

Bulletin Summer 2026

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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- Our work



Collections

.....
**Collaborative
approaches**



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 Director

One of the defining qualities of the RGS is how it brings the wider society together via shared enthusiasms and purpose around geography, exploration and that simple but vital human quality of curiosity. Fellows and Members of the Society want to understand the world better – and also to help others understand it, their place in it, and their potential to improve it. We want to expand the impact and reach of our Society, hence we are currently working on making membership more accessible. In parallel we are working on a rebrand (generously supported by donors) which will see us move to a simplified identity as ‘the RGS’ and ‘The Royal Geographical Society’.

Looking ahead, our 2026 programme includes a very strong Monday night lecture series, available in broadcast quality – live online and on demand – wherever you are. There will be evolutions this year in our

public programming, which you will hear about via our new media studio and additional content generation made possible by a new staff appointment.

We have a notable date in the diary for November 2026 – the Society will mark fifty years of the Explore expedition planning weekend. We will be sure to take a moment to celebrate fifty years of unique achievement and global impact, while fixing our focus on how the RGS can work to support the next fifty years through new grants, events and publications, all under the banner ‘RGS Explore’.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe".

Professor Joe Smith
Director



Society News

Save on your next trip

The Society is delighted to announce that it has launched a further range of our fantastically successful co-branded holiday itineraries with our travel partner Travelsphere. Members can now travel purposefully to Greece and Turkey, Jordan, Peru and Amazon, Indonesia, and India. What's more, members can now access a discount on both European (£50pp) and world tours (£100pp).

W www.rgs.org/member-discounts

New year honours

We are thrilled to congratulate past Society President Nigel Clifford on his receipt of a CBE 'For services to Geography and to Geospatial Data Services'. Our congratulations also go out to Fellow Fiona Bloor on being awarded an MBE 'For service to the Law of the Sea'.

Endurance from the Negative

This June the Society and Riverside Press will publish a new book of Frank Hurley's photography from Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition. This photographic art book reproduces prints of Hurley's work direct from the negative, alongside the negatives themselves, with essays from Lady Alexandra Shackleton, Mensun Bound, and Summit Photo speakers Jean de Pomereu and Frans Lanting. Copies purchased through the Society or Stanfords will have the members' 10% discount applied. The book will also be available at all good bookshops.

W www.rgs.org/endurance-book-launch

Corporate Benefactor support

Jaguar Land Rover have renewed Corporate Benefactor support for a further year, building on 45 years of dedicated commitment to our work.

W www.rgs.org/corporate-support



New membership card image

Each year we seek an inspiring photograph which showcases an application of geographical thinking to appear on our membership card. This year we have chosen Romain Loubeyre's *The Glacial*

Snail. Taken in Scoresby Sund, Greenland, it is a captivating image which represents an enduring connection to an extraordinary place for the photographer.

W www.rgs.org/2026-card-image

Education News



© James Iye

Competition winners

The Society recognises the outstanding work of the next generation of geographers each year through the Young Geographer of the Year competition, which encourages young people to think creatively and analytically about geographical themes. The 2025 winners across each age category, who best responded to the theme

of 'Understanding islands', are Amaryllis Thomas, Walhampton School; Labiqa Babar, John Burns Primary School; Kitt Sutton, Ponteland High School; Anaiya Patel, Northwood College for Girls; Alex Willett, The High School Leckhampton; Gemma Davies, Bristol Grammar School; Vivian Paul, Queen Elizabeth's School and Ines Wall, Kings InterHigh Online School.



We also awarded the work of teacher Emelia Welch from Marling School for her lesson plans and accompanying resources that linked the theme directly to the curriculum.

The 2025 School Essay Competition, organised in partnership with the *Financial Times*, invited students to answer the following question: what are the implications for different countries of international trade policies in the contemporary world?

The winning entry belonged to Sylvester Parmar-Wickham from Fortismere, Muswell Hill who was recognised alongside several highly commended entries. Sylvester's essay will be published on FT.com

W www.rgs.org/competitions

Curriculum recommendations

The Curriculum and Assessment Review's final report and the Government's response were published in November. The Society welcomes the recognition of the importance of studying geography and the recommendations in the report to build on the strength and real-world relevance of the existing geography curriculum. Commitments outlined in the report include to clarify and reinforce the requirements for fieldwork, update and refresh the programme of study at GCSE and embed more disciplinary knowledge at KS3, as well as climate change and sustainability across Key Stages.

Thank you to those who shared their insights about the geography curriculum and informed our response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review's consultation.

W www.rgs.org/geography-curriculum-changes

From the field News



© RGS-IBG

Support for filmmakers

Building on the momentum of our pilot event in summer 2025, the Society's film nights continue to showcase how stories of contemporary exploration are being shared through the lenses of emerging filmmakers. These bi-annual events support our core mission of advancing geographical knowledge by bringing unique and compelling narratives to the forefront of our public programme.

The evening's curated short films paired with filmmaker Q&A sessions highlight diverse stories, and the endeavours behind them, reclaiming and reshaping the concept of geographical exploration for a broad audience.

The Society remains committed to empowering the next generation of explorers and creators. In parallel with our film series, we are now incorporating specialised filmmaking skills into the training and support offered to our grant recipients and the wider exploration community. In a crowded digital world, it is more important than ever that those at the forefront of discovery of new knowledge are equipped to be powerful storytellers.

Our next film night will take place on the evening of 8 July.

W www.rgs.org/exploration

Research and higher education News

© Brendan Foster



Annual International Conference 2026

The Society's Conference will this year be chaired by Professor Peter Hopkins (Newcastle University, UK), on the theme of *Geographies of inequalities: towards just places*.

Geographers play an important role in challenging, addressing and seeking to overturn inequalities and injustices.

