

# Bulletin Summer 2023

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Inside

- News
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- Our work



**Documenting  
change**

**A Collections  
bequest**



## About the Society

### Need to know

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is the UK's learned society for geography and professional body for geographers. We are also a membership organisation and a registered charity.

The Society was founded in 1830 to advance geographical science and this remains our core purpose. We achieve this through supporting geographical research, education, and fieldwork and expeditions, as well as by advocating on behalf of the discipline and promoting geography to public audiences.

We value our independence as well as the breadth of our activities that support the understanding of the world's people, places and environments.

Everyone with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration is welcome to join.

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



## A message From the President

Welcome to our summer programme and update.

Firstly, thank you to everyone receiving this Bulletin for renewing their membership and welcome to those joining the Society.

Your support as individuals, schools, corporate sponsors, and benefactors is key to what we can achieve in 'supporting geography and geographers across the world'.

We also rely on our community to contribute to the good governance of the Society – starting with elections to the Council of Trustees. As you may recall, changes in the composition of the Council start to take effect this year. For the first time we are introducing elected posts representing our membership, and also our members using geography in their professional lives. Nominations close on 23 March and voting will occur prior to

the AGM on 5 June. Fellows can expect more information about the election in due course.

I am pleased to say that we are currently investing in important pieces of our infrastructure – our database for the Society and membership, as well as the technology underpinning our website. This will allow more, better and different forms of communication with current and prospective Society members than we can now deliver. Despite the tough budgeting and financial situation, the Finance Committee and Council felt that this is a necessary investment in the long-term health of the Society and I hope you will see the fruits of this when it goes live.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Clifford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

**Nigel Clifford**  
President

# Society News

## Society medallists celebrated

A recent publication, *Exploring the World* by Alexander Maitland FRGS, celebrates the Society's gold medal recipients, portraying fascinating lives driven by curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge. Members receive a 10% discount when purchasing the book through Stanfords.

**W** [www.rgs.org/members-area](http://www.rgs.org/members-area)

## Earth Photo 2023

Entries for this year's Earth Photo competition are now open. The competition, now in its sixth year, showcases spectacular and challenging images which aim to further our understanding of the world around us. The deadline to submit entries is 2 May, and shortlisted works will be displayed in our Pavilion and at Forestry England venues later in the year.

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



Surfing the Spring © Daniel Franc

## New membership card image

This year's membership card features Earth Photo category winner Daniel Franc's *Surfing the Spring*, which celebrates the vast green expanses of the South Moravian region. About the photograph Franc said, "The rolling hills of the agricultural counties of South Moravia, Czech Republic (sometimes called Czech Tuscany) promise an endless stream of surprises from every angle".

**W** [www.rgs.org/membership-card-2023](http://www.rgs.org/membership-card-2023)



## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Fellow Sir David Hempleman-Adams, who has received a second clasp to his Polar Medal, becoming the first person to be awarded Polar Medals by two monarchs for his expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic.

## **Council election nominations**

The Society is now accepting nominations from Fellows for the Council positions of Honorary Treasurer, Vice President (Expeditions and Fieldwork), Councillor (Research and Higher Education), Vice President (Membership), Vice President (Professional).

We seek nominees with an understanding of our activities and experience relevant to the position. The nomination deadline is 9.00am on 23 March with the election taking place in June.

**W** [www.rgs.org/CouncilElections2023](http://www.rgs.org/CouncilElections2023)

## **Corporate Partners contracts renewed**

The Society is very grateful for the long-standing support received from our corporate supporters. We are delighted that Esri UK, Rolex, Silversea and Trailfinders have all renewed their support for a further three years. Our partners contribute extensively to many Society projects including our Geography Ambassador programme and the training of teachers in the classroom use of GIS (Esri UK), the support of our picture library and conservation of our Collections (Rolex), sharing stories from our Collections (Silversea) and our public engagement work (Trailfinders).

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



## One year of Associate Fellowship

Introduced as a new membership category last year, Associate Fellowship offers a wide range of benefits tailored to support the needs and development of geography postgraduates and those within five years of graduating from their first degree. This membership category provides affordable access to online and in-person resources that develop skills and prospects while aiding a smooth transition through education and into a chosen career.

If you are a Student Member graduating this year, Associate Fellowship (Early Career) is the next step in pursuing your goals. You will continue to access our events programme, regular updates and online resources with the addition of networking events and our *Professional insights* webinar series. Each webinar offers expert advice and guidance, with topics including putting together a personal

development plan, reflecting on your skills and competencies, and support when starting a new role.

If you are embarking upon further study, renewing as an Associate Fellow (Postgraduate) will keep you well connected with the geographical research community with access to Research Groups and discounted rates on our Annual International Conference. Join the Postgraduate Forum and attend the mid-term conference which will be held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April. The conference spotlights important research by postgraduate geographers. The Society now also hosts free *Postgraduate insights* webinars.

New trainee teachers can look forward to regular member-only teaching resources and discounts on teacher CPD as Associate Fellows (Postgraduate).

**W** [www.rgs.org/associate-fellowship](http://www.rgs.org/associate-fellowship)



# From the field News

## **Online resources on fieldwork**

The Society has updated its series of online resources to support high quality field research, teaching, and learning in geography. These include guidance and best practice for safe, responsible and ethical fieldwork, resources for virtual fieldwork and materials to accompany the Council of Heads of Geography in UK Higher Education Institutions' (CHGHEI) principles for planning and delivering undergraduate fieldwork.

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

## **Fieldwork Apprentices go into the field**

Two of the most recent Fieldwork Apprentices, Alice Jardine and Christopher Edmunds (University of Oxford) successfully completed their apprenticeships with the DRY-CAB project in Zambia, led by Professor Richard Washington, in October last year.

