Annual review 2018

Royal Geographical Society with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning



The Society

Vision

A world-leading learned and professional body for geography, widely respected for its independence, quality, innovation, and for the breadth of its activities promoting and supporting geography as the means for everyone to discover, understand and respect the world's people, places and environments.

Mission

A world centre for geography and geographical learning dedicated to the development and promotion of knowledge together with its application to the challenges facing society and the environment.

The Society is a charity that exists for public benefit and which also has a broad-based membership that supports its mission and aims. The Society was independently recognised in 2013 as the leading scholarly geographical society in the world.

Registered Charity 208791

Society objectives

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) exists for 'the advancement of geographical science'. For the current strategy, 2017-2021, this purpose has been expressed as six strategic objectives for the organisation. These focus the activities of the Society and ensure that the Society's operational development is planned, integrated and responsive to the needs of the discipline, its practitioners, the public at large and the membership. Three objectives concern first and foremost the discipline. These are to safeguard the discipline, to develop and share geographical knowledge and understanding, and to support practitioners and students. Three objectives concern the Society. These are to grow our reputation, enhance our membership and sustain the future.

The Society's work is organised into thematic departments, each of which contributes work to several objectives.

From the President



Rt Hon Baroness Lynda Chalker **President**

Having been an Honorary Member of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) for many years, and a former member of Council, it is a great honour to find myself as President and to have the opportunity to assist in the Society's ongoing development at a time when geography is playing such an important role in tackling the challenges facing the world.

In my first six months as President, I have been amazed and delighted to discover the breadth of activity undertaken by the Society, and the depth of its engagement with audiences ranging from school pupils to teachers, members of the public to policymakers, and academics to expeditioners. That our organisation successfully balances the needs and expectations of these diverse elements of the geographical community is a testament to the talents and commitment of both the membership and the staff.

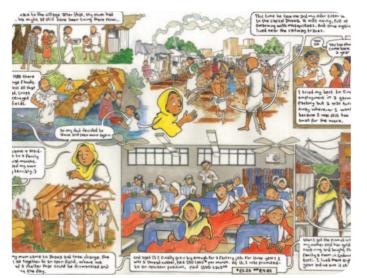
Among my many highlights of 2018, I have relished the opportunity to meet so many Fellows and members through our meetings and at Monday night lectures, and discover first-hand the ability of geography to bring together people of all backgrounds who share an interest in the world, its places, its people and its environments.

As President, I have also had the pleasure this year to oversee the induction of our new Director, Professor Joe Smith. Joe joined us from the Open University where he had worked with a broad range of stakeholders from academia, business, policy and the media on a series of interdisciplinary research and public engagement projects.

Taking over the running of an organisation as complex as the Society has been made a little easier for both of us by the existence of an ambitious and comprehensive five year strategy and secure finances. During the three years that I am President, I will be supporting Joe, and the wider staff team, to deliver the agreed strategic objectives and take the Society on to the next phase of its illustrious history.

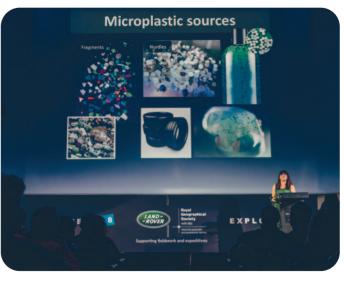
I would like to thank everyone who has made me so welcome as President. I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support of the Society and all that it helps us achieve.

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From the Director



Professor Joe Smith Director

When I took over as Director of the Society on 1 May 2018, I had little real understanding of the scale of the task I had taken on. Coming from an academic background, it was easy for me to underestimate the real extent of the Society's work with schools, with geography teachers, with expeditioners, and with the public. After nearly a year in post I now have a renewed admiration for an organisation that achieves so much, and that serves such a diverse body of audiences.

Of the many achievements in 2018, there are four that stand out in particular for me.

The Society was successful in a competitive bid to the Department for Education (DfE) to continue running the Geography Teacher Training Scholarship scheme for a further three years. Scholars from the first year of the scheme are now working in schools as newly qualified teachers, while the second year of Scholars are mid-way through their training. The scheme's combination of a tax-free bursary and membership of the Society, alongside bespoke training and support throughout the training year and beyond has attracted a very high calibre of Scholars. This work is helping to define and catalyse leadership in geography teaching in our schools.

There is a clear focus in the Society's current strategic plan to increase the support we provide for professional geographers in the workplace, so it has been satisfying to see the Society's relationship with the Geographers in Government group and the pangovernment Head of Geography thriving. Working with these partners and others, we have been able to generate a real groundswell of activity that is leading to greater recognition among employers of the value of geographical skills and knowledge in the workplace.

It was also very satisfying to see the amount of media coverage generated by geographical research presented at the 2018 Annual International Conference. Stories as varied as why men find it hard to eat less meat, the way commutes are becoming part of the working day and the overexploitation of public parks were covered by local, national and international outlets, helping to show public audiences the relevance of geography. Finally, the ongoing success of the Society's exhibition celebrating the centenary of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition highlights the appetite for contemporary interpretations of historical geographical events. Its installation in the Hull Maritime Museum saw over 35,000 people visit the show, many of whom also contributed their own stories connected to the expedition.

While I am in no doubt about the fact that I have plenty more to learn, I can say that I now feel very much at home. This is in a large part due to the warm, friendly and encouraging welcome that I have received from you all – thank you.

1 Geography

Promoting and sustaining a vibrant discipline

Objective Represent, promote and advocate for geography as a leading discipline, so that its contribution to understanding our changing world is appreciated by the public and it maintains a strong position in education, research, fieldwork and expeditions, in civic society and in informing policy and business.

Context Geography has an essential role in the 21st century in helping everyone to understand our world. 2012 to 2016 saw significant strengthening in the standing and study of geography. 2017 to 2021 has uncertainties in the face of UK political and economic change.

During 2018, the Society continued to be an influential and effective advocate for the discipline, particularly in relation to geospatial skills and knowledge. The Society also sought to keep recognition of the value of geography among parents, employers and government high in response to a small drop in the number of A Level and undergraduate students, which follows 17 years of growth.

In particular

• The Society worked closely with the newly formed Geospatial Commission to highlight the key role of geography and geographers in the geospatial sector.

