

# Bulletin Autumn 2025

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

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- Our work



**Earth Photos**

.....  
**Our imprint**



## 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](http://www.rgs.org) **T** @RGS\_IBG **E** [membership@rgs.org](mailto:membership@rgs.org) **T** +44 (0)20 7591 3080



## A message From the Director

In June we welcomed Clive Sanders to the new role of Deputy Chief Executive. Clive brings a wealth of experience to the senior leadership team at the Society, including of membership development having been part of the team that significantly increased membership at the Ramblers, and of income generation thanks to his time at Save the Children and Cancer Research UK.

Clive is leading a number of cross-cutting areas of work, including membership growth, fundraising and progressing the business planning for a major programme to improve the Society's home in South Kensington. Following a pause post COVID-19 and its tough fundraising environment we agree now is the time to revisit our strategic plan from architects Caruso St John. This will help us get the most out of this exceptional site, and rebuild momentum for some of our big ideas.

But on your next visit you will see that we haven't been standing still. You will see more Collections material with interpretation presented throughout the building. On a more practical note: we have also been improving our toilet facilities. Thank you for your patience while the building has been closed to members to allow this.

The Bulletin is a great record of achievement by the Society's team and volunteers. It also presents a superb programme of forthcoming events. I hope to see you at some of them.

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

**Professor Joe Smith**  
Director



# Society News

## **Election results**

Congratulations to our newest Council and committee members who were elected at our Annual General Meeting in June.

Our new Council members are: Professor Jenny Pickerill (Vice President, Research and Higher Education), Simon Oakes (Councillor, Education) and Oliver Steeds (Councillor, Expeditions and Fieldwork).

The new committee members are: Dr Becky Briant (Committee member, Research and Higher Education Committee), Professor Peter Hopkins (Chair of Annual Conference 2026, Research and Higher Education Committee) and Helen Bartlett (Committee member, Professional Practice Committee).

Thank you to our outgoing Council and committee members for their hard work and dedication to the Society.

**W** [www.rgs.org/council](http://www.rgs.org/council)

## **Summit photography**

Join us on 26-28 September for Summit Photo, a new three-day conference that seeks to interrogate photojournalism's relationship to environmental and humanitarian issues. We will be bringing together some of the world's greatest photographers, such as Frans Lanting, Susan Meiselas, Ami Vitale, Chris Packham, Ian Dawson, Sue Flood, Simon Townsley, Poulomi Basu, Esther Horvath, Britta Jaschinski, Benedict Allen and many more, to discuss the salient issues of our time.

**W** [www.rgs.org/events/summit-photo](http://www.rgs.org/events/summit-photo)

## **King's Birthday Honours**

Congratulations to Society Fellow Professor Susan Page, University of Leicester, who was awarded an MBE for services to Peatland and Climate Research.



### **The Risman Foundation donation**

We have recently received a donation from The Risman Foundation to pilot an annual cycle of a mentorship and travel bursaries, empowering young people through transformative journeys.

### **Donating to the Society**

We've recently refreshed our fundraising webpages and now have the ability to accept one-off and regular donations, including Gift Aid, via our website. Each and every gift we receive helps us all better understand our world.

**W** [www.rgs.org/support-us](http://www.rgs.org/support-us)

### **New Deputy CEO**

Clive Sanders joined the Society in June in the new role of Deputy CEO. Clive will be leading the development of the Society's fundraising and commercial capabilities as well as cross-cutting initiatives such as the House project.

### **Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Prize 2025**

The Prize, created by a generous bequest from the late renowned geographer and conservationist Esmond Bradley Martin, recognises outstanding individual achievement in the pursuit and application of geographical research. This year the Prize was awarded to two exceptional elephant conservationists, Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Dr Jake Wall.

**W** [www.rgs.org/EBMRGSPrize](http://www.rgs.org/EBMRGSPrize)

### **Rolex Perpetual Planet corporate support**

We are very pleased that Rolex have extended their support and will be the Official Partner of our annual Explore weekend and its associated content and events, and the Summit Photo event for the coming three years.

**W** [www.rgs.org/corporate-supporters](http://www.rgs.org/corporate-supporters)

# Education News



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## ***I can see the sea* awarded**

The Society's *I can see the sea* teaching resource was Highly Commended in the Geographical Association 2025 Awards, acknowledging its significant contribution to geography education. Aimed at KS2-3, the module, produced in partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London, takes a creative look at how humans interact with the sea, with a focus on using aquariums.

**W** [www.rgs.org/i-can-see-the-sea](http://www.rgs.org/i-can-see-the-sea)

## **Discovering the Arctic**

*Discovering the Arctic* is a website developed by the Society in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), in collaboration with the Arctic Office / Natural Environment Research Council, British Antarctic Survey and Scottish Association for Marine Science. The site offers teachers and learners a guided tour across the top of the world, revealing how the Arctic is changing, with the help of the people who live and work there. Refreshed for 2025, it features activities, images, video clips and fact sheets, to support creative learning.

**W** [www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk](http://www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk)

Teachers and students may also wish to explore *Discovering Antarctica*.

**W** [www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk](http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk)



## Competitions for schools

The Young Geographer of the Year competition is designed to get pupils thinking beyond the boundaries of the curriculum and engaged with the opportunities geography offers. For trainee and early-career teachers with innovative ideas to engage pupils, the Rex Walford Award celebrates emerging talent in educational resource writing. This year the theme for both pupils and teachers to explore is 'understanding islands' and the multitude of geographical themes that a study of islands can uncover. The deadline for entries is 31 October.

The 2025 School Essay Competition, organised in partnership with the *Financial Times*, invites A Level students to submit well-evidenced essays that answer the following question: *What are the implications for different countries*

*of international trade policies in the contemporary world?* Entries must be received by 31 October.

**W** [www.rgs.org/competitions](http://www.rgs.org/competitions)

## Jewel of Arabia resources

The Jewel of Arabia Expedition, which took place from 6 January to 3 February 2025, followed the route taken by the British explorer Bertram Thomas in 1928. Schools resources have now been developed for KS2-5, which help pupils explore the themes of sustainability and biodiversity in Oman.

**W** [www.rgs.org/joa](http://www.rgs.org/joa)



## From the field News

### **Gino Watkins Fund Awards**

We are delighted that the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund has become a linked charity of the Society. Established in 1933 in memory of Arctic expeditioner Gino Watkins, the Fund endeavours to increase our knowledge of the polar regions by supporting and inspiring scientific research, leadership and exploration through a diversity of awards. The partnership will safeguard the longevity of the Fund, while opening up the valuable opportunities it provides to an even larger audience. The next deadline for applications is 31 January 2026.

**W** [www.rgs.org/ginowatkinsawards](http://www.rgs.org/ginowatkinsawards)

### **Society funded projects in the field**

Many of the 75 field research projects funded through the Society's grants programme in 2025 are now in the field studying a wide range of topics in a host of different environments.

These include Veronica White, a PhD student from Exeter University, who is cycling from Land's End to the Scottish border, interviewing women in agriculture to discover the future of farming in England. While Dr Roseanna Mayfield from the University of Nottingham is investigating historical methane production from wetland systems in Northern Sweden.

Keep an eye across the Society's social media and digital communications for updates on Society funded projects in the field.

Application deadlines for the 2026 grants programme begin in September 2025, including for the Ran and Ginny Fiennes Award, Journey in Audio programme, as well as funding for students, early-career and established researchers.

**W** [www.rgs.org/grants](http://www.rgs.org/grants)





# Research and higher education News

## **Geography for all**

Ahead of a formal relaunch of the *Geography for all* programme in the autumn, we have been re-mapping the landscape of support for those studying geography and who are from under-represented backgrounds, by ethnicity and low income. Through this, we are making contact with key stakeholders working with students, in schools, and in further and higher education, seeking to listen, engage, and co-create opportunities with and for the people this work aims to serve.

This is expanding beyond the Society's traditional networks and deepening relationships with those we already collaborate with, including the Equator Mentoring Network.

This autumn we will be restarting the *Geography for all* network newsletter to share more of these opportunities and programmes, and to give more details of work by the Society too. Please join the mailing list and share with us what's going on in your networks.

**W** [www.rgs.org/geographyforall](http://www.rgs.org/geographyforall)

## **Fi Wi Road internship**

We've been delighted to host the fifth cohort of Fi Wi Road interns, supporting the Society's Annual International Conference. The interns are also conducting archival training at the Stuart Hall Archives in Birmingham, as well as exploring new ways towards creative geographies, in line with the 2025 conference theme.

**W** [www.fiwiroad.co.uk](http://www.fiwiroad.co.uk)



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### **Geo: Geography and Environment, relaunch success**

The Society's first fully open-access online journal *Geo: Geography and Environment* was relaunched in 2023 with a renewed focus on the environment, climate change, and sustainability.