The project, a collaboration between the University of Oxford and Zambian Meteorology Department, measures atmospheric conditions during the transition from the dry to wet seasons in northern Zambia, to determine whether current climate models match observational data and enable reliable future weather predictions.

Reflecting on her experience, Alice said “This was an incredible project and it gave me the opportunity to experience a large fieldwork campaign and all of the logistics that go along with it. After we returned we continued to support the project from the UK by looking at the climate models daily and this combined with my time in the field has greatly enriched my understanding of the climatology of this region”.

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

# Education News

## National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards Scheme

We are working in a DfE-funded partnership led by the Natural History Museum, in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Society, to establish a National Education Nature Park and climate action awards scheme. The project aims to make sure every young person in England has opportunities to develop a meaningful connection to nature, understand the concepts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and feels able to do something about it. The partnership will be working with Esri UK to provide free geospatial mapping tools so children and young people can track biodiversity gains in their area.

**W** [www.nhm.ac.uk/education-nature-park](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/education-nature-park)



Frank Oates and King Lobengula  
© Gilbert White House Museum

## Latest resources for schools

School Members, Student Members and Associate Fellows (Postgraduate) can check out the latest member-only learning resources, including topical case studies. We are also adding new free resources every month which are available to all, such as new podcasts discussing the decolonisation of Victorian exploration and marine plastic.

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





## Competition winners 2022

Congratulations to the School Essay Competition winner Pip Booth. The competition, in partnership with the *Financial Times*, was open to A Level geography students and rewarded essays with well-evidenced and clear conclusions. Congratulations are also due to Aryan Shekar, Tomohiro Oxborrow, Esther Morris and Boe Kilshaw, age category winners in the Young Geographer of the Year 2022 competition which asked students to visually present where they might want to travel to, why and how would they get there.

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

## Geography for all update


Our *Geography for all* project is proving to be extremely successful, with 420 teachers signed up to the network so far. CPD events have included an in-person fieldwork training day in East London, as well as online sessions on fair representation of place, inclusive teaching using oral geographies, and improving the teaching of Africa. Geography Mentors have also started working with our pilot schools. Sign up to join the network today.

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

## Becoming a School Member

If your school is not yet a member join quickly and easily online. You will gain access to our resources, School Member lectures and discounts for teachers who wish to become individual Fellows or apply for Chartered Geographer (Teacher).

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



# Research and higher education News

## **Annual International Conference 2023**

There is still time to make your submissions for the conference programme (organised sessions, papers and posters) before the deadline of 24 March. This year's conference theme is *Climate changed geographies*. It will focus on how climate change is, and is not, changing our discipline – our ways of knowing, exploring, understanding and acting geographically – and with what consequences. We've compiled a virtual issue of recent publications which speak to this theme.

The conference will take place in London and online, from Tuesday 29 August to Friday 1 September, with new ways to engage with the conference through regional hubs. We expect to publish a draft programme for the conference in late May. Registration opens in April – book before 9 June to receive our

early bird discount, in addition to your membership discount for the conference.

**W** [www.rgs.org/ac2023](http://www.rgs.org/ac2023)

## **Wiley contract renewed**

We are delighted to announce that we have renewed our contract to publish our academic journals with Wiley for another five years. The contract runs until the end of 2028 and will allow us to continue publishing cutting edge geographical research from around the world.

Unfortunately, as part of the new contract we have decided that the paper publication of our journals will cease at the end of 2023 and they will be available to read online-only. Fellows, Associate Fellows and Student Members already have online access to our journals included in their core subscription and this will continue.

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



# Professional News

## **REF case studies**

The wide range of case studies submitted to the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) highlight the impacts of geographical research to wide ranging audiences, providing a platform to inspire approaches and methods to achieve impactful research.

The case studies show impacts across the breadth of geographical research produced for (and often co-produced with) all manner of private, public, voluntary, activist, advocacy and other agencies, shaping policy and/or practice and addressing local, national and global challenges, including sustainable futures, social equality and environmental restoration. Some involved research that created a distinctive product – hardware or software, online platform or tool – used by third parties (companies, NGOs, campaigners, citizens) to generate tangible impacts in/for given people and places. Others

demonstrated innovative advancements in Earth observation and climate and hazard forecasting.

Independent research by the Rotterdam School of Management has mapped the impacts against Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There were impact case studies relevant to each SDG and, compared to 2014, the proportion of impacts linked to Peace Justice and Strong Institutions, Life on Land and Climate Action increased substantially.

The Society is summarising, collating, and publishing the case studies to draw out cross-cutting themes, beneficiaries, partners, funders, and to learn more about the enablers of research with impact across the breadth of geography.

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

# Events Highlights



© Ewan Harvey

## **Summer events programme**

This summer's Monday night lecture programme will bring you another stellar line up of speakers to share their knowledge and stories from all corners of the world and discipline of geography. If you would like to attend the lectures in person, please do book in advance to secure your seat. Each week we will also live stream the lectures on our

website so you will be able to watch them wherever you are. And if you're not free at 6.30pm on a Monday, each lecture will be available in the Talks on demand section of the website soon afterwards.

You will also find a number of fascinating talks and exiting excursions organised across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by our regional committees, focused on a wide range of topics.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next Society geographical late, an immersive evening with interactive activities, performances and talks linked to our understanding of, and relationship with, mountains.

Please note which of our upcoming events require advance booking and bring your tickets and membership card with you when you attend.



