dan Richards

Dan shares some of the nocturnal stories that feature in his new book, *Overnight*, including the time he was on the trail of the mountaineering legacyof his great grand aunt Dorothy Pilley. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B Monday 12 May 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social (London)

#### New members' welcome tour

Discover more about the history of the Society, who we are today and how to make the most of your membership. At the Society. Free.



#### **B Monday 12 May 5.30pm - 6.30pm** Networking (London)

#### Geo-insights: professional networking

Join us for an evening of networking, with fellow geography professionals and brief presentations from Chartered Geographers, sharing insights into their experiences. At the Society. Free.

#### B M+G S Monday 12 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm) Monday night lecture (London and online)

#### Pristine seas: the last wild places in the ocean Enric Sala

Ocean life is at risk due to overfishing and global warming, but there are still a few remote places that have been saved from human destruction. Enric will share stories from National Geographic Pristine Seas expeditions and share lessons about how to bring the ocean back to life. At the Society and online. Free.

### B M+G Monday 12 May 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. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 8 May and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



### B Wednesday 14 May 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Geography in practice webinar (online)

#### Digital twins: what next

The Society and Ordnance Survey are collaborating on a webinar series focusing on digital twins. Online. Free.

#### B Wednesday 14 May 1.00pm - 2.30pm

Lecture (online)

#### Expanding our understanding of racism and anti-racist politics

Dr Camila Bassi, Professor Alastair Bonnett, and Kenan Malik

This exchange brings together the authors of three books which endeavour to expand our comprehension of what racism is. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Online. Free.

#### B Wednesday 14 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm) Panel discussion (London and online)

#### Staycations and slow travel: rediscovering the UK's hidden gems

Join our panel to discuss slow travel and local tourism as a means to reduce environmental harm while supporting domestic economies. At the Society and online. In person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

#### Thursday 15 May 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

#### The geography of Irish linen

#### Fiona McKelvie

An illustrated talk on the international nature of the Irish linen trade in the days when Belfast was known as Linenopolis. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University, BT7 1NN. Free.

#### B Monday 19 May 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm) Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

#### Through Siam with a camera: John Thomson Deborah Ireland

John Thomson is one of the great figures in the history of photography, an extraordinary photographer, traveller, author, translator and teacher. In 1865 he travelled to Siam and photographed the King and his subjects creating a unique record of the country. This talk revisits the original negatives to see Siam as recorded by Thomson's lens in 1865. At the Society and online. Free.

#### **B M+G** Monday 19 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm) Monday night lecture (London and online)

#### Seneca and Franklin were right

#### Sir Kenneth Olisa

The lecture will explore the work of the National Preparedness Commission (NPC) and its different perspectives. As an independent and apolitical body, the NPC mission is to champion comprehensive, system-wide policies and actions that enable the UK to better avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from major crises. At the Society and online. Free.



### B Monday 19 May 4.00pm - 5.00pm

Webinar (online)

#### Using place to inspire story writing for Key Stage 2

In this workshop for teachers of Key Stage 2, we will explore a unit of work creating story narratives using place as an inspiration using maps, images and memories. Online. £30, RBS-IBG members £25.

#### B Tuesday 20 May 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (online)

#### Choosing the right university and geography course

This session aims to support students in making the right choices for them when choosing both a university and a geography course. Our speakers will take you through a range of things to think about when researching universities and deciding which to apply for, as well as looking in depth about how you can assess whether a geography course will be the right fit for you or not. This event is aimed at students, however we also encourage teachers to attend the event to collect information they can then pass to their students. Parents are also welcome to attend. Online. Free.

#### B Wednesday 21 May 6.00pm - 10.30pm

Social (Tavistock)

#### South West's annual forum, lecture and dinner Tony Foster

Join the South West committee for their annual forum, lecture and dinner. The lecture will be given by watercolour artist Tony Foster, who will speak to the title *Painting Everest*. Organised by the South West regional committee. Mount Kelly, PL19 0HZ. £35, book by 6 May.

#### B Tuesday 27 May 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (Newcastle)

#### The geographies of resistance and re-existence

#### Dr Ana Laura Zavala Guillen

Ana will present her body of work describing the geographies of resistance and re-existence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Northumbria University Ellison Building, NE1 8ST. Free.

### B Tuesday 27 May 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (Bath) The legacy of the Bakers in Victorian East Africa

David Baker MBE and Dr Jacki Hill-Murphy

This lecture will explore the life of Lady Florence Baker who was sold as a slave and became the wife of Sir Samuel Baker, and together they helped to suppress the African slave trade. Organised by the West of England and South Wales regional committee. Online and BRLSI, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN £6, RGS-IBG members £3.

