

Bulletin Summer 2024

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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Cohousing

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A community solution



About the Society

Need to know

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

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

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

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

W www.rgs.org **T** @RGS_IBG **E** membership@rgs.org **T** +44 (0)20 7591 3080



A message From the Director

One of the most rewarding elements of my job is the broad range of enthusiastic and committed members I get to meet and work with, not least our Trustees. So if you're thinking about getting more involved with shaping the direction of our activities, please do think about standing for election to Council.

This year's elections include two new positions: Membership – Councillor, and Professional Practice – Councillor. Full details are on our website and the deadline for nominations is Thursday 21 March. The elections themselves conclude at our Annual General Meeting, which this year takes place on Monday 3 June. Please do attend, either in person or online, if you can.

This year will also see the election of our next President, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Nigel Clifford for his significant contributions over the past three

years. In particular, Nigel has successfully shepherded us through both a governance review and review of our strategic plan. On the latter, Council agreed in April last year that our existing strategy remained fit for purpose, and commissioned Nigel and I to look closely at how best to apply our resources to deliver our strategic aims.

I'm pleased to say that based on this work, Council agreed in December to a series of investments, including the recruitment of a new senior management role responsible for fundraising and commercial activities, to help secure the long-term financial future of the Society.

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

Professor Joe Smith
Director



Society News

Council nominations and elections

Nominations from Fellows are now requested for the Council positions of Education -Vice President, Membership -Councillor, and Professional Practice -Councillor. We are also seeking nominations for the following positions on the Research and Higher Education Committee: Chair of the Annual Conference 2025 and Member. The nomination deadline is 5.00pm on 21 March with the election taking place at our AGM on Monday 3 June. Nigel Clifford's successor as President will also be decided in this year's election.

W www.rgs.org/Elections2024

Call for committee members

Promote geography to your local community and champion the discipline by joining one of our regional committees. We have 11 regional committees across England, Northern Ireland, Wales and

Singapore, including a new London committee. Each committee organises a programme of local events and is seeking new members who can help plan fascinating lectures, guided walks, field visits or social events.

W www.rgs.org/regional-committee

New Year honours

The Society is pleased to congratulate those recognised in the King's New Year honours, including Professor Mark Brandon FRGS, Professor of Polar Oceanography at The Open University, who has been awarded the Polar Medal, and Mike Robinson, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, who has been awarded an OBE for Services to Climate Change Education.



New membership card image

Beautiful broken ice, reflections and Terra Nova by Herbert Ponting has been selected as this year's membership card image. This view of the *Terra Nova* was taken only a few days after the ship reached Antarctica while Ponting was enthusiastically exploring the area.

W www.rgs.org/our-collections

Rolex podcast

Coinciding with Earth Day on 22 April Rolex, one of our Corporate Benefactors, will be recording the next instalment of their *Planet Hope* podcast, in partnership with *The Times*, as part of our Monday night lecture series. More details can be found on page 15.

W www.rgs.org/whatson

Everest 24

A new book, *Everest 24: New views on the 1924 Mount Everest Expedition*, will be published this year, coinciding with the centenary of the expedition. The book, launching in May, presents a newly curated selection of original photographs taken during the expedition, including hand-coloured lantern slides by John Noel, the expedition photographer. Copies will be available to purchase through Stanford's and all good bookshops, as well as in person at the Society.

Education News



© Trustees of the Natural History Museum

National Education Nature Park

More than 1,200 schools, nurseries and colleges have now joined the National Education Nature Park. The Society is supporting the programme, led by the Natural History Museum with other partners, which brings together places of education taking action to improve biodiversity and empower children and young people to make positive changes. As well as boosting nature across the country, the programme is designed to develop young people's

digital and green skills and enhance their wellbeing through connection to nature, with recognition of institutional change through the Climate Action Awards.

All schools, nurseries and colleges in England are encouraged to join the National Education Nature Park network.

The free programme provides the resources, support and guidance needed to put nature at the heart of education through a five-step process. Resources and digital tools supporting the first steps of the process are online now. Regular webinars and their recordings also provide introductions to key tools and advice to get started.

Sign up to the National Education Nature Park newsletter to keep up to date with the project.

W www.educationnaturepark.org.uk



Young Geographer of the Year 2023 winners

The winners of the Young Geographer of the Year 2023 competition were announced at an awards ceremony at the Society in December. The competition is run by the Society in conjunction with *Geographical* magazine and is kindly supported by Cotswold Outdoor, Esri UK, Ordnance Survey and Philip's Atlases.

Encouraging pupils to engage with geographical issues the theme for 2023 was *A blueprint for the future*, with entrants invited to share innovative ideas to address problems in areas such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, resources, population growth, travel, biodiversity and more. The overall category winners for 2023 are:

KS2 Gene Jutatreeraparp from Shrewsbury International School in Bangkok

KS3 Tamana Sawmynaden from The Tiffin Girls' School in Kingston-upon-Thames

KS4 Fin Dobson from Sandbach School in Sandbach

A Level or equivalent Annabel Quill from Mayfield School in East Sussex.

A full list of recognised pupils and their entries is on our website.

W www.rgs.org/ygoty2023winners

FT School Essay Competition winner

Congratulations to Emily Blanchfield, the winner of the 2023 School Essay Competition, organised in partnership with *The Financial Times*. The competition asked students to assess the risks associated with climate change and what we should be doing about them. Read the winning essay, alongside the nine highly commended entries on our website.