• Strong links were developed with the new cross-government Head of Geography, and with his new team of Deputy Heads – many of whom are Chartered Geographers.

• A social media campaign was run over the summer to raise awareness of the benefits and value of studying geography at school and university.

• Over 30,000 pupils took part in sessions run by the Society's Geography Ambassadors.

1.1 Making the case for geography

The Society's existing strong networks with key individuals and organisations across the government, business, education, and research sectors were sustained successfully during the year, helping to maintain the Society's central position of influence within the geography community.

After a series of meetings with the newly formed Geospatial Commission, and responding to their call for evidence by highlighting the key role of geography and geographers in this sector, the Society developed a programme of work that aims to support the development of geospatial skills and raise awareness of their value.

The Society's support for professional geographers and the role of the discipline in good policymaking was developed further during 2018 as effective links with the cross-government Head of Geography in the Government Science and Engineering Profession (GSE), David Wood, and his team of Deputy Heads were formed.



In early autumn, a Professional and Policy Manager was appointed, leading to the reinstatement of proactive policy monitoring and, with input from across the research community, the reinvigoration of the Society's programme of knowledge exchange events. In addition, the updated *Making the Case for Geography* documents for policymakers, some of which were created with the Association for Geographic Information (AGI), were rolled out across the breadth of the discipline.

The Society responded to a decline in the number of geography A Level students and undergraduate applications by raising awareness of the value of studying geography through a social media campaign using the hashtag #ChooseGeography and press work that resulted in national press and broadcast coverage.

The Society's reputation and convening power enabled it to bring together school leaders who are geographers to discuss the current opportunities and challenges facing school geography. In addition, researchers from higher education institutions, teacher training programmes, and others came together at the Society to explore how to work more effectively with local schools.

1.2 Advising on geography

After consultation with the wider geographical community, the Society responded to four consultations including those on Qualified Teacher Status and Career Progression for the Department for Education (DfE), the Fourth Industrial Strategy Inquiry for the Education Select Committee and the draft guidance and criteria for the Research Excellence Framework 2021. The Society also maintained its ongoing contacts with Ministers and officials across a range of relevant government departments. The Society maintained its close relationships with the exam boards offering geography, and hosted a workshop by the Field Studies Council to explore how fieldwork is assessed in the new GCSE and A Level exams. The Society also continued to actively promote the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software within schools, and sent a joint letter to all secondary schools on behalf of the Society, Esri UK and the exam boards, highlighting free access to ArcGIS online and the wider support available from the Society and others.

The Society welcomed the appointment of a new National Lead for Geography by Ofsted and we were delighted that he was able to join one of the Society's CPD events for teachers in November.

1.3 **Promoting geography** to wider audiences

The Society's Geography Ambassadors programme increased the number of professional geographers participating in the scheme during 2018 due to support for the programme from geography employers including the Environment Agency, and the networks of the Geographers in Government group. During the course of the year, Ambassadors from universities and a range of workplaces provided almost 900 sessions to over 30,000 pupils in schools across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. A pilot programme in Scotland, being run in partnership with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, extended the initiative that inspires pupils with the opportunities provided by studying geography even further.

The Society's Alexander Awards provide support for disadvantaged young geographers to participate in a range of fieldwork activities. In 2018, 16 A Level students gained knowledge, skills and confidence by attending the Alexander Awards Summer School, while three undergraduates took part in overseas fieldwork with an academic from their university as part of the Fieldwork Apprenticeship scheme, which is also supported by the Alexander Awards.

The Society maintained support for the involvement of geography with sectorled programmes (including Athena Swan) to support underrepresented groups in higher education institutions.

2 Knowledge and understanding

Helping create a better informed world

Objective Advance, interpret and share geographical knowledge more fully, so that the world is better understood and more people benefit from using and enjoying geographical knowledge in their work, leisure and communities.

uncertainty and rapid change there

advance, and share, well-founded

knowledge and understanding of

the UK and the world. And to do so

professional and public audiences

is a greater need than ever to

in ways that are meaningful to

power and inspiration to bear.

today. We will bring our independence, convening

Context In a period of

The Society continued to advance geographical knowledge through its grants programme, Field Research Programme and support for researchers, while activities such as the Annual International Conference, events programme and the development of educational resources enabled the Society to share that knowledge and understanding with millions of people.

In particular

• The second fieldwork season of *Migrants* on the margins, the Society's collaborative international Field Research Programme, was completed and work began on disseminating the project's initial findings.

• The Society's Annual International Conference enabled almost 2,000 geographers from across the world to share and learn about the latest developments in the discipline.

• During 2018, the Society organised more than 450 live events – lectures, discussions, interviews, conferences, field visits and training courses – including those organised by the regional committees and Research Groups.

2.1 Advancing knowledge

The second field season of the Society's Field Research Programme, *Migrants on the margins*, was completed during 2018. The project, which is a partnership between the Society and UK and international researchers, is focused on the vulnerability and opportunities of migrants in four of the world's most pressured cities: Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Harare (Zimbabwe) and Hargeisa (Somaliland).

The research team, led by Professor Mike Collyer from the University of Sussex started to disseminate their initial findings through a suite of educational resources, two exhibitions in the Society's Pavilion, a Monday night lecture and an enhanced online presence. The team also worked with PositiveNegatives, a graphic design company, to produce four comics which tell the story of individual migrants from each of the study cities. The comics highlight, in a very accessible way, the challenges that migrants living on the margins of these urban areas face in their day to day lives including forced evictions, poverty and lack of land security.

The Society's grants programme, which supports the breadth of research. disciplinary perspectives and career stages, expanded during 2018 with new awards within the Geographical Fieldwork Grants and completion of the linking of the Frederick Soddy Trust with the Society. In 2018, over £190,000 of funding supported 58 research projects involving nearly 100 individuals. Grant recipients carried out research in over 40 countries across the world, from ever-popular fieldwork destinations like Iceland and Norway. to places less visited by Society grant recipients, such as Kyrgyzstan and Kiribati, Student expedition teams. postgraduates and senior researchers alike studied a great variety of topics, from vegetation change in the Canadian Arctic to urban inequality in Santiago, Chile.