#### B Tuesday 28 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm) Panel discussion (London and online)

## The future of UK agriculture: balancing food security and environmental stewardship

Join our panel to discuss the challenges and opportunities in UK agriculture amid climate change and policy shifts. At the Society and online. In person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

#### **B** Thursday 29 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

Lecture (Norwich)

#### A life in green: looking back, looking forward Sir Jonathon Porritt

Jonathon will explore what we have learnt from the last 50 years of activism on climate and biodiversity issues, and what the current priorities are. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

#### B Saturday 31 May 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Guided walk (Kendal)

#### **Skelsmergh and the River Sprint**

Guided walk to Skelsmergh and the River Sprint exploring the physical, social and cultural geography of this special Lake District hinterland. Organised by the North West regional committee. Holme House Farm, Skelsmergh, LA8 9AQ. Free.

#### B Saturday 31 May 8.00am - 9.00pm

Field visit (Bideford)

#### A day trip to Lundy on the MS Oldenburg

After arriving on the island, Lundy Ambassadors, will lead groups on guided walks showing the terrestrial, marine and avian wildlife on this special island. Organised by the South West regional committee. Bideford, North Devon, EX38 2HJ. £50.

#### **B M Monday 2 June 4.30pm - 5.30pm**

Meeting (London and online)

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM is an opportunity to learn about the Society's achievements over the past year and goals for the future, as well as to elect new Council members. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B Monday 2 June 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Awards ceremony (London and online)

#### Medals and awards celebration

Our medals and awards recognise people or organisations for their outstanding contributions to geographical research, fieldwork and teaching, and public engagement. Join us as we celebrate the 2025 award recipients. At the Society and online. Free.

#### B M+G Monday 2 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Social (London)

#### **Annual reception**

Join us as we celebrate another successful year for the Society. At the Society. £25, includes drinks and canapés.

## CPD

CPD

#### **B Wednesday 4 June 4.00pm - 5.00pm** Webinar (online)

#### Introducing the climate action toolkit

An introduction to a set of free primary resources designed to empower your pupils to understand a world impacted by climate change. Online. Free.

#### **B Monday 9 June 4.00pm - 5.00pm** Webinar (online)

#### Using place to inspire story writing for Key Stage 1

In this online workshop for teachers of Key Stage 1 children, we will explore a unit of work looking at simple creative stories using places we know and love as an inspiration. We will explore through the use of schoolbased fieldwork; playground mapping; images of places that are important to us; creating fantasy and real representations of place using 3D materials. Online. £30, RGS-IBG members £25.

#### Monday 9 June 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (London and online) Architecture as an Earth practice Stella Mutegi, Kabage Karanja,

#### Owen Hopkins, Kathryn Yusoff

Join the curators of the British Pavillion for the 2025 Venice Biennale for a lecture-performance exploring the exhibition's focus on re-connecting architecture to the earth and the possibilities of repair, reparation, and resistance from which new worlds might emerge. At the Society and online. Free.

CPD

**B Tuesday 10 June 5.00pm - 6.30pm** Webinar (online)

#### People and place fieldwork skills and opportunities in your local area

Run with the Field Studies Council, this session will help you to build a toolkit and gain confidence in using methods to inspire and engage your students in human geography. Looking at both GCSE enquiry questions and how to get the best out of a local study, and a wider more skills-based approach at A Level, we will introduce new innovative ideas to avoid just another traffic count! Online. Free.

#### B Wednesday 11 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Field visit (Brighton)

## The past, present and future of LGBTQ spaces in Brighton

A guided walk around Brighton's historic and contemporary LGBTQ spaces. Organised by the South regional committee. Old Steine Gardens fountation, 55 Old Steine, BN1 1NH. Free.

#### B Monday 16 June 10.00am - 4.15pm CPD

Conference (London)

#### Festival of geography

This special event is an opportunity for teachers at all stages to come together and share their passion for geography. Over a full day, attend sessions on creative and practical ideas for the classroom and get subject updates from experts in the field. At the Society. £175.

#### B Monday 16 June 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (London and online)

#### Earth Photo 2025 awards evening

Join the Society. Forestry England and Parker Harris for the unveiling of this year's winners of the Earth Photo 2025 competition. At the Society and online. Free.