W www.rgs.org/ftcomp



From the field News

Grant stories

The generous support of our donors means that the Society is uniquely positioned to nurture the development of new knowledge and advance geographical science. Visit our website to meet some of the Society's grant recipients and learn about their research and trip highlights. Recent researchers featured include Frederick Soddy Postgraduate Award recipient Maureen W. Kinyanjui. Maureen, PhD researcher at the University of Edinburgh, carried out work with the Sagalla community in southeast Kenya. Her research seeks to explore ways of improving the resilience and sustainability of human-elephant coexistence in the region. Realising there were deeper social factors contributing to human-elephant conflict, Maureen focused on local community voices, involving them in co-producing knowledge.

The research will aid conservationists in understanding the reasons behind negative outcomes associated with certain conservation actions.

W www.rgs.org/grant-stories

Explore: How To Plan an Expedition podcasts

The 14th episode of the Society's new expedition planning podcast, produced by *The Adventure Podcast*, airs on 14 March. This episode features a discussion on the future purpose and value of expeditions. Catch up now on previous episodes, hosted by Matt Pycroft FRGS, featuring expedition experts discussing planning, travel ethics and how to tell your story. Search *The Adventure Podcast* wherever you listen to podcasts.

W www.rgs.org/ExplorePlanningPodcasts

Research and higher education News

Annual Conference 2024

Our next conference focuses on maps, from the applications of spatial data to locational sketches, from analytical visualisations to imaginary maps.

The conference will take place in London and online, from 27 to 30 August. We look forward to chair Professor Stephen Legg's plenary dialogues, digital installations and galleries, and special sessions in the Foyle Reading Room using the Society's map collection. Two sessions will be co-delivered with the International Geographical Union who are holding their conference in Dublin at the same time.

A draft programme for the conference will be published in late May. Registration is open now – book before 14 June to receive an early bird discount, in addition to your membership discount.

W www.rgs.org/ac2024

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Guides for researchers

Written by leading researchers and academics, the Society publishes guides with advice on key topics in scholarly publishing and communicating. We have been working with Professor Peter Hopkins, Newcastle University, to update two existing guides and launch a third.



Publishing and getting read aims to provide clear, practical and constructive advice on how to publish research in a wide range of forms. It encourages authors to think strategically about publication profile and plans, while setting out some of the opportunities and responsibilities of being an author. The guide also provides general support on getting published research read. New sections have been added on open access and on the opportunities of digital-only publishing.

There is a long tradition of geographers communicating research 'beyond the academy' – particularly to policy makers, public audiences, businesses, young people and teachers. Today there are more opportunities and methods to do this. Recognising this, we've launched a new version of the *Communicating geographical research beyond the academy* guide, bringing new perspectives to encourage

readers to reflect on motives, means and methods, and to present examples of good practice.

In the new *Working with voluntary and community groups* guide, contributors explore a range of topics and issues – from health, disability and care, through to the environment, austerity, violence, and craft, among others. The guide highlights the approaches taken by geographers in their work with community and voluntary organisations, and some of the challenges negotiated in the process.

W www.rgs.org/researchguides



Professional News

A new opportunity for professional development and recognition

Geospatial applications and services have become an intrinsic part of everyday life and the UK is a leader in geospatial technology and applications. To provide the environment for this vibrant sector to continue to grow, there needs to be a skilled workforce of geospatial analysts and geographic data scientists.

Working with a trailblazer group from business and industry, led by Damien McLoud (Arup), we have been supporting the development of a new level 7 integrated master's Spatial Data Specialist Apprenticeship. This apprenticeship will provide the opportunity for the development and acquisition of advanced geospatial skills.

We are delighted to announce that in December 2023 the new apprenticeship

received ministerial approval. Universities are now working with the standard to develop new programmes.

This apprenticeship will be of interest to employers and employees in a wide range of sectors, designed for employees with a geographical background and training, who wish to progress and advance their skills while working and being supported by their employer. But also those with other backgrounds interested in moving into geospatial roles.

For employers who want high quality training provision which is specialised, assured and sustainable, this new apprenticeship will provide an invaluable training programme. Employees will gain state of the art training, and on completion the apprenticeship, a master's degree.

W www.rgs.org/apprenticeships

Events Highlights



© RGSIBG

geographical research, there promises to be an enriching experience for each curious mind. Share these experiences with others by bringing a guest where you can or joining social events such as our remote lecture screenings to connect with the broader community.

Delve into environmental issues with thought-provoking discussions on how to respond to Britain's eroding coastline, immerse yourself in the search for the source of the White Nile, or uncover the joy of exploring your local area. Utilise your membership as a passport to seeing our planet's people, places and environments through new eyes.

Summer events programme

Embark on new knowledge journeys and connect with a broad spectrum of geographers and geography enthusiasts this term. The Society's upcoming events programme offers you the chance to discover new ideas, enhance your skills and explore your diverse interests. From captivating lectures by renowned speakers and hands-on workshops to enlightening



Summer 2024 events

Monday night lectures at a glance


6.30pm-7.45pm

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

For	Date	Title	Speaker
M+G	8 April	Informing action: Esmond B. Martin lecture	
M+G	15 April	Is a single map enough exploration for an entire lifetime?	Alastair Humphreys
M+G	22 April	<i>Planet Hope</i> podcast live with <i>The Times</i> and Rolex	Adam Vaughan
M+G	29 April	Traditional remedies: herbalism and magic in nineteenth century Myanmar	Dr Susan Conway
M+G	13 May	What has been happening in Iceland?	Professor Hazel Rymner
M+G	20 May	Everest24 anniversary lecture	

Events

Key to events

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

Events booking

You can find more information and book tickets online

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

Please note that unexpected changes to events
may occur, especially those planned to take place
in person, please check our website for up-to-date
information.