The Society is part of the Science Museum and Archives Consortium and in 2018 the 12th PhD studentship working on the Society's Collections and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) was awarded to a project on Halley Bay, while projects on the instruments of geographical exploration and *The Geographical Journal* were completed successfully.



2.2 Interpreting and sharing knowledge

During 2018, more than 35,000 people attended over 450 events as part of the Society's events programme across the UK.

A review of the London public events programme during the summer of 2018 led to the team trialling event ideas in the autumn that had the potential to attract a broader audience, including a younger demographic. Those that were successful included: programming more topical issues, such as pollution from single use plastic; featuring the food, drink and cultural elements of a destination as well as logistics in the travel events; and making more of the Society's Collections, in particular the film archive.

Also in the autumn, panel discussions were reintroduced to the public events programme, with a discussion on the viability of the Paris climate agreement of 2016. Dwayne Fields, who was the first black Briton to walk to the magnetic North Pole, gave an inspirational talk to the young people attending the Children's Lecture in December.

The Society's Collections were showcased through a popular series

of displays and events, including a talk exploring the newly donated Eric Newby archive of diaries, letters and photographs. In November, the first platinum prints to be created from negatives housed at the Society from George Mallory's 1921 Everest expedition were exhibited in the Pavilion.

The Society's Monday night lecture series for Fellows, members and their quests continued to be very popular. attracting an average of 600 people to each lecture and the majority of the lectures are available online for Fellows and members to watch. Speakers in 2018 included Dr Barbara Bond on World War II escape maps, Levison Wood on overland journeys and Linden Edgell, Global Sustainability Director at Environmental Resources Management (ERM), on the sustainable development goals. A selection of the year's speakers were interviewed for short films that were shared on social media to promote the role of the Society in sharing knowledge and membership.

The nine UK regional committees and the Regional Theatres Programme ensured that Fellows and members, as well as the public, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland had access to a wide variety of geographical talks, lectures, field visits and social events. In 2018, the Regional Theatres Programme included talks by Pip Stewart, Hugh Thomson and Leon McCarron.

The programme of activities organised by the volunteer regional committees during 2018 comprised nearly 200 events. These included: field visits to Poole Harbour, Eylesbarrow tin mine, and Glenridding Common; talks on wildlife photography, volcanic eruptions, and walking the Zambezi; and a discussion on the potential impact of Brexit on upland landscapes.

Discovering Britain sustained an increase in the number of people accessing the project's geographical walks, trails and viewpoints due to a focussed effort on digital marketing, and the Society's Britain from the Air outdoor exhibition of aerial photographs remained on display in Liverpool throughout 2018. Public feedback remains very positive and it is estimated that almost one million people saw the exhibition during the year.

The UK tour of the Society's *Enduring Eye* exhibition (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund) concluded in 2018 with more than 35,000 people seeing Frank Hurley's photographs from the Endurance expedition while the exhibition was at Hull Maritime Museum Throughout its time in Hull, visitors were encouraged to share their reminiscences of the expedition and connections with the local crew members to help uncover the ways in which the men's experiences of Antarctica were shared and understood at the time. These responses from the community now form an online resource. A version of the exhibition was also on display at the Bowers Museum in California until the end of May, where the exhibition was seen by over 53,000 people.

The Society developed a new photographic competition, Earth Photo, in partnership with the Forestry England. The competition and resulting exhibition, which was held in the Pavilion over the summer before touring regional venues, aimed to reveal the stories behind the images and encourage conversations about their subjects.

In March, the Society's new website went live and the improved navigation, searchability and design meant that all content, including the online resources for schools, became much easier to find and use. The excellence of the Society's educational resources was recognised during 2018 with the *Ask the Expert* podcasts receiving an award from the Geographical Association, the resources for primary teachers receiving an award from TeachPrimary and the subject knowledge animations being recognised by the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers Award.

The redeveloped Discovering the Arctic website also went live in 2018 providing high quality resources for teachers and pupils. The site, produced jointly with the NERC Arctic Office, British Antarctic Survey, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Scottish Association for Marine Science, proved to be a popular source of information for the 2018 Young Geographer of the Year competition which asked pupils to explore what makes the Arctic unique. Over 1,100 entries from pupils aged 8-19 were received for final judging at the Society from an estimated total of 20,000 entries that were judged in school heats.

The 2018 Annual International Conference was held at Cardiff University over four days in late August. Around 2,000 geographers from across the world attended the conference, which is on a par with those held in London. The conference was chaired by Professor Paul Milbourne (University of Cardiff) who chose 'Geographical landscapes/landscapes of geography' as the theme. The conference programme included sessions for postgraduate students and early-career researchers as well as journal-sponsored talks and high profile plenary lectures. Media coverage of research featured during the conference was very good and included national and local press as well as broadcast features.

As usual, the majority of the conference's programme was produced by the Society's Research Groups, and alongside this they also delivered a broad range of events and workshops for their members, published several new books and gave awards to recognise excellence in their areas of the discipline.

In 2018, the Society implemented a 'digital first' strategy for the scholarly journals, providing online readers with a better experience and allowing the Society to showcase the breadth of its journals content in one place via the Wiley online hub.



2.3 Extending our engagement with new audiences

One of the Society's Collaborative Doctoral Award students, Chandan Mahal, held a series of participatory workshops with representatives from post-war migrant communities as part of her PhD research into the relationships between family history and community heritage in diaspora. The workshops used maps, photographs, objects and documents held in the Society's Collections, alongside participants' own photographs, letters and possessions.

The Society commissioned FFT Education Datalab to undertake research into the geography of geography in schools and higher education institutions. The results of the research, due in 2019, will inform Society activities and interventions, and how it works with the wider geographical community to support underrepresented groups.

Each year the Society hosts around 30 undergraduate work experience placements. Students taking part in the two-week placements come from a diverse range of backgrounds and institutions.

3 Geography in practice

Enabling professional and student communities

Objective Help meet the needs of practising geographers and students, so that there are vibrant, well trained, accredited professional communities, and highly employable students.

Context Geographical knowledge and skills are increasingly recognised at work and sought out by employers. Professional development and accreditation is becoming more widely valued and rewarded by employers. It is timely to expand the Society's role as a professional body and its support for professional geographers. As the UK's professional body for geography, the Society helps to maintain standards within the discipline through accreditation, training and sharing best practice, and by working with organisations across the public and private sectors.

