Bulletin Spring 2024

Royal Geographical Society

withIBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

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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.

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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 President

Slightly to my astonishment I find myself writing my final note to you as President – a natural point to reflect on the progress we've made, the challenges still before us, and, perhaps most importantly, your Council's plans to meet those challenges.

Significantly, it is very pleasing that our Society now has a Council and Bye Laws that reflect good charity practice. Council membership is now more representative of our community, and Council members will be in post for a little longer, so that they can truly bring their expertise to bear. This, and investment in infrastructure – broadcasting, the building and in membership and web technology – will serve us well.

Like most charities, we face economic challenges but we are also fortunate to have many opportunities. I am happy to report that the Council has worked hard with Joe and team to face into

our challenges and to seize the many opportunities we have. As a result, we have a set of bold plans to make significant differences to our finances, building, profile and reinforce our position as a central advocate for geography – at a time when the geographical mindset is needed more than ever.

These plans will be handed to your new President to continue progress. I will also offer them my very best wishes for their time in this wonderful role.

Finally, I thank you all for the many kindnesses and support you have given me as President. It has been my honour to serve you and the Society.

Nigel Clifford

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Society News

Council elections

We are inviting nominations for a number of Council positions to be elected in June 2024. The following positions are open for nominations: President (nominations from Fellows and Members), Vice President Education, Councillor Professional, Councillor Membership (nominations from Fellows only).

Read the full criteria online and submit your nominations by 5.00pm on Monday 15 January.

W www.rgs.org/Elections2024

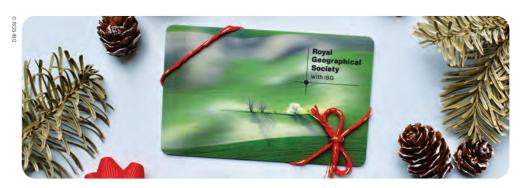
Royal Commission grant

The Society has received a Special Award from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to significantly enhance our visitor experience both digitally and in person. Many members have already benefitted from both the enhanced broadcasting capabilities in our meeting

rooms as we live stream events, and the improved exhibition display system in our Pavilion. We have also recently received conservation-grade display cases which will allow us to showcase a programme of globally unique historical and contemporary geographical exhibition content across the building.

Fundraising Regulator approval

As a registered charity in the UK, we have recently registered with the Fundraising Regulator. This demonstrates our longstanding commitment to ethical fundraising and ensures that, in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice, we are legal, open, honest and respectful in all our fundraising activities, including membership subscriptions, gifts in wills, applications to trusts and foundations, and donations from individual and corporate supporters.



Gift Membership for Christmas

Give the people you care about a gift that will offer them inspiration, new discoveries and access to expertise all year. Gift a membership and open the door for your friends or family to join you in this special community of passionate individuals.

Whether giving Membership or Student Membership, the Society will nurture their enthusiasm for our world, and their understanding of geographical perspectives through events, exhibitions, lectures and resources.

Gift memberships purchased by 11 December will be guaranteed to arrive in time for Christmas. For more information on which gift membership is right for your loved one visit our website.

W www.rgs.org/joinus

Education News

National Education Nature Park

The National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards, of which the Society is a partner, was officially launched in October. The new scheme aims to empower children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future.

Nurseries, schools and colleges taking part in the programme will become a network of spaces across England that together form the National Education Nature Park. This pioneering initiative gives children and young people the opportunity to lead the way in mapping, monitoring and enhancing their learning sites for nature.

The programme benefits include meeting curriculum goals, contributing to nature recovery and scientific research, improving wellbeing and upskilling educators.



The Climate Action Awards will recognise schools and colleges that have brought about change at an institutional level, supporting their students in developing green skills, championing nature and working towards a sustainable future.

W www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

Young Geographer of the Year

The winners of this year's Young Geographer of the Year competition are being announced at a ceremony at the Society on Friday 8 December. Find out who the winners are and see all the winning and highly commended responses to the theme, *A Blueprint for the Future*, on our website after the ceremony.

W www.rgs.org/YGOTY

Ofsted geography subject report

Ofsted's recently published geography subject report *Getting our Bearings* is based on 50 research visits that took place last year to a representative sample of schools across the country. The findings are very welcome and reveal a decade of improvement, which is also shown in this year's record 279,082 GCSE and 34,700 A Level entries.

One of the most noticeable findings in the report is an improvement in curriculum planning, with many schools demonstrating a well sequenced curriculum from Key Stage 1 to 3, with particular strengths in Key Stage 3 where leaders are ensuring the curriculum builds not only over a topic but over a series of topics. The report shows that teachers across primary and secondary schools have clearly enacted many positive changes since the last report in 2011.

However, the report also highlights where further attention is needed. In particular, more school leaders should consider how to create a curriculum from the exam specifications, rather than working through the content in the specifications point by point. The need for greater consideration of a curriculum for fieldwork was also highlighted.