Across seven panels and lectures, the plenary sessions will engage broadly with the conference theme, exploring inequalities in health, care and wellbeing; work to challenge racism; inequalities experienced through gender and sexualities; migrant justice and border abolition and more. These will sit alongside journal-sponsored lectures, workshops, field visits, exhibitions, and over 400 sessions of presentations and discussion.

The conference will take place in London at the Society and Imperial College London, and online, from Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 September 2026.

With a Society Fellowship or Associate Fellowship you benefit from discounted registration fees for conference attendance. Registration opens in spring 2026 and the full programme will be announced in May.

W www.rgs.org/AC2026



Fi Wi Road Internship 2026

Applications for the next cohort of Fi Wi Road interns are now open. Since 2021 the Fi Wi Road Internship has welcomed Black heritage geography and geoscience students to join their paid summer internship. The internship focuses on centering Black geography undergraduate voices within their field. Interns are invited to build new networks, skills and experiences, and shape what the discipline looks like through group sessions, one-to-one mentoring, and hands-on conference administration experience. The Society is a partner of the scheme, which also includes the opportunity to work at our Annual International Conference.

W www.fiwiroad.co.uk

Sign up to our quarterly newsletter, News and Events in Support of Underrepresented Students, to stay up to date with opportunities and the latest community news.

W www.rgs.org/geography-for-all

Support for postgraduates

Our Research Groups continue to support postgraduate and early career colleagues.

Through prizes, webinars, networking sessions and mentoring schemes they are showcasing and celebrating research, and provide opportunities for access to career support and networks.

W www.rgs.org/research-groups



Professional News

Support for Chartership

Professional body membership is valuable at every career stage and demonstrates a commitment to your progression.

The Society recently celebrated Chartered Week, recognising professional competence and standards. The Society joined with other professional bodies to sign an open letter highlighting the role that professional accreditation can make in gaining public trust in professions, particularly in the public sector.

To support growth towards eligibility for accreditation our newly launched Professional Pathway scheme offers Fellows and Associate Fellows a structured development route to Chartered Geographer. The Pathway supports reflective professional development, with a range of activities, resources, and regular emails tailored to your stage of career.

Recognising the commitment of employers in supporting their employees on the Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer, we are inviting organisations to register their support of the professional pathway, displaying the Professional Pathway logo.

W www.rgs.org/professional-pathway

Early career webinar series

We have added a new series to our professional development webinars, which focus on early career challenges, though they are open to all. Our panel of professional geographers, share their experiences, thoughts and tips on topics which all professionals tackle, from writing persuasive CV's, handling interviews, building networks, mentoring and planning professional development.

W www.rgs.org/events

Events Highlights



© Zulia Raabkowna

Summer events programme

Join us for a season that celebrates the best of visual storytelling both past and present. Through a series of events and exhibitions we explore the power of visual media and its ability to document physical and human landscapes.

Earth Photo returns to showcase and award remarkable still and moving image makers highlighting the prescient issues affecting the climate and life on our planet. Fifty of the finest entries to the competition will be shown in an exhibition at the Society between 26 June and 24 July.

In July we will be bringing together world-leading photographers, film makers, scientists, policy experts and the public to talk, debate and be inspired at Summit Photo. Over three days a series of powerful presentations, workshops, and micro lectures will inspire conversation and debate about our world.

We also celebrate the launch of a new exhibition on the life and career of Gertrude Bell FRGS, with the opportunity to hear presentations on the exhibition, see original archive materials as well as outputs from the digitisation project at our Private View.

Browse our upcoming events in the following pages and make sure you are subscribed to our events newsletter to keep up with additional events in your area.

W www.rgs.org/events



Summer 2026 events

Monday night lectures at a glance

6.30pm - 7.45pm

Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR
or online at **W** www.rgs.org/livestream

For	Date	Title	Speaker
MG	13 Apr	Why biodiversity matters: Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize giving and lecture	Professor Alexandre Antonelli and Dr Krithi Karanth
MG	20 Apr	Voices from the Global South: listening to climate perspectives	Perna Singh Bindra, Elspeth Mathau and Benny Qihao Shen, chaired by Professor Melissa Leach
MG	27 Apr	John Harrison: the true story of the man who accidentally created the board of longitude	Dr Richard Dunn
MG	11 May	Gertrude Bell: an enduring legacy	Professor Mark Jackson, Dr Sana Al-Naimi and Dr Sarah Evans
MG	18 May	Who speaks for nature?	Professor Lee White <small>CBE</small> with Professor Yadvinder Malhi
MG	01 Jun	Lessons from the ice: what it means to be a scientist in 2026	Dr Heïdi Sevestre

Events

Key to events

- B** 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 13 April, 27 April, and 1 June 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 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

B Wednesday 1 April 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (online)

Careers in the heritage sector

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in the heritage sector.

Online. Free.

B Thursday 2 April 10.00am - 11.00am

Webinar (online)

Food geographies coffee morning

Online coffee mornings for postgraduate and early career researchers to share and discuss Food Geographies research. Online. Free.

B Thursday 2 April 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Emerging voices in economic geography: finance and sustainability

Emerging Voices in Economic Geography is a new webinar series hosted by the RGS-IBG Economic Geography Research Group, showcasing fresh perspectives from early career researchers. Each session is centred on a key economic geographical theme and features short presentations by two early career speakers in conversation, followed by an open audience Q&A. Online. Free.

B Wednesday 8 April 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 8 April 7.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (Exeter)

Map, chart, slide and artefacts evening

A chance to hear members' own stories, talking for ten 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 Friday 27 March.

Thursday 9 April 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Bath and online)

A history of polar exploration in 50 objects

Anne Strathie

Anne will feature objects with connections to Bath's own polar explorer and the BRSLI's Franklin expedition artefacts. Organised by the South West regional committee with BRSLI. BRSLI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £6, members £3 with code RGS50.