# Summer 2023 events

## Monday night lectures at a glance


### 6.30pm - 7.45pm

RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR and online at **W** [www.rgs.org/livestream](http://www.rgs.org/livestream)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
3 April	Informing action: Esmond Bradley Martin's legacy in tackling the illegal wildlife trade	Panel chaired by Gillian Burke, Dr Chris Thouless, Professor Bhaskar Vira and Dr Lucy Vigne
17 April	How to read a tree	Tristan Gooley
24 April	Resisting repressive regimes	Shahidul Alam
15 May	The Great Barrier Reef expedition 1928-1929: birth of modern coral reef science	Professor Tom Spencer, Professor Barbara Brown and Dr Sarah Hamylton
22 May	Sanitation for all? Cities and the right to citylife	Professor Colin McFarlane

## Events

### Key to events

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

### Events booking

You can find more information and book tickets online **W** [www.rgs.org/events](http://www.rgs.org/events), email **E** [events@rgs.org](mailto:events@rgs.org) or call us on **T** 020 7591 3100 (10.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday). Our staff will be more than happy to guide you through the booking process and answer any questions you may have.

Please note that unexpected changes to events may occur, 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](http://www.rgs.org/events). You will be able to ask your questions and interact with the speakers if you join live. Fellows and Members are able to catch up on many of our events, including our Monday night lectures, online **W** [www.rgs.org/lecturesonline](http://www.rgs.org/lecturesonline).

### Monday night lectures

Fellows and Members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our live stream page **W** [www.rgs.org/livestream](http://www.rgs.org/livestream). If you haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgotten 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 or if we are required to reduce the capacity of those in attendance.

### Suppers

Stay for supper at the Society after Monday night lectures marked **S** and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £38 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](mailto:events@rgs.org). Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

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## Events listings

In chronological order



### **B M+G Monday 3 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(Doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Informing action: Esmond Bradley Martin's legacy in tackling the illegal wildlife trade**

Dr Chris Thouless, Professor Bhaskar Vira and Dr Lucy Vigne

Our panel, chaired by Gillian Burke, will explore Esmond's conviction that data is essential to wildlife protection. His generous bequest to the Society creates a major new prize to recognise such work.

At the Society and online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 5 April 10.00am - 10.30am**

Workshop

#### **Chartered Geographer virtual coffee morning**

Join the Chartered Geographer coffee morning to meet with Chartered Geographers through the Wonder platform.

Online. Free.

### **B Tuesday 11 April 7.00pm - 10.30pm**

Social (Exeter)

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

A chance to hear members' own stories, talking for 10 minutes about their travels, treasures and experiences. Buffet supper at half time. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE.

To attend the event and supper, please book (stating a title if you wish to speak) by sending a cheque for £18 payable to 'RGS South West Region' to Chris Brightman, 61 Exeter Road, Topsham, EX3 0LX.

### **B Thursday 13 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **The Paris agenda: why COPs matter: global goals, international rulebook, national action**

Janet Rogan

Join Janet, experienced UK and UN diplomat and the UK's COP26 Ambassador for the Middle East and Africa, for an insider's account of the COP climate change process and why it matters. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

### **B Friday 14 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(Doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (online and London)

#### **GeoNight**

Join our panel on the European night of geography as we discuss environmental protections. From water and air quality, to nature conservation and climate change, we'll discuss the protections in place and ask if they go far enough and what has changed since leaving the EU.

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

### **B Monday 17 April 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(Doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon lecture (online and London)

#### **Labour in the lofty peaks: porters in the Everest expeditions (1921 - 1938)**

Nokmedemla Lemtur

Through the Mount Everest collection of the Society, this talk recounts the contribution of the porters in the mountaineering expeditions, and explores the possibilities of how a history of their participation can be drawn out through such archival materials. It uncovers the complexities of the expedition, and the lives and trajectories of the expedition porters, for whom the mountains became a place of labour.

At the Society and online. £5, RGS-IBG members free.

### **B M+G S Monday 17 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(Doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **How to read a tree**

Tristan Gooley

Discover the art of reading trees. Tristan shares some of his favourite clues and signs from his latest book and reveals the important role of trees in natural navigation. When we know the patterns to look for, a tree never appears the same again.

At the Society and online. Free.



### **B Tuesday 18 April 6.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Newcastle upon Tyne)

#### **Zero carbon Gateshead: a local authority's response to COP26**

Jim Gillon

COP26 aimed to drive ambitious moves towards Net Zero at all levels. This talk explores the challenges for a major urban local authority. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

The Loftus Room, Newcastle upon Tyne Literary and Philosophical Society, 23 Westgate Road, NE1 1SE. Free.



### **B Wednesday 19 April 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Forum (online)

#### **Teaching and scholarship forum**

An online collaborative space run by the Geography and Education Research Group, in partnership with the Society, providing opportunities for meeting, sharing, collating, and supporting teaching and scholarship in higher education.

Online. Free.



### **B Wednesday 19 April 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Resource introduction: what is a country?**

This CPD session for teachers introduces our new resource that has been designed to engage students in years five and six with issues facing unrecognised states around the world, and to encourage them to think differently about global governance. It explores communities that are excluded from the formal international system and raises questions around statehood.

Online. Free.



 **B Friday 21 - Saturday 22 April  
or Sunday 23 - Monday 24 April**

Workshop (Marlborough)

**Expedition medicine training**

This remote medical responder course is for those undertaking expeditions to parts of the world where medical help is not readily available. Organised in association with Endeadour Medical.

Marlborough College, Wiltshire. £295 (level one only), £625 (level one and two).

