

Bulletin

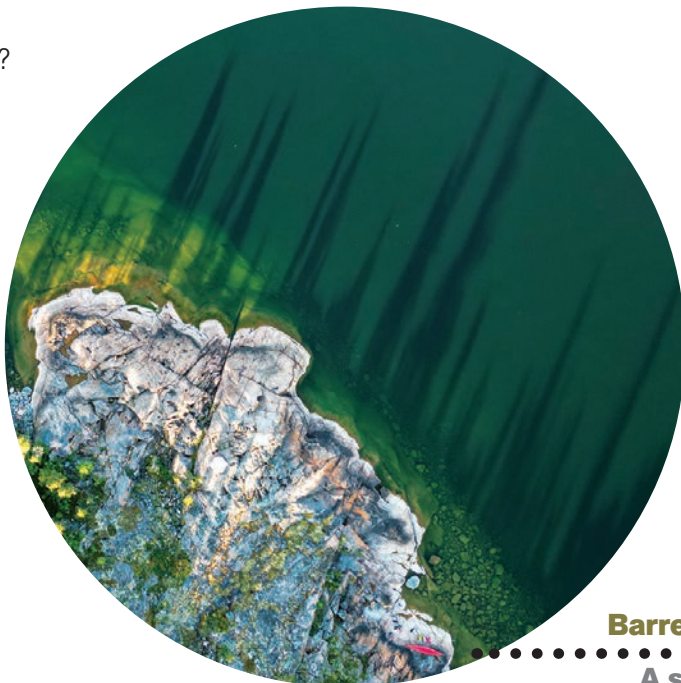
Spring 2025

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Inside

- News
- What's on?
- Our work



Barren Lands
A snapshot



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

I am extremely grateful to the very many of you who took the time to contribute to our recent membership development survey and focus groups. The high response rates are a very positive measure of our committed and engaged membership. The data show that we are getting many things right. However, we commissioned the work to understand how we can serve you better and grow the membership.

One message is that we need to be clearer about the many and varied opportunities for members to get involved with the work of the Society and engage with each other.

Our regional committees, and their events are one way of meeting like-minded people. If there aren't events near you, why not volunteer to help organise some? If you are looking for practical support in your geographical career do look at our career resources.

For those seeking ways of supporting the next generation of geographers, why not sign up for our Professional Ambassador scheme, which helps get geographical expertise into schools? Or sponsor School Memberships? This gives teachers and learners access to additional events and materials beyond our free content.

Thank you for joining us in our long-established mission to 'advance geographical science'. Today that implies playing a prominent role in making the world a better place. The bigger our community the greater our positive impact. Hence one of the most positive things all of us can do to aid us in our mission is to help us grow the membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Professor Joe Smith
Director



Society News

Society survey

Thank you very much to those who took the time to contribute to our recent member research project. We commissioned an agency to conduct a survey and series of focus groups throughout August and September. The survey received 6,600 responses, from members and non-members, helping us develop a clear view of challenges, perceptions and values of the Society and across the discipline of geography.

Council nominations

We are inviting nominations from Fellows for a number of Council positions to be elected in 2025. The following positions are open for nominations: Vice President Research and Higher Education, Councillor Education, Councillor Expeditions and Fieldwork. Read the full criteria online and submit your nominations by 5.00pm on 20 March.

In December we will announce opportunities to join the Education, Research and Higher Education, Professional Practice, and Finance committees, and the Enterprise Board and Investment Sub-Committee.

W www.rgs.org/council

Endurance documentary

Meshing historic and modern-day adventure, *Endurance* tells the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempt to traverse Antarctica and, more than a century later, the expedition to find the wreck of his famous ship. The NatGeo documentary film is available to stream now on Disney+.

As a partner on the Endurance22 expedition, the Society created a series of inspiring learning resources accessible to all schools which complement the film in bringing both expeditions to life.

W www.rgs.org/endurance22



Map Room artwork

London-based British-Indian artist Hormazd Narielwalla has collaborated with the Society to create a new artwork, *Expanding Universe*, a body of abstract work that will hang in the Map Room for the next five years. It was developed after Hormazd's research into the Society's map collection and the artwork incorporates references from the Society's historical archive.

W www.rgs.org/mural

BBC Academy Climate Creatives conference

The Society was a partner of the BBC Academy Climate Creatives conference in October which brought industry leaders and creatives, commissioning editors and thought-provocateurs together to explore the power of creativity and collaboration in response to climate change. This connection grows out of the BBC's partnership in Earth Stories, our support for the media and cultural sectors' engagement with sustainability. Find recordings and follow up resources online.

W www.bbc.co.uk/academy/events/climate-creatives-2024/

Land Rover corporate support

We are very pleased that our longest serving Corporate Benefactor, Land Rover, have renewed their support of the Society for another year.

W www.rgs.org/corporate-support



Education News

Curriculum review

The study of geography is integral to understanding the modern world, and it has never been more important.