## CPD

#### B Tuesday 17 June 4.00pm - 5.00pm Webinar (online)

#### **Digimap for schools for Key Stage 2** and Key Stage 3 geography

This demonstration will focus on introducing Digimap for Schools and showing how this GIS can be used across the Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curriculum. Online, Free,

#### E Tuesday 17 June - Wednesday 20 August 10.00am - 5.00pm

Exhibition (London)

#### Earth Photo 2025 exhibition

Visit the Society to see a stunning selection of the shortlisted and winning images from this year's competition. At the Society. Free.



#### B Wednesday 18 June 1.00pm - 2.00pm Webinar (online)

#### Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

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

CPD

### B Tuesday 24 June 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (Manchester)

#### **Getting started with ArcGIS**

This CPD event is for teachers with little or no previous GIS experience. Manchester Metropolitan University. £21. RGS-IBG members £14.



### B Wednesday 25 June 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (Manchester)

#### **Going further with GIS**

This event is for teachers who have completed the Getting started with ArcGIS one-day CPD course and wish to further develop their knowledge and skills. Manchester Metropolitan University, £21, RGS-IBG members £14



#### Digimap for schools: a guick guide to fieldwork

Looking for fieldwork ideas? This session, run in partnership with OS, will explore options for mapping both locally and on fieldtrips, and introduce some apps that can help. Online. Free.



#### B Thursday 26 June 1.00pm - 1.30pm Webinar (online)

#### **Chartered Geographer application accelerator**

A four-week accelerator for those eligible for Chartered Geographer to focus your efforts in preparing your application portfolio. Online. Free.

#### B Tuesday 1 July 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Exeter)

#### Stories from the wild edges

#### Ted Simpson

Award winning environmental filmmaker Ted Simpson talks about his filmmaking journey exploring the wild edges of Britain. The event will feature a screening of Ted's latest short film, The Pine Hunters, followed by a Q&A. Exeter Phoenix. Gandy Street. Exeter. EX4 3LS. £12. RGS-IBG members £10.

#### B Friday 4 July 7.30pm - 12.00am

Social (London) Silk Roads summer party: a celebration from East to West

Join us for a reception and dinner followed by live music and dancing. All over 18s welcome. Organised by the London regional committee. At the Society.

#### B Friday 4 July 2.00pm - 6.00pm

Field visit (Bideford)

#### Visit to Bucks Mills

Nestled between the bustling port of Bideford and the better-known Clovelly, the little village of Bucks Mills is often overlooked. Chris Braund's family have been associated with Bucks Mills for seven generations. Chris will introduce the inhabitants of each dwelling and relate anecdotes about the history of this unique fishing village. Organised by the South West regional committee. Bucks Mills Car Park, Woolfardisworthy. Bideford, EX39 5DW, £5,



### B Friday 11 July 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Networking (online)

#### Geo-insights: professional networking

Join us for an engaging virtual networking session, where you can connect with fellow geography professionals and enjoy brief presentations from Chartered Geographers, sharing insights into their work and experiences. Online. Free.



#### B Thursday 17 July 1.00pm - 2.00pm Webinar (online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

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

#### Saturday 19 - Sunday 27 July

Citizen science

#### Global GeoARTBlitz

You are invited to observe nature in a specific geography and upload your species observations to iNaturalist. Go out in the field wherever you are and create a journal page, painting, poem, or music in response to your nature observations. Free,

#### B Wednesday 13 August 1.00pm - 2.00pm Webinar (online)

**Chartered Geographer introductory webinar** 

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

#### B Tuesday 26 - Friday 29 August

Conference (Birmingham)

#### **RGS-IBG Annual International** Conference 2025

#### Chaired by Professor Patricia Noxolo

The Chair's theme for the 2025 Annual International Conference is Geographies of creativity/creative geographies. At a time when our world really needs a creative vision, to deal with new challenges in new ways, the conference theme asks for nothing less than a creative re-visioning of geography. University of Birmingham. See website for delegate rates.