W www.brsl.org

B Friday 10 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

The urban future

Join us on GeoNight, the European night of geography to discuss how urban design can bring nature back into cities boosting biodiversity, wellbeing, and climate resilience. *At the Society and online. In person: £12, £10 members. Online: £6, members £5.*

B Monday 13 April 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London)

Expanding universe

Hormazd Narielwalla and Dr Katherine Parker

Discover the artworks and artefacts featured in the Society's Map Room at this engaging talk with the artist, Hormazd Narielwalla, and the Society's Cartographic Collections Manager, Dr Katherine Parker. Together, they will discuss the objects on display and their historical and creative significance. The event will conclude with a tabletop display of related items in the Foyle Reading Room.

At the Society. Free.

Monday 13 April 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Lecture (Oxford)

A history of polar exploration in 50 objects

Anne Strathie

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from key periods in polar exploration history from Cook's circumnavigation in the 1770s, including reference to items held in Oxford's museums. Organised by the South East regional committee. *St Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, Oxford, OX2 6TN. £2, members free.*

B MGS Monday 13 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Why biodiversity matters: Esmond B. Martin
Royal Geographical Society Prize giving
and lecture**

Professor Alexandre Antonelli and Dr Krithi Karanth

Presented by this year's two awardees, this talk explores why biodiversity matters, who decides what we protect, and how global science and local conservation can work for nature and communities. *At the Society and online. Free.*

B MGS Monday 13 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. £45 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 9 April and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.*

B Tuesday 14 April 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

**From sustenance to complete nourishment
in a changing and uncertain climate**

Dyno Keatinge

Malnutrition is a crisis affecting both the developed and developing worlds. Come along to hear how you can advocate for dietary change. Organised by the North East regional committee. *Northumbria University City Campus, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8ST. Free.*

**B Wednesday 15 April 4.30pm - 5.30pm**

Webinar (online)

Embedding strategies for EAL students in geography

In this one-hour session, Fiona Sheriff will look at a range of practical strategies that can be used in the classroom to help multi-lingual students excel in geography. *Online. Free.*

**B Thursday 16 April 10.30am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

Place-based systems change: re-situating participatory practice through power, people, and place

A workshop for those working within, across and between academia, practice and policy to explore place-based systems change, examine participation and power relations within PBSC, and build community with one another. Organised by the Participatory Geographies Research Group. *At the Society. £20.*

**B Thursday 16 April 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Professional insights webinar (online)

Maximising opportunities for career development

Join this webinar for an interactive lunchtime discussion on maximising opportunities for career development. Gain valuable insights from experienced professionals as they share their knowledge, experiences and practical advice. *Online. Free.*

B Thursday 16 April 7.00pm - 9.30pm

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, members £10. Online: £6, members £5. Students free.*

Thursday 16 April 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

An Irishman in Northern Mesopotamia

Nicolas Mackey

Join Nicholas Mackey on an extraordinary journey through south-east Türkiye, where the legendary Euphrates and Tigris rivers cradle ancient cities alongside the ground-breaking archaeological site of Göbeklitepe. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. *Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.*

B M Monday 20 April 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 20 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Voices from the Global South:
listening to climate perspectives**

Prerna Singh Bindra, Elspeth Mathau and Benny Qihao Shen. Chaired by Professor Melissa Leach

This evening brings together a series of short talks offering perspectives on the climate crisis from across the Global South. Speakers share insights rooted in geography, experience and knowledge, highlighting why listening to multiple voices is essential to climate understanding. [At the Society and online.](#) **Free.**



B Tuesday 21 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

The geography of global health

This discussion explores the geography of global health, examining how location, mobility and inequality shape vulnerability and resilience. Reflecting on recent case studies, speakers consider what geography can teach us about future health preparedness. [At the Society and online.](#) **In person: £12, £10 members. Online: £6, members £5.**

B Wednesday 22 April 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Choose geography webinar (online)

Careers in the built environment

A student webinar showcasing geographical careers in the built environment in collaboration with the Built Environment Schools Trust. [Online. Free.](#)



B Thursday 23 April 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Getting started with ArcGIS

This CPD event is for school teachers with little or no previous GIS experience. [At the Society.](#) **£30, members £20.**

B Thursday 23 April 10.00am - 11.00am

Webinar (online)

**Rural Geography Research Group
morning coffee**

MRes or PhD students researching anything related to rural geographies are invited to join the Rural Geography Research Group for its monthly relaxed, friendly early morning coffee meeting, this April. [Online. Free.](#)



B Friday 24 April 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Going further with ArcGIS

This event is for school teachers who have previously attended 'Getting started with ArcGIS' or acquired equivalent experience in another way. [At the Society.](#) **£30, members £20.**

B Monday 27 April 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

The life of Captain James Fitzjames

Fabiënne Tetteroo

James Fitzjames was captain of the *Erebus* during Franklin's 1845 Arctic expedition and was a key figure in 19th century naval history. This talk explores his roles and highlights primary sources that reveal a more accurate, underexplored portrait of this remarkable officer. [At the Society and online.](#) **Free.**

B MG S Monday 27 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

John Harrison: the true story of the man who accidentally created the board of longitude

Dr Richard Dunn

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the death of John Harrison, famous for his invention of marine timekeepers. This talk will reconsider the longer-term impact of Harrison's innovations on navigation and exploration. [At the Society and online.](#) **Free.**

B MG Monday 27 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.](#) £45 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 23 April and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 28 April 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (online)

Responding to feedback on your work

This one-hour webinar will bring together the RGS-IBG's managing editor and experienced academics to offer advice on the best way to approach the review process. [Online.](#) **Free.**



B Wednesday 29 April 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (online)

Careers in humanitarian aid

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in humanitarian aid.