The Government's curriculum and assessment review is now under way, taking a wide look at Key Stages 1 to 5. Its objective is a broader, richer, cutting-edge curriculum, that drives standards and sets all young people up for life and work. The views of experts, parents, teachers and education leaders are expected to be central to the review's recommendations, which will be published autumn 2025.

As the UK's learned society for geography, the Society has responded to the open call for evidence as part of our active role ensuring quality geography is embedded in young people's education.

Throughout October we asked for the views of members to help formulate our response, which will be published on our website.

We know that not only do the skills of geographers provide a strong basis for employability, lifelong learning and a positive difference in the world, but exposure to the discipline at a young age also helps foster critical thinking, global awareness, and environmental responsibility. The importance of issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, epidemiology and inequalities, make geography one of the most relevant subjects in schools.

The Society will continue to participate in discussions with the Department for Education and is working closely with the Geographical Association on a document of key principles for geography in schools.

W www.rgs.org/curriculum-and-professional-support/





From the field News

Apply now for our upcoming grants

Deadlines are approaching for a variety of funding opportunities to help support students, researchers and schools undertake fieldwork in 2025. Apply for the Frederick Soddy Schools Award, which supports primary and secondary school fieldwork, or the Geographical Fieldwork Grant scheme for undergraduate and Masters students. The Fieldwork Apprenticeships also offer first year undergraduate students, who would otherwise not have the chance to do so, the opportunity to join a summer field research project.

W www.rgs.org/grant-deadlines

Explore festival resources

The Explore 2024 festival event recordings are available to watch online. Search for 'explore' to catch up on talks centred around travel and exploration today.

W www.rgs.org/talksondemand

Read our grant stories

Find new grant stories on the Society website to hear more from our grant recipients as they reflect on their research and experiences in the field. These include Kendall Jefferys, a PhD student at the University of Oxford, who is studying plant pollinators to create a baseline biodiversity dataset in the Cerrado biome in the highlands of central Brazil.

W www.rgs.org/grant-stories

Expansion of Expeditions and Fieldwork team

We are pleased to announce Tom Allen has joined the Society as our new Expeditions and Fieldwork Manager.

An explorer, author, and responsible travel advocate specialising in the Caucasus, he will support fieldwork and expedition practitioners while helping the Society reach a broader audience.

W www.rgs.org/in-the-field

Research and higher education News

Magar women, Captain Col. Morris, Nepal, 1926 © RGS-IBG



Reimagining the Himalaya

Dr Rohini Rai, an interdisciplinary scholar of race, migration and racism with a keen interest in postcolonial and decolonial theories has curated a new online exhibition, *Reimagining the Himalaya through the lens of diasporic indigeneity*.

This exhibition is part of a wider British Academy-funded public engagement project in collaboration with the Society, *Indigenising the Himalayas: Reimagining its Past, Present, and Futures*.

The project focuses on three key elements: archives, dance, and storytelling. Through workshops with the Society's Collections, members of UK-based Himalayan diaspora communities from Nepal and Northeast India commented on and recaptioned imagery. Their insights are woven into the exhibition to reclaim archives as tools for reviewing understandings of historical material, from the viewpoint of diasporic indigeneity.

W www.rgs.org/reimagining-the-Himalaya



Other Everests

Bringing together international scholars, archivists, curators, learned and professional societies and the UK mountaineering community, *Other Everests: Commemoration, Memory and Meaning and the British Everest Expedition Centenaries, 2021-2024* was a research network funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for which the Society was a research partner.

Critically assessing the legacy of the Everest expeditions and re-evaluating the symbolic, political and cultural status of Everest in the contemporary world, the network reflected and debated on commemorative activities for the centenaries of British climbing attempts. The network questions commemoration, memory and meaning and the role of contemporary archives in understanding Everest today.

The project network included the Society as a custodian of significant archival collections relating to Everest, enabling contributions to the discussion.

W www.rgs.org/other-everests

Fi Wi Road interns

The Society again hosted Fi Wi Road undergraduate interns as a partner of the scheme, and welcomed their support in the delivery of this year's Annual International Conference. The internship was developed to support young Black geographers across the UK in building their networks, skills and experiences, encouraging a future in the discipline. Visit our website to learn more about this year's interns and their experience.

W www.rgs.org/fi-wi-road-interns



Professional News

Call for Professional Ambassadors

We have relaunched the Society's Professional Ambassador scheme and encourage you and your colleagues to sign up. The scheme provides a platform for professional geographers to share their interests and expertise with young people through in-class talks, workshops, career events, fieldwork and more. Our online register also allows teachers to search and find a Professional Ambassador.

Exposure to professional role models can inspire and inform young people through real-world learning, and increasingly schools are required to provide opportunities to engage with professionals or employers in schools. In addition, advocating for your profession is a rewarding way to showcase your geographical knowledge and amplify the relevance of geography in study and careers. Register with the scheme now.