Editors Karen Bickerstaff, Christopher Darvill, Laurie Parsons and Le Yu invited academic colleagues to curate 'Geo

Themes' on important topics from the 'Geographies of Energy Futures' to 'Climate Change and AI'. This approach has helped to build a community of Geo authors, with submissions to the journal increasing by 85% in the last year. Geo has also established a new Editorial Board, renewing the journal's commitment to internationalisation. Geographers from Ethiopia, Ghana, Canada, USA, Brazil, Aotearoa New Zealand, Bangladesh and Austria join UK colleagues on the Board.

**W** [www.rgs.org/journals](http://www.rgs.org/journals)



# Professional News

## **Pathway to Chartered Geographer**

We have launched a new Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer scheme. The Pathway, which is open to Fellows and Associate Fellows, offers a comprehensive professional development framework ahead of eligibility for accreditation.

This Pathway is staged by year, with activities, resources, mentoring, targeted advice, peer support and networking opportunities – all of which are invaluable for early career professionals. Planning, recording and reflecting on continuing professional development (CPD) through the Society's MyCPD tool is required by participants, with annual reviews and feedback by the Society.

Organisations and companies can demonstrate their commitment to employee development by registering as a supporter.

**W** [www.rgs.org/professional-pathway](http://www.rgs.org/professional-pathway)

## **Work experience directory**

We have relaunched our work experience directory, providing an opportunity for employers to share work-based experiences with young people and schools.

Work experience can be an invaluable step in inspiring young people to follow a geographically based career by demonstrating the practical application of geographical skills beyond the classroom. Employers benefit too, with work experience providing a fantastic way for employers to build long-lasting relationships with local schools, colleges and universities.

We are encouraging organisations to register any opportunities, across any educational stage or location, which will allow schools and learners to learn more and connect with opportunities.

**W** [www.rgs.org/workexperience](http://www.rgs.org/workexperience)

# Events Highlights



© James Fry

## Autumn events programme

In our final event programme of 2025 we are thrilled to bring you fascinating stories of lost maps, the latest research into homelessness in the UK and inspiring stories behind the Neville Shulman Challenge Award.

Our Monday night lecture series culminates with Baroness May, the UK's first Prime Minister with a geography degree. This autumn's lectures also provide the opportunity to hear from an explorer,

a travel writer, and Society staff who will share their favourite hidden gems from the Collections. Tune in to our live stream or catch up online if you're not joining us in person.

Make your expedition ideas a reality at the Explore weekend in early November, the UK's only dedicated event for planning expeditions and purposeful journeys, packed with inspiration, practical advice, and networking.

We look forward to coming together over the festive season with a fantastic range of social events, including our welcome tours for new members (and those looking to be reintroduced to all their membership has to offer), as well as President Jane Francis' talk in Norwich with personal tales of working in polar research.



## Autumn 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](http://www.rgs.org/livestream)

For	Date	Title	Speaker
<b>MG</b>	22 Sep	A night on the extinction express: a birds-eye view of our great migrations	Sacha Dench
<b>MG</b>	29 Sep	An elephant never forgets	Sophy Roberts
<b>MG</b>	6 Oct	The library of lost maps	Professor James Cheshire
<b>MG+</b>	13 Oct	The North Pole: the history of an obsession	Erling Kagge
<b>MG</b>	20 Oct	Environmental justice and climate action: victims of the 'war on woke'?	Professor Laura Pulido
<b>MG</b>	27 Oct	Zen in the art of geography, and Travels across the Barren Lands of Canada by canoe	Neville Shulman CBE, Karolina Gawonicz and Michal Lukaszewicz
<b>MG</b>	3 Nov	Bound by water: linking Amazonian diversity and climate vulnerability	Thiago Silver and Julia Tavares
<b>MG</b>	10 Nov	Revisiting the Dolgarrog dam disaster after 100 years	Professor Jamie Woodward, Professor Jeff Warbuton, Professor Stephen Tooth and Dr Hywel Griffiths
<b>MG</b>	17 Nov	These are a few of our favourite things	Nicholas Crane, Dr Sarah Evans, Dr Katie Parker, Eugene Rae and Dr Ed Armston-Sheret
<b>MG</b>	24 Nov	Predicting the ocean: a view from the Menai Strait	Professor Tom Rippeth
<b>MG</b>	1 Dec	Debt trap nation: family homelessness in a failing state	Professor Katherine Brickell and Professor Melanie Nowicki
<b>MG</b>	8 Dec	Lecture title to be confirmed	The Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidenhead

## Events

### Key to events

**B** Book tickets in advance

**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](http://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 22 September, 27 October, 3 November, 17 November and 8 December and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £45 per person (two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

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

### Events booking

You can find more information and book tickets online

**W** [www.rgs.org/events](http://www.rgs.org/events), email **E** [events@rgs.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.rgs.org/access)

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## Events listings

In chronological order

### **E until 13 September**

Exhibition (Brentford)

#### **Earth Photo: Syon Park**

Featuring work by some of the best photographers from around the world, Earth Photo shares visually compelling stories about the environment, nature, people, forests, and the varied impacts of climate change. **Syon Park, TW8 8JF. £16.50.**

### **B Monday 8 September 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Exeter)

#### **A history of polar exploration in 50 objects**

Anne Strathie

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from a key period in polar exploration history, from Cook's circumnavigations in the 1770s to the aviation age of the early 1930s. **Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.**

**W** [www.exeterphoenix.org.uk](http://www.exeterphoenix.org.uk)

### **B Tuesday 9 September 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Bath and online)

#### **Public space for all**

Professor Pippa Catterall

Have you ever entered a space, a room, a building and felt that you do not belong there, or you do not feel safe? Too much public space marginalises rather than includes, whilst safety features are often designed more to protect property than people. Organised by the South West regional committee. Joint event with Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. **BRLSI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £6, RGS-IBG members £3 with code RGS50. W** [www.brlsi.org](http://www.brlsi.org)

### **B Wednesday 10 September 12.30pm - 1.30pm**

Geography in practice webinar (Online)

#### **Geospatial transformation and the future of property valuation in England and Wales**

Join us for an insightful webinar exploring the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) first enterprise-level Geographic Information System: Valuation Mapping System (VMS). **Online. Free.**

### **B Wednesday 10 September 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

#### **Exploring biodiversity and nature through creative expression**

Inspired by Lisa Roet's dramatic 13m great ape installation on the Society's building, this panel explores how art and creative expression can deepen our understanding of biodiversity and humanity's connection to nature. **At the Society and online. In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.**

### **B Thursday 11 September 6.45pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Falmouth)

#### **A history of polar exploration in 50 objects**

Anne Strathie

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from a key period in polar exploration history, from Cook's circumnavigations in the 1770s to the aviation age of the early 1930s. **The Poly, 24 Church Street, TR11 3EG. £15, RGS-IBG members £12. W** [www.thepoly.org](http://www.thepoly.org)

**E Sunday 14 September - Monday 3 November**

Exhibition (Northumberland)

**Earth Photo: Wallington**

Visit National Trust Wallington to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this year's competition. [Wallington, Cambo near Morpeth, NE61 4AR. £22.](#)

**E Monday 15 September - Monday 8 December**

Exhibition (Aylesbury)

**Earth Photo: Wendover**

Visit Wendover Woods to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this year's competition. [Wendover Woods, Upper Icknield Way, Aston Clinton, HP22 5NQ. Free.](#)



**B Monday 15 September**

**2.00pm - 5.00pm**

Webinar (online)

**Planning and developing meaningful fieldwork**

Aimed at early career teachers as well as non-specialist geography teachers who are looking to gain knowledge and confidence in fieldwork.

[Online. £70, RGS-IBG members £60.](#)



**B Tuesday 16 September**

**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.](#)

**E Tuesday 16 September - Monday 27 October**

Exhibition (Devon)

**Earth Photo: Coleton Fishacre**

Featuring work by some of the best photographers from around the world, Earth Photo shares visually compelling stories about the environment, nature, people, forests, and the varied impacts of climate change. [Coleton Fishacre, Brownstone Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0EQ. £18.70.](#)



**B Tuesday 16 September**

**10.00am - 3.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**National Education Nature Park: for primary, secondary and trainee teachers**

Primary, secondary and trainee teachers are invited to the Society for a special day looking at how nature park activities, resources and concepts can be adopted on the school site. [At the Society. Free.](#)



**B Tuesday 16 September**

**4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Webinar (online)

**Digimap for Schools for KS2 and KS3 geography**

This demonstration will focus on introducing Digimap for Schools and showing how this GIS can be used across the KS2 and KS3 curriculum. [Online. Free.](#)





**B Wednesday 17 September**  
**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Use geography webinar (online)

**The big four consultancies:**

**career pathways for geography graduates**

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in the big four consulting firms. [Online](#). [Free](#).