In particular

• By the end of 2018, more than 50% of UK universities offering a geography degree had accredited programmes, providing independent recognition that quality standards, in line with the subject benchmark, are being met.

• The Chartered Geographer scheme continued to grow, supported by a mentoring programme and a new programme of events with organisations across the breadth of sectors employing geographers.

• In 2018 the Society maintained a popular programme of training for teachers to enhance their subject knowledge and subject specific skills.

3.1 **Promoting the professionalism** of geography and geographers

During 2018, the data that the Society holds on the employability of geographers and the wide range of careers open to those who study geography were updated and distributed to the higher education and schools communities, reinforcing the positive message about the employment prospects for geography graduates.

The Society also kept a close watch on the emerging skills, professionalism and chartership agendas, in particular working with the Geographers in Government group and the Geospatial Commission.

The Society's close working relationship with the Geographers in Government group also ensured that there will be close alignment between their competency frameworks for professional geographers in government and the Chartered Geographer accreditation. In addition, it was agreed that a new award for professional geographers in government will be presented at the Society's 2019 medals and awards ceremony.

3.2 Developing substantially the programme of professional support and accreditation

The Society's Chartered Geographer accreditation scheme continued to grow throughout 2018, and at the end of the year there were 575 active CGeogs. During the year, the mentoring scheme for Chartered Geographers was relaunched successfully, and a series of webinars to support those applying for chartership was delivered. Initial feedback suggests that the webinars, and other support before and during the application process has improved the quality of CGeog applications.

The Society maintained collaborations with ERM and the AGI to support geographers in the workplace. The work with ERM also included the development and publication of online resources for geography teachers that link school fieldwork with ERM's professional practice.

More than half of the universities offering geography degrees now have an accredited programme and this includes all of the geography programmes in Wales and Northern Ireland. Attention is now turning to specialised masters programmes.

3.3 Sustaining a strong training function in schools, higher education and field science

The Society's programme of continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers was sustained successfully during 2018. The programme reached more than 1,300 teachers who attended courses including subject knowledge updates, skills workshops, and fieldwork opportunities. A series of events for teachers were also held in partnership with higher education institutions to facilitate mutually beneficial local links between schools and universities.

Bespoke support was provided to the Society's Geography Teacher Training Scholars, including a three-day residential course on fieldwork and workshops on the use of GIS in schools. Feedback from the first two cohorts of Scholars shows that this additional support makes a real difference to the skills and confidence of new geography teachers.

Field science and expeditions continued to be supported by the Society's programme of training and development delivered by the Geography Outdoors team. The annual Explore weekend in November attracted over 325 participants with its mix of practical workshops and inspirational talks. In addition, the Society also ran a regional pilot event – Explore North West – organised in partnership with Cumbria University and the North West Regional Committee. More than 90 people attended the day of workshops and talks, which was primarily aimed at students undertaking their first overseas field research project.

In addition to the Explore events, over 475 people attended Geography Outdoors workshops and training during the year, including courses for Educational Visits Coordinators, those interested in wilderness medicine and ensuring compliance with British Standard 8830.

The Society also supports training within higher education and during 2018 sustained its work with AdvanceHE (previously the Higher Education Academy) around external examiners and standards. The Society also continued to deliver events for lecturers and postgraduates who are new to teaching. Most of the Society's Research Groups also now deliver workshops and provide online resources to support teaching and learning within their sub-disciplines.

2018 at a glance

Research and Higher Education

Fieldwork and Expeditions







CHINA AGREEME

• An **agreement** signed with the Geographical Society of China to promote international collaboration.



• Over 400 people attended the Explore and Explore North West fieldwork and expedition planning events

28 **MENTIONS**

 Research presented at the Annual Conference in Cardiff generated over 128 media mentions for the Society and geography.

• One new online hub for the Society's scholarly publications.

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Education



£190k

• Over £190,000 was awarded for field research projects and expeditions across the world.

128 Scholars

1,100 ENTRIES

• **1,100 entries** to the Young Geographer of the Year competition

- **128** Geography Teacher Training Scholars were recruited.
- **1,300** teachers attended CPD events organised by the Society across the UK.

Policy, Governance and Fundraising

Public Engagement







NEW PRESIDENT

- The Society's new **President**, Baroness Lynda Chalker, was elected.
- The Society's new **Director**, Professor Joe Smith, was appointed.

ELEVEN DEPUTY HEADS

• **Eleven** pan-governmental **Deputy Heads** of Geography were appointed.



• Nearly **two million** people saw the Society's touring exhibitions, *Enduring Eye* and *Britain from the Air.*

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Collections and Enterprises







1,280 SUBMISSIONS

• The Earth Photo competition attracted **1,280 submissions** from 19 different countries in its first year.

110,000 71,000 DONATIONS ATTENDEES

• **110,000** items donated as part of the Eric Newby archive.

• **71,000** people attended events at Lowther Lodge organised through Venue Hire.

4 Growing our reputation

Building on tradition, independence and contemporary relevance

Objective Build further the Society's strong profile, reputation and presence, nationally and internationally, reinforcing and publicising its role as a leader among learned societies and a partner of choice.

Context The Society is well established and highly respected. UK-wide and internationally. It has a well-developed international reach in selected activities and an international membership in more than 100 countries. It is regularly consulted as a leading learned society. Geopolitical changes and technological developments offer incentives and opportunities to establish a stronger presence, and partnerships with sister societies. across the UK and internationally, for mutual benefit and that of aeoaraphy.

The Society's reputation as a leading learned society and valued delivery partner was maintained during 2018, with new partnerships supplementing and enhancing existing, successful long term relationships.

In particular

• The Society's new website went live during the year, improving the discoverability of content, showcasing the Society's breadth of work and easing transactions such as booking events.

• Media coverage of the Society's activities, and in particular of the research presented at the Annual International Conference, returned to levels previously achieved in 2016.

• A new online hub for the Society's journals was launched by the publishers, Wiley, gathering all of the Society's scholarly publications in one place, and improving the experience of online readers.