W www.rgs.org/professional-ambassadors

Online CPD tool

Planning, recording and reflecting on your training and continuing professional development (CPD) is integral to career progression. In many roles it's also expected and is essential in applying for, and maintaining, Chartered Geographer accreditation.

The Society is launching a new online tool, MyCPD, to allow you to track CPD and to record your reflections. Chartered Geographers can then use this to submit their annual CPD log, and those working towards Chartership will find it a convenient record of CPD when applying.

MyCPD will be available to all Fellows and Members, although only Chartered Geographers will be expected to submit their records for review.

W www.rgs.org/cpd



Events

Highlights

Throughout our spring programme of events we will bring you closer to geography's past with stories from our Collections, advance your knowledge with workshops, and inspire you with lectures which showcase geography's great power to change how we see the world.

Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland our regional events will take you on a journey through topics entwined with geography's core issues, as well as themes which meet the discipline at its many intersections.

Delve into Devon and Cornwall's unique geology in the South West regional committee's online lecture, or meet Jan Morris' biographer and hear stories of Jan's role on the 1953 Everest expedition in Oxford. This term Belfast brings you a talk uniting art, architecture and great

gardens, while in Chichester you're invited to a sociable evening of storytelling.

If you live in, or are visiting London, don't miss our iconic Monday night lecture programme which brings you great thinkers, ideas and stories each week. The Map Room bar is open before and after each lecture, giving you somewhere to socialise with your guest or make new connections. Wherever you are you can watch lectures live streamed or recorded in broadcast quality video and sound.

Book your tickets early to secure your place and allow us to accurately assess interest in a particular event.

Don't forget, members get more. With free or reduced rate tickets and exclusive access to our Talks on demand you can explore more of what you love.



Spring 2025 events

Monday night lectures at a glance


6.30pm-7.45pm

RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR or online at **W** www.rgs.org/livestream

For	Date	Title	Speaker
M+G	6 Jan	How we all became navigators	Ed Parsons
M+G	13 Jan	Haenyeo voices: merging tradition and science to monitor reef changes	Professor Niki Alford
M+G	20 Jan	Magmatic memories: Eldfell 1973	Dr Rhian Meara
M+G	27 Jan	Decarbonising transport: considering people and place	Professor Sarah Sharples
M+G	3 Feb	A nation of map addicts	Mike Parker
M+G	10 Feb	Land smart	Tom Heap
M+G	17 Feb	Unravelling the past from hidden volcanic ash	Professor Siwan Davies
M+G	24 Feb	Warmth from below: where ice and ocean meet	Professor Yueng-Djern Lenn
M+G	3 Mar	Exploring the relationship between environment and people	Dr Debadayita Raha
M+G	10 Mar	The changing rainforests	Dr Katherine Abernethy
M+G	17 Mar	Our changing climate: why does 1°C matter?	Professor Ed Hawkins
M+G	24 Mar	Is ecology contributing to environmental destruction?	Matthew Stadlen in conversation with Guillaume Bonn
M+G	31 Mar	The Earth transformed: the meeting of geography, history and science	Dr Katie Parker in conversation with Professor Peter Frankopan

Events

Key to events

- B** Book tickets in advance
- M+G** Members plus one guest
- SM** School Members only
- S** Supper to follow lecture
(advance booking required)
- E** Exhibition
-  Continuing professional development
for the Chartered Geographer scheme

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, especially those planned to take place in-person, 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.

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 are continuing to 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 27 January, 10 February, 10 March and 31 March and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £42 per person (two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

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

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** events@rgs.org Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

.....

Events listings

In chronological order



B M+G Monday 6 January
6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

How we all became navigators

Ed Parsons

What is the story behind the development of the maps applications we use every day and how have they changed the way we think about the world around us? [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

B M+G Monday 13 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Haenyeo voices: merging tradition and science to monitor reef changes

Professor Niki Alsford

This project explores the effects of environmental change on Jeju Island's reefs by combining Haenyeo divers' traditional ecological knowledge with scientific monitoring, using 3D modelling to assess transformations and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.



B Tuesday 14 January 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Webinar (online)

Innovative teaching strategies at Key Stage four

Paul Sturtivant

This session explores strategies that go beyond teaching the specification, to empower students to truly engage as geographers, while still achieving excellent results. [Online.](#) £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

B Tuesday 14 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Eileen Hendriks: geology in Devon and Cornwall

Dr Jenny Bennett

Eileen Mary Lind Hendriks played a pivotal role in resolving the stratigraphy and structure of Devon and Cornwall. Organised by the South West regional committee. [Online.](#) Free.



B Wednesday 15 January
1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Taking part in academic conferences

Academic conferences are a fantastic way for geography PhD researchers to share their research with other academics through papers, posters, and networking opportunities. But how do you make the most of them? [Online.](#) Free.