**B M+G Monday 24 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(Doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (online and London)

**Resisting repressive regimes**

Shahidul Alam

Bangladeshi photographer and human rights defender Shahidul Alam discusses how art, text, and creative activism, coupled with building robust institutions, can combat the stifling of dissent by repressive regimes.

At the Society and online. Free.

 **B Tuesday 25 April 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

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

This course is aimed at Key Stage 1 and 2 teachers who are interested in developing spatial awareness skills linked to the primary geography curriculum.

At the Society. Free.

 **B Wednesday 26 April 10.30am - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Dartmoor)

**Merrivale Quarry field day**

Simon Dell

Join Simon to visit the Bronze Age sites of stone rows, circles, round houses, cists and menhir followed by an archaeological afternoon looking at the sett-makers' bankers at which granite setts / cobbles were manufactured from the 1870s onwards. Merrivale Quarry, SX546753. Please book by sending a cheque for £15 (to include refreshments) payable to 'RGS South West Region' to Derry Corey 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, PL6 7LN.

 **B Thursday 27 April 9.00am - 10.00am**

Workshop (online)

**Making an application for Chartered  
Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered.

Online. Free.

 **B Thursday 27 April 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**GIS for fieldwork and the NEA**

This workshop for secondary school geography teachers, led by Esri UK, will provide an insight into using ArcGIS for fieldwork and the NEA. It is suitable for beginners and intermediate users.

At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.

**B Thursday 27 April 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

**A look back at Everest expeditions**

Rebecca Stephens and Dawson Stelfox

On their 30th anniversary of summiting Mount Everest, Rebecca Stephens, the first British woman to climb the mountain, and Dawson Stelfox, the first Irishman to reach the summit, recall highlights and memories of their achievement in the spring of 1993. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

Elmwood Building, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.

**B Saturday 29 April 10.00am - 12.00pm**

Field visit (Seaham)

**Seaham Garden Village and the Dawdon minewater treatment scheme**

Charlotte Adams

A guided visit to the construction site of Seaham Garden Village, the first large scale mine energy district heating scheme in the UK. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Seaham Garden Village. £3, RGS-IBG members free. Places are limited.



**B Wednesday 3 May 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (online)

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

This course is aimed at Key Stage 1 and 2 teachers who are interested in developing spatial awareness skills linked to the primary geography curriculum. Online. Free.

**B Saturday 13 May 10.00am - 12.00pm**

Guided walk (Nottingham)

**Nottingham city walk**

Join the Midlands committee for a 2 mile walk around Nottingham. The route will include Forest Recreation Ground, Boer War Memorial, the Arboretum, and The Tunnel (one of the city's hidden gems). After the walk there will be an opportunity to visit the city centre. Organised by the Midlands regional committee.

Meet at NET Tram Park and Ride. Free.

Tram tickets will need to be purchased on the day.

**B M+G S Monday 15 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(Doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (online and London)

**The Great Barrier Reef expedition 1928-1929: birth of modern coral reef science**

Professor Tom Spencer, Professor Barbara Brown and Dr Sarah Hamylton

The world's first major expedition on a coral reef engaged with themes that resonate with today's geographers: underwater adventure, gender equality, climate change and a scientific legacy that lives on.

At the Society and online. Free.

**B Wednesday 17 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Workshop (online)

**Communicating your research: writing your first monograph**

Writing monographs is a key part of an academic career. But how do you begin the process of writing your first book? This webinar will offer insights on the publishing process, such as selecting a publisher, writing a book proposal, preparing the manuscript and promoting the book.

Online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 17 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(Doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (online and London)

#### **Travel writing evening**

Join our panel of travel writers as they share hints and tips on how to capture and record your journeys in writing, as well as their experiences on assignment.

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

### **B M+G Monday 22 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(Doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Sanitation for all? Cities and the right to citylife**

Professor Colin McFarlane

Sanitation is one of modern urban life's most neglected issues. This lecture makes the case for sanitation for all, arguing for renewed, equitable investment in a foundation of urban life.

At the Society and online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 24 May 3.30pm - 4.30pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **Making the most of university open days**

We will provide you with ideas for researching your chosen universities before you visit, opportunities for virtual visits and more, and will then take you through the top tips and best questions to ask during your open day visits to make the most of your time there and explore whether the university and geography course really is for you.

Online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 24 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Poole)

#### **Recreation of a Phoenicia voyage 2,000 years before Columbus**

Philip Beale

Join Philip as he describes his epic voyage across the Atlantic in a replica Phoenician ship, showing that the Phoenicians could have reached the Americas before Columbus. Organised by the South regional committee.

Cobham Lecture Theatre, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, BH12 5BB. Free.

### **B Wednesday 24 May 6.30pm - 10.30pm**

Annual forum, lecture and dinner (Tavistock)

#### **The pre-history of Malta**

Dr Peter Brinsden

Join the South West regional committee for their annual forum, lecture and dinner. Peter talks of his fascination with Malta's history where some artefacts are older than the Pyramids. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Mount Kelly School, PL19 0HZ. Please book by sending a cheque for £35 payable to 'RGS South West Region' to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN by 3 May.

### **B Thursday 25 May 6.30pm-9.30pm**

Geographical lates (London)

#### **Basecamp RGS**

To mark 70 years since the first successful ascent of Mount Everest, we're celebrating the top of the world. Meet those who have climbed the highest peaks, and individuals at the cutting edge of policy and research into our high altitude environments plus find out about the historic 1953 expedition through the Society's Collections.

At the Society. £20, RGS-IBG members £18.

### **B Thursday 25 May 7.00pm-9.00pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **The future of geography**

Tim Marshall

Best selling author of *Prisoners of Geography* and *The Power of Geography* turns his attention to the geopolitical space race, analysing the cosmic strides Russia, China and the United States have made and what it means for the rest of us down here on Earth. Tim outlines the geography of space and the new geopolitical realities it brings. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

Online. Free.