4.1 Developing and consolidating bilateral relationships

The Society has long had close working relationships with partner bodies and organisations across the geographical community. In 2018, the Society invested in its relationships with related bodies, including the Field Studies Council, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and the Geographical Association. It also continued to work closely with the four exam boards offering GCSE and A Level geography, providing advice and expertise, and running joint training and events with them. Among other partnership events, the Society hosted a workshop in December led by the Field Studies Council with the four Exam Boards to review the place of fieldwork within A Level geography.

The Society's relationships with both the AGI and the Geospatial Commission were strengthened due to working jointly on a series of GIS-related projects.

4.2 Enhancing our presence, online and across the UK

In March the Society's redeveloped website went live with a contemporary, image-led look and vastly improved navigation. Greater integration between the Society's website and the membership database enabled efficiencies to be made with respect to the administration and booking of events as well as making the online event booking process easier for the public. Online joining for Ordinary Members, Young Geographers and School Members is part of the next phase of web development due to go live by mid-2019. The new website also allows nonmembers to see what content is accessible to Fellows and members only, for example recordings of Monday night lectures and many of the schools resources, and this content is now being used to encourage people to join the Society.

Towards the end of 2018, a review of how the Society uses social media was begun with the aim of increasing impact, while maintaining a balance of representation across the breadth of the Society's work and audiences. The revised social media strategy, including the use of Instagram, will be implemented in the first half of 2019.

New UK regional boundaries were agreed by the Society's Regions Committee in April, to align them as closely as possible with accepted administrative boundaries and make it easier for both members and nonmembers to find Society activities near them. In addition, all of the Society's events are now listed on the same webpage, increasing the visibility of those events taking place outside of London. Regional events are also now easily searchable using a filter.

The appointment of a Press Officer in April, after a period without someone in post, resulted in an increase in media coverage as the Society was able to undertake a much higher level of proactive media management. In particular, geographical research being presented at the Annual International Conference generated 128 print and online articles, eight television news segments and 15 radio interviews. Other media highlights for 2018 included coverage of the Society's exhibition of platinum prints of photographs from the 1921 Everest expedition in the Sunday Times and the Daily Mail, along with the Director, Joe Smith, being interviewed on BBC Breakfast about the exhibition, the expedition, and the Societv's wider Collections.

4.3 Extending the international dimension of current activities

International partners have been pivotal to the success to date of the *Migrants on the margins* field research programme and their contribution has been featured fully in all publicity for the project.

The Society is the national representative of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and the European Association for Geographical Societies (EUGEO) and links with these bodies were maintained throughout 2018.

In June, the Society signed a memorandum of understanding with the Geographical Society of China with a commitment to promote joint participation at scientific, academic and professional events, explore opportunities to collaborate on scholarly publications and liaise over international scientific programmes and collaborative research.

A partnership with Outward Bound Oman resulted in the joint development of new educational resources on desert environments for Omani and UK schools.

5 Enhancing our membership

An important source of expertise, funding and enthusiasm

Objective Reach and engage new supporters and retain the enthusiasm and expertise of existing Fellows and members, across the UK and beyond, ensuring a strong and growing membership of both professionals and enthusiasts who support our activities.

Context The Society benefits from its Fellows' and members' knowledge, enthusiasm, time, contacts, and their subscriptions which provide around a quarter of the Society's gross income. The Society especially values its many loyal Fellows who are long term supporters. To continue to develop sustainably, the continuing high retention and good recruitment of Fellows and members is essential. The Society's broad and active membership is one of its greatest assets. Each Fellow and member helps to strengthen the Society's influence and every subscription supports the Society's charitable work. In addition, a large number of Fellows and members volunteer their time, expertise and advice to help the Society.

In particular

- The number of Society Fellows was sustained successfully and the total number of Fellows and members remain at around 16,000.
- 3,000 Fellows, members and other volunteers gave their time and expertise to support the Society's work during 2018.
- The Society recognises, and greatly appreciates, the role of Fellows and members in extending the reach of the Society and encouraging new joiners.

5.1 Continuing to improve engagement and communication with members

The Society's new website makes it much easier for Fellows and members to access member-only content than before. In particular, recordings of Monday night lectures are much more visible and analytics show that more people are watching them. The new site also gives prominence to short articles about the Society's activities.

The Geography Teacher Training Scholarship programme provides Scholars with Fellowship of the Society and membership of the GA, while a closed Facebook group is used to support them, connect them with the Society's work and build a community of new geography teachers. A closed Facebook group is also used to engender a feeling of community among Young Geographers and ensure that they make best use of their member benefits, including digital access to *Geographical* magazine. Towards the end of 2018, monthly emails were instigated to help improve engagement with Young Geographers by reminding them of the benefits of their membership, including digital access to *Geographical* magazine, and highlighting relevant activities and events taking place across the Society.

Following feedback from Fellows and members living outside London and the South East of England, a series of three Society lectures were planned for 2019 to replicate the experience of a 'Monday night lecture' in Manchester.

5.2 Enhancing recruitment and retention

Retention rates remained high during 2018, at 83% overall, and 93% for Fellowship. Analysis of the membership during the year showed that a significant and growing proportion of new Fellows came from the professional communities, and the majority of these from outside of London and the South East of England. This reflects the ongoing work of the Society with professional geographers and the value of the Society as a professional body. In autumn, the structure of membership subscriptions for 2019 was reviewed and simplified for Fellows to reflect the incremental costs of receiving print journals. In addition, the option for Fellows to receive all academic journals digitally was introduced for 2019.

5.3 Learning more about our members and their engagement with the Society

Barcodes have been added to the Society's membership cards and during 2018, the use of scanners to admit Fellows and members to the City lecture series was piloted successfully. This will be implemented more widely during 2019, including for Monday night lectures and public events. 22/23

6 Securing the future

As one of the world's largest and most active scholarly geographical societies

Objective Enable a robust future for the Society, by increasing income sustainably, using technology effectively, and enhancing staff capabilities.

Context The Society is an independent body and, like other learned and professional societies. receives no core government funding. Annual income has more than doubled in real terms since 1996, and substantial external donations have been attracted. The current UK setting places greater uncertainty on growing income over 2017-2021.We are thus aiming for modest. sustainable growth in core funding from subscriptions, enterprise, operations, and corporate support: plus fundraising success for new projects and the endowment.