Thursday 16 January 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Art and architecture in great gardens of the world

Trevor Edwards

Meet Trevor, the galloping Gaelic gardener, who will present on his many geographical encounters with the great gardens of the world. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. [School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University, BT7 1NN.](#) Free.



B Thursday 16 January 6.45pm - 8.00pm

Lecture (York)

The biggest bangs since the big one

Bill McGuire

Volcanologist and natural hazards expert, Bill, takes us on a tour of major catastrophes in Earth's history. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with York and District Geographical Association. Bootham School, YO30 7BU. Free.

B M+G Monday 20 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Magmatic memories: Eldfell 1973

Dr Rhian Meara

2023 saw the 50th anniversary of the Eldfell eruption on the island of Heimaey, Iceland. This talk will investigate the legacy of this eruption, both on the landscape itself, and the thriving community who took on a volcano and won! [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

B Monday 27 January 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

A history of polar exploration in 50 objects

Anne Strathie

Anne returns with her fourth polar book to talk about objects from a period of exploration which is the bedrock of our present-day knowledge and fascination with polar regions. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

S B M+G Monday 27 January 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests.

[At the Society.](#) £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 23 January and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B M+G Monday 27 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Decarbonising transport:
considering people and place**

Professor Sarah Sharples

Climate change is presenting an urgent imperative to decarbonise transport. Decarbonising different transport modes is complex, the impacts of decarbonisation will be different for different groups of people and for different places. Sarah will outline the work that is taking place to accelerate the decarbonisation of transport and consider how considerations of people and place intersect with delivery of greener transport. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.



B Wednesday 29 January
5.00pm - 6.30pm

Webinar (online)

**AI in the geography classroom:
practical uses for teaching and learning**

Paul Logue

This session will explore the world of generative artificial intelligence, introduce you to programmes such as ChatGPT, and demonstrate how these models work and how best to utilise them in your day-to-day planning as a geography teacher. Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.



B Wednesday 29 January
7.30pm - 8.45pm

Lecture (Cambridge)

**The energy transition: what it
means for the UK and the world**

Professor Andy Woods

Drawing on his extensive academic research on transitioning from a fossil-fuelled world to one powered by renewables, Andy will explore both challenges and opportunities and how they can be addressed. Organised by the East of England regional committee. *The Leys School, Trumpington Road, CB2 7AD. £5, RGS-IBG members free.*

E Saturday 1 - Friday 28 February

Exhibition (Saint Austell)

Earth Photo: Lost Garden of Heligan

See a stunning selection from the 2024 competition, which stimulate conversations about our world. Lost Garden of Heligan, Pentewan, PL26 6EN.

B M Monday 3 February 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social (London)

New members' welcome tour

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

B M+G Monday 3 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

London night lecture (London and online)

A nation of map addicts

Mike Parker

Britain takes its maps very seriously indeed. Mike, author of the bestselling classic, *Map addict*, takes us on a tour of our finest, favourite and oddest cartography. *At the Society and online. Free.*



B Tuesday 4 February 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Webinar (online)

**Supporting geography candidates
with university applications**

Dr David Preece

This session explores some of the timelines and approaches you can take to help your A Level geographers make great choices, become great candidates and prepare them really well for top quality university applications to read geography and similar disciplines at university. *Online. Free.*

 **B Wednesday 5 February**
1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Jobs outside of academia

Unlock a world of employment opportunities beyond academia. This webinar will delve into the exciting journey of transitioning from postgraduate research to thriving in different sectors. [Online](#).

 **B Wednesday 5 February**
5.00pm - 7.00pm

Webinar (online)

**Behaviour management
in the geography classroom**

Paul Sturtivant

Discover strategies that give students a voice and celebrate classroom diversity, specifically tailored to the geography context. Learn unique methods to manage behaviour and create a positive learning environment. [Online](#). £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

 **B Thursday 6 February 6.45pm - 8.00pm**
Lecture (York)

Heatwaves: the silent killer

Professor Glenn McGregor

Heat is by far the leading cause of deaths from extreme weather and climate events in Europe in recent decades. Join us to find out why, and how we can mitigate its effects. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with York and District Geographical Association. Bootham School, YO30 7BU. [Free](#).

 **B Thursday 6 February 7.30pm - 8.45pm**
Lecture (Norwich)

**Rewilding: what does it mean
for how we understand nature?**

Alex Petter

As a movement that promises not only to restore nature but to reintroduce wildness to Britain, rewilding has become the latest buzzword in conservation circles. But what are the implications for how we conceive wildness, and does rewilding really challenge our traditionally managerial approach to nature? Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

B M+G Monday 10 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm
(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Land smart

Tom Heap

How can we fit people, food, nature, houses, carbon, trees, solar panels, roads, flood-waters and warehouses on one small island? Land smart for the latest on the race for space on earth. [At the Society and online](#). [Free](#).