**B Wednesday 17 September**  
**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 Thursday 18 September**  
**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Webinar (online)

**Embedding careers education**  
**into your teaching**

[Alan Parkinson](#)

We take teachers through the ways in which geographical career options and pathways can be embedded seamlessly into the curriculum in fun, interesting and useful ways.

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

**Thursday 18 September 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

**A year in the woods:**

**Montalto through the seasons**

[Paul Clements](#)

Author and broadcaster Paul Clements discusses his time living at one of Northern Ireland's most historic estates, and how its landscape, wildlife and gardens change over the seasons. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. [Queen's University Belfast](#), [Elmwood Avenue](#), BT7 1NN. [Free](#).

**E Friday 19 September - Tuesday 14 October**  
**10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition (London)

**Earth Photo 2025 exhibition**

Visit the Society for another chance to see a stunning selection of the selected and winning images from this year's competition. [At the Society](#). [Free](#).



**B Monday 22 September**  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Delivering fieldwork for the first time**

This in-person workshop will support early career teachers and non-specialist geography teachers to gain knowledge and confidence in fieldwork planning and techniques. [At the Society](#). [£170](#), RGS-IBG members [£150](#).



**B Monday 22 September**  
**11.00am - 3.00pm**

Field visit (Bradford)

**Changing religious buildings  
 in a changing urban landscape**

David McEvoy

Buildings often outlive their original use, even imposing religious buildings. See how changing uses reflect the changing city. Organised by the Yorkshire and the Humber regional committee. Joint event with PLACE.

Bradford Forster Square Railway Station, BD1 4HY. £10.

E PLACE@yorks.ac.uk

**B MG S Monday 22 September**  
**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**A night on the extinction express:  
 a birds-eye view of our great migrations**

Sacha Dench

Join award-winning conservationist Sacha Dench on a journey flying alongside Bewick's swans from Russia to the UK by paramotor. Find out why we need conservation without borders, an M15 for nature, and what's next on the 'extinction express', and how you could be part of it. [At the Society and online.](#) **Free.**

**Tuesday 23 September 7.15pm - 8.45pm**

Lecture (Huddersfield)

**Walking the mountains of Spain**

Phil Lawler

Phil talks about walks he has discovered, or created, in three Spanish regions. Organised by the Yorkshire and the Humber regional committee. Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax branch of the Geographical Association. [Methodist Mission, Lord Street, HD1 1QA.](#) **Free.**



**B Wednesday 24 September**  
**3.30pm - 4.30pm**

Choose geography webinar (online)

**Choose geography: careers in natural hazards**

In this webinar we're talking to professionals based in the UK who have careers spanning flood risk management to humanitarian response. This event is appropriate for all secondary school students who study weather hazards and/or tectonic hazards.

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

**B Thursday 25 September 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Webinar (Online)

**AI in geospatial: disruption, opportunity,  
 and what comes next**

This interactive session will feature a presentation, panel discussion and live Q&A, offering real-world case studies that highlight both the disruptive potential and emerging opportunities of AI. [Online.](#) **Free.**

**B Thursday 25 September 7.00pm - 9.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Short talks (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.

**B Friday 26 - Sunday 28 September**

Conference (London and online)

**Summit photo**

A new three-day summit bringing together world-leading photographers, explorers and policy experts to investigate how photography and photojournalism can address the environmental and humanitarian challenges of our time. [At the Society and online.](#) In-person: £75, RGS-IBG members £67.50. Online: £25, RGS-IBG members £22.50.



**B Monday 29 September**

**4.00pm - 4.30pm**

Webinar (online)

**Digimap for Schools: a quick guide to overlays**

Find out more about how to use the overlays function in the online GIS Digimap for Schools. [Free.](#)

**B MG Monday 29 September**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**An elephant never forgets**

[Sophy Roberts](#)

A behind-the-scenes illustrated talk from Sophy Roberts about her new *Sunday Times* bestseller, *A Training School for Elephants*, which weaves past and present in travels that take her from Iraq to India, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania, finishing up at a convent with an elephant on Lake Tanganyika. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Tuesday 30 September**

**9.00pm - 5.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Off-site safety management course**

A must for those involved in planned visits in the UK or overseas, this course looks at the safety management issues involved in planning, managing and evaluating local visits, fieldtrips, residentials and exchanges. [At the Society.](#) £360, RGS-IBG members £300.



**B Tuesday 30 September**

**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights webinar (online)

**Applying for grants to support your research**

This webinar will examine how to find and secure grants to support your research. This includes various activities, such as research trips and fieldwork. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)

**B Tuesday 30 September 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Climate action in an age of rising populism**

As far-right movements gain ground across Europe and the US, what's at stake for environmental policy? Join experts for a discussion on sustaining climate action amid political shifts on both sides of the Atlantic. **At the Society and online.** In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

**E Wednesday 1 - Wednesday 29 October**

**10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition (London)

**Habitable Climes**

Kristina Chan

Artist and photographer Kristina Chan presents printed works inspired by maps, mapping, exploration, and instruments from the Society's collections.

**At the Society.** Free.



**B Wednesday 1 October**

**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Use geography webinar (online)

**Careers in the civil service**

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in the civil service.

**Online.** Free.



**B SM Wednesday 1 October**

**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

School Member lecture (London)

**Inequality: the next crisis and children**

Danny Dorling

School and Student Members are invited to come along to this lecture by Danny Dorling, to hear from a leading academic on a topic that is curriculum relevant. This event is being held exclusively for the Society's School and Student Members only. **At the Society.** Free.



**B Wednesday 1 October 6.45pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (York)

**The rise of green finance:  
can banks prevent climate disaster?**

Dr Liam Clegg

Can financial institutions at local, national and international level help to mitigate climate change? Organised by the Yorkshire and the Humber regional committee. Joint event with York and District Branch of Geographical Association.

**Bootham School, YO30 7BU.** £3, students £2.

**W** [www.bootham.org.uk/boxofficeGA](http://www.bootham.org.uk/boxofficeGA)

**B Wednesday 1 October 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Film screening (Falmouth)

**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. **The Poly, 24 Church Street, TR11 3EG.** £15, RGS-IBG members £12. **W** [www.thepoly.org](http://www.thepoly.org)

 **B Thursday 2 October 9.00am - 4.30pm**  
Workshop (London)

**Off-site safety management course:  
training the trainers**

A one-day course for trainers with relevant previous experience in managing a wide range of visits in the UK and overseas who wish to deliver the off-site safety management course to their own groups.

At the Society. £216, RGS-IBG members £192.

 **B Thursday 2 - Thursday 23 October  
1.00pm - 2.00pm**

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 Thursday 2 October 5.00pm - 6.00pm**  
Webinar (online)

**Supporting geography candidates  
for interviews and Oxbridge**

This session is ideal for educators preparing geography candidates for high tariff universities, who are likely to interview as part of their admissions process. We will give you information to help build your confidence and talk timelines and strategies to help you support your candidates. [Online](#). [Free](#).

 **B MG Monday 6 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**  
(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**The library of lost maps**

Professor James Cheshire

James spent three years uncovering the treasures of a long-forgotten map library for his book *The Library of Lost Maps*. Sharing the contents of this archive, he will reveal the power of maps and their makers to transform our world. [At the Society and online](#). [Free](#).

 **B Tuesday 7 October 9.30pm - 4.00pm**  
Conference (Bristol)

**ENRGHI 2025: embodiment  
and water - blue bodies**

A two-day event dedicated to postgraduate and early-career researchers exploring the geographies of health, wellbeing and impairment. [University of Bristol](#). [Free](#).