Online events

All Society-organised online events can be booked
and watched via our website. Search for the individual
event page on **W** www.rgs.org/events.

You will be able to ask your questions and interact
with the speakers if you join live. Fellows and Members
are able to catch up on many of our events, including
our Monday night lectures, online

W www.rgs.org/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. 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, 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 on 8 April, and 13 May meet other members
and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes
by 10.00pm and is £42 per person (two courses, two
glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

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

Accessibility

Wheelchair spaces are available in the Ondaatje
Theatre. A personal assistant or carer can usually be
accommodated. Please contact the Events Office
in advance on **T** 020 7591 3100 **E** events@rgs.org
Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje
Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing
impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

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Events listings

In chronological order

E Until Sunday 21 April

Exhibition (Hawkshead)

Earth Photo: Grizedale Forest

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images from the 2023 Earth Photo competition.

Grizedale Forest, LA22 0QJ. Free.

B Thursday 4 April 9.30am - 11.00am

Field visit (Hartlepool)

Visit to EDF Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station

An opportunity to join a guided tour, led by Adam, 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.

Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station.

Free, book by midday on Monday 4 March.



B Thursday 4 April 10.00am - 10.30am

Networking (Online)

Chartered Geographer virtual networking

All Chartered Geographers are invited to join our coffee morning, a virtual networking event held on Teams.

Free.

B Thursday 4 April 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Antarctica and its wildlife: past, present and future

Andrew Clarke

In this illustrated talk, Andrew will introduce the continent and its wildlife and discuss future prospects in light of climate change. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

B Monday 8 April 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

The future coast: managed realignment

Stuart Oliver

Climate change means the British coastline is eroding increasingly fast. This talk looks at the response to that change represented by managed realignment, the organised abandonment of the coast. Managed realignment shows us a way of responding to change when the geographical boundaries we thought were solid... melt into air.

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

B M+G Monday 8 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Informing action: Esmond B. Martin lecture

The lecture will explore examples of how careful research can be the foundation of progress towards a better world. The 2024 Esmond B. Martin Royal Geographical Society Prize will also be presented.

At the Society and online. Free.

B M+G Monday 8 April 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social event (London)

Monday night lecture supper

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

At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 4 April and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 9 April 7.00pm - 10.00pm

Social event (Exeter)

Map, chart, slide and artefacts evening

A chance to hear members' own stories, talking for ten minutes about their travels and experiences.

Organised by the South West regional committee.

Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. £20, please send cheque to Chris Brightman, 61 Exeter Road, Topsham, EX3 0LX by 2 April.



B Wednesday 10 April 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (Online)

Use geography: careers in environmental consultancy

A careers webinar with insights and advice from geography professionals working in environmental consultancy. Free.

B Wednesday 10 April 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Plymouth)

South Devon's caves and their Ice-Age history

Professor Malcolm Hart

In parts of South Devon, the Devonian limestones have extensive cave systems which contain a wealth of fossil remains. This talk will look at discoveries from these caves and Plymouth's Cattedown Caves, as well as the discovery of megafauna at Sherford. Organised by the South West regional committee.

The Plymouth Athenaeum, Derry's Cross, PL1 2SW. Free.

B Friday 12 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion (London and online)

Navigating water challenges in Europe

Join us on GeoNight to dive into the complex tapestry of Europe's water landscape. Join experts as they unravel the geographical intricacies of water resources, addressing issues from scarcity to pollution and exploring sustainable management practices for resilient ecosystems.

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

B M+G Monday 15 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Is a single map enough exploration for an entire lifetime?

Alastair Humphreys

How well do those of us who dream of exploration know the place we live? Global traveller Alastair Humphreys spent a year exploring his local map, helping him connect with nearby nature.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 17 April 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Workshop (Online)

**Postgraduate insights webinar:
preparing for your PhD viva**

The PhD viva can seem daunting. This webinar will examine how you can prepare for it. It will bring together experienced examiners and recent geography PhD graduates to offers insights on the viva process. There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience. **Free.**

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Online)

**Climate change: will business save
the planet, and how will that happen?**

Professor Chris Higson

Join Professor Chris Higson of the London Business School for an authoritative survey of the already extensive engagement of business with the climate change agenda and the broader issue of sustainability. Organised by the South regional committee. **Free.**

B Thursday 18 April 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

**The road to Glen Lough: an artistic journey
through a secluded Donegal Valley**

Christie Gillespie

Reviewing the life of painter and travel writer Rockwell Kent and the year he spent in a remote Donegal valley. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue,
BT7 1NN. **Free.**

B M Monday 22 April 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social event (London)

New members' welcome tour

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

At the Society. **Free.**

B M+G Monday 22 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Planet Hope podcast live
with The Times and Rolex**

Brought to you by *The Times* and
the Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative

Join us on Earth Day for the launch of the second series of the Rolex *Planet Hope* podcast. *The Times'* Environment Editor, Adam Vaughan, asks how we can protect the world and what leading environment experts are doing to help.