S B M+G Monday 10 February
8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. [At the Society](#). £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 6 February and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



B Tuesday 11 February 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Webinar (online)

Case study connections

Dr Simon Oakes

This session is focused on the benefits of using the same case study context to exemplify two or more topics to help learners develop in-depth links and connections between geographical themes.

Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

B M+G Monday 17 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Unravelling the past from hidden volcanic ash

Professor Siwan Davies

Unearthing ancient volcanic ash from the depths of ice sheets and lakes has provided critical evidence for our reconstruction of past environments and climates. This lecture explores the power of this approach for addressing many of the major environmental challenges that we face today.

At the Society and online. Free.

B Tuesday 18 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Jan Morris on Everest

Paul Clements

Paul will describe the conversations he had with Jan about her involvement in the 1953 Everest Expedition. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Online. Free.



B M+G Monday 24 February

6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Warmth from below:

where ice and ocean meet

Professor Yueng-Djern Lenn

As Arctic sea ice melts away, the ocean below is absorbing six times more solar radiation. This lecture will highlight the changing ocean processes melting ice and implications for our weather and climate.

At the Society and online. Free.

B SM Wednesday 26 February 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Lecture (London)

School Member lecture

Professor James Cheshire

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.

B Thursday 27 February 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (London)

Launching the Society's new travel partnership

Join the Society for the launch of its new travel partnership with leading experts in guided travel, Travelsphere. Through this collaboration the Society and Travelsphere seek to advance the goal of purposeful, responsible travel. The evening will see a panel discussion on travel as well as the Society open its collections for a display of materials related to travel. At the Society. Free.

**B Monday 3 March 6.00pm - 8.00pm**

Workshop (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Best practice and interventions for accessible fieldwork

Dr Becky McCerery

This session will cover best practice and positive interventions for fieldwork, with a focus on menstruation and menstrual health. [Northumbria University](#), NE1 8ST. Free.

B M+G Monday 3 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Exploring the relationship between environment and people

Dr Debadayita Raha

Changes in the environment are a global phenomenon. However, some people and communities experience the complexities of climate change more than others. This lecture will bring stories from the Global South of small resource-dependent communities facing interconnected social, economic, and environmental challenges. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

**B Tuesday 4 March 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Webinar (online)

Geographical enquiry and approaches to data collection KS3-KS5

The Field Studies Council aims to build confidence and create a toolkit of resources to help newer geography teachers to deliver fieldwork. This session is an introduction to geographical enquiry for early career teachers. In collaboration with the Field Studies Council. [Online](#). Free.

B Monday 10 March 2.30pm - 3.45pm

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

On the backs of others: rethinking the history of British geographical exploration

Dr Ed Armston-Sheret

Ed reveals the strange, violent and sexual practices of famous explorers of Africa and the Antarctic in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and their reliance on the bodily toil of others for their survival. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

B M+G Monday 10 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The changing rainforests

Dr Katherine Abernethy

A journey through the Congo Basin, reflecting on the future of its iconic wildlife and trees and showing how the African forests are a key part of the climate change puzzle. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

S B M+G Monday 10 March 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. [At the Society](#). £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 6 March and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

 **B Tuesday 11 March 9.45am - 4.30pm**
Workshop (London)

Educational visits coordinator training

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

 **B Wednesday 12 March 9.45am - 4.30pm**
Workshop (London)

EVC update workshop

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

B Wednesday 12 March 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Why join an RGS-IBG research group?


The Society has over 30 research groups. Our research groups bring together active researchers and those with a professional interest in a particular aspect of geography and related disciplines. *Online.* Free.

 **B Thursday 13 March 7.30pm - 8.45pm**
Lecture (Norwich)

Coral reefs: from Darwin to doomsday

Professor Tom Spencer

How little corals build enormous reef structures has fascinated marine scientists for almost 200 years. Tom, takes us on a journey from the voyage of *The Beagle* to modern insights into reef growth and loss, and discusses what the future may hold for these remarkable ecosystems. Organised by the East of England regional committee. *Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD.* £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

 **B Friday 14 March 10.00am - 4.00pm**
Conference (London)

New and aspiring heads of geography

Leading a department can be a daunting prospect for teachers. Join us for a day of leadership guidance to help build your confidence, covering topics such as how to succeed as a leader, curriculum planning and development, departmental vision, fieldwork and how to support non specialist teachers. *At the Society.* £180, RGS-IBG members £150.

 **B M+G Monday 17 March**
6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Our changing climate: why does 1°C matter?

Professor Ed Hawkins

Those who downplay the risks of climate change sometimes suggest that global warming is 'just' an increase of 1°C so the consequences cannot be large. This talk will highlight why 1°C matters. *At the Society and online.* Free.

Tuesday 18 March 7.45pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Oxford)

Jan Morris: stories of Mount Everest and Oxford

Paul Clements

Morris' biographer shares stories of her life with a focus on her role as the sole journalist on the historic 1953 Everest expedition and her time and work living in and around Oxford. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. *St Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, OX2 6TN.* £2, RGS-IBG members free.