### **B Tuesday 30 May 7.30pm-9.30pm**

Lecture (Grantham)

#### **Adventure in the Andes: the life cycle biodiversity bike ride**

Kate Rawles

Kate cycled the length of South America following the spine of the Andes on Woody, a bamboo bike she built herself. The aim of her largely solo ride was to explore and champion biodiversity.

Guildhall Arts Centre, St Peter's Hill, NG31 6PZ.

£14, RGS-IBG members £10.

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

### **B Wednesday 31 May 10.00am-2.00pm**

 Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered.

Online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 31 May 1.00pm-2.00pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Communicating your research at a conference**

How do you communicate your research at a conference? This session will offer hints and tips for presenting your research through papers, workshops posters, and talks. This will include how to plan and practice your talk, the use of images and videos, and adapting your talk to hybrid, in-person and online audiences.

Online. Free.

## **B Wednesday 31 May 7.30pm-9.30pm**

Lecture (Stamford)

### **Adventure in the Andes: the life cycle biodiversity bike ride**

Kate Rawles

Kate cycled the length of South America following the spine of the Andes on Woody, a bamboo bike she built herself. The aim of her largely solo ride was to explore and champion biodiversity.

Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, PE9 2DL.  
£14, RGS-IBG members £10.

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



## **B Thursday 1 June 1.00pm - 1.30pm**

Workshop (online)

### **Chartered Geographer application accelerator**

If you are already eligible for Chartered Geographer but haven't found the time to complete your application, join our four-week accelerator to focus your efforts in preparing your application portfolio. Please be advised that it is expected that you attend all sessions when registering for this course.

Online. Free.

## **M Monday 5 June 4.30pm-5.30pm**

(online and London)

### **Annual General Meeting**

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

At the Society and online. Free.

## **B Monday 5 June 5.45pm-7.15pm**

(online and London)

### **Medals and awards celebration**

Our medals and awards recognise people or organisations for their outstanding contributions to geographical research, fieldwork and teaching, and public engagement.

At the Society and online. Free.

## **B M+G Monday 5 June 7.30pm-9.00pm**

(London)

### **Annual reception**

Join us as we celebrate another successful year for the Society.

At the Society. £25 (includes drinks and canapés).



## **B Tuesday 6 June 10.00am - 10.30am**

Workshop (online)

### **Chartered Geographer virtual coffee morning**

Join the Chartered Geographer coffee morning to meet with Chartered Geographers through the Wonder platform.

Online. Free.

## **B Monday 12 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(Doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (online and London)

### **How can we tackle the climate and biodiversity crises?**

It is argued that we will have to tackle the climate and the species extinction crisis simultaneously, as failing to tackle climate change will accelerate biodiversity loss, as higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns make survival for many species more difficult. To mark Lisa Roet's installation of David Greybeard the chimpanzee on the Royal Albert Hall which highlights the epoch of the anthropocene and its impact on mass extinction of species, join our panel as we discuss solutions to sustaining nature and people together.

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

## **B Wednesday 14 June 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Portsmouth)

### **Psychogeography, imaginative spaces and English seaside towns**

Dr Tom Sykes and Dr Louis Netter

Tom and Louis' book *Coast of Teeth* examines seaside towns in an age of austerity and climate change.

Organised by the South regional committee.

Room 1.10, Eldon Building, University of Portsmouth, Churchill Avenue, PO1 2DJ. Free.



## **B Thursday 15 June 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 Thursday 15 June 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

### **Adventure in the Andes: the life cycle biodiversity bike ride**

Kate Rawles

Kate cycled the length of South America following the spine of the Andes on Woody, a bamboo bike she built herself. The aim of her largely solo ride was to explore and champion biodiversity.

Turner Sims. £15, RGS-IBG members £13.

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

## **B Saturday 17 - Sunday 18 June**

Festival (London)

### **The Great Exhibition Road Festival**

Join us in South Kensington to enjoy a weekend of free events for all ages celebrating the inspirational power of awe and wonder in science and the arts. The Society will collaborate with our neighbours across the Albertopolis, including some of the world's most iconic museums and institutions, to create a unique festival fusing art, science, technology and curiosity.

At the Society and Exhibition Road. Free.

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

**B Sunday 18 June 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Exeter)

**Adventure in the Andes: the life cycle biodiversity bike ride**

Kate Rawles

Kate cycled the length of South America following the spine of the Andes on Woody, a bamboo bike she built herself. The aim of her largely solo ride was to explore and champion biodiversity.

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. £12, RGS-IBG members £10. **W** [www.exeterphoenix.org.uk](http://www.exeterphoenix.org.uk)

**B Monday 19 June 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Salford)

**RHS Bridgewater and the community it creates**

Join us for a guided tour of the Weston Walled Garden followed by a lecture from an RHS representative to gain an understanding of the history of the site and the ambitions for the future. The transformation of this 154-acre green space has enriched the lives of local communities and their environment for the future. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

RHS Bridgewater, Worsley, M28 2LJ. £15, RGS-IBG members £10. Book by 16 June.



**B Tuesday 20 June 9.45am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

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

This course is intended to give experienced EVCs a framework and resources for providing training for visit leaders in their own schools.

At the Society. £280, RGS-IBG members £252.

**B Wednesday 21 June 10.30am - 5.00pm**

Field visit (Bideford)

**Bideford Bridge Trust and heritage walk**

Led by Peter Christie

Bideford is an historic port town and much of its maritime history still exists, which you will see on the heritage walk. Additionally Bideford has a magnificent medieval bridge which has been maintained by a local charity known as the Bridge Trust. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Please book by 31 May by sending a cheque for £10 payable to 'RGS South West Region' to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN.