 **B Tuesday 7 October 9.45am - 4.30pm**  
Workshop (London)

**EVC update workshop**

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



**B Tuesday 7 October 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

### **Humanitarian aid in a changing world**

Former Major General Rob Thomson

Rob from The HALO Trust, the world's largest mine-clearing NGO, will discuss how a changing geopolitical order marked by great power competition, increased conflict, and the retreat of multilateralism is affecting human development and security. Organised by the East regional committee. [Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.](#)



**B Wednesday 8 October 9.45am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

### **EVC training visit leaders and managing critical incidents**

This course is intended to give experienced EVCs a framework and resources for providing training for visit leaders in their own schools. [At the Society. £280, RGS-IBG members £252.](#)



**B Thursday 9 October 9.30am - 4.00pm**

Conference (London)

### **Responding to the climate and environmental crisis through history and geography**

Supporting history and geography teachers to develop their understanding and confidence to weave climate education effectively into the curriculum. [At the Society. £195, RGS-IBG members £150.](#)

**B S Thursday 9 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

EGR Taylor lecture (London and online)

### **Lightning at sea in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries**

Dr Sara Caputo

This lecture will use a range of printed and archival sources from Britain and western Europe to investigate the ways in which natural philosophers' understanding of lightning, shipboard surgeons' limited training on the matter, and inventors' bids to protect nautical instruments and infrastructure from strikes interacted with sailors' vernacular and embodied knowledge. Lightning shaped the maritime world to an extent that is yet to be fully recognised. [At the Society and online. Free.](#)

**B Thursday 9 October 8.00pm - 9.30pm**

Social (London)

### **EGR Taylor lecture supper**

Stay for supper at the Society after the EGR Taylor lecture, by Dr Sara Caputo, and meet other members and their guests. [At the Society. Post-lecture supper £55. Spaces are limited; book in advance by 12.00pm on Thursday 2 October.](#)

**E Saturday 11 October - Sunday 23 November**

Exhibition (Cambridge)

### **Earth Photo: Anglesey Abbey**

Featuring work by some of the best photographers from around the world, Earth Photo shares visually compelling stories about the environment, nature, people, forests, and the varied impacts of climate change. [Quy Road, Lode, CB25 9EJ. £18.](#)

**B Monday 13 October 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Guided tour (London)

**Guided tour of Lowther Lodge**

Join us for a guided tour of Lowther Lodge as we delve into the stories, contexts and interpretations of the objects on display throughout the Society's building. This tour offers a unique opportunity to engage with our Collections in a meaningful and thought-provoking way. [At the Society.](#) [Free.](#)

**B M Monday 13 October 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Guided tour (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 13 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**The North Pole: the history of an obsession**

Erling Kagge

Wild imaginings, broken hearts, melting ice, and life dreams achieved at 50 degrees below. The legends, motivations, physical challenges and the nature of exploration at large. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Tuesday 14 October 10.30am - 1.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Map skills and online mapping for primary geography**

This course is aimed at KS1 and KS2 teachers who are interested in developing spatial awareness skills linked to the primary geography curriculum.

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



**B Tuesday 14 October 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

**How to apply for a PhD programme**

Join this one-hour interactive webinar to learn about the process of applying for a doctoral programme in geography. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Tuesday 14 October 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Using Digimap for Schools for GIS**

In this fully interactive face-to-face session, you will have an introduction to the Digimap for Schools online mapping product. [At the Society.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Wednesday 15 October 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 15 October**

**3.30pm - 4.30pm**

Webinar (Online)

**What do geographers actually do?**

This event aims to support students, teachers and parents to understand what careers are available for those who choose to study geography. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Thursday 16 October**

**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Webinar (Online)

**Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer: information for employers**

Join this webinar to find out more about how employers can support their staff on the Professional Pathway to Chartered Geographer. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



**Thursday 16 October 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

### **The High North:**

#### **reflections on an opening Arctic**

Commander Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA

Former Royal Navy Submarine Commander Commander Dr Steve Aiken, has led operational patrols beneath the ice and advised the Ministry of Defence research on defence and security matters in the High North. He reflects on this increasingly contested part of the world. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. **Northern Ireland Assembly, Stormont, BT4 3XX. Free.**

**B Monday 20 October 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

### **Rude or robust? Rehabilitating a 19th century Gujarati chart of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in the Society's map collection**

John P Cooper and Kumail Rajani

When feted British imperialist Alexander Burnes deposited a Gujarati chart of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden with the Royal Geographical Society soon after acquiring it in 1835, he declared it a "specimen of naval surveying [...] unequalled in any of the cabinets of Europe". Yet he also described his trophy as "without any reference to longitude and latitude" and "rude"—a denigration that stuck. A new study of the chart by the speakers debunks this take, interpreting it instead as a rich documentation of both geographical knowledge and effective navigational technique among Gujarati navigators in the early 19th century. **At the Society and online. Free.**



**B MG Monday 20 October**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

### **Environmental justice and climate action: victims of the 'war on woke'?**

Professor Laura Pulido

Laura explores how the 'war on woke' promoted by dominant figures in the US Republican Party is harming climate action and environmental justice in the US and far beyond. **At the Society. Free.**



**B Monday 20 October 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Bath and online)

### **How our virtual world impacts our physical world**

Oliver Cronk

Oliver explores the profound and often overlooked geographical and environmental implications of our expanding digital world. Organised by the South West regional committee. Joint event with Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. **BRLSI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN. £6, RGS-IBG members £3 with code RGS50. W [www.brlsi.org](http://www.brlsi.org)**



**B Tuesday 21 October 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Beyond the beach: rethinking holidays in a warming world**

As the climate crisis accelerates, how should we think about our holidays in a more conscious and responsible way? This panel asks what it means to take a good holiday today and explore how our leisure choices shape the world, and what a fairer, more sustainable holiday culture might look like. [At the Society and online](#). In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



**B Wednesday 22 October  
3.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

**The big AI debate: the future of generative AI in higher education**

Dr Jacob Miller, Dr Miranda Prendergast-Miller,  
Dr Andy Suggitt, Dr Sarah Peck

Come along to a light-hearted debate on the role of generative AI in teaching and learning at university level. Organised by the North East regional committee. Northumbria University, Ellison Place, NE1 8ST. Free.



**B Thursday 23 October 4.30pm - 6.30pm**

Lecture (Manchester)

**The Next Crisis:**

**What We Think About the Future**

Danny Dorling

In his current book *The Next Crisis: What We Think About the Future*, Danny unpacks polling data and shows that our global crises are often very different from what's in the headlines, and that we need to take these issues very seriously. Organised by the North West regional committee. Joint event with Manchester Geographical Society. [Manchester Metropolitan University, Grosvenor Square, M15 6BH](#). Free.

**B MG S Monday 27 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Zen in the art of geography, and Travels across the Barren Lands of Canada by canoe**

Neville Shulman CBE, Karolina Gawonicz  
and Michal Lukaszewicz

Twenty five years ago, the RGS Neville Shulman Challenge Award was created to support ambitious expeditions. Neville, explorer and writer, will explain his philosophy behind the programme, and the 2023 recipients of the award, Karolina Gawonicz and Michal Lukaszewicz, will give a richly illustrated account of their 60-day unsupported canoe expedition across the Barren Lands of Canada. [At the Society and online](#). Free.



**B Tuesday 28 October 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

**Making the most of your supervisor**

Learn tips and techniques for managing your relationship with your PhD supervisor. [Online. Free.](#)



**B Thursday 30 October 9.30am - 4.00pm**

Conference (London)

**Challenging maps and exploration symposium**

Join us for a day of expert panels discussing the connections, historical and contemporary, between maps and exploration. Event sponsored by the Sunderland Collection. [At the Society. Free.](#)



**B Thursday 30 October 6.00pm - 7.00pm**

Lecture (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

**Sustainable polar science  
for a changing climate**

[Professor Andy Shepherd](#) and [Dr Sammie Buzzard](#)  
In this event, we will explore emerging sustainable technologies we can use to monitor and predict environmental change in polar regions. Organised by the North East regional committee. Joint event with The Lit & Phil Society. [The Lit and Phil Society, 23 Westgate Road, NE1 1SE. Free.](#)

**B Thursday 30 October 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Stamford)

**A history of polar exploration in 50 objects**

[Anne Strathie](#)

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from a key period in polar exploration history, from Cook's circumnavigations in the 1770s to the aviation age of the early 1930s. [Stamford Arts Centre, St Mary's Street, PE9 2DL. £14, RGS-IBG members £10. W \[www.stamfordartscentre.com\]\(http://www.stamfordartscentre.com\)](#)



**B Friday 31 October - Sunday 1 November**

Conference (London)

**Explore weekend**

Connect with leading field scientists and learn everything you need to make your expedition a success. [At the Society. £125, RGS-IBG members £95.](#)



**B Friday 31 October 2.00pm - 5.45pm**

Conference (London)

**Expedition and wilderness medicine:  
update session**

Expedition medicine offers an exciting opportunity to combine your medical skills with travel, field research and exploration. This gathering is intended to share experiences and encourage best practice. [At the Society. £35.](#)

**B Friday 31 October 6.30pm - 8.00pm**

Short talks (London and online)

**Welcome home: postcards from the field**

Short presentations from recently returned expeditions and field research projects; hear what they did, and lessons they learned. Followed by an opportunity to meet and celebrate. [At the Society and online. In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.](#)