B Wednesday 19 March 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Social (Chichester)

Spring social: South

An eclectic evening of short geography related stories, tales and explanations; expect almost anything.

Organised by the South regional committee.

Chichester College, Westgate Fields, PO19 1SB. £5.

B Monday 24 March 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

Mapping the manuscript archives

Loraine Rutt

Drawn to the objects that reveal the human hand charting interpretations of place, Loraine is fascinated by the liminal traces of geographical experience in the overlap of explorer, surveyor, cartographer and viewer. Join Loraine as she talks about her work and the inspiration she has drawn from the Collections of the Society. *At the Society and online. Free.*

M B Monday 24 March 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social (London)

New members' welcome tour

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



B M+G Monday 24 March

6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Is ecology contributing to environmental destruction?

Matthew Stadlen in conversation with Guillaume Bonn

Guillaume will discuss, with Matthew, his 20 year journey documenting the last days of East Africa's natural landscapes and why we need to steer away from idealised portrayals and overused stereotypes.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 26 March 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Webinar (online)

Publishing your first journal article

Writing journal articles is a key part of an academic career. But navigating the intricacies of the publishing process can often seem daunting. This webinar endeavours to demystify this process. *Online. Free.*

B Thursday 27 March 3.45pm - 6.00pm

Field visit (Horsey)

Understanding Horsey's past, present and future

Robin Buxton

Robin will lead a walk around this unique location on the East coast of Norfolk. The fascinating amalgamation of the North Sea, the Broads, marshes and rivers has long been Norfolk's secret, known only to a few holidaymakers and serious sailors. Organised by the East of England regional committee. *Horsey Windpump, Horsey, NR29 4EE. £5, RGS-IBG members free.*

.....

B M+G Monday 31 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The Earth transformed: the meeting of geography, history and science

Dr Katie Parker in conversation

with Professor Peter Frankopan

The Earth's environment affects its civilizations in myriad ways, with prominent historical examples showing the connections between climate and social phenomena. Historian Peter Frankopan will discuss the intersections of geography, history, and science in conversation with the Society's Cartographic Collections Manager, Katie Parker. At the Society and online. Free.

S B M+G Monday 31 March 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social (London)

Monday night lecture supper

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lecture and meet other members and their guests. At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 27 March and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

.....

Non-Society events

The following events are not organised by the Society but are held on our premises (1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR). For further information and tickets please contact the organisers listed directly.



B Wednesday 29 - Thursday 30 January

9.30am - 5.00pm

(doors open at 8.30am)

Conference

Coastal futures 2025 conference: the path to 2030

The UK's largest ocean conference offers expert insights, networking, collaboration, and critical discussions on coastal issues. In-person: two day ticket £295 (£150 concession), in-person one day ticket £210 (concessions available). Online: two day £95 (concessions available).

E diana.hunt@coastms.co.uk

W www.coastal-futures.net

B Thursday 27 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

The Mount Everest Foundation Lecture

Pioneering pensioners

Mick Fowler and Victor Saunders

Four decades on from their landmark first ascent of Spantik's Golden Pillar in the Karakoram, Vic and Mick do it again – this time on the Matterhorn of the Khunjerab, Yawash Sar. Not without its dramas, the legends show us how it's done. £20.

Contact Rebecca Stephens

T 07510 695360 **E** info@mef.org.uk

W <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1034796814127/>

Regional committees

We have regional committees across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as two international branches based in Hong Kong and Singapore. All of our regional committees welcome new faces and the new ideas they bring, so if you're looking for a way to support geography and the Society, why not join your regional committee and get involved in organising events and activities in your area?

Vice President, Membership

Matt Pycroft

E regionschair@rgs.org

East of England

James Firebrace

E ea@rgs.org

London

Annabel Illingworth

E london@rgs.org

Midlands

Martin Haslett

E midlands@rgs.org

Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

E ni@rgs.org

North West

Jonathan Stevens (Cumbria)

E nw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (Cheshire)

E cnw@rgs.org

South

Henry Hogger

E south@rgs.org

West of England

Sam Scott

E wesw@rgs.org

South West

Alan Smith

E sw@rgs.org

Martin Kemp (North Devon)

E northdevon@rgs.org

Wales

Sam Scott (South Wales)

E wesw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (North Wales)

E cnw@rgs.org

Yorkshire and the North East

David McEvoy and Andy Suggitt

E yne@rgs.org

Singapore

Oliver Worsley

E singapore@rgs.org

Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

E admin@rgshk.org.hk

W www.rgshk.org.hk

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

Meet the President

Q&A with Professor Dame Jane Francis

Professor Dame Jane Francis was elected in June as the Society's new President. We caught up with Jane to find out more about her and her life in geography.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?