[Online.](#) **Free.**

B Wednesday 29 April 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. Students will hear from a university admissions tutor and current geography undergraduates about what it's like to study geography at university. [Online.](#) **Free.**

B Thursday 7 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Lemurs to leopards: filming adventures from around the world

Toby Hough

Often working in faraway places for extended periods, Toby Hough's filming career has been an unplanned mix of excitement, responsibility, solitude and even terror. Toby will also give insights into what it takes to get the shot, wildlife encounters and how to protect yourself from polar bears. Organised by the East regional committee. [Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD.](#) £8 (£10 on the door), members and students free.

**Monday 11 May 3.30pm - 4.40pm**

Lecture (Oxford)

How can we manage the potentially damaging impact of mass tourism?

Dr Hugues Seraphin

Join Hugues' thought-provoking talk on overtourism, exploring its global impacts and sustainable solutions.

Discover how mindful travel choices can protect cultures, communities, and fragile environments.

Organised by the South East regional committee.

St Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, Oxford, OX2 6TN. £2, members free.

B M Monday 11 May 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 11 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Gertrude Bell: an enduring legacy

Professor Mark Jackson, Dr Sana Al-Naimi and Dr Sarah Evans

This lecture celebrates the recent completion of a joint project between Newcastle University and the Society to digitise, for long-term conservation and academic use, over 530, original, celluloid negatives taken by Gertrude Bell during her journey to Ha'il. *At the Society and online. Free.*

B Tuesday 12 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (online)

How to write an academic CV

Dan Richards

Join us for a session designed to demystify the process of crafting an academic CV. This event will bring together experienced scholars with extensive knowledge of the academic job market to provide answers and guidance. *Online. Free.*

**B Wednesday 13 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Webinar (online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

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

B Thursday 14 May 12.30pm - 4.00pm

Social (Exeter)

The oldest man to scale Mount Everest

Graham Keene

Join the South West committee for their annual forum and lunch. Graham Keene will describe his experience as the oldest man scaling Mount Everest. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. £35, book by Wednesday 29 April.

B Thursday 14 May 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (Bath and online)

Darwin and the ascent of women

Professor Pippa Catterall and Dr Jacki Hill-Murphy

This talk will reflect on how Darwin's theories related to and impacted on women. It will also highlight how both literally and metaphorically, Darwin contributed to the ascent of women as scientists, explorers and citizens. Organised by the South West regional committee with BRLSI. BRLSI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £6, members £3 with code RGS50.

W www.brlsi.org

B Monday 18 May 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

Mountains and witches: the journal kept by Sybille Noel during a journey across Sikkim and Tibet in 1924

Jan Faulk

The John Noel Collection donation includes Sybille Noel's previously unknown record of the 1924 Everest expedition. Confined to the foothills, she collected local folk tales, while her husband filmed *The Epic of Everest* and artist Francis Helps painted portraits and landscapes. This account offers a rare, behind-the-scenes perspective of the historic climb. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.



B MG Monday 18 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Who speaks for nature?

Professor Lee White CBE with Professor Yadvinder Malhi

Professor Lee White CBE, scientist, conservationist, minister, raised with an orphan chimpanzee brother, will share insights about the importance and preservation of the Congo Basin rainforests. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

B Tuesday 19 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

Britain and beyond: discovering Islamic heritage

Our expert panellists will discuss the geographical and historical threads linking Britain to Islamic worlds, the significance of material culture in telling these stories, and the ways in which these narratives enrich wider understandings of place and history. [At the Society and online.](#) In person: £12, £10 members. Online: £6, members £5.



B Thursday 21 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Professional insights webinar (online)

Building networks and making the most of professional connections

Join this webinar for an interactive lunchtime discussion on building networks and making the most of professional connections. [Online.](#) Free.

B Tuesday 26 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Postgraduate insights webinar (online)

University teaching during your geography PhD

This webinar will bring together a panel of speakers to examine the ins and outs of gaining higher education teaching experience. [Online](#). [Free](#).



B Wednesday 27 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (online)

Careers in education: teaching and outdoor learning

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in education: teaching and outdoor learning. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Thursday 28 May 10.00am - 1.00pm

Field visit (Happisburgh)

Coastline on the edge: Happisburgh past, present and future

Richard Powell and Rob Ferguson

This walk will explore how geology, climate and human history collide at Happisburgh. On this walk, we'll look at the eroding cliffs and understand how they have changed over time, examine the fossils and artefacts they reveal, and discuss what continued erosion could mean for the landscape, the community and the future of this iconic Norfolk village.

Happisburgh, NR12 0QL. £10, members free.



B Thursday 28 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Emerging voices in economic geography: technology, platforms and labour

Emerging Voices in Economic Geography is a new webinar series hosted by the RGS-IBG Economic Geography Research Group, showcasing fresh perspectives from early career researchers. Each session is centred on a key economic geographical theme and features short presentations by two early career speakers in conversation, followed by an open audience Q&A. [Online](#). [Free](#).



B MGS Monday 1 June 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Lessons from the ice: what it means to be a scientist in 2026

Dr Heidi Sevestre

A journey from Uganda's vanishing tropical glaciers to Antarctica's frozen heart, exploring bold science, resilience, and the urgent responsibility of scientists today to engage, communicate, and inspire collective climate action. [At the Society and online](#). [Free](#).