**B Monday 3 November 5.00pm - 7.00pm**

Lecture (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

**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. [Northumbria University Ellison Place, NE1 8ST. Free.](#)

**B MG S Monday 3 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Bound by water: linking Amazonian diversity and climate vulnerability**

Thiago Silver and Julia Tavares

National Geographic Explorers Thiago Silva and Julia Tavares are working alongside one another to discover how the Amazon rainforest's low-lying wetlands ecosystem responds to variability in its flood cycle. This work is supported by the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Amazon Expedition, a two-year series of scientific studies spanning the entire Amazon River Basin to advance solutions to ensure its protection. [At the Society and online. Free.](#)



**B Thursday 6 November 6.45pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (York)

**Beyond geograhy: enabling place-based change for future generations**

Ian Richardson

Stewardship of river catchments can contribute to environmental stability. Organised by the Yorkshire and the Humber regional committee. Joint event with York and District Branch of Geographical Association. [Bootham School, YO30 7BU. £3, students £2.](#)

**W** [www.booth.am/boxofficeGA](http://www.booth.am/boxofficeGA)

**B Thursday 6 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**UK child poverty: the state we're in**

Join leading experts to explore the geography, causes, and consequences of child poverty in the UK today, and what urgent actions are needed to build a fairer future. [At the Society and online. In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.](#)

**B Thursday 6 November 7.00pm - 8.45pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

**Traveller into unknown lands**

Hilary Bradt

This interview with Hilary Bradt will cover her experiences travelling to remote and lesser-known locations, by hitchhiking and bus, before the days of mass travel. She will reflect on the experience of starting a guidebook series introducing travellers to places less visited and her thoughts on sustainable travel in today's very different environment. Organised by the East regional committee. [Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.](#)

**B Friday 7 November 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Guided tour (London)

**Guided tour of Lowther Lodge**

Join us for a guided tour of Lowther Lodge as we delve into the stories, contexts and interpretations of the objects on display throughout the Society's building. This tour offers a unique opportunity to engage with our Collections in a meaningful and thought-provoking way. [At the Society.](#) [Free.](#)

**B Monday 10 November**

**2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

**Alexander Macomb Mason: a 19th century odyssey from the Potomac to the Nile**

[Andrew Rhodes](#)

Alexander Macomb Mason (1841-1897): a naval officer, a mercenary, an explorer, and a diplomat whose remarkable career put him on the scene of many of the late nineteenth century's most dramatic events. He descended from two prominent American families and personally knew some of the century's most colourful characters. His service as Chief of Staff to General Gordon and his mapping of Lake Albert and its tributaries were chronicled in his correspondence with the RGS in the 1870s. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Monday 10 November 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Webinar (Online)

**Teaching geography internationally**

[Chris Hoare](#)

In this session, Chris will discuss what teaching geography internationally is really like. How do you apply for jobs, what to expect, things to consider when looking to move abroad, and what it is really like to live, work and teach geography internationally? [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Monday 10 November**

**5.30pm - 6.30pm**

Networking (London)

**Geo-insights**

A networking session featuring five minute talks from Chartered Geographers and other professionals, followed by informal discussion and the chance to build valuable connections. Whether you're seeking inspiration or looking to connect with others in the field, this is a great opportunity to engage with fellow geography professionals. [At the Society.](#) [Free.](#)



**B MG Monday 10 November**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Revisiting the Dolgarrog dam disaster after 100 years**

[Professor Jamie Woodward](#), [Professor Jeff Warbuton](#),  
[Professor Stephen Tooth](#), [Dr Hywel Griffiths](#)

On 2 November 1925, a catastrophic flood swept through Dolgarrog village in north Wales, depositing enormous boulders and killing 16 people. In 2025, what have we learnt from this flood disaster?

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



**B Tuesday 11 November 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 Tuesday 11 November 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights webinar (Online)

**Publishing your first journal article**

Join this interactive one-hour webinar to learn more about the publication process in academic geography. The webinar will cover topics including writing your article, selecting a suitable journal, and dealing with reviewers' comments. *Online.* Free.

**B Tuesday 11 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Geographies of power and the new global security landscape**

With global tensions shifting in Eastern Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and Africa, this panel will explore how geographic thinking helps understand and respond to evolving security threats, including hybrid warfare, migration pressures, and resource conflicts. *At the Society and online.* In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. *Online:* £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



**B Wednesday 12 November**

**10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Going further with ArcGIS**

This event is for teachers who have completed the Teach with GIS one-day CPD course (or equivalent) and wish to further develop their knowledge and skills. *At the Society.* £25, RGS-IBG members £18.



**B Wednesday 12 November**

**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Use geography webinar (Online)

**Careers in resource management**

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography professionals with careers in resource management, including speakers working in energy, water and waste management. *Online.* Free.



**B Wednesday 12 November**

**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Webinar (Online)

**Learning to support meaningful climate solutions for schools with the EN-ROADS simulator**

Join us to explore the EN-ROADS simulator resources, a free, online, browser-based platform – that gives you the ability to teach, model and explore hopeful climate solutions grounded in high-quality data and outcomes. In this short, practical workshop, join David Preece to learn how to use the model and how to integrate it into teaching, activities and workshop ideas. *Online.* Free.

**B Monday 17 November 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

**Epic achievement:**

**11 traits of history's boldest achievers**

Brad Borkan

For the past decade, author Brad Borkan has explored the lives of extraordinary individuals – explorers (Shackleton), innovators (Wright brothers), engineers (Brunel), and reformers (Susan B. Anthony), among others – who shaped the last 100-200 years. In this entertaining talk, Brad reveals the 11 common traits that propelled these figures to greatness. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)

**B M Monday 17 November 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Guided tour (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 S Monday 17 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**These are a few of our favourite things**

Nicholas Crane, Dr Sarah Evans, Dr Katie Parker, Eugene Rae, Dr Ed Armston-Sheret

Nicholas Crane and experts on the Society's team take us through their hidden highlights of the Collections, showcasing how these can help tell new histories of travel, geography and exploration. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Tuesday 18 November 9.45am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Educational visits coordinator training**

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



**B Tuesday 18 November 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 Tuesday 18 November 5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

**Microlectures: Norwich**

An evening of microlectures from senior pupils from the Norwich Schools Partnership, showcasing a broad range of subjects in human, physical and environmental geography. Organised by the East regional committee. [Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD.](#) [Free.](#)

**B Tuesday 18 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Beyond the summit: what COP30 means for the Global South**

Hosted at the end of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, this discussion will reflect on the emerging agreements and especially their implications for the Global South.

At the Society and online. In-person: £12, £10 RGS-IBG members. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



**B Wednesday 19 November**

**9.45am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**EVC update workshop**

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



**B Wednesday 19 November**

**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 SM Wednesday 19 November**

**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

School Member lecture (London)

**School Member lecture**

School and Student Members are invited to come along to this lecture, to hear from a leading academic on a topic that is curriculum relevant. This event is being held exclusively for the Society's School and Student Members only. At the Society. Free.



**Thursday 20 November 5.00pm - 7.00pm**

Lecture (Peterborough)

**Microlectures: Peterborough**

The King's School will host microlectures on the theme people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace from the UN Resolution 2030, agenda for sustainable development. Students will present a series of short lectures on a super-curricular geography subject that they are passionate about. Organised by the East regional committee. The King's (The Cathedral) School, Park Road, PE1 2UE. Free.

**Thursday 20 November 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

**Silk Roads: ancient and modern**

Eric Woods

Drawing from his experience of travelling sections of the Silk Road, Eric Woods reflects on this famous network of trade routes and what it will become as the belt and road initiative. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.



**B MG Monday 24 November**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Predicting the ocean:  
a view from the Menai Strait**

Professor Tom Rippeth

Britain is surrounded by ocean. But how does it function? Here, we will examine how, over the past two millennia, we have pieced together nature's clues to better understand it. At the Society and online. Free.



**B Tuesday 25 November 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Lecture (Oxford)

**Discarded: how will today's artefacts form part of our future fossil record**

Sarah Gabbott, Jan Zalasiewicz

How long will the artefacts of human activity last? What might their potential fossil record look like, and how will they form over time? Organised by the South East regional committee. [University of Oxford, South Parks Road, OX1 3AN](#). £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.



**Tuesday 25 November 7.15pm - 8.45pm**

Lecture (Huddersfield)

**How to save the city:  
a guide for emergency action**

Paul Chatterton

Aiming for a car-free and post-carbon city, involving ecological and government change. Organised by the Yorkshire and the Humber regional committee. Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax branch of the Geographical Association. [Methodist Mission, Lord Street, Huddersfield HD1 1QA](#). Free.