At the Society and online. **Free.**



B Tuesday 23 April 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (Online)

Professional insights: starting a new role

Whether it's your first job or you're a senior professional, it can be daunting beginning a new role. Hear from geography professionals sharing their advice in starting a new job, from your first day, first week and beyond. **Free.**

B Wednesday 24 April 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Cheshire)

Taking the risk: my adventures in travel and publishing

Hilary Bradt

Hilary Bradt, travel pioneer and co-founder of the world-renowned Bradt Guides, looks back on 50 years of escapades, surprises, mishaps, disasters and triumphs in both travel and publishing. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

Goostrey Village Hall, Goostrey, Cheshire, CW4 8PE.



B Thursday 25 April 9.00am - 10.00am

Workshop (Online)

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. *Free.*

B Thursday 25 April 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Online)

Perceiving climate change: water

Dr Luke Bennett, Dr Mel Lacey, James Lock, Dr Jon Bridge, Andre Kong

How do scientists, artists and the wider public notice climate change by witnessing changes in the hydrosphere? Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee, with Sheffield Hallam University Space and Place Group. *Free.*

B Thursday 25 April 8.30am - 5.30pm

Conference (London)

Postgraduate forum mid-term conference: emerging geographies

The mid-term conference seeks to take a snapshot of the exciting and important research being undertaken by postgraduate geographers on novel topics and in diverse contexts.

At the Society. £85, RGS-IBG members £75.

B M+G Monday 29 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Traditional remedies: herbalism and magic in nineteenth century Myanmar

Dr Susan Conway

This lecture explores how in the nineteenth century physical and mental illnesses were treated with herbal remedies gathered in the since decimated forests of Myanmar and with magic potions, prepared by spirit specialists.

At the Society and online. *Free.*

B Saturday 4 May 9.30am - 6.00pm

Guided walk (Eryri)

Lines in the landscape walk: Eryri

A high-level walk over the spacious emptiness of the Moelwynion, with striking views across to Yr Wyddfa. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee, with Snowdonia Society. Gelli Iago, Nantmor Road (GR 631484). *Free, book by midday 1 May.*

E Tuesday 7 May – Tuesday 11 June
10.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Exhibition (London)

Everest24

This exhibition will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1924 British Mount Everest expedition during which Man Bahadur and Lance-Naik Shamsherpun tragically died and George Mallory and Andrew Irvine disappeared pushing for the summit. Coinciding with the release of a new Society book on the expedition, the exhibition seeks to show a range of photography, mapping, and original artefacts from the three 1920's expeditions. This exhibition is made possible by the generous support of our Corporate Member, Riverstone.

At the Society. Free.

B Tuesday 7 May 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

**Shackleton's ship beneath the ice:
discovering the Endurance**

Professor John Shears

In this talk John will share his first hand experience of finally locating Shackleton's lost ship.

Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close,
NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.



B Wednesday 8 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (Online)

Use geography: careers in climate action

In this careers webinar, learn from geography professionals working in climate action as they share their insights and advice, and explore opportunities for starting your career. Free.

B Wednesday 8 May 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Exhibition private view (London)

Everest24

Join us for the launch of our exhibition *Everest24* commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1924 British Mount Everest expedition. Drinks will be served from 7.00pm with an introductory talk. Guests can then enjoy the exhibition and view a wide array of artefacts and contemporary material from the 1924 expedition. This event is made possible by the generous support of our Corporate Member, Riverstone.

At the Society. Free.

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

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

What has been happening in Iceland?

Professor Hazel Rymner

Iceland has been in the news over the past few months because of another 'Icelandic eruption'. The one in 2010 caused travel chaos. What can we expect in the future?

At the Society and online. Free.

B M+G Monday 13 May 8.00pm - 10.00pm

Social event (London)

Monday night lecture supper

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

At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 9 May and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 14 May 6.00pm - 10.30pm

Social event (Exeter)

South West's annual forum, lecture and dinner

Join the South West committee for their annual lecture and dinner. The lecture will discuss four shipwrecks from the Erme Estuary. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. £35, please send a cheque payable to 'RGS South West Region' to Derry Corey 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth PL6 7LN by 21 March.

Wednesday 15 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Online)

Beavers in Dorset: Dorset Wildlife Trust's Beaver Project

Stephen Oliver

Stephen will tell the fascinating story of how the beavers have settled into their Dorset home and explain how these unique mammals can play a vital role in river ecology and nature-based solutions to flooding, pollution and species loss. Organised by the South regional committee. *Free.*

B Thursday 16 May 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Geopolitics, conflict and the United Nations

Sir John Sawers

Sir John will discuss the topical conflicts of the day, their impact on geopolitics and what all this means for the UN and the Security Council in particular. Organised by the East regional committee.

Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.

Thursday 16 May 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

The resilience of Canada's First Nation communities to climate change

Annette Salles

Annette explores how in Canada Indigenous knowledge and Western research combine to inform and support culturally appropriate adaptations to future climate change. 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 Friday 17 – Sunday 19 May

Conference and gala dinner (London)

The Shackleton 150 convention

The biennial conference of the Sir Ernest H Shackleton Appreciation Society will be held at the Society this May marking 150 years since Shackleton's birth. The conference will include a full slate of leading polar experts speaking on Shackleton's polar legacy and the Antarctic. A gala dinner will be held in the Society's Main Hall on Saturday evening (numbers strictly limited).