B MG Monday 1 June 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 28 May and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Saturday 6 June 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Field visit (Plymouth)

Tour of Drake's Island

This guided tour explores the rich military history as a fortress, covering tunnels, forts and views. Organised by the South West regional committee. [Barbican landing stage, Plymouth, PL1 2NX. £25, book by Friday 29 May.](#)

B M Monday 8 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 committee members. [At the Society and online. Free.](#)

B Monday 8 June 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Reception (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 2026 award recipients. [At the Society and online.](#)

B MG Monday 8 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Social (London)

Annual reception

Join us to celebrate another successful year for the Society with drinks and canapés, the chance to meet other members, and time to explore our beautiful building and gardens. [At the Society. £25.](#)

B Wednesday 10 June 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Stamford)

The path more travelled:

the secret history of Britain's footpaths

Nicholas Crane

Walking is a cornerstone of British identity and the most popular form of exercise in the UK. But how much do we know about the paths that we walk? Nicholas Crane explores this coast-to-coast web that is both ancient and futuristic. [Stamford Arts Centre, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DL. £14, members £10.](#)

W www.stamfordartscentre.com



B Thursday 11 June - Thursday 2 July

12.00pm - 1.00pm

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 Friday 12 June 7.30pm - 12.00am

Social (London)

Summer party

Join us for a reception and dinner followed by music and dancing. All over 18s welcome. Organised by the London regional committee. [At the Society. £100, members £90.](#)

B Monday 15 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

In conversation (London and online)

Explore podcast live: the future of exploration

Hosted by **Matt Pycroft**

Explore podcast live brings explorers to the Society's stage for an evening of stories, insight and conversation, looking ahead to the future of exploration on our planet and beyond. **At the Society and online. In person: £12, £10 members. Online: free.**

B Monday 15 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Bath and online)

Bare bones, band-aids and staying alive

Dave Connell

Join Dave for an evening of stories of survival and adventure running a medical life support company, as a special forces medic and as a survival film and TV adviser. Organised by the South West regional committee with BRLSI. BRLSI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN. **£6, members £3 with code RGS50.**

W www.brlsi.org



B Tuesday 16 June 4.00pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (online)

Digimap for Schools: a quick guide to data collection and tables

Find out more about how the online GIS Digimap for Schools can be used by your students. **Online. Free.**



B Wednesday 17 June 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Webinar (online)

Chartered Geographer introductory webinar

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

B Tuesday 23 June 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (online)

What do geographers actually do?

A student webinar showcasing the variety of careers pathways available with geography. This webinar focuses on the business and finance sector.

Online. Free.



B Wednesday 24 June 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Use geography webinar (online)

Careers in policy

Join this webinar to hear from geography professionals working in policy as they share insights, advice, and pathways into starting a career in the sector.

Online. Free.

E Friday 26 June - Friday 21 July

10.00am - 5.00pm

Exhibition (London)

Earth Photo 2026

The Society is pleased to showcase the winners and best in class from our world-leading international competition dedicated to engaging with still and moving image makers working across multiple genres sharing the prescient issues affecting the climate and life on our planet. 50 of the finest images and outputs of the competition will be shown at the Society.

At the Society. Free.



B Monday 29 June 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Webinar (online)

Exploring literacy through geography

In this one-hour session, Fiona Sheriff will discuss a range of literacy strategies which can be used to demystify geographical vocabulary alongside a range of texts which can be used to open worlds in the classroom. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Tuesday 30 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Book launch (London)

Endurance from the negative

Jean de Pomereu

Join the Society for the launch of its new book *Endurance from the Negative*, with a presentation by book contributor and polar photography expert, Jean de Pomereu. Guests will be able to purchase a copy of the book and see a display original archive materials from the expedition in the Foyle Reading Room.

[At the Society](#). [Free](#).



B Wednesday 1 July 4.00pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (online)

Digimap for Schools: a quick guide to fieldwork for KS3

Find out more about how the online GIS Digimap for Schools can be used to support fieldwork.

[Online](#). [Free](#).

B Thursday 2 July 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Awards ceremony (London and online)

Earth Photo 2026 award ceremony

Join the Society for the live announcement of the winners from our world-leading visual media competition, Earth Photo. [At the Society and online](#). [Free](#).

B Saturday 4 July 11.00am - 4.30pm

Field visit (Brixham)

Berry Head

Professor Malcolm Hart

Malcolm Hart will lead this day, introducing special aspects of this remarkable landscape, which displays evidence of both natural and military history and offers stunning views across the bay and along the South Devon coast. Organised by the South West regional committee with Plymouth Branch of the Devonshire Association. [The Guardhouse Cafe, Berry Head, Brixham, TQ5 9AW](#). [£10](#), book by Friday 26 June.



B Monday 6 July 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Webinar (online)

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

Run in collaboration with Field Studies Council, this session will introduce methods of data collection and fieldwork techniques that can be done local to your school. [Online](#). [Free](#).



B Tuesday 7 July 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Advanced ArcGIS for school teachers

This session is for school teachers who are already confident users of ArcGIS in the classroom. [At the Society](#). [£30](#), members [£20](#).

B Tuesday 7 July 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Webinar (online)

Choosing the right university and geography course

An opportunity for students to engage with a university admissions tutor and current geography undergraduates. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Wednesday 8 July 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Choose geography webinar (online)

Careers in river landscapes

A webinar for students showcasing the range of geographical careers specialising in managing and protecting the river landscape. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Wednesday 8 July 7.00pm - 9.45pm

Social (London)

Summer film night

Join us for a night of inspiring and thought-provoking short films that illuminate the work of geographical filmmakers today and the diverse stories behind their efforts. [At the Society](#). [£12, members £10](#).



**B Thursday 9 - Friday 10 July
9.00am - 4.00pm**

Conference (London)

The PTI Geography Symposium

Join us for The PTI Geography Symposium, a partnership event between The PTI, Geographical Association and the Society. [At the Society](#). [£419, members £319](#).



B Thursday 9 July 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Professional insights webinar (online)

Reflecting on and planning your CPD

Join this webinar for an interactive lunchtime discussion exploring how to effectively reflect on and plan your continuing professional development (CPD). [Online](#). [Free](#).



B Tuesday 14 July 9.30am - 5.00pm

Workshop (London)

**Gentrification and complexity:
field-based workshop for A Level teachers**

This one-day workshop is designed to introduce A Level teachers to new ways of explaining changing places with a particular focus on connections between people, the economy, and the ways that infrastructures link the local, national, and international scales. [UCL Stratford campus, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park](#). [£5, members £3](#).



B Thursday 16 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 and how to apply. [Online](#). [Free](#).