I am a geoscientist by training and my research has focused on ancient climates of the Earth, millions of years ago. I have worked on rocks and fossils in the polar regions, which have changed from warm tropical landscapes (even when close to the poles) to the amazing icy worlds that we know today. This has provided me with insight into how our planet might change as our climate warms.

**Why are you interested in geography?
Why is the subject important?**

I have always been fascinated by the complex interactions of landscapes,

edra.com ©





climate and life on our planet. Like many, geography was my favourite subject at school, especially because I had an inspiring teacher.

You're Director of the British Antarctic Survey, what does this involve?

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a government research centre within the Natural Environment Research Council, studying the Antarctic – and the Arctic – especially how the polar regions are changing today.

I oversee an amazing range of people and activities, from mariners who crew our icebreaker the *RRS Sir David Attenborough*, pilots who fly our aircraft in remote icy regions, expedition guides who support the scientists in field camps and keep them safe, and more. There's never a dull moment!

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

The highlight has been working in Antarctica. It is an amazing continent, so remote and so unlike other parts of the planet in its vast icy cover – I often think that it's like visiting another planet.

I never ever thought when I was younger that I would have a career that literally took me to the ends of the Earth.

What decision has had the greatest impact on your career?

I spent five years in Australia at the University of Adelaide for a research project on ancient climates of Australia. I was offered a research post, had to make a quick decision, said yes and soon found myself doing field work in the beautiful red rocky deserts of central Australia, with kangaroos, parrots, snakes and spiders



and a few huge gum trees. I worked with an Antarctic geologist in Adelaide and ended up also working in the Arctic and Antarctica. Living overseas was a great experience and was the start of many great polar adventures.

Why did you volunteer for the role of the Society’s President?

I have been lucky enough to have gained experience from many activities related to the Society – research and teaching in geoscience, exploration of remote and fascinating landscapes, advocacy for understanding our changing world. I hope I can support the Society with this experience.

What do you hope to achieve during your four-year tenure as President?

I hope that I can help to promote the Society and the wonders of geography and our planet to as wide of an audience

as possible. In practical terms, the Society has an outstanding archive of items that are not easy to access. It would be great to open up the building for visitors to be inspired by the Collections, but that also requires some modifications to the building and raising funds.

What are you most looking forward to as President?

I look forward to meeting all members of the Society but especially the younger members who are passionate about our planet and its people and are the future generation who understand how to live in balance with our world, more than we have done in the past.

W www.rgs.org/council



Neville Shulman Challenge Award 2023

Across the Barren Lands

During Michal Lukaszewicz and Karolina Gawonicz's 60-day long unsupported canoe crossing through the Barren Lands of Canada they connected Great Slave Lake with rivers Lockhart, Hanbury and Thelon through a series of portages. On top of that geographical challenge, they filmed local fauna as well as their own proceedings. Here they share how the award brought their expedition to life.

"Being five times larger than the UK, the Barren Lands are widely considered the second largest area of uninhabited wilderness in the world. For Canadians it's a little known corner yet it covers 15% of the country's territory, consisting of tundra habitat north of treeline. For First Nations it's home where nobody resides. For the Canadian Government it's a prosperous mine which largely cannot be mined. And for the small group of adventure canoeists

it's a temple, free from dams and guarded by lack of roads and airports.

"The Neville Shulman Challenge Award supported our canoe journey across the Barren Lands from Yellowknife in Northwest Territories to the Inuit hamlet of Baker Lake in Nunavut. Our motivation was to take a snapshot of this rarely visited land and follow in the footsteps of James Bullock's expedition of 1923/25. To achieve our goal we had to cover over 1,000 miles of pure wilderness with no option to resupply.

"In 1923 James Bullock and John Hornby set across the Barren Lands hoping to secure first ever motion pictures of musk oxen. Their journey was filled with hardship, hunger and loneliness. In July of 1925 they decided to lessen their load by burying 10,000ft of film tape in the middle of Hanbury River. A photo of that cache emerged alongside Bullock's journals



© Michał Łukasiewicz





© Michal Libiszewicz



© Michal Libiszewicz

in 2015. Following analysis of Bullock's letters we wanted to check whether the cache site survived. Indeed, when we made it to the Grove Rapids on Hanbury River, a small cairn rose in front of our eyes. Beneath the boulders we found rusty pieces of film cans from the 1920s – definite proof we'd found the right cluster of rocks in all the Barren Lands.

“The Barren Lands haven't changed much since Bullock and Hornby passed across them. However, they will change dramatically over the next century due to climate change. Melting permafrost will increase water permeability to the ground, washing out carbon compounds that have been frozen for thousands of years. Rising temperatures will push the treeline further



north, allowing species from the south to invade this delicate ecosystem. Day after day, we saw evidence of these changes. Lakes were bubbling as methane gases were released from thawing lake bottoms. We also recorded many pairs of nesting bald eagles in the Barren Lands on the tundra, far from the trees where they normally nest.