At the Society. £250 (whole weekend), £125 (individual day tickets), gala dinner £130.

B Monday 20 May 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be Inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

Precision in place

Beth Williamson

This lecture explores ongoing research into the Society's approach to resolving the problem of how to spell place names. The history of orthography at the Society is a story that has never previously been told, and in sharing insights from her research, Beth's lecture will address some fundamental questions. What factors led the Society to appoint the Orthography Committee? How did the Committee function during its years of operation (1878-1919)? What does orthography suggest about the role of the Society as an arbiter of geographical truth?

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

B M Monday 20 May 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social (London)

New members' welcome tour

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

At the Society. Free.



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

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Everest24 anniversary lecture

Join us for an evening exploring the 1924 attempted ascent of Everest and the transformations in climbing today. The lecture will be accompanied by an exhibition in the Society's Pavilion, a special Collections display and the release of the Society's book *Everest24: New Views on the Mount Everest Expedition*.

At the Society and online. Free.

B Tuesday 21 May 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (Online)

Professional insights: mentoring

Mentors are invaluable sources of advice, guidance and support and are often suggested to support career development at all stages of professional development. Free.

B Thursday 23 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Southampton)

Can geographers save the world?

Ian Coady

How can geospatial data be used to put the world's most vulnerable populations and habitats on the map so that we can save them? Organised by the South regional committee.

Lecture Theatre A, Shackleton Building, Department of Geography, University of Southampton, SO17 1BJ. Free.



B Wednesday 29 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Workshop (Online)

Postgraduate insights: how to manage your relationship with your PhD supervisor?

Your relationship with your PhD supervisor is one of the most important aspects of doing a geography PhD. How do you make sure it is a positive and productive one? This session will bring together geography supervisors and PhD students to answer your questions on how to maintain a positive relationship with your PhD supervisor. Free.

**B Thursday 30 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Workshop (Online)

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. [Free.](#)

B M Monday 3 June 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Meeting (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, members only.](#)

B M+G Monday 3 June 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Awards ceremony (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. Join us as we celebrate the 2024 award recipients.

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

B M+G Monday 3 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Social event (London)

Annual reception

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

[At the Society.](#) RGS-IBG. [£25, includes drinks and canapes \(max. two tickets per member\).](#)

**B Tuesday 4 June 10.00am - 10.30am**

Networking (Online)

Chartered Geographer virtual networking

All Chartered Geographers are invited to join our coffee morning, a virtual networking event held on Teams.

[Free.](#)

**B Thursday 6 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 (6 to 27 June) accelerator to focus your efforts in preparing your application portfolio. [Free.](#)

B Thursday 13 June 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Online)

Perceiving climate change: heat

Dr Luke Bennett

How do scientists, artists and the wider public notice climate change by witnessing changes in their perception of temperature and its effects in the world around us? Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Free.](#)

B Friday 14 June 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Guided walk (Dartmoor)

Field visit: Reverend Bray's Bardic rock inscriptions

Simon Dell

This half day field visit will inspect the Reverend Bray's Bardic Rock inscriptions with reference to Simon's online talk in January. Organised by the South West regional committee.

[Two Bridges Hotel, PL20 6SW.](#) [Free.](#)

**B Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June
12.00pm - 6.00pm**

Festival (London)

The Great Exhibition Road Festival

Join our neighbours across Albertopolis, including some of the world's most iconic museums and institutions, to create a unique festival fusing art, science, technology and curiosity.

Exhibition Road, South Kensington. Free.

B Monday 17 June 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Awards ceremony (London and online)

Earth Photo 2024

Celebrate the pinnacle of visual storytelling at this year's awards ceremony as we unveil the winners of our prestigious photography competition.

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



B Tuesday 18 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 Tuesday 18 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Meeting (York and online)

**Yorkshire and North East
regional annual open meeting**

Timed to follow the Society's AGM in early June, our regional open meeting will allow members in Yorkshire and the North East to meet, discuss and plan our activities for 2024-25. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

Check website for booking details. Free.

**E Tuesday 18 June - Wednesday 21 August
10.00am - 5.00pm Monday - Saturday**

Exhibition (London)

Earth Photo 2024

Visit the Society this summer to see a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world, its inhabitants and our treatment of both. From categories including people, place, nature, changing forests and a climate of change. Developed jointly by Forestry England and the Society.

At the Society. Free.



B Wednesday 19 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. The course is accredited by the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) and training will make use of current government literature relating to school visits.

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

B Thursday 20 June 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Guided walk (Beaulieu)

Beaulieu Estate

Rachel Pearson

A field visit to Beaulieu Estate led by Rachel, Resident Agent for the Estate. Organised by the South regional committee.

Beaulieu, New Forest. Free.

B Thursday 20 June 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Lecture with display (London)

The search for the source of the White Nile

Eugene Rae

Join the Society's Principal Librarian for a glass of wine, talk and display of original artefacts, mapping, and archival documents related to the European search for the source of the White Nile. Items on display will include those linked to David Livingstone, Henry Stanely, Richard Burton, John Hanning Speke, James Chuma and Abdullah Susi. Guests will be able to take in items on display in the Society's main building plus rarely seen materials from the Society's Collections. This event is made possible by the generous support of our Corporate Member, Riverstone.