B Friday 17 - Sunday 19 July 10.00am - 7.00pm

Conference (London and online)

Summit Photo 2026

Join the Society over three fascinating days to hear presentations by world leading photographers, film-makers, policy advisors, and NGO's working in the field of environmental and humanitarian issues on the power of visual media to inspire, inform and effect change. Join us for powerful presentations, workshops, and microlectures. *At the Society and online.* £25, members £15 per day.

Saturday 18 - Sunday 26 July

Citizen science (online)

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 22 July 10.30am - 1.00pm

Workshop (London)

Choosing geography at university

An in-person workshop preparing students for geography at university. *At the Society.* *Free.*

B Wednesday 22 July 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Exeter)

The path more travelled:

the secret history of Britain's footpaths

Nicholas Crane

Walking is a cornerstone of British identity and the most popular form of exercise in the UK. But how much do we know about the paths that we walk? Acclaimed geographer and writer Nicholas Crane explores this coast-to-coast web that is both ancient and futuristic. *Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS.* £12, members £10. **W** www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

B Wednesday 29 July 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

In conversation (London and online)

Explore podcast live: the future of exploration

Tim Marshall

Hosted by Matt Pycroft, this event features journalist and bestselling author of *Prisoners of Geography*, Tim Marshall, speaking on the future of exploration with a focus on space, drawing on his latest book *The Future of Geography*. *At the Society and online.* In person: £12, £10 members. Online: free.

B E Friday 31 July 6.30pm

Private view (London)

**Routes, ruins and reconnaissance:
private viewing**

Be the first to view the new exhibition, hear presentations on the exhibition, see original archive materials as well as outputs from the digitisation project in the Society's Reading Room.

At the Society. *Free.*

E Monday 3 - Monday 21 August

10.00am - 5.00pm

Exhibition (London)

Routes, ruins and reconnaissance

The Society is delighted to present an exhibition created in conjunction with Newcastle University on the life and career of Gertrude Bell FRGS.

At the Society. Free.

B Wednesday 5 August 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 S Thursday 6 August 6.30pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Discovery expedition anniversary fundraiser

Join the Society and enjoy an evening of entertainment, view original expedition artefacts, hear presentations by our expert team, enjoy a glass of wine and music in the Society's Map Room before enjoying a Discovery expedition-inspired dinner. At the Society.

See website for prices.

B Tuesday 1 - Friday 4 September

Conference (London and online)

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference

Chaired by Professor Peter Hopkins

The Chair's theme is geographies of inequalities: towards just places. The 2026 conference theme focuses on charting the complexities of spatial inequalities and injustices, including those relating to society, culture and politics, to the economy, and community, and to development, climate and the environment. At the Society and online. See website for delegate rates.

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Non-Society events

These events are not organised by the Society but will be held at the Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR.

Sunday 19 April 2.00pm - 3.50pm

(doors open at 1.30pm)

Lecture

Talking classics

Mary Beard

Following her sold-out 2025 tour, Mary Beard invites you into a conversation about why the classical world still matters. **From £33 - £60, plus fees.**

W www.fane.co.uk/talking-classics

Wednesday 29 April 7.30pm - 10.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Awards ceremony

Whitley awards 2026

Edward Whitley OBE, Kate Humble, Tom Heap

Join us to celebrate the 2026 Whitley award winners, including exceptional grassroots conservationists leading community-based projects to benefit nature and people. **In-person by invitation only, free to watch via livestream.**

E info@whitleyaward.org **W** www.whitleyaward.org

Tuesday 5 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

In conversation

Empire of pain

Patrick Radden Keefe and Emily Maitlis

Join *Empire of Pain* author and investigative journalist Patrick Radden Keefe in conversation with Emily Maitlis. **£34.99, premium tickets £64.99, concessions £19.99.**

E info@intelligencesquared.com

W www.intelligencesquared.com

Friday 8 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

In conversation

Birds, wonder and loss

Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris

Join the creators of *The Lost Words* for a dazzling celebration of the splendours of birdlife, and an impassioned call to halt the loss of birds from land, sea and sky. **From £29.95 - £69.95, £15 discount for How to Plus members.**

E contact@howtoacademy.com

W www.howtoacademy.com

Saturday 9 May 7.30pm - 8.45pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

In conversation

Shrink solves murder

Richard Coles and Philippa Perry

The nation's favourite agony aunt joins Richard Coles to reveal a new tale of crime, corruption and psychotherapy. **£39.99, £15 discount for How To Plus members.**

E contact@howtoacademy.com

W www.howtoacademy.com

Tuesday 12 May 6.30pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

Kirker spring lecture for Venice in Peril

Sara Wheeler

Kirker's annual spring lecture is entitled Jan Morris and Venice, and will be given by the writer's official biographer. **£35. E** rsvp@kirkerholidays.com

W www.kirkerholidays.com

Wednesday 13 May 7.00pm - 9.00pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

5x15: art experts on the art that changed them

Geoff Dyer, Andrew Graham Dixon,

Katy Hessel, Grayson Perry

In this art-focused 5x15, five leading cultural figures will each deliver a fifteen-minute talk on an artwork that holds particular significance for them. **From £40 (£35 earlybird), £60 premium. E** info@5x15stories.com

W www.5x15stories.com

Thursday 14 May 9.00am - 4.40pm

(doors open at 8.30am)

Conference

Spatial data science conference 2026

Connect with geospatial and data science professionals transforming real-world applications and learn how public and private sector leaders are redefining spatial analytics. **£279 (£179 earlybird).**

E info@spatial-data-science-conference.com

W www.spatial-data-science-conference.com

Thursday 14 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

Plum Turner commemoration: the next generation of explorers

Geordie Stewart, Lucy Shepherd, Hannah MacInnes

In Plum Turner's honour, two intrepid young explorers share their record-breaking adventures. **In-person: £20, members £18. Online: £8, members £6. Students £13.**