The Society's clear strategy, sound governance, committed staff and loyal membership enabled it to maintain momentum through a year of change with both a new Director and a new President taking office in 2018. In this second year of the current strategic plan, there was a focus on developing the Society's role as a professional body, while keeping the breadth of scope and broad balance of its charitable activities. The Society also invested in staff training and development.

The Society ended the year with an operating surplus on the General Fund due to the maintenance of key income streams including membership subscriptions, Enterprise Company net revenue, targeted fundraising, and charitable operating activities. The financial review (pages 24/25) sets out how the Society generated and spent its income in support of its charitable activities.

Before retiring from the Society at the end of April, the Society's former Director, Dr Rita Gardner, attended a series of events hosted by regional committees as part of a fundraising campaign to promote legacies as a way of Fellows and members supporting the Society's future.

During the year, the Society received two major donations to its Collections: the Sandra Noel collection – the bequest of Captain John Noel's film, photographic and archive collection; and the Eric Newby collection – the bequest of his archive materials, photographs, letters and diaries. The Society bid successfully to the DfE to continue running the Geography Teacher Training Scholarship scheme and was awarded a contract worth £564,000 over three years. An additional £73,000 of funding was also secured from the Nuffield Foundation to continue the Society's Data Skills in Geography project.

The Flotilla Foundation awarded the Society £80,000 to develop educational resources linked to the Weddell Sea Expedition, which are freely available to all via the Society's website. The Society also bid successfully for £50,000 over three years from the Department for International Development (DfID) for the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning project.

During 2018, the Society began working with the human resources consultancy, HRSP, with the aim of updating and consolidating HR processes and procedures, improving the training and development on offer to staff, and providing specialist HR support for staff.



TRAILFINDERS

All statutory reporting requirements were met

The Society made progress in seeking efficiencies and developing internal data management and use to support improved decision making. Most notable was the implementation of the new website

The Society thanks everyone who has generously donated in support of our work.

Corporate Benefactors in 2018 **Environmental Resources Management**

(ERM) supported the Society's core work with professional audiences, specifically to enhance teachers' fieldwork leadership skills and to enable a regional programme of cross sector networking and professional development.

Esri UK supported the Society's Geography Ambassador programme and brought GIS expertise to it and to the training of teachers in the classroom use of GIS. Ambassadors inspired more than 30.000 young people in 2018 with geography and GIS.

Land Rover supported our core scientific expedition and fieldwork training activities, including Land Rover driver training courses, the loan of a Freelander to facilitate UK-wide visits. and the Land Rover Bursary to support one major field expedition during the year.

Ordnance Survey supported the Society's work to advance geospatial understanding by raising awareness of career opportunities, engaging with professional communities and promoting understanding in policy and government.

Rolex supported our core work with and through the Society's large, unique and iconic collections of maps, photographs, books, documents and objects, helping to underpin public access, conservation and new uses for, and users of, the Collections. **Trailfinders** supported the Society's core work with the public, to inspire and promote the wider relevance and enjoyment of geography and to foster a greater understanding of our world. This builds on a shared common interest in informed travel.

Corporate Business Member

Silversea engaged the Society to provide informative materials on their expedition cruise ships.

The Society's Grants Programme is generously supported by

20th IGC Fund 30th IGC Fund Alasdair Macdonald Albert Reckitt Award Fund The Alexander Awards Deutsche Post Foundation Dudley Stamp Memorial Award Fund Edinburgh Trust Frederick Soddy Award Fund Henrietta Hutton Memorial Fund Hong Kong branch HR Mill Trust Fund Jasmin Leila Jeremy Willson John Pilkington Monica Cole Bequest Neil Proto Neville Shulman Paul and Mary Slawson Ralph Brown RICS Rio Tinto Rob Potter Award Sultan of Oman The Geographical Club Walters Kundert Charitable Trust Other donors during 2018

Anonymous donors Arctic Office, NERC Department for Education Department for International Development Estate of Barbara Wadie Estate of Marv McArthur Estate of Pauline Sheen Outward Bound Oman Pearson UK Sir Christopher Ondaatje Stanfords Maps and Books The Nuffield Foundation Weddell Sea Expedition / Flotilla Foundation

Financial review

The summarised financial statements for 2018 on the following page provide an overview of the Society's balance sheet assets, liabilities and funds, together with its income and expenditure by activity.

In 2018, the Society's annual operating result on the General Fund, after transfers between funds, but before investment and pension valuations gains / losses was a surplus of £0.31m (2017: £0.19m). This was on the total General Fund income of £5.03m (2017: £5.06m), and was ahead of the budget for the year. The total Society income was up 10% at £6.17m (2017: down 14% to £5.58m) largely owing to donations and legacy income being higher in 2018 (£0.84m) than in 2017 (£0.26m). The expenditure on charitable activities hardly changed at £4.39m (2017: £4.38m), which equates to 80% of total expenditure.

The broad patterns of other income and expenditure in the General Fund remained similar in 2018 to 2017. Gross income and expenditure in Enterprises activities was little changed in 2018 at £1.92m (2017: £1.93m) and £0.82m (2017: £0.89m), respectively; net income rose by £0.06m, after contributions to building repairs and other costs. Membership income in 2018 rose by £0.05m to £1.73m and generated £0.99m net after costs of membership services in 2018. Income from charitable activities decreased by £0.06m to £1.10m. Proportional income is summarised in the first pie chart.

General Fund expenditure as a whole increased in 2018 by 3%. 2018 total costs. at £5.47m, were hardly changed from 2017 (£5.54m). The Society's expenditure on charitable activities increased in 2018 by £0.01m, up 0.2% on 2017, to £4.39m, Of the total, 10% was from restricted (donated project and grants) funds, with almost all the remainder from the General Fund. Expenditure across the main areas of charitable activity showed some year on vear variations, resulting largely from varying levels of conference and project activity, with spend on research and higher education up and on policy and public engagement down, the latter due to reduced project expenditure on the 21st Century Challenges: policy forum and public discussions and Discovering Britain project. Expenditure on education remained similar to 2017. The second pie chart shows expenditure by activity (with the effects of depreciation removed).

There was no concerted fundraising work in 2018. The new Director (appointed May 2018) wished to establish a clear body of fundraising objectives before appointing a development / fundraising executive and translating these objectives into a fundraising prospectus. Some legacies and donations were received reflecting longer term work inviting legacies.