At the Society. Free.

Thursday 20 June 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Wounded Tigris: a river journey through the cradle of civilization

Leon McCarron

Writer, broadcaster and explorer Leon shares stories from his incredible, beautiful and occasionally dangerous journey by boat along the full length of the river, recounted in his book *Wounded Tigris: A River Journey*. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

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

E Monday 24 June - Saturday 22 July

Exhibition (Attingham Park)

Earth Photo: Attingham Park

See a stunning selection of some of the most powerful contemporary environmental photography from this year's Earth Photo competition in the stunning grounds of National Trust Attingham. National Trust Attingham Park. See National Trust website for booking details.

E Monday 24 June - Monday 9 September

Exhibition (Stourhead)

Earth Photo: National Trust Stourhead

See a stunning selection of some of the most powerful contemporary environmental photography from this year's Earth Photo competition in the stunning grounds of National Trust Stourhead. National Trust Stourhead. See National Trust website for booking details.

B Monday 24 June 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Panel discussion (London and online)

Voices from the Global South

Explore diverse perspectives on the climate crisis, emphasising the significance of incorporating insights from academic, policy, and Indigenous advocacy groups. Engage with this international virtual fieldtrip, fostering critical reflection on geography's role in addressing urgent challenges.

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



B Thursday 27 June 9.00am - 10.00am

Workshop (Online)

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. *Free.*

B Saturday 6 July 11.00am - 4.00pm

Guided walk and lecture (Hexham)

A gap in the landscape

Jean Davidson

Reflecting on the loss in 2023 of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree, we explore the role of focal points in making landscape and the implications for conservation and management. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre,
Bardon Mill, Northumberland, NE47 7AN.

£15, RGS-IBG members £5.

B Saturday 13 July 10.30am - 4.30pm

Field visit (Bideford)

SS Freshsprings ship

Visit to the the historic *SS Freshspring* berthed in Bideford Harbour followed by the way of the wharves walk plus a chance to hear more about the award of Heritage Harbour Status.

The Royal Hotel, EX39 4AE. £10.



B Thursday 18 July 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Workshop (Online)

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. *Free.*

B Saturday 20 July 10.30am - 3.30pm

Guided walk (Keswick)

Natural history and Wainwright in the Northern Fells

Tim Foster and Phil Houghton

A joint walk with the Wainwright Society in the Northern Fells to explore the natural history and landscape. Organised by the North West regional committee.

Keswick. £5, RGS-IBG and Wainwright Society members free.



B Thursday 15 August 9.00am - 10.00am

Workshop (Online)

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. **Free.**



B Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 August

Conference (London and online)

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference

Chaired by Professor Stephen Legg

The Chair's theme for the 2024 Annual International Conference is mapping. It will explore mapping in all its forms, in a world that is saturated with maps, from historical cartography to the newest technologies and practices of map-making.

At the Society. See website for delegate rates.

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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.

Friday 5 April - Monday 15 April

10.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Exhibition

SPITI: Tibetan culture in the modern world

Joan Pollock

Capturing a valley's evolution from medieval to modern life over 30 years, featuring a community center built with ancient methods supported by the Auroville Earth Institute, recognised with a UN Climate Change Low Carbon Award. **Free.**

E joanpollock99@gmail.com **W** www.spiti.org

Friday 5 April 6.30pm - 10.00pm

and Saturday 6 April 9.00am - 4.30pm

Conference

Student global leadership conference

Dr Lynda Folan and Alan Lucas

A student conference designed to inspire the next generation of leaders. **£110.**

T 020 7591 7750 **E** conference@fie.org.uk

W www.fie.org.uk/sglconference

Saturday 27 April 10.00am - 7.15pm

Conference

SGD conference: between a rock and a soft place

Pushing hard for a lighter impact – Between a Rock and a Soft Place aims to inspire new ways to design, cost and realise gardens and landscape by using a range of scales, skills and budgets.

£167, with discounts for SGD members.

T 01989 551083 **E** events@sgd.org.uk

W www.sgd.org.uk/events

Saturday 8 June 3.00pm - 6.30pm

Lecture

Mallory and Irvine mystery 100 years on

Wade Davis, Julie Summers, Graham Hoyland and others

Join experts and expedition relatives to address the enduring mystery, did Mallory and Irvine summit Everest on 8 June 1924? £25.

T 07770 733556 **E** enquiries@himalayantrust.co.uk

W www.himalayantrust.co.uk

Tuesday 11 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

Everest and The Dancing Lamas of Tibet

Sir Michael Palin, Mick Conefrey, Professor Julie Brown, Evan Davis

Sir Michael Palin and author Mick Conefrey join Evan Davis in conversation about Everest 1924, Captain John Noel and Tibetan monks.

£17, £13 students.

T 01722 782265 **E** info@tashi-lhunpo.org.uk

W www.bit.ly/48Fky7F

Wednesday 24 July - Tuesday 6 August

Conference

65th London international youth science forum

Sir Gregor Winter, Nobel Prize winner, Keynote Speaker, Professor Kelly Chibale, Dr Jason Nurse

LIYSF is an intensive STEM summer camp, which welcomes 500 of the best young science students aged 16-21 from over 80 countries. LIYSF is an impartial, accredited not-for-profit social enterprise established in 1959. £3,095.