**B Wednesday 26 November**

**10.00am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**A Level study day**

A Level students will benefit from a series of sessions led by experts that focus on areas of the key stage five curriculum. Please attend only one session. [At the Society](#). £15, RGS-IBG members £10.



**B Wednesday 26 November**

**10.00am - 12.00pm or 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Good COP, bad COP:  
modelling climate negotiations**

As COP30 concludes, join us for this practical, high-energy and fun session that simulates climate negotiations. Using EN-ROADS, a high-quality model simulation, A Level students will explore solutions for climate change. [At the Society](#). £15, RGS-IBG members £10.



**B Wednesday 26 November**

**7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Bath and online)

**Climate change and the global 'wildfire crisis':  
unravelling myths from realities**

Professor Stefan H. Doerr

Stefan will talk about the increase in wildfires and the recent media interactions regarding Donald Trump's comments on the causes of wildfires in the USA. Organised by the South West regional committee. Joint event with Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution. [BRLSI, Queen Square, BA1 2HN](#). £6, RGS-IBG members £3 with code RGS50.

**W** [www.brlsi.org](http://www.brlsi.org)





**B MG Monday 1 December**  
**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Debt trap nation:**

**family homelessness in a failing state**

Professor Katherine Brickell, Professor Melanie Nowicki

Across England, one of the wealthiest yet most unequal nations in the world, families are being trapped in debt and homelessness. The lecture will take audience members inside these issues.

At the Society and online. Free.



**B Tuesday 2 December 5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Webinar (Online)

**Aspiring leaders:**

**progressing from teacher to leader**

In this session, we will investigate ways in which you can develop your skills and experience not only in geography but across the school, which will help you move into leadership positions. Online. £30, RGS-IBG members £25.

**B Tuesday 2 December 8.00pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

**A history of polar exploration in 50 objects**

Anne Strathie

Writer, biographer and researcher Anne Strathie shares stories of objects from a key period in polar exploration history, from Cook's circumnavigations in the 1770s to the aviation age of the early 1930s.

Turner Sims, Salisbury Road, SO17 1BJ. £15.

**W** [www.turnersims.co.uk](http://www.turnersims.co.uk)



**B Wednesday 3 December**  
**3.30pm - 4.30pm**

Choose geography webinar (Online)

**Choose geography:**

**careers in coastal landscapes**

Join professionals who have careers working within the coastal environment. Speakers will share their career journey, educational background and the steps they took to get to where they are today. Online. Free.



**B Thursday 4 December**

**7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Online)

**Helping nature to become resilient to climate change**

Andy Lester

As conditions get rapidly warmer, Andy explores how we can create a climate-resilient landscape. Organised by the South East regional committee. Online. Free.

**B MG Saturday 6 December 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Children's lecture (London and online)

**Secrets of the Unknown Adventurer**

Teddy Keen

Follow in the footsteps of the renowned Unknown Adventurer on a thrilling journey into jungles, oceans, mountains and hidden worlds! Discover wild stories and sketchbook secrets and after the talk, enjoy squash, biscuits and fun activities, including exploring our giant floor map! At the Society and online.

RGS-IBG members free.

**B MG S Monday 8 December 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Lecture title to be confirmed**

The Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidenhead  
Former Prime Minister and geography graduate,  
Baroness May, will be giving the closing lecture of  
the autumn series. [At the Society and online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Wednesday 10 December  
12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Use geography webinar (Online)

**Careers with a local impact**

In this lunchtime webinar, learn from geography  
professionals with careers making a meaningful  
impact at the local level. [Online.](#) [Free.](#)



**B Wednesday 10 December  
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 10 December 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

Social (Norwich)

**A life of cutting-edge polar research**

[Professor Dame Jane Francis](#)

Dame Jane will combine talking about her own life  
in polar research with insights into cutting-edge  
research now being done in Cambridge on the threat  
to the Antarctic ice shelf. The talk will be followed  
by wine and canapes. Organised by the East regional  
committee. [Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD.](#)  
[£12, RGS-IBG members £8.](#)



**Thursday 11 December 8.00pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Oxford)

**Driven by the monsoons: the impact  
of ocean trading routes through history**

[Barry Cunliffe](#)

Using archaeology to explore the origins of the modern  
connected world through historic trade routes crossing  
the Indian Ocean. [St. Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead  
Road, OX2 6TN.](#) [£2, RGS-IBG members free.](#)

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## Non-Society events

### Thursday 4 - Sunday 14 September

10.00am - 5.00pm

Exhibition

#### Great ape: art, science and sustainability

Lisa Roet, Dr Susan Cheyne, Tim Dillon

A 13m great ape by artist Lisa Roet, with talks exploring art, science, and sustainability during London's Design Congress. **Free.**

**T** +61 42709 0884 **E** lisaroet@yahoo.com

**W** www.lisaroet.com/artwork/great-ape

### Monday 8 September 7.30pm - 8.45pm

In conversation

#### The life-changing power of microbes

Professor Tim Spector

The world-leading scientist and bestselling author of *Food for Life*, Tim Spector joins Adam Rutherford to reveal the rapidly evolving science of fermented foods and their extraordinary effect upon health.

**From £29.95.** **E** contact@howtoacademy.com

**W** www.howtoacademy.com

### Tuesday 9 September 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion

#### The Earth convention live: land and soil

Isabella Tree, Thomas Halliday, Minette Batters, Merlin Hanbury-Tenison

5x15 and Greenbank invite you to a special panel on land and soil, featuring Isabella Tree and a stellar line-up. **£15, concessions £10.** **E** info@5x15stories.com

**W** www.5x15.com

### Wednesday 10 - Thursday 11 September

9.30pm - 4.30pm

Conference

#### Blue finance 2025

This event will bring together ocean sustainability and finance specialists to explore how capital can be directed toward sustainable investment. **£195 for two days, concessions £85.** **E** diana.hunt@coastms.co.uk

**W** www.coastal-futures.net/blue-finance-25

### Friday 12 September 7.30pm - 8.45pm

In conversation

#### Rivers of life

Robert Macfarlane and Elif Shafak

Join Robert Macfarlane and Elif Shafak for a deeply personal and provocative journey inviting us to reimagine the nature of rivers, stories and life itself.

**From £34.95.** **E** contact@howtoacademy.com

**W** www.howtoacademy.com

### Sunday 14 September 7.00pm - 8.15pm

In conversation

#### Fly, wild swans

Jung Chang

Banned in China, Jung Chang's *Wild Swans* defined a generation. Now she is back to share the hugely affecting story of her family's lives through China's rise to a global superpower. **From £29.95.**

**E** contact@howtoacademy.com

**W** www.howtoacademy.com

## **Tuesday 16 - Wednesday 17 September**

Conference

### **The economics of biodiversity: valuing and financing nature**

Talks and exhibition communicating outcomes from the UKRI (NERC/ESRC) Economics of biodiversity research programme to practitioners and policymakers.

Free, registration required via email.

**E** [lgzgy@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:lgzgy@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk)

or **E** [sue.davis@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sue.davis@nottingham.ac.uk)

**W** [www.economicsofbiodiversity.org](http://www.economicsofbiodiversity.org)



## **Thursday 18 September 10.30am - 4.30pm**

Conference

### **Society of Land Referencers: land with certainty conference**

Chaired by Jim Harvey

Exploring the consistency and continuity of land referencing throughout the consenting lifecycle of projects. **£140, SoLR members £90.**

**E** [hello@solr.org.uk](mailto:hello@solr.org.uk) **W** [www.solr.org.uk/conference](http://www.solr.org.uk/conference)

## **Thursday 18 September 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

In conversation

### **Speaking my mind**

Leo Varadkar

Newly liberated from the constraints of office, the iconic Irish prime minister joins us to reveal the story of his life in politics with unusual honesty and frankness.

**From £29.95. E** [contact@howtoacademy.com](mailto:contact@howtoacademy.com)

**W** [www.howtoacademy.com](http://www.howtoacademy.com)

## **Saturday 20 September 3.00pm - 4.50pm**

In conversation

### **How British imperialism has shaped the globe**

Sathnam Sanghera

Sathnam Sanghera's ground-breaking *Empireland* revealed how empire continues to shape life in Britain today. Now he joins us to explore its lasting impact on the rest of the globe. **From £29.95. W** [www.fane.co.uk](http://www.fane.co.uk)

## **Tuesday 23 September 7.30pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture

### **HMS Captain: technological triumph to tragedy**

Dan Snow, Professor Andrew Lambert,

Dr Howard Fuller

Explore the origins and tragedy of revolutionary warship *HMS Captain* (1869) alongside historians and descendants of her designer and crew.