E h.r.dewhurst@gmail.com

W www.bit.ly/plum-turner

Friday 15 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

Unleash the power of mental health

Dr Ana Beatriz Barbosa Silva

This talk explores mental health, ADHD, anxiety and depression, uniting science, empathy, balance and everyday wellbeing. **£70 - £90, £120 VIP.**

E info@imaginelisbon.pt **W** www.lebillet.eu

Tuesday 2 June 7.30pm - 10.00pm

(doors open at 6.45pm)

Lecture

An evening with Maggie O'Farrell

Maggie O'Farrell

Hosted by Waterstones, we're thrilled to welcome bestselling author Maggie O'Farrell to celebrate the publication of her new novel *Land*. **£18, £38 with a book. E** events@waterstones.com

W www.waterstones.com/events

Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 June 12.00pm - 6.00pm

(doors open at 12.00pm)

Antique map fair with lectures

The London map fair 2026

The world's oldest and largest specialist antique map fair with 35 leading international map dealers selling original antique maps and atlases. **Free.**

E info@londonmapfairs.com

W www.londonmapfairs.com

Tuesday 23 - Friday 26 June 8.00am - 6.00pm

(doors open at 7.30am)

Conference

Hamlyn symposium on medical robotics 2026

Professor The Lord Ara Darzi, Professor Ferdinando Rodriguez y Baena

The Hamlyn symposium unites global experts to share innovations, foster collaboration, and advance medical robotics through workshops, demonstrations and networking. **Earlybird £500, students £375.**

E marianne.knight@imperial.ac.uk

W www.hamlynsymposium.org

Monday 20 - Friday 31 July

Conference

67th London international youth science forum

Professor John O'Keefe, Professor Dame Ijeoma Uchegbu, Professor Tolullah Oni, Professor Clare Elwell, Professor John Morton

LIYSF is an inspiring, prestigious, residential programme uniting young scientists worldwide for intensive research, collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence with students aged 16-21 years old. **See website for delegate rates.** **E** info@liysf.org.uk

W www.liysf.org.uk/liysf-participation/booking-forms

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 out more scan the QR code or email us at

E events@rgs.org



North West

Jonathan Stevens

Cumbria, Lancashire

Owen Kelly

Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside

North East

Andy Suggitt

Yorkshire and the Humber

David McEvoy

East Midlands

Vacant

West Midlands

Vacant

East

James Firebrace

London

Annabel Illingworth

South East

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

W www.rgs-sg.org

Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

E admin@rgshk.org.hk

W www.rgshk.org.hk



Confluence Collective

Critically assessing legacies

This spring saw the launch of an exciting new exhibition in Kalimpong, Sikkim, drawing on the Society's historic Collections on Everest and the wider Himalayas, and making use of the vast swathes of Collections material digitised and available through The Wiley Digital Archive (WDA). The collaborative work that sits behind this exhibition showcases new approaches to reactivating the Collections, and opens up exciting new possibilities for how the Society approaches community engagement with these materials.

The exhibition, titled *Father has no Roof over his Head*, focuses on two Sherpas: Ang Tsering Sherpa and Chetten Habadar Wangdi. Both men climbed Everest (and other mountains), and took part in multiple expeditions as both Sherpa porter and interpreter. They both appear in the archives from these expeditions held by the Society,

and in locally sourced archives in Sikkim, including personal archives that are in various stages of repair and restoration.

All these archives have been brought together for this exhibition by the Confluence Collective (TCC), alongside oral history interviews with A. T. Sherpa and C. H. Wangdi's surviving family members.

TCC are a group of Sikkim-based researchers and artists seeking to preserve, archive and retell the histories of the Darjeeling-Sikkim Himalayan region, and to build a community which together can better understand and document their home. TCC's vision is to collectively reimagine the hill societies – the people, community and places – through storytelling, moving away from distorting colonial representations and generating new ways of seeing and imagining the region.





The Society's partnership with TCC is part of our involvement with the Other Everests interdisciplinary research network from 2022-2024, which similarly sought to critically assess the legacy of the Everest expeditions and to re-evaluate the symbolic, political and cultural status of Everest in the contemporary world. As part of this collaboration, we enabled access for TCC members to the Wiley Digital Archive and over eight million images of digitised Collections content, including the Everest Expeditions archives.

At the heart of their research for this new exhibition have been conversations with the families of the two Sherpas, who ultimately hold their memories and their history. As well as collating their personal archives, including postcards, letters, school magazines, and more, TCC have used the Society materials available via the WDA to add to these family histories, providing

additional information that the families may no longer have access to. For example, family members have cross-referenced their own family photo albums with photographic collections at the Society, to help them identify their relatives in both sets of photographs. This two-way exchange is immensely valuable, and sets a standard for future reciprocal community engagement work with and by the Society.

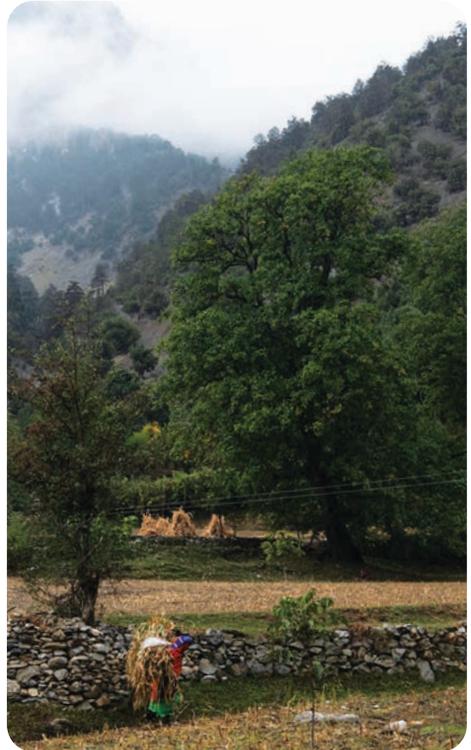
W www.rgs.org/our-collections

A changing world

Neville Shulman Challenge Award journey

Northern Pakistan's Kalash valleys, along the border with Afghanistan, are home to the country's smallest minority; 4,000 members of the Kalash live here, a matriarchal tribe unique to the Hindu Kush, for which strict purification rites govern birth, life and death. Debate around their origins remains.