T 020 8295 8395 **E** info@liysf.org.uk

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

Regional committees

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

Vice President, Membership

Matt Pycroft

E regionschair@rgs.org

East of England

James Firebrace

E ea@rgs.org

London

Annabel Illingworth

E london@rgs.org

Midlands

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Tina Lees-Jones

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North West

Jonathan Stevens

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South

Henry Hogger and Clare Hadley

E south@rgs.org

West of England

Sam Scott

E wesw@rgs.org

South West

Alan Smith

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North Devon

Martin Kemp

E northdevon@rgs.org

South Wales

Sam Scott

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Tina Lees-Jones

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Jon Bridge

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Singapore

Oliver Worsley

E singapore@rgs.org

Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

E admin@rgshk.org.hk

W www.rgshk.org.hk

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

How to read a tree

Tristan Gooley

© Jim Holden



The Society's Regional Theatres Programme has been running since 2002 and aims to inform and inspire the general public about the diverse world of geography.

Later this year, Tristan Gooley will bring his unique knowledge to public audiences across England as he discusses the clues and signs in his latest book, *How to Read a Tree*. We spoke with him to find out what is in store for his audiences and what simple

principles explain the shapes and patterns you can see in trees.

Tell us a bit about your background

I'm self-taught in a lot of areas, but it all started with a restlessness. At a very young age, 10 years old, I got asked the question where would you like to go today? That was the beginning of understanding that navigation, even though the word didn't mean anything to me at that point, was the art that would allow me to shape my own journeys rather than going where I was told to go, which is not something many 10-year-olds, including me, find that exciting. So, navigation was the key to choosing my own destinations, and that was a lot more fun. It was a stepping stone approach – small journeys became big ones, hills became mountains, ponds became lakes and then oceans. And through that I learned the wonderful art of navigation.



What inspired you to find out more about natural navigation and explore the art of reading trees?

I realised that navigation was becoming technical, no less interesting, but a lot less satisfying in terms of the journey. In my 20s I started turning things on their head. I was still doing long expeditions using conventional navigation. But I started doing very short journeys just using natural navigation and it was in many ways more challenging and exciting than the longer journeys.

There are different parts of natural navigation, but we can use the Sun, the Moon and the stars, and planets to a lesser degree. As soon as we start looking at the ground, we're looking at how things like the footprints of Sun, wind, water and trees are reflected in different ways. So, they are fantastic for natural navigation.



South side of London plane tree © Nathan Goodley



There are over two dozen techniques I now use with trees to find my way. And wherever there are trees, there are clues that can help us understand the landscape, which is map making and a natural navigation sense to find our way.

What can audiences expect from your talk?

Well, my talks are quite different in the sense that I'm not just talking about my experiences, I'm trying to give audiences these skills. There's a limit to what can be achieved in an hour and a half, but that's what I want people to do. I want them to have had a fantastic time, hopefully. I'd rather they come away with the ability to read things for themselves than have listened to me tell a fun story. It's possible to be both sometimes, but I want people to learn new skills during the talk and be inspired to learn more.



What would you like audiences to come away with?

A lot of people talk about connecting with nature and there's this feeling we should be doing certain things or we ought to be doing certain things.

The takeaway for me is that this is not about ought or should, this is about fun. Our brain wants to do this. It loves doing it. It's what it evolved to do. It is a key human skill. It's what makes us human. It's the thing we do better than animals.

So, the take home is – have a go because it's enjoyable and that will open up an exciting new world, I hope.

Keep an eye out in your next Bulletin for booking information about Tristan's upcoming talks, or visit Talks on demand to re-watch his 2023 Monday night lecture if you won't be able to attend in person.

W www.rgs.org/talksondemand



Tree with asymmetric growth facing south © Tristan Gooley



Visualising data AI mapping

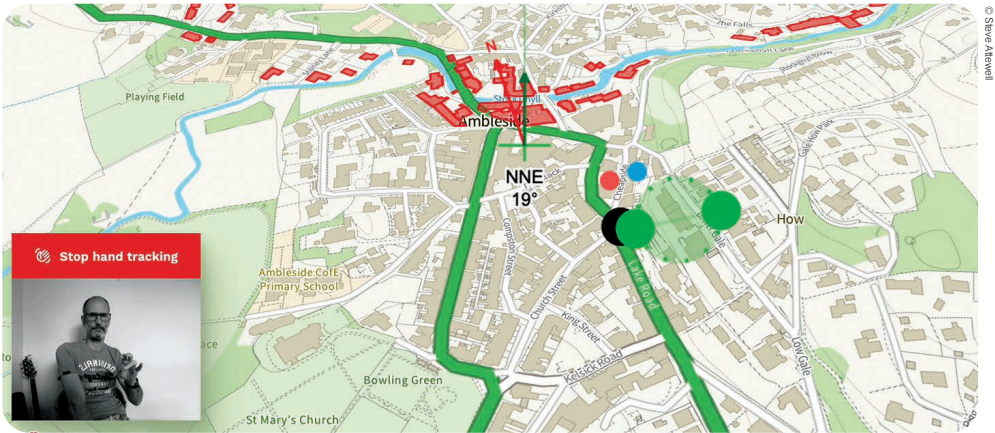
As part of our work highlighting how essential geography is to our lives and the important work of geographers, the Society showcases the varied skills and insights geographers offer by telling stories of their work using spatial data in our Geovisualisation series.