The summary consolidated balance sheet shows net assets increasing by £0.01m (2017: £0.50m increase), excluding the change in the liability of the defined benefit pension scheme as calculated annually for FRS102. The decrease in this liability to £Nil (2017: £0.21m) increases the net assets movement to £0.22m. The Society's actual, legal, obligation to funding the scheme is determined by the triennial actuarial valuation, the last one being at June 2017. The Society's calculated Free Reserves, which includes the FRS102 calculation of the pension deficit, at 31 December 2018 were £2.97m (2017: £2.69m).

Independent auditor's statement to the Trustees of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) for the year ended 31 December 2018 set out on page 25.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees

and the auditor The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements. The other information comprises only the Annual Report.

We conducted our work in accordance with our engagement letter dated 19 December 2018.

Opinion In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) for the year ended 31 December 2018.

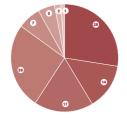
RSM UK Audit LLP Statutory Auditor, 9 April 2019. The Pinnacle, 170 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK9 1BP

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RESTRICTED DESIGNATED DESIGNATED GENERAL TOTALS Research & Other 31.12.2018 Consolidated **Balance Sheet** £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 Fixed assets 4.247 158 1.213 5.618 Investments 4.201 1.791 2.398 2.097 10.487 Current assets 626 297 3.223 4.146 Current liabilities -1.173 -1.173 Pension scheme liability . Inter-fund accounts -136 449 1.883 -2.196 . Net assets 8.938 2,546 4.129 3.465 19,078 Funds balances 31,12,18 8.938 2.546 4,129 3,465 19.078 Funds balances 31 12 17 8,881 2,625 4,214 3,141 18,861 57 217 2018 net Funds movement -79 -85 324

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

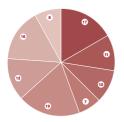
Incoming resources (see right for analysis by sources)	866	80	194	5,030	6,170
Resources expended (see right for analysis by activity)	-485	-30	-57	-4,897	-5,469
Net investment loss	-260	-128	-110	-134	-632
Surplus before transfers	121	-78	27	-1	69
Transfers between funds	-64	-1	-112	177	•
Surplus after transfers	57	-79	-85	176	69
FRS102 actuarial gain on pension scheme	•	•	•	148	148
	57	-79	-85	324	217



£6.17m income by source

2017: £5.58m

- 28% Membership subscriptions
- 14% Donations and legacies
- 17% Income generated by charitable activities
- 26% RGS Enterprises turnover
- 7% Investment income
- 5% Corporate supporters
- 2% Tenants
- 1% Services provided



£5.13m expenditure by activity

Excluding depreciation of £0.34m. 2017: £5.19m (£0.35m)

- 17% Education, expeditions, fieldwork, grants
- 11% Engaging wider audiences
- 10% Information services & resources
- 7% Policy, communications, media
- 19% Research, higher education, grants
- 12% Membership services
- 16% RGS Enterprises costs
- 8% Other, including governance

Governance

The Society is governed by its Council which largely comprises Fellows elected from and by the Fellowship. They are drawn from the main areas of activity of the Society. There are 21 elected Council members and up to four further Council members may be coopted, including a postgraduate representative, to bring further breadth, expertise and contact networks

In line with recommendations of good practice by the Charity Commission, the Council identifies the skills and expertise gaps that would be most helpful to fill in the elections to the Council each June Fellows standing for election are encouraged to state how they met those identified gaps. However, this approach does not preclude any Fellow standing for election to positions relevant to their background. The Council is also cognisant of the value of diversity. while seeking to attract the most appropriately gualified people to guide the Society's governance.

Council positions are elected for a single term of three years at the Annual General Meeting, which includes a postal vote of the Fellowship. Elected Council members also serve on the appropriate Committee of Council to provide liaison between the two levels. The Council met, as usual, three times in 2018 and attendance averaged 77% across all three meetings. The Executive Committee, which comprises the senior Trustees, met in the intervening periods as the need arose.

The following Council members were in office at the end of 2018

President

Rt Hon Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey

Immediate Past President Nicholas Crane

Vice Presidents

David Atkinson (Education) Professor Adrian Smith (Research and Higher Education) Professor Katie Willis

(Expeditions and Fieldwork) Honorary Treasurer

Mark Humphrevs

Chair of Annual Conference 2018 Professor Paul Milbourne

Honorary Secretaries

Robert Lucas (Expeditions and Fieldwork) Laura Stone (Education) Dr Nicola Thomas (Research and Higher Education)

Ordinary Members of Council

Claire Allen Robin Ashcroft Felicity Aston MBE Professor Michael Bradshaw Professor Joanna Bullard Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB Dr Melanie Norman Professor Chris Philo David Pyle Chris Speight Nina Willment Professor, Jamie Woodward

The following also served as Council Members until June 2018:

Dr David Anderson Dr Jenny Balfour-Paul Dr Simon Carr Dan Casey Dr Michael Firth Professor Sarah Metcalfe Professor Sarah Radcliffe

The Council is advised by specialist committees for Education: Expeditions and Fieldwork: Finance: and Research and Higher Education, Attendance at these committee meetings averaged 77% across the year. The Finance Committee met four times, as usual. and comprises a core membership of accounting, financial, legal and investment professionals. The other committees met twice, as usual. to give advice on their areas of expertise. In addition, advice was provided by the Regions Committee, a small number of specialist subcommittees, including one for investments and, where appropriate. individual professional advisors. RGS Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Society, is governed by its Enterprise Board.

Staff

The Director reports to the Council and has responsibility for coordinating the Society's strategy and running the Society and its activities, assisted by a senior team of five departmental heads and a staff that numbered 56 in December 2018. All staff members are based at the Society's headquarters in Kensington, London.

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Looking ahead

The Society's work is guided by the objectives agreed and set out in the 2017-2021 strategic plan. These are summarised on the inside front cover of this Annual Review.

Of these, there are three elements that stand out as areas of opportunity to build on. Recent developments in digital and social media can further amplify the voice of geography and help the Society reach beyond its traditional audiences. The Society needs to understand and take advantage of the opportunities these platforms provide to share the distinctive insights that geographers can make to the big environmental and societal challenges currently facing the world.