Festivals mark the sowing and harvest seasons, and herald the solstice at the end of each year. Women and girls undergo purification rituals ahead of each period of festivities, and uphold many of the community's daily purification rites; bathing and washing clothes away from homes, and staying in communal homes during menstruation and after giving birth.



© Rebecca Conway



© Rebecca Conway



© Rebecca Conway

Photographer Rebecca Conway travelled to Pakistan recently to document how the Kalash are navigating growing challenges of climate change and outside influence while protecting their singular identity.

Owing to steep valley walls, the area lacks abundant flat, farmable land. Today, the community is increasingly squeezed by hoteliers buying up that land, with the government planning to take yet more for new roads. Increasingly erratic rainfall and temperatures, along with worsening



© Rebecca Conway

landslides, flash-floods, and deforestation exacerbate these issues. Firewood resources are depleted, and some families are turning to polytunnels and makeshift greenhouses. Islam is taught in the area's government schools, and a few Kalash convert every year. Others leave the area for greater educational and employment opportunities. The losses of land for subsistence farming and influx of new people and alien cultures pose a threat to the community, changing how and where the Kalash can live.





© Rebecca Conway

Elders say they are not concerned that the community will disappear or fade but do say continuing conflict between development in the valleys and a lack of preparedness around the impact of climate change will change how they live. Across the villages during the harvest season at the end of

the summer, the community gathers maize to be ground into flour, dry beans and fruit on flat rooftops to be stored for winter, and collect and store grasses and crops grown for animal fodder. Women and girls begin to sew clothing and bead headdresses ahead of the winter solstice festival Chaumos, which not only marks the start of the new year but the renewed hopes for the seasons ahead.

Rebecca's trek from Chitral district and between each of the three Kalash valleys to document life and identity in the Kalash community was made possible with the support of the Neville Shulman Challenge Award. Each year, two awards of up to £10,000 are given to challenging research projects or expeditions that aim to further understanding and exploration of the planet – its cultures, peoples and environments. The next deadline is 30 November 2026.

W www.rgs.org/grants



Virtual work experience

Bringing real world careers to students

As the world of work changes, so must the way schools approach their careers education. Engaging young people directly with professionals from the world of work is one way in which we can ensure the next generation have access to inspirational role models and pathways that take them into and through the workplace.

We know that giving young people access to expertise and experiences is essential to building confidence and skills, it increases job readiness and is associated with lower levels of anxiety about job security. It can also be beneficial to employers, who can help shape the future labour market by highlighting the skills they desire and the types of jobs available - both now and in the future.

As part of our geographical careers offer to schools, the Society has teamed up with

learning platform Springpod to produce a virtual work experience module focusing on careers using geography which showcases a range of real people with real jobs using geographical skills and knowledge in the workplace.

Providing young people with access to experiences within the workplace is a core element of successful school career programmes, and whilst work experience is not a statutory requirement it is expected that all students participate in a form of work experience during their school years. There are, however, many barriers to accessing work experience placements in person, including not having contacts within the working world, dealing with personal difficulties and also the cost of getting to a placement. These barriers mean that for some, in-person work experience just isn't possible.



In these circumstances Springpod offers a vital alternative, delivering over one million experiences to over 700,000 young people. Working in partnership with organisations and companies across a variety of sectors, they offer access to online work experience modules that showcase the range of jobs available, introduce individual roles, and explain how to get there. Access to these online modules is free, and students can work through multiple modules over the course of eight to ten hours, gaining certification on completion.

Our module with Springpod will introduce a range of organisations that employ geographers, and guide students through the range of jobs that professional geographers are employed to do. Spanning across four themes – hazards and risk in the real world, shaping cities and communities, sustainable resources, and mapping the world with GIS – we will inspire and

encourage young people to see where studying geography can take them. With relatable examples we will show how green skills are used in the workplace to create a sustainable future and highlight how the geography learnt in the classroom is applied in real world settings.

Virtual work experience is just one of the many ways we seek to connect young people with professionals and employers. If you are interested in getting involved in our outreach work with schools which includes a programme of events and teaching materials, as well as a Professional Ambassadors scheme, please get in touch.

Our geographical careers online module is free for all students to access and will be available from late spring 2026.

W www.rgs.org/schools



Gift a membership

Championing geography's impact

At the Society we nourish curious minds and bring together today's most important environmental and social insights to inform, inspire, and address pressing global challenges. Give someone you care about a gift that will expand their horizons and help protect the future of the Society.

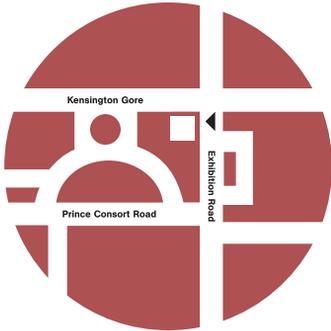
With our events and publications your gift recipient will explore the world through expeditions and fieldwork, learn about the most fascinating intersections of people and place, and take part in stimulating conversations.

A Society Membership not only supports our work to champion geography's influence, advance careers and empower educators, it offers a route to Fellowship. After five years of Membership a Member has the option to apply for Fellowship, helping steer the direction of the Society and recognising their contribution.

Find out more about gift Membership and Student Membership today.

W www.rgs.org/gift

How to find us



Entrance is on Exhibition Road
Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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

T +44 (0)20 7591 3000
E info@rgs.org
W www.rgs.org

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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.

Corporate Partners