**£30 standard, £20 RMG member, £15 child,**

**£10 RMG member child. T** 020 8312 6608

**E** [bookings@rmg.co.uk](mailto:bookings@rmg.co.uk) **W** [www.rmg.co.uk/hmscaptain](http://www.rmg.co.uk/hmscaptain)

## **Wednesday 24 September 10.00am - 4.30pm**

Conference

### **Sustainable logistics live**

Hosted by Kelly Hobson and over 20 industry speakers

Join us at Sustainable logistics live, the UK's only event dedicated to reducing Scope 3 emissions through smarter, greener logistics. **£149.**

**E** [hello@shapetomorrow.co.uk](mailto:hello@shapetomorrow.co.uk)

**W** [www.shapetomorrow.co.uk](http://www.shapetomorrow.co.uk)

### **Wednesday 24 September 7.30pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture

#### **50th Anniversary of**

#### **‘Everest: The Hard Way’ expedition**

Sir Chris Bonington, Paul (Tut) Braithwaite,  
Dr Charles Clarke, Pertemba Sherpa, Julie Summers

An evening of conversation, films and interviews  
celebrating the successful 1975 expedition to  
summit the south-west face of Everest. £40.

**T** 01768 800826 **E** nicolaterry@canepal.org.uk

**W** www.canepal.org.uk/events

### **Thursday 2 October 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

#### **Oman the jewel of Arabia:**

#### **a 30 day journey to Arabia Felix**

Mark Evans

Lecture on *The Jewel of Arabia* expedition: 30 days  
on foot, by camel and 4x4 in Oman in the 1927  
footsteps of British explorer Bertram Thomas.

**Free.** **T** 07802 321030 **E** mcearab@gmail.com

**W** www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oman-the-jewel-of-arabia-  
expedition-lecture-tickets-1414982443579

### **Saturday 4 October 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

In conversation

#### **An audience with Nigel Planer: young once live**

Nigel Planer

Nigel Planer, beloved as Neil the hippy from *The Young  
Ones* and a founding figure of the 80s alternative  
comedy scene, brings his memoir *Young Once* to  
life in a warm, sharply funny live show of storytelling.

**From £45.** **W** www.fane.co.uk

### **Wednesday 8 October 7.15pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture and reception

#### **10 Years of Remembering Wildlife**

#### **book launch**

Margot Raggett MBE, Lisa Hyman, Will Burrard-Lucas  
Evening on pangolins and conservation, featuring  
Margot Raggett MBE, Lisa Hywood and photographer  
Will Burrard-Lucas. £29.50, £79.50 plus book,  
£115 plus VIP drinks reception.

**E** contact@rememberingwildlife.com

**W** www.rememberingwildlife.com

### **Wednesday 15 October 6.30pm - 10.15pm**

Lecture and reception

#### **Kicheche at 25: toils and**

#### **triumphs of safaris since 2000**

Simon Reeve, Simon Calder, Paul Goldstein,  
Greg Monson

A poignant but often hysterical look at the business  
end of a quarter-century of Kenyan safaris with Simon  
Reeve and Simon Calder trying to keep some order  
from founders Paul Goldstein and Greg Monson. £15.

**T** 07312 92512 **E** donna@kicheche.com

**W** www.kicheche.com

### **Thursday 16 October 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

In conversation

#### **How to live**

Marie Kondo

The internationally beloved author and organiser  
returns to How To Academy to share new ideas  
for living wisely and well, drawn from the ancient  
traditions of Japanese culture. **From £34.95.**

**E** contact@howtoacademy.com

**W** www.howtoacademy.com

**Saturday 18 October 2.00pm - 3.50pm**

Lecture

**The leaders and lunatics tour**

John Simpson

After a sell-out tour in 2024, legendary journalist and broadcaster John Simpson returns to the stage with a bold, unflinching look at leadership: why some inspire while others descend into tyranny. And... are all tyrants 'lunatics'? £69.99. **W** [www.fane.co.uk](http://www.fane.co.uk)

**Saturday 25 October 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

In conversation

**DNA and the evolution of life**

Richard Dawkins

Join Richard Dawkins for a ground-breaking exploration of the power of DNA and what it can reveal about the deepest patterns of evolution. **From £29.95.**

**E** [contact@howtoacademy.com](mailto:contact@howtoacademy.com)

**W** [www.howtoacademy.com](http://www.howtoacademy.com)

**Saturday 8 November 10.00am - 4.30pm**

A full-day event showcasing travel in Latin America

**Bradt Latin America travel festival**

Inspiring talks, panels, expert-led breakout sessions, one-to-one advice, book signings and competitions.

£50. **T** 01753 893444 **E** [marketing@bradtguides.com](mailto:marketing@bradtguides.com)

**W** [www.bradtguides.com/events](http://www.bradtguides.com/events)

**Wednesday 12 November 6.30pm - 10.30pm**

Lecture and display

**The plant hunters:**

**Captain Frank Kingdon Ward**

Seamus O'Brien

Lecture and display of plant hunter items, some never displayed before from the Society's archives.

**Fundraising event organised by the Tree Register.**

**E** [celenepickard1@gmail.com](mailto:celenepickard1@gmail.com)

**W** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-plant-hunters-tickets-1374591884329>



**Thursday 13 November 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Conference

**AGI Foresight conference 2025**

An event launching the results of a project exploring the opportunities and challenges for geospatial over the next five years.

**T** 01489 668340 **E** [info@agi.org.uk](mailto:info@agi.org.uk)

**W** [www.agi.org.uk/foresight-conference/](http://www.agi.org.uk/foresight-conference/)

**Thursday 13 November 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

In conversation

**SAS the great train raid:**

**the most daring SAS mission of WWII**

Damien Lewis

Who dares wins! Join bestselling author and former war reporter Damien Lewis for a never-before-told story of SAS bravery, daring and determination in World War II which simply beggars belief.

**From £29.95.** **E** [contact@howtoacademy.com](mailto:contact@howtoacademy.com)

**W** [www.howtoacademy.com](http://www.howtoacademy.com)

**Wednesday 19 November 7.00pm - 10.00pm**

Fundraising dinner

**Contemporary Art Society 20th artist's table**

Richard Long CBE RA

The Contemporary Art Society presents the 20th artist's table with Richard Long CBE RA, co-chaired by Cathy Wills and Andreas Siegfried. [Please get in touch for further details.](#)

**E** [sophieblower@contemporaryartsociety.org](mailto:sophieblower@contemporaryartsociety.org)

**W** <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/TheContemporaryArtSociety/artiststablerichardlong.html>

## 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](mailto:events@rgs.org)



### Vice President Membership

Matt Pycroft

### 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

Martin Haslett

### East

James Firebrace

### London

Annabel Illingworth

### South East

Henry Hogger

Matt Pycroft

### South West

Alan Smith

*Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Devon*

Sam Scott

*Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset*

### Wales

Vacant

### Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

### Singapore

Ian Coppell

**E** [singapore@rgs.org](mailto:singapore@rgs.org)

### Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

**E** [admin@rgshk.org.hk](mailto:admin@rgshk.org.hk)

**W** [www.rgshk.org.hk](http://www.rgshk.org.hk)



# Medals and awards

## Meet the Gold Medalists

### Børge Ousland



© Børge Ousland

The recipient of the Founder's Medal for the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery.

What did you want to be, or where did you want to work, when you were a teenager?

"When I was a teenager, I dreamed of sailing the world, visiting faraway places, and exploring. I think that spark came from all the trips we did as a family when I was a kid."

What role do you do now and how would you describe your work?

"After travelling around Europe after school, I got a job with a diving company, which led to a 10-year-long career as a deep-sea diver. It was through that, that two colleagues and I started to plan the first expedition, which was across Greenland in March and April 1986.

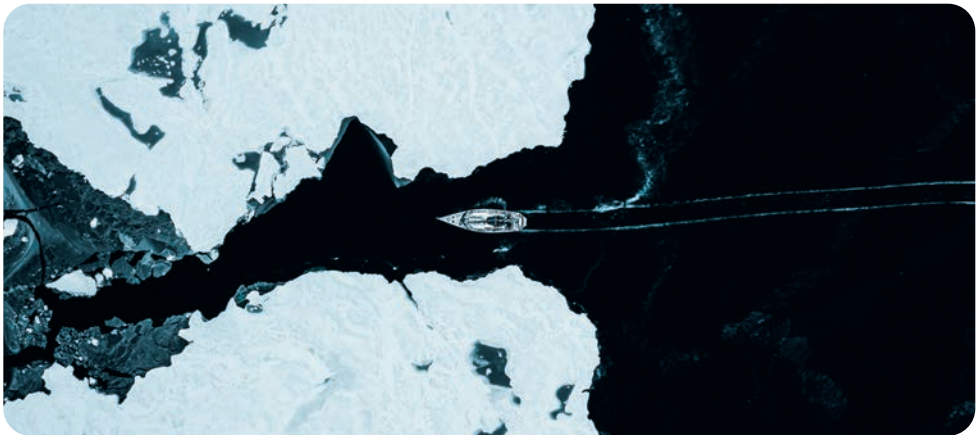
"I worked as a diver for a few more years, conducting expeditions at the same time, until after a solo and unsupported expedition to the North Pole in 1994, I became a full-time explorer."