## Non-Society events

#### Friday 4 - Saturday 5 April

Conference

#### Student global leadership conference

SGLC 2025 aims to explore how inclusive leadership can drive positive change by establishing cultural connections and challenging stereotypes. £110. T 020 7591 7750 E conference@fie.org.uk W www.fie.org.uk/sglcconference



#### Tuesday 8 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

#### The Earth convention: energy and finance

#### Sophie Lawrence, Baroness Rosie Boycott This panel will address the significant role played by energy and finance for the future of the planet. £15. **E** info@5x15stories.com **W** www.5x15.com

#### Friday 25 April 9.00am - 5.00pm

(doors open at 9.00am) Conference

#### CityJS London 2025:

#### Londons JavaScript Conference

Kent C Dodds, Rich Harris, Jason Lengstroff, Guilherme Dalla Rosa, Adam Cowley, Ramona Schwering, Sara Vieira
The JavaScript London event of the year returns for the third year in a row. £299.
T 07809 468179 E community@cityjsconf.org
W www.london.cityjsconf.org

#### Saturday 10 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm

(doors open at 6.30pm) Comedy

#### Vipul Goyal: unleashed

#### Vipul Goyal

Vipul Goyal is coming to London. £30, VIP £40. **T** 07787 031905 **E** admin@zeppelinentertainment.com **W** www.zeppelinentertainment.com/events/vipulgoyal-live-in-london

#### Tuesday 3 June 7.30pm - 10.00pm

(doors open at 6.30pm) Lecture

#### Polar tribute lecture to late Professor David Vaughan OBE FRGS

#### Paul Rose and friends of the late David Vaughan

The Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute invite you to a special commemoration event in tribute to the polar pioneer David Vaughan.  $\pounds 25$ .

T 01223 336540 E friends@spri.cam.ac.uk

W www.bit.ly/3Q4zeGa

#### Thursday 5 June 6.30pm - 8.00pm

(doors open at 5.30pm) Lecture

## The 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Kanchenjunga

#### Dawa Yangzum Sherpa, Adriana Brownlee, Rebecca Stephens MBE

Join us to celebrate the first ascent of this sacred mountain and explore its relevance to sustainable adventure travel today. £25.

E enquiries@himalayantrust.co.uk W www.himalayantrust.co.uk

#### Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 June 12.00pm - 6.00pm

Antique map fair with lectures

#### London map fair

#### Nicholas Nugent, Ashley Baynton-Williams

The world's oldest and largest specialist antique map fair: 35 leading international map dealers selling original antique maps and atlases. Free. **T** 020 7836 1910 **E** info@londonmapfairs.com

Www.londonmapfairs.com

### Tuesday 17 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

#### The Earth convention: oceans and rivers

George Monbiot, Halen Scales, Tom Mustill, Baroness Rosie Boycott A high level discussion on the future of our oceans and rivers. £15. E info@5x15stories.com W www.5x15.com

#### Tuesday 24 - Friday 27 June 8.30am - 6.30pm

(doors open at 8.00am) Conference

#### Hamlyn symposium on medical robotics

Conference chairs: Professor The Lord Ara Darzi, Professor Ferdinando Rodriguez y Baena The Hamlyn Symposium fosters global collaboration, showcasing advancements in medical robotics among leading surgeons, engineers, and scientists worldwide. **E** marianne.knight@imperial.ac.uk **W** www.hamlynsymposium.org

#### Wednesday 11 June 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 6.00pm) Awards ceremony

#### 2025 Ashden awards

For 25 years the Ashden Awards have powered a greener, fairer future. Our awards will spotlight champions accelerating climate action. Invite-only, to request a ticket please email the organisers. E info@ashden.org W www.ashden.org/awards

#### Tuesday 13 May 7.30pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm) Lecture and reception The Kirker spring lecture in aid of Venice in Peril

#### Adam Lowe

Join us for a glass of prosecco, followed by a talk from the founder of art conservation company Factum Arte, whose replica of *The Wedding Feast at Cana* (1563), by Paolo Veronese, hangs in San Giorgio Maggiore.

£30. Ersvp@kirkerholidays.com

W www.kirkerholidays.com

### **Regional committees**

We have regional committees across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as two international branches based in Hong Kong and Singapore. 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?

#### Vice President, Membership

Matt Pycroft E regionschair@rgs.org

#### East of England

James Firebrace E ea@rgs.org

#### London

Annabel Illingworth E london@rgs.org

#### Midlands Martin Haslett

E midlands@rgs.org

#### Northern Ireland Tim Campbell

E ni@rgs.org North West Jonathan Stevens (Cumbria)

E nw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (Cheshire) E cnw@rgs.org

#### South

Henry Hogger E south@rgs.org

#### West of England

Sam Scott E wesw@rgs.org

#### South West

Alan Smith E sw@rgs.org

Martin Kemp (North Devon) E northdevon@rgs.org

#### Wales

Sam Scott (South Wales) E wesw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (North Wales) E cnw@rgs.org

#### Yorkshire and the North East

David McEvoy and Andy Suggitt **E** yne@rgs.org

#### Singapore

Oliver Worsley E singapore@rgs.org

#### **Hong Kong**

Rupert McCowan E admin@rgshk.org.hk W www.rgshk.org.hk

Thank you to all our Fellows and Members who are involved in organising regional events.