The Society has already made progress in this area with launch of a new website in 2018 and a new approach to social media to be implemented in the first half of 2019, but the efforts of the Communications team will be in this area throughout the coming year.

The Society can also play a bigger role in supporting public engagement with, and debate of, complex contemporary issues – not least because geography brings together the humanities, and the natural and social sciences. Again, progress was made on this during 2018 with the reintroduction of topical public discussion events, but the aim is to develop activities on this theme and have a greater impact in 2019.

The third area of opportunity - and responsibility - is the Society's physical home. Lowther Lodge is one of the most charismatic buildings of any scholarly society, but it is also the Forth Bridge of listed buildings, requiring a constant cycle of attention and investment. Over the coming year. Society staff, including a newly appointed Development Executive, will develop a fundraising campaign that will allow the Society to not only undertake some very necessary repairs to the fabric of the building, but also develop the public areas. There are opportunities here to work with the building and its contents in order to tell a stronger story about the past, present and future of geography.

These three areas of focus won't distract the team here at the Society from the core tasks of sustaining and improving our established activities that seek to advance geographical science.

Recognising excellence in 2018

The Society's Medals and Awards have recognised excellence in the breadth of geographical research, practice and public promotion since the foundation of the Society in 1830.

The two Royal Medals (The Founder's and Patron's Medals) are among the highest international accolades. They are awarded for 'the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery'.

In 2018 Her Majesty the Queen approved the award of the Royal Medals as follows:

Founder's Medal **Paul Rose** 'for scientific expeditions and enhancing public understanding'

Patron's Medal

Professor Yadvinder Malhi

'for world leading studies on the impact of climate change on tropical ecosystems'

The Society's Council made the following awards:

Victoria Medal **Professor Wendy Larner** 'for internationally leading research on globalisation and political economy'

Busk Medal

Professor Bhaskar Vira

'for interdisciplinary research on economy, environment and development'

Cherry Kearton Medal & Award **Andy Goldsworthy** 'for sculptural works that inspire reflection on changing environments'

Murchison Award

Professor Mark Macklin 'for pioneering research in fluvial geomorphology and its environmental applications'

Back Award

Professor Hester Parr 'for contributions at the interface of geographical research and policy'

Cuthbert Peek Award Professor Keith Lillev

'for advancing geographical knowledge of human impact on the environment through the application on contemporary methods'

Gill Memorial Award (two awards)

Dr Hilary Geoghegan

'for outstanding early career research in cultural geography'

Dr Nick Malleson 'for outstanding early career research in agent-based social geography'

Ordnance Survey Awards (two awards) **Aidan Hesslewood** and **Laura-Jayne Ward** 'for excellence in geography education at the secondary level' Taylor & Francis Award **Professor Helen Walkington** 'for sustained contributions to teaching and learning in higher education'

Ness Award **Rory Stewart MP** 'for the popularisation of geography through the media'

Alfred Steers Dissertation Prize **Natasha Wallum** 'for the undergraduate geography dissertation judged to be the best in 2017'

Area Prize **Junxi Qian**

'for the best article in the journal by a new researcher'

Geographical Award

Dwayne Fields 'for inspiring young people to explore the world around them'

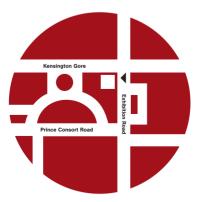
Honorary Fellowship Peter Davies Andrew Linnell Paul and Mary Slawson 'in recognition of outstanding support for the Society and Geography'

The Society further recognised excellence through the Young Geographer of the Year Awards, the Rex Walford Award to recognise newly qualified teachers, and the Excellence Awards made to pupils who achieved the highest marks in GCSE, A Level and International Baccalaureate examinations in Geography. This report summarises the Society's charitable activities and finances in 2018 in pursuit of its objective to 'advance geographical science'. The Society's work is guided by its current strategy and benefits a wide range of professional and public audiences. The Society is a vibrant organisation that seeks to balance its stakeholders and activities for the benefit of all our users and of geography. The full annual accounts and report can be found on our website and that of the Charity Commission.

If you would like to receive a copy of this report in PDF so that it can be read in larger print or using Adobe Reader software, please visit

www.rgs.org/annualreview

Registered Charity 208791



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Acknowledgements

Front cover

WorldView-3 satellite image of Statehouse, Hargeisa, acquired on 6 January 2018 © 2018 DigitalGlobe, Inc Page 1

Rt Hon Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey, RGS-IBG President © Fabio Burrelli

Page 2 clockwise from top left

Section of Sabina's story © PositiveNegatives Earth Photo exhibition © RGS-IBG

Dr Ceri Lewis presenting at Explore 2018 © Frazer Waller

Recipients of the 2018 Postgraduate Research Awards in the field © Svenja Riedesel

Page 3

Professor Joe Smith, RGS-IBG Director © J. Smith

Page 5

David Wood and the Deputy Heads of Geography in Government © Robert Porter

Page 8

Gilchrist Fieldwork Award recipient Dr Melissa Murphy sampling in the field © Dr Melissa Murphy

Page 11

Teacher training scholars conducting river sampling © RGS-IBG

Page 14/15

Research and Higher Education Television interview at the Society's 2018 Annual International Conference © RGS-IBG Signing ceremony at the Geographical Society of China © Geographical Society of China

Fieldwork and Expeditions

Networking at Explore 2018 $^{\odot}$ Elizabeth Streeter Fieldwork Apprentice Hannah Roe conducting fieldwork in Iceland $^{\odot}$ Hannah Roe

Education

Teacher Training Scholars on a residential weekend @ RGS-IBG The winners of the 2018 Young Geographer of the Year competition @ RGS-IBG

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Policy, Governance and Fundraising

Rt Hon Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey, RGS-IBG President @ Fabio Burrelli Clare Hadley, Deputy Head of Geography in Government @ Clare Hadley

Public Engagement

Opening of $\bar{E}nduring$ Eye exhibition in California © Bowers Museum Eagle huntress receiving, Earth Photo 2018 entry © Rosamund Macfarlane

Collections and Enterprises

The Eric Newby collection © RGS-IBG Exhibition Road entrance © Nando Machado