In this series we look at the power of maps and geographical data visualisations for telling stories about our world, focusing on how geographers bring a critical perspective to interpreting data and finding innovative ways to present it.

Each example offers an accessible demonstration of how complex spatial information, when integrated with visual elements, can underpin effective decision-making. Alongside policy influence these projects can also improve understanding of complex issues more generally, covering themes such as cities, people,

infrastructure, health, and the natural environment.

The latest work profiled in the series looks at an experimental map control system that uses hand gestures, voice recognition and artificial intelligence. We spoke to Steve Attewell, User Experience Practice Lead at Ordnance Survey, who is working through the challenge of getting complex data onto a map through speech and gestures. Steve has been exploring how the advent of new large language artificial intelligence models, like ChatGPT, have potential to assist in using normal human language to retrieve data out of a database and then process it in a way that can be visualised. Steve has also been working on the user experience design. A demonstration video featured on our website reveals how Steve uses various hand gestures to navigate a map and generate specific results,



© Steve Atwell

including using a hand gesture imitating a phone to ask for “buildings within 20 meters of a river”. The large language AI model processes the data and visualises it on the map.

Steve’s experimental work offers a tangible example and early prototype of the possibilities of using large language

models within a geospatial context, sparking conversation on the future of geospatial AI and the potential problems that it may be able to solve.

If you have work you would like to contribute to the Geovisualisation series please contact **E** professional@rgs.org.

W www.rgs.org/geovisualisation

Secure, supportive and sustainable Cohousing communities

Each year the Geographical Club Award offers two grants of £1,000 to support PhD students undertaking geographical fieldwork or other forms of data collection in the UK or overseas.

Recipient of one of the 2023 awards Bruno Friedel, PhD candidate at Oxford University, tells us what his research aims to achieve.

“The housing crisis in the UK, my home country Australia and globally, is now a major debate. Among numerous talking points and proposed solutions, grassroots initiatives demonstrate how communities are providing housing that suits their needs, often without a conventional developer. Cohousing is one community-led housing model which is now growing in momentum. It may answer the need for vibrant, dense cities while addressing critical environmental and social challenges.

© Bruno Friedel

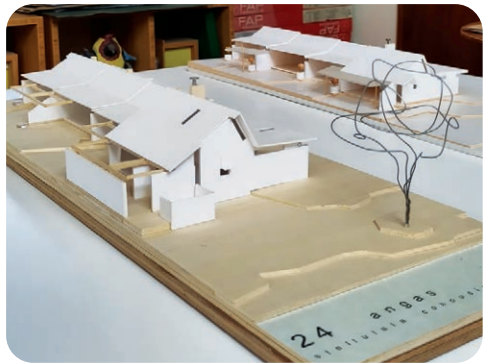




© Bruno Friedel


“My research looks at cohousing projects in the UK and Australia in various stages of development. Cohousing can be loosely defined as the organisation of private homes alongside shared communal spaces and facilities including laundries, entertainment rooms, workspaces, kitchen and dining areas, and gardens. Premised on resident participation in the design and implementation, and ongoing collaboration thereafter in an intentional ‘community’, it is an intriguing model. Groups create opportunities to share and connect for more secure, supportive and sustainable housing. However, the obstacles to delivering cohousing are many, not least in negotiating the land market. I’m learning how to encourage innovative housing models, and what these projects mean for future housing supply and land use in Australian and British cities.

© Bruno Freidell



© Bruno Freidell





“I recently visited cohousing developments in Hobart, Canberra and Melbourne. With an affordable housing shortage in all three cities there was much debate over increasing housing density and the risks and opportunities of urban infill. In Hobart, known by Indigenous people as nipaluna, I first visited two established cohousing communities: Cohousing Cooperative, and Cascade Cohousing. Both had internally facing rows of one to two storey homes with car parking excluded to the perimeter, allowing a safe ‘street’ for play and neighbourly interaction. The latter’s architect, James Morrison, observed how the community themselves had refined the original spaces and facilities over time.

“In Canberra, Ngunnawal country, cohousing was more in its infancy. A cohousing development called Stellulata is replacing one house on a large block with three homes with shared facilities.

“Future residents, architects and government officials alike were enthusiastic about what it could signal for the city.

“The Australian stories I collected complement what I’ve learnt in the UK. Chapeltown Cohousing in Leeds provides affordable, environmentally sustainable housing rooted in its locality and delivered through a partnership between a community group, Leeds City Council and housing association Unity. My research points to opportunities for governments to support groups, not only through planning changes but also strategic use of land. Communities are unearthing compelling alternatives to how housing is conventionally developed and that inspire new ways of living and sharing together.

W www.rgs.org/grants



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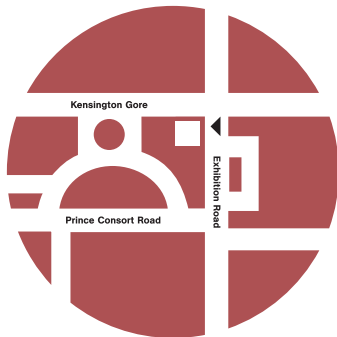
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W www.rgs.org/gift

How to find us



Entrance is on Exhibition Road
Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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W www.rgs.org

Cover image © Bruno Friedel



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