## Meet conference chair Q&A with Professor Patricia Noxolo

This year, the Society's Annual International Conference will be taking place at the University of Birmingham from 26 to 29 August and is chaired by Professor Patricia Noxolo, who chose the conference theme. We sat down with her to discuss how geographers engage with creativity and her hopes for the conference.

## What inspired you to choose creativity as the theme for the conference in 2025?

I wanted to think about creativity because I've spent a lot of my career working with creative practitioners and thinking about the work that they do and how their creativity expands and makes something that's extraordinary. I also wanted to think about creativity as something that is a potent force in the world that connects us to places and that places can enhance.

## What kinds of practices (including geographical) do you consider creative?

Well, there are all sorts of practices that I'd consider to be creative and the theme is geographies of creativity/creative geography so I want to think about geography as a discipline that is creative through the creation of maps and the creation of science of various kinds, the creation of ideas, thinking and imagining and reimagining the connections between post-colonial geographies and development geographies. An example is the connections, and their reimagining, between the poorest places in the world and the wealthiest places in the world. I'm also interested in how a lot of spatial knowledge is not in conventional western geographical containers, but it's also felt through creative practice, felt through dance or understood and theorised through creative writing.



© University of Birmingham

### What do you think the challenges are in thinking about creativity and geography together, if there are any?

I think there are a few actually and I really want to see what people do with it. To be creative requires a certain loosening up, freeing up. I think often there's a certain tension where capitalism really wants us to be creative, but it also wants us to be docile, and docility is not good for creativity. You need to be able to take risks. You need to be able to say, 'this could work'. Though creativity is not necessarily innocent. It can be highly complicit with various forms of exploitation and oppression. The flexibility of exploitation is also something that is creative and we need to be aware of how and why it is creative.

## How do you hope delegates will connect with Birmingham as a creative place?

I hope geographers will really enjoy being there, that there'll be some really interesting

questions about marginality and typicality, that there'll be a porousness, that people in the city will also benefit from the conference. I want people in the city to be able to contribute to the conference, they might come and perform, they might tell us about their research and their lives, and that also geographers will go out into the city and find out about them, collaborate, bring them in.

## What programme activities are you most looking forward to?

I guess one of the things that I really want to have happen is surprise. For people to surprise me and themselves about what they actually end up doing. We're going to have to think about the conference space differently; find really creative ways of getting vital messages across. Wwww.rgs.org/conference

## The future of education Geography within curriculum

In autumn 2024, the Government's review of the existing national curriculum and statutory assessment system in England, chaired by Professor Becky Francis, was launched to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting the needs of children and young people.

After an open call to Society members for thoughts and evidence, we submitted our response, which we believe represents the best interests of the discipline and the views of the Society, our members and education professionals.

In our response, we advocate strongly that the current statutory entitlement to education in geography is a great strength of the English educational system and it must be retained. Geography is the core subject through which young people learn about issues such as globalisation,



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development, sustainability, resilience, interdependence, inequality and climate change. It fosters curiosity and vital skills of enquiry to better understand, engage with, and operate in the world of today, enabling young people to develop and evaluate potential solutions to pressing global challenges. Geography also equips young people with a range of skills, capabilities, values and behaviours that help them to develop into informed citizens aware and invested in the world in which they live.

The requirement for young people to do fieldwork, to have structured learning in and out of the classroom, and to experience the outdoors, is essential and we argue it must feature at all key stages. We know fieldwork benefits not only learning, by allowing students to connect complex human / environment interactions and geographical concepts with the real world, but also wellbeing by enhancing the personal, social and emotional development of students, alongside their employability.

However, we also recognise that elements of the geography curriculum do need to be updated, notably in terms of topics such as climate change and sustainability, global development, and mapping (and geospatial technologies and analysis). Some of these changes are urgent. At the same time, the curriculum is packed, and the amount of content, especially at GCSE, does need to be reduced to allow integration of up to date content and case studies.

There are calls to embed the teaching of climate change across the curriculum which we support, but we continue to stress that climate change education must remain anchored in geography. Geography is unique in its capacity to teach young people



© James Tye

about why and how climate change is happening, its impacts on places and people – and how and why these are so uneven – and how these impacts can be mitigated. As a result, a revised geography curriculum must make explicit reference to the climate emergency, to climate action, to climate justice, and importantly to hopeful futures.