“During the last stage of the expedition the Thelon River helped us with our mileage. We were now passing through the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, a protected area the size of Belgium that was created in 1927 by Bullock and Hornby, who, after returning, lobbied the Canadian government to protect the habitat they had come to know so intimately. As a result, musk oxen, bears,



© MICHAŁ LISZCZAK

wolves, wolverines, and, most importantly, caribou, gained protection. Bullock and Hornby's efforts were, in a way, far ahead of their times, and today we would call them not so much explorers as conservationists. Unlike inhabited areas elsewhere in the world, the Barren Lands do not have capacity to self-determine the future. What happens next to subarctic regions depends on the actions of us all.

"Having had the privilege to witness the scope of that wilderness first hand it feels unimaginable that it could be lost."

What challenge of yours could this award support? The application deadline for the 2025 award is 30 November.

W www.rgs.org/neville-shulman-challenge-award



Building a network

The value of accreditation

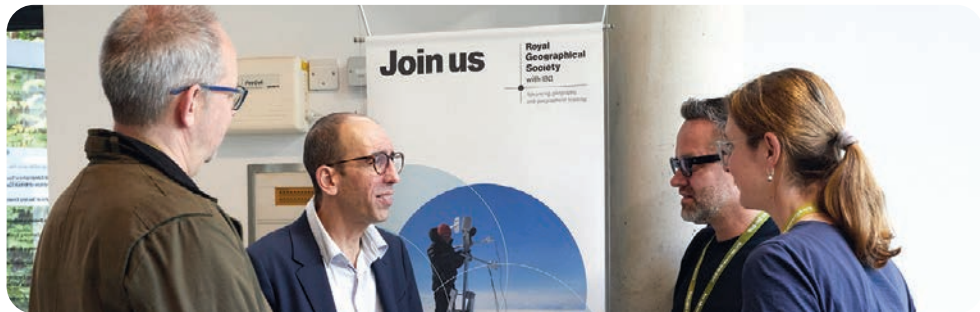
One of the great driving purposes of the Society is to advance the reach and influence of geography, and its wider value in society. For professionals, accreditation provides proof of a high level of understanding, experience and professionalism. In advocating for chartership in their workplace our Chartered Geographers (CGeogs) help build the prominence of chartership, the standing of the discipline and quality of their own networks.

Chartered Geographer status awarded by the Society is the only internationally recognised accreditation for geographers. Not only does it enhance career progression, but it also demonstrates a commitment to ongoing development. Chartership is also important to the future of the discipline because it provides independent assurance, placing geography specialists alongside other recognised

professionals, reflecting well on their expertise and on the organisations that employ them.

With the creation of the Society's new champion's pack, Chartered Geographers will be better able to act as ambassadors for the scheme and connect with people who share their vision. The pack contains information to assist peer support within organisations and to prepare CGeogs for talking about chartership. The intention is to encourage the building of internal networks, made easier with our expertise and backed by support from the Society.

Networking is an important way to develop mutually beneficial professional relationships. It supports the giving of assistance, which can help progress individual or organisational goals. By networking and being visible within communities of professional practice,



it is more likely that exciting opportunities arise. More importantly, it allows an ongoing exchange of ideas, especially when expanded beyond one organisation, sector or profession. Developing a network that has contacts at many different career stages allows professionals to look ahead, to identify goals and aspirations or different pathways for career growth.

Chartership itself opens the door to a global network of geographers. Those curious about becoming chartered can join regular

introductory workshops, while established CGeogs can meet informally through virtual coffee mornings.

In our fast moving world, CGeog accreditation not only recognises personal achievement but is a vital tool for strengthening our community and fostering connections which ensure the discipline remains central to understanding and addressing today's most pressing challenges.

W www.rgs.org/cgeog



A gift that broadens horizons

Give membership this Christmas

Geography fosters a deeper understanding of our planet's people, places and environments. It is a subject that inspires awe and expands knowledge. Give someone you care about a gift that lasts all year and unlocks a world of discovery.

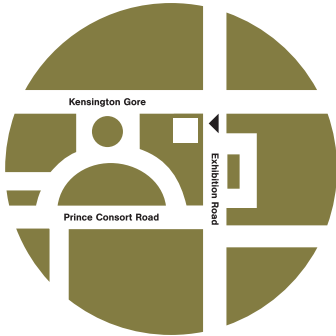
Membership is for everyone, and brings each individual more of what they love, whether that's moving journalism, inspiring lectures or opportunities to connect with like-minded people.

If you know someone studying geography at any level between GCSE and university then Student Membership will showcase the breadth of innovation and challenges across the discipline, with the addition of study resources to supplement their coursework and advance their learning.

When you give a gift of membership you are not only sharing your love for the discipline but you are actively supporting the work of the Society as a charity, learned society and professional body.

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



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C018381

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