Derry Corey **T** 01752 703354

**Thursday 22 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Sheffield)

**Soils in North West Syria: unseen casualty of war**

Dr Jonathan Bridge

A team of exiled Syrian academics has produced the first regional survey of soil geochemistry in North West Syria, highlighting the environmental crisis caused by war. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

Peak Lecture Theatre, 527 Owen Building, Sheffield Hallam University, City Campus, S1 1WB. Free.

 **B Thursday 29 June 9.00am - 10.00am**  
Workshop (online)

### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered.

Online. Free.


**B Sunday 2 July 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Guided walk (East Leake)

### **East Leake: lanes, trails and a wood**

Join for a seven mile circular walk around East Leake. The duration of the walk is around 3.5 hours and there will be a picnic lunch. There is an option at the end of the walk to take refreshment at one of the cafes in East Leake. Organised by the Midlands regional committee.

Meet East Leake Car Park. Free.

 **B Thursday 20 July 1.00pm - 2.00pm**  
Workshop (online)

### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered.

Online. Free.

**Saturday 22 July 11.00am - 4.00pm**

Field visit (Threlkeld, near Keswick)

### **Clough Head and Wainwright**

An ascent and circuit of Clough Head which gives excellent viewpoints in most directions. To quote Alfred Wainwright '*Clough Head is sufficiently isolated to afford an uninterrupted prospect in every direction except in the south-east. A special feature, rare in views from the heights of the Helvellyn range, is the nice combination of valley and mountain scenery*'. Organised by the North West regional committee and The Wainwright Society.

The ascent involves steep gradients and rough paths. Participants should have previous hill walking experience. Advance booking is not required. Please meet at Threlkeld Cricket Club car park CA12 4TZ. There is a parking fee required for Cricket Club car park. £5 donation, RGS-IBG and Wainwright Society members free .

 **B Thursday 17 August 9.00am - 10.00am**  
Workshop (online)

### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered.

Online. Free.





## **B Wednesday 23 August 1.00pm - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Hartlepool)

### **Visit to EDF Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station**

Adam Nichols

An opportunity to join a guided tour of the Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station and consider nuclear's role in UK future energy generation. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

Free. Book by 17 July. Additional security requirements for this event, please visit the Society's website for further information.

## **B Tuesday 29 August to Friday 1 September**

Conference (online and London)

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

Chaired by Professor Harriet Bulkeley

The conference regularly attracts over 2,000 geographers from around the world. This year, the conference is taking place at the Society and Imperial College London on the theme climate changed geographies, with in-person and online ways to participate.

At the Society and online.



## **Exhibitions**

Exhibitions are held in the Pavilion and are free.

### **Monday April 17 - Friday 19 May**

#### **Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition (London)

### **Seeing double: stereo photography, historical cartography and the US Industrial Revolution 1840-1920**

This exhibition explores major themes in the geography of 19th century US industrial development, through the medium of vintage stereo photography, illuminated by computer graphics and historical railroad cartography.

### **Thursday 22 June - Wednesday 23 August**

#### **Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition (London)

### **Earth Photo 2023**

Visit the Society this summer to see a stunning selection of shortlisted still and moving images across all genres, telling powerful stories about our planet, its inhabitants and lands, its beauty and power, and its fragility through the impacts of climate change. Developed jointly by Forestry England and the Society.

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## 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 26 April 8.00pm - 10.00pm**  
**2023 Whitley Awards Ceremony**

HRH The Princess Royal, Kate Humble and Tom Heap  
Prestigious annual awards ceremony, recognising and celebrating inspiring grassroots conservation leaders across the Global South.

**E** [info@whitleyaward.org](mailto:info@whitleyaward.org)

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

**B Tuesday 16 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(Doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

**Kirker Spring lecture in aid of Venice in Peril**

Join us to help raise funds to support the conservation of Venice and enjoy a fascinating lecture on Venetian culture and history. £25.

**T** 020 7593 2281

**E** [patrick.millar@kirkerholidays.com](mailto:patrick.millar@kirkerholidays.com)

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

**Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 June**

**12.00pm - 6.00pm**

Fair

**The London map fair 2023**

The world's largest specialist antique map fair brings together leading antiquarian map dealers and map lovers from around the world. **Free.**

**T** 020 7836 1910

**E** [info@londonmapfairs.com](mailto:info@londonmapfairs.com)

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

**B Tuesday 13 June 1.30pm - 3.45pm**

(Doors open at 1.00pm)

Lecture

**Everest70 – be inspired**

Peter Hillary, Jamling Tenzing, Ray Mears, Leo Houlding, Adriana Brownlee and DofE Young Ambassadors

Be inspired by the first successful ascent of Mount Everest and its legacy 70 years on. £10.

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

**E** [events@himalayantrust.co.uk](mailto:events@himalayantrust.co.uk)

**T** 07770733556

**Tuesday 13 June 6.45pm - 8.15pm**

(Doors open at 5.45pm)

Lecture

**Everest70 – collaboration in exploration**

Peter Hillary, Jamling Tenzing, Stephen Venables, Kenton Cool and Hari Budha Magar

Celebrate the first successful ascent of Mount Everest and its lasting legacy with the Himalayan Trust and Mount Everest Foundation. £35.