What has been the highlight of your career, regardless of how big or small, so far?

"Although the crossing over of the North Pole and Polar Ocean in the dark with Mike Horn in 2019 was perhaps more extreme and borderline, I still consider the 1994 solo expedition my most significant achievement. It was a defining trip for me, and it marked my biggest mental leap."

What projects are you working on right now?

"I am currently crossing Ellesmere Island together with Vincent Colliard. This trip is part of our Ice Legacy project, where we are crossing the 20 biggest icefields on Earth to show what we are about to miss and how important snow and ice are for sustaining life on the planet.



© Benji Ousland

“We have just crossed the Grant Icefield, which is the 14th icefield we have crossed, so far, on this mission. When we are done with the remaining two here on Ellesmere, there are four icefields left to cross, which we will tackle in the years to come. I am very much looking forward to continuing to share stories and fresh observations from the field on more expeditions.

“I see my role as an explorer shifting to becoming an advocate for the cryosphere, and continuing as an inspiration for others to take care of this wonderful planet, to follow their own dreams, and to keep exploring.”



## Professor Susan J. Smith

© James Ye



The recipient of the Patron's Medal for the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery

**What role do you do now and how would you describe your work?**

"Like most academics, I do a bit of everything, though these days there is more writing and speaking, and sadly less teaching, in the mix."

**How did you get into this field of work?**

"I've been fortunate to enjoy a wide variety of roles during my academic career. There has never been a 'master plan' so I might describe them as happy accidents."

"I suppose my one 'rule of the game' has been that it is always worth pushing on an open door – I've never regretted doing that."

**What is one thing you wish you had learned earlier in your career?**

"I'm tempted to answer how to say no but, in fact, saying yes far too often has been entirely energising, if exhausting at times."

**What are you looking forward to in the future?**

"For the next four years I have the honour of being the President of the British Academy, which will involve doing as much as I can to champion the humanities and social sciences, underlining their capacity to enrich people's lives and address the pressing issues of our age."

**W** [www.rgs.org/medals-and-awards-showcase](http://www.rgs.org/medals-and-awards-showcase)



## Embedding careers into the curriculum

### Encounters with employers

**Recognising the deep importance of careers education in shaping destinations of young people, we have been developing our careers resources for schools. This is with the aim of supporting schools in meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks, a framework of eight benchmarks used as a guide to ensure schools are delivering thorough and quality careers provision, as recommended by the Department for Education.**

Our approach to supporting schools meeting these benchmarks includes running events for students both online and in person at the Society, and expanding our pool of careers resources. The Society's wider careers and progression work – our Choose geography programme – provides a wealth of support linked directly to these outcomes.

The benchmarks ensure young people have careers guidance tailored to their educational stage and promote encounters with employers and careers pathways, and there are many ways for employers to get involved.

This summer, we invited Knight Frank to visit the Society to run an interactive workshop with Year 12 students, showcasing the range of geographical careers available in the real estate consultancy sector. The workshop was an invaluable opportunity for students to engage with employers and practice their skills in using geo-located data. Students had the opportunity to apply geographical knowledge learnt in the classroom to real-world scenarios in the commercial and residential property consulting sector, as well as an opportunity to ask questions to geographers working at Knight Frank.



We also ran a student webinar with five geography professionals working in sectors spanning finance and environmental consultancy to the civil service and GIS. Professionals outlined the role that geography has played in shaping their career, including the real-world impact of their work, all with the aim of inspiring

students to pursue geography. Students had the opportunity to have their questions answered, helping inform the next steps in their education and career pathway.

To help support schools with meeting Gatsby benchmark 4 (linking curriculum learning to careers), we have launched a range of careers resources that embed real geographical jobs into specific curriculum topics taught in the classroom. This includes a resource exploring jobs in the food security sector, and a resource that deep dives into the work of geographers involved in humanitarian response to natural disasters. The resources are based on real people with real jobs, increasing young people's awareness of the range of interesting careers available if they choose geography. View all these resources online and get in touch if you have an opportunity for young people.

**W** [www.rgs.org/careerseducation](http://www.rgs.org/careerseducation)



## Earth Photo 2025 Award spotlight

**Together with Forestry England and Parker Harris, the Society showcases the issues affecting the climate and life on our planet through Earth Photo, a world-leading programme engaging with still and moving image makers.**

Now in its eighth year, the open call attracted over 1,582 entries. From these, the judging panel made up of experts from the fields of photography, film, geography, and the environment selected the Earth Photo 2025 shortlist of 195 images and eight videos by 40 photographers and filmmakers. Of these standout submissions the panel recognised 10 images, series and films with prizes.

Earth Photo's objective is to reveal the narratives behind the pictures, encouraging conversations about our world, its peoples, environments, and the changing climate.

Here we reveal the stories behind some of this year's award recipients.

The Earth Photo 2025 Award was presented to Lorenzo Poli for his entry, *Autophagy*. The impressive, black-and-white photograph was taken at the Chuquicamata mine in Chile, the second-largest open-pit copper mine in the world by excavated volume, and one of the deepest, plunging nearly 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) into the Earth.

Capturing an abandoned miners' town and cemetery gradually being subsumed by mineral ore extraction, the image documents the "gridded impermanence of extractive cycles, overpowering life and death", according to Poli. Taken from above, the photograph shows the vastness of Chuquicamata, while telling a story of unsustainable mining practices fuelled by increased global demand for copper "driven by its role as a critical primary element in the transition to renewable energy".







Calross of the Ice Bear © Liam Neill



Liam Man's piece *Carcass of the Ice Beast* was awarded the Royal Geographical Society – Climate of Change Award for projects that explore the impacts of climate change upon people, environments and wildlife.

The striking image comes from *The Icebreaker Project*, and features the Rhone Glacier, five acres of which was covered by thermally reflective blankets to deflect infrared radiation and slow its melting.

"Today, these coverings hang in tatters, like the torn skin of a dying giant", Man explains. The piece acts as a "tribute to human effort and a sobering reminder of its limits. Despite the dedication of a few, their interventions could not halt the glacier's retreat". The message of the wounded glacial scene becomes clear: "climate change cannot be solved through isolated actions alone".

Earth Photo © James Tye





La Hepica – Consumed Living Spaces © Issam Chorrib

Issam Chorrib, a 24-year-old from Morocco, was awarded the David Wolf Kaye Future Potential Award for his photograph *La Hepica – Consumed Living Spaces*.

Chorrib's image, taken in Larache, Morocco, captures a turning point where nature and human impact collide: a forest once used for leisure and reflection, is now consumed by fire. Part of his series *La Hepica: Consumed Living Spaces*, "the image underscores the increasing fragility of ecosystems in the face of climate change", Chorrib explains. Prolonged droughts and environmental mismanagement have made places like La Hepica increasingly vulnerable to wildfire.

See the Earth Photo exhibition, on display at the Society until 20 August, and seven Forestry England forests, 10 National Trust locations and Sidney Nolan Trust.

**W** [www.rgs.org/earth-photo](http://www.rgs.org/earth-photo)



# Gift membership Your event

**As geography students embark on a new term studying our planet's people, places and environments now is the perfect time to support their passion and learning with a Student Membership.**

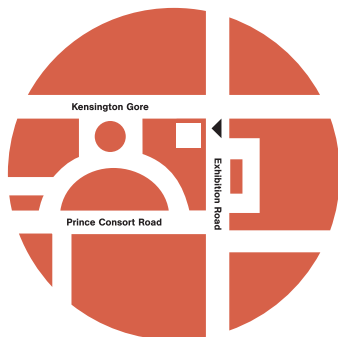
Starting at £64 this membership is tailored to student needs at GCSE, A Level or university with resources and opportunities that enhance geographical understanding at each stage.

At the Society, we empower people with all interests – whether they are passionate about addressing global challenges through geography, exploring the world through expeditions and fieldwork, advancing their future career, or being inspired as the next generation of advocates for our planet.

Your gift also helps ensure geography's relevance in policy, education, and public discourse, supporting its critical role in addressing today's issues.

**W** [www.rgs.org/gift](http://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](mailto:info@rgs.org)  
**W** [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

**Cover image** Carcass of the Ice Beast © Liam Man



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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