Our response reiterates that the current post 16 options for those who take A Levels are too narrow. Importantly, more vocational pathways need to be developed for this stage, with huge potential for opportunities focused on geospatial applications and geographical green skills.

Crucially, we strongly advocate for any new curriculum and assessment framework to be sustainable with respect to its impact on the teaching workforce who will deliver it, and cognisant of the broader context in which education is being delivered. While beyond the scope of this review, we also call for more specialist geography teachers and for teachers (specialist, generalist and non-specialist) to be supported in transitioning to the new curriculum through training and professional development, to ensure the most effective implementation.

We look forward to working with the review panel and other sector bodies in the next phases of the review. Further updates about our advocacy work can be found on our website. If you would like regular updates about our education work sign up to our e-newsletter.

Wwww.rgs.org/schools/connect-with-us

## **Geography in practice** Staying connected

Professional development is an unending process of continually improving awareness, skills and competencies to ensure qualifications do not become outdated, while enhancing workplace outcomes and individual career prospects.

In a rapidly evolving professional landscape, geographers face the continual challenge of staying ahead of new technologies and approaches. It has never been more important to connect professional communities that share a common interest so they can exchange knowledge. As the UK's professional body for geography, the Society is uniquely positioned to bring together experts, industries and tools that foster learning, collaboration, and enhance the long-term professional prospects of people using geographical skills in their work. The Society's Geography in practice webinars have been introduced to address the need for professional development events that raise awareness of new ideas, inspire further exploration and bring to the forefront the impact of geographical approaches across industries. These sector specific webinars reveal diverse perspectives and insights from experts, while sharing best practice and identifying shared challenges. As a collaborative forum, they also cultivate strong networks and allow attendees to engage in professional development flexibly.

The benefits of the webinars are wide ranging and they combine several important streams of the Society's work. They provide recognised CPD that is relevant and collaborative, keep professional geographers informed through real-world case studies that highlight the latest advances, and build meaningful networks



by bringing people together from a wide variety of organisations across research and industry.

For the speakers participating in the webinars, they are a welcome opportunity to showcase their work and a platform to invite insightful discussion. Dr Katie Dawson, Co-Founder and Technical Director at EcoSpatial Solutions, an organisation delivering GIS analytics, management, and visualisation to clients, hosted one of our webinars in December 2024 which looked at gathering baseline data and measuring improvements in biodiversity net gain (BNG) accurately in England and Wales. Katie found the joint event with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Canal & River Trust, and Ecospatial Solutions, a mutually beneficial experience.

"The Geography in practice webinar is a great environment for knowledge sharing and professional growth. I personally enjoy sharing my work and experiences; the importance of GIS support for BNG can be so easily overlooked, I truly appreciated the opportunity to demonstrate what's possible. I then get the benefit of enriching discussions and insights I otherwise would not have had. Attendees benefit from access to innovative ideas, practical applications, and diverse perspectives, regardless of their experience level. Ultimately bridging gaps between academia and industry and empowering participants with tools to address realworld challenges."

It is clear that exposure to new viewpoints and practices can enrich understanding and spark different approaches to an individual's work, and the aim of the ongoing *Geography in practice* series is to encourage this while nurturing a sense of belonging within our communities.

Recordings of all of the previous webinars, including *Trajectories of neighbourhood deprivation in England*, *Mapping underground infrastructure through the National Underground Asset Register (NUAR)*, and *Locally-led humanitarian planning and response... is this the end of international deployments?* can be found on our website.

## Venue hire A unique exhibition space

Choose the Royal Geographical Society for your 2025 show!

Prominently situated on London's Exhibition Road, in the heart of South Kensington's iconic arts and science district, our glass Pavilion offers a versatile space perfect for showcasing a variety of exhibitions and displays.

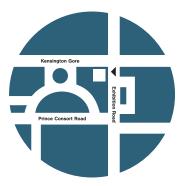
Take advantage of this well positioned, modern space with optional display systems and join a cohort of talented creatives and image makers to display their work at the Society, next to our own renowned Collections.

The bright, accessible space is available in two week hire slots with one evening access for a private view reception.

Contact us today to discuss how we can meet your needs.

Wwww.rgs.org/venue-hire

# How to find us



HIX Paper from responsible sources FSC\* C018381

Entrance is on Exhibition Road Nearest Tube station South Kensington

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) 1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR 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.

#### **Corporate Partners**



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