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

**E** [events@himalayantrust.co.uk](mailto:events@himalayantrust.co.uk)

**T** 07770733556

**B Friday 23 June 9.00am - 5.00pm**

(Doors open at 8.30am)

Conference

**Attachment and trauma: the state  
of the art of psychotherapy**

M.Barrett, J.Winhall, R.Wijngaart, H.Farmer, S.Fisher,  
S.Boon, R.Siegel, A.Carmelita and T. Real

Congress for psychologists and psychotherapists.

€350. **T** +39 3928 710766

**E** info@isc.training

**W** www.isc.training

**B Wednesday 26 June - Wednesday 9 August  
10.00am - 5.00pm**

Conference

**64th London International Youth Science Forum**

Professor Ben Feringa, Dame Sue Black  
and Dame Wendy Hall

LIYSF is an intensive 15 day STEM programme  
for 500 students aged 16-21 years old from over  
70 countries worldwide. Lectures from world leading  
scientists and visits to UK universities.

**T** 020 8295 8395

**E** info@liysf.org.uk

**W** www.liysf.org.uk

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## Regional committees

We have nine 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?

### Regions Chair

David Lovell

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

### East of England

Clare Brown

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

### Midlands

Martin Haslett

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

### Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

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

### Cheshire

Tina Lees-Jones

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

### North West

Jonathan Stevens

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

### South

Henry Hogger

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

### West of England

Sam Scott

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

### South West

Derry Corey

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

### North Devon

Martin Kemp

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

### South Wales

Sam Scott

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

### North Wales

Tina Lees-Jones

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

### Yorkshire and the North East

Jon Bridge

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

### Singapore

Oliver Worsley

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

### Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

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

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

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

# The John Hare Collections bequest Central Asia and Northern Nigeria

John Hare and Dr Yuan Lei © WCPF



**Last year the Society gratefully received a bequest of photography, film and archive material belonging to John Hare OBE FRGS (1934-2022), from his travels in Central Asia and Northern Nigeria.**

In 1997 John Hare set out to save and protect the wild camel by co-founding the Wild Camel Protection Foundation (WCPF) alongside international environmental lawyer and conservationist, Kathryn Rae.

Having developed a passion for camels while working at The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, it was John's expeditions into the Chinese Gobi Desert with the eminent zoologist Professor Yuan Guoying, and his son Dr Yuan Lei, that laid the foundation for the establishment of the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve, to protect the remaining wild camel population in China.



Edengyin Nur, 1993 by John Hare © RCSI-IBG




Sunset Timurlia by John Hare © RCSI-IBG

John's first encounter with wild camels had been while on a scientific expedition with the Russian Academy of Sciences in the Mongolian Gobi Desert where they studied wild camel, the takhi horse and the saiga antelope. He later met Professor Yuan Guoying at a conference in Mongolia and was invited by him to Xinjiang, China. During four expeditions in the 1990s they mapped the area which became the 375,000km<sup>2</sup> Reserve. John was the first foreigner to enter the remote area of Lop Nur in Xinjiang for 45 years.

The wild camel, living in three separated habitats in China and Mongolia, was listed as critically endangered in 2002, and shown to be a new and separate species by Dr Pamela Burger in 2008. The hardiness of the animal and its ability to live in harsh environments, such as the waterless Lop Nur which was a former nuclear test site, fascinated John greatly.





Prior to this, he was the last District Officer to be recruited into the British Colonial Administration in Northern Nigeria in 1957. He served in the very remotest parts of the country and captured irreplaceable photographic footage of the landscape at that time.

Having seen first-hand many destructive pressures on the natural world, John was passionate about documenting change and inspiring young people. He frequently visited schools to speak with students about the WCPF, whose achievements include environmental educational awareness-raising campaigns, fundraising and liaising with zoos and international government bodies to support the Foundation's mission.

John's explorations in extremely hazardous environments and services to saving the wild camel from extinction lead to him

being presented with the Ness Award by the Society, The Lawrence of Arabia Medal by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, the Mungo Park Medal by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, the Nairamdal Medal by the Mongolian Government, the Lowell Thomas Medal by the Explorers' Club of America and an OBE by Queen Elizabeth II.

The Society is in the process of digitising these important records to inform a new understanding of John Hare's life, travels and conservation work for the next generation.

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



# Meet the Society's people

## Finance Committee

© Carol Lawson



**The Society is governed by Council, our board of trustees, which is made up of elected and co-opted Fellows whose expertise, knowledge and interests guide our activities.**

Council has a series of committees and advisory groups to help oversee areas of the Society's work and consider matters of strategy and implementation.


We met with Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Carol Lawson, to discuss her career, her role at the Society and the importance of the Finance Committee.

### **What is your background?**

I've worked in the investment industry, so finance for many decades. I now have a portfolio career and work for the Investment Association and another firm as a consultant, and as a board member for a third organisation, as well as two voluntary roles including Honorary Treasurer for the Society.

### **What has helped you succeed in the finance industry?**

It's a willingness to learn and speak up. If somebody says something you're not sure about or you don't understand, just say. Most people want to help you, but they don't know how, so take the initiative and



ask more senior people. And then know that you too can add, as your perspective may be different but is still valid.

### **What drew you to volunteering with the Society?**


I first got involved with the Society at the start of this millennium when I was asked by Alan Tritton to sit on the Investment Subcommittee. Investment is my background so that's what I find easy. Eventually I became Chair of that committee and during the COVID-19 pandemic stood to be Honorary Treasurer, I'm one for stepping up when it's needed. The Society is a complicated organisation, it's not a simple model and there's not one type of geographer and it is very interesting. I haven't got a geography degree, I'm one of those amateur geographers who just love it.

### **What does the Finance Committee do?**

Overall, the Finance Committee keeps an eye on the money of the Society, we look at budgets, reports and accounts, and a lot of work from a governance perspective, giving independent advice to the Society on its finances. The Committee meets four times a year and reporting into it is the Investment Subcommittee, which looks at the invested assets we've got and checks they're managed in a way that is appropriate, and the Enterprises Board which looks after the Society's income generating activities, such as venue hire and image licensing.

### **What do you do in your role as Honorary Treasurer?**

I support the Society's staff on financial matters and chair the Finance Committee and then report to the Council from the Finance Committee, presenting vast amounts of figures and drawing their



attention to things that matter and where the risks are, alongside the particular responsibilities of being the Honorary Treasurer there is the responsibility of being a Trustee as well.

### **What has your work with the Society given you?**

It has given back to me more than I have given it. I find the Society fascinating and it is a unique chance to give my experience and time to a cause I feel great fondness for. It is very rewarding knowing you can give your particular knowledge to a charity that enables them to fulfil their purpose. Overseeing and knowing when to step back is a learning process, when I got to the level of my professional career when I was chairing important meetings, I had the confidence because I had already gained so much experience at the Society.

### **What are you looking forward to most in 2023?**

I'm looking forward to focusing on sustainability in my professional work and seeing the proposed regulation come into place which will encourage people towards sustainable investment. UK investment regulation is moving steadily to actively encourage sustainable investment by ensuring there is clarity in investment management, this will lead to people being able to choose themselves how they invest their money whether it is their savings or pensions.

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



# Latin American Geographies Research Groups at the Society

**The Society's Research Groups, of which there are currently 31, seek to bring together active researchers and those with a professional interest in a particular aspect of geography and related disciplines. Several of these groups recently celebrated 50 years since they were formed.**

We asked Dr Sam Halvorsen, chair of our newest Research Group, the Latin American Geographies Research Group (LAGRG), to share the mission of the group and how it seeks to support and promote this area of geography.

“Latin America is at first sight familiar to us geographers. From its immense rainforests and mountain ranges through to its expansive urbanisation and attempts to build regional identity, its geographies appear well represented in the UK. Yet Latin American geographical ideas and

practices remain marginal in scholarly research and education.

Anglophone geographers rarely take the time to seriously engage the geographies being produced in the region: from theoretical debates over land and territory to innovative ecological practices and political strategies. This is not only a hindrance for those seeking to better understand the region. It is a missed opportunity for all of us who think and act geographically in the world today.

The Latin American Geographies Research Group (LAGRG) was formed out of an emerging network of researchers across the UK and Latin America in 2018, based on a commitment to breaking down the linguistic and epistemic barriers between Anglophone and Latin American geographies. Its rapid growth and eventual consolidation into a Research Group in




Writing workshop © LAERG



© LAERG





2022 in part reflects a gradual turn towards decolonising knowledge and embracing multi-lingualism in Anglophone geography.

Far more than a case study, Latin American geographies represent an urgent set of debates and provocations to think and do things differently. From the extraction of primary commodities to widespread deforestation, and from the land rights of indigenous and afro-descendent communities to struggles to remake cities and neighbourhoods around values such as dignity, we all need Latin America as part of our geographical imaginaries.

LAGRG has developed several key initiatives. It has sponsored writing workshops with early career researchers based in the region. A lively blog page is managed by an international editorial team, producing cutting-edge content in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Our monthly 'PhD Café' meetings bring together early career researchers from Latin America and the UK to engage contemporary debates. The meetings are informal, trilingual, and provide an opportunity for researchers to exchange views, extend their networks and share experiences on methodology, funding, and other matters.

We also run an annual award to recognise the work of undergraduate students engaging with Latin America in their dissertation projects. The prize is supported by Routledge and increases the visibility of Latin American geography research.

Finally, LAGRG's growing presence in academic conferences and on the pages of journals aims to give more voice to Latin American colleagues."

**W** [www.lagukinfo.wixsite.com/lag-uk](http://www.lagukinfo.wixsite.com/lag-uk)



# Society venue hire

## Your special occasions made perfect

With a unique mix of modern facilities and historical charm, our Grade II\* listed building could be the perfect space to make your significant social gatherings in 2023 extra special and personal to you.

Fellows and Members benefit from exclusive discounted rates for venue hire and can make use of our iconic rooms and exceptional catering service to host a wide range of personal events, including drinks receptions, intimate dinners and weddings.

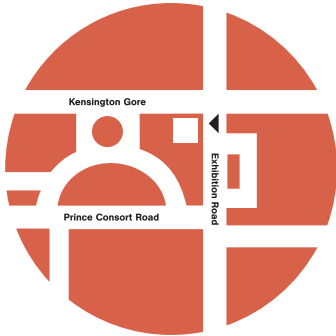
The impressive Main Hall is the original reception room to Lowther Lodge, built by William Lowther in 1874 and designed by the famous architect Norman Shaw. From the ceramic fireplace tiles painted by Alice Lowther to the minstrel's gallery above, the Hall still showcases many of its original features today.

The charming Map Room with its beautiful bay windows is a spacious area to welcome your guests and host a celebratory drinks reception.

Visit our website to find out how we could create phenomenal memories for you with tailored packages in the impressive Main Hall, Map Room or many other spaces suitable for a wide range of events.

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

# How to find us



Entrance is on Exhibition Road  
Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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

**T** +44 (0)20 7591 3000  
**E** [info@rgs.org](mailto:info@rgs.org)  
**W** [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

Cover image Ngourt Market by John Hare © RGS-IBG



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The Society is the learned society and professional body for geography. We support and promote geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, and geography in society; we also advise on policy issues. The Society has substantial Collections available to all.

## Corporate Partners