W www.rgs.org/ofsted-blog

From the field News

Apply now for our upcoming grants

Deadlines are approaching for a variety of funding opportunities to help support students, researchers and schools undertake fieldwork in 2024. Upcoming grants include the Frederick Soddy Schools Award, to support primary and secondary school fieldwork. The Geographical Fieldwork Grant scheme enables teams of undergraduate and masters students to get into the field. The Fieldwork Apprenticeships give first year undergraduate students the opportunity to join a summer field research project, who would otherwise not have the chance to do so. Students in 2023. joined teams researching food production in the Peruvian Andes and atmosphere dvnamics in Zambia.

W www.rgs.org/grants

Expedition planning podcasts

We have commissioned a podcast series featuring some of the leading thinkers and doers in the expedition world, discussing how to plan and fundraise for ethical field research, how best to communicate findings and much more. The series forms part of The Adventure Podcast and is hosted by its founder, and Society Vice President (Membership), Matt Pycroft, who has spent 15 years undertaking documentary film and photo projects.

Oxford Handbook of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine

Fully revised for its third edition, the Oxford Handbook of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine is a vital resource for expedition medics and well-informed travellers. It incorporates the knowledge of experienced clinicians and expeditioners, including the Society's medical advisors. Available in print and on Kindle.

Research and higher education News



Geo: Geography and Environment relaunch

The Society's open access journal Geo: Geography and Environment has recently been relaunched, setting out a renewed and refined scope for the journal which aligns it more closely with issues of climate, environment and sustainability. The relaunch has been driven by Geo's new editorial team, and includes the establishment of 'Geo themes' – groupings of papers in specific topic areas led by leading scholars.

W www.rgs.org/journals

Annual Conference 2024

Next year's conference, will be held in London and online from Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 August, and will be chaired by Stephen Legg, University of Nottingham.

The chair's theme 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.

Maps trace invasions, financial crises, pandemics and environmental disasters, and our responses to them. They map territory and sovereignty, but also evidence indigenous land claims and historical landscapes of meaning.

Submissions for the conference will open in November 2023.

W www.rgs.org/ac2024



Research Group professional development and mentoring series

Several of the Society's Research Groups have been collaborating on an online event series focusing on professional development and mentoring. Each session is led by a different Research Group and focuses on a specific topic. Sessions to date include the Political Geography Research Group on what mentoring

is, the Energy Geography Research Group on navigating interdisciplinarity in job applications, and the Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group on challenging the scripts of 'failure' in academia.

Notes from the series are collated and shared online with more events planned for the coming academic year.

W www.rgs.org/HEresources

Professional News

Chartered Geographer postnominal

Council recently approved a new postnominal for geographers who specialise in Earth observation and remote sensing, CGeog (EO). Earth observation (EO) has the potential to generate significant economic, social and environmental value globally through widespread adoption. EO revenues for data and services are forecast to double from roughly €2.8 billion to over €5.5 billion over the next decade.

CGeog accreditation recognises your competence, experience and professionalism in the use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills in the workplace. It shows employers, clients and the public your competence, experience and professionalism. Reflecting the wide range of sub-disciplines that geographers work across, Chartered Geographer applicants may choose to apply to one of the six approved post-nominals

to demonstrate a depth of expertise, experience, and professional engagement in their chosen field.

W www.rgs.org/cgeog

Partnership with AGI renewed

The Society is pleased to have signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Association for Geographic Information (AGI), the UK membership organisation for companies and individuals working in the geospatial sector, to further collaboration between our organisations.

This strategic alliance, in alignment with the Society's and the AGI's objectives and strategies, will strengthen communications to maximise the impact of messaging in the geographic sector and beyond, and deliver activities to support three priority areas: leadership, developing people, and knowledge sharing.

Events Highlights



Join thought-provoking conversations and immerse yourself in the most spectacular chronicles of purposeful travel and examinations of the latest research from around the globe in our autumn programme. The Society's events bring you a spectrum of talks, lectures, workshops and exhibitions for the curious.

Engage with leading experts from across the discipline, participate in groundbreaking

discussions on conservation and the environment, or let our speakers take you with them on global travels in a fascinating line up of Monday night lectures. We encourage our members to take advantage of their exclusive access to the lecture series and many other free or reduced rate tickets.

Our regional theatre tour will also reveal the stories behind garden flowers at venues across the UK. Dive into our full programme of regional events which unravel the mysteries of our planet, from its physical landscapes to the intricacies of human interaction.

Society members are united by a thirst for knowledge, and there's something for everyone to discover online and around the UK this season. Don't miss out on these enlightening experiences. Book early to secure your spot and continue your journey of intellectual exploration.

Spring 2024 events

Monday night lectures at a glance

6.30pm-7.45pm

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

For	Date	Title	Speaker
M+G	8 Jan	On a precipice: saving wildlife in India	Prerna Singh Bindra
M+G	15 Jan	The environmental future of Iran: the urgent need for democracy	Shooka Bidarian
M+G	22 Jan	The future of immersive storytelling	Anthony Geffen
M+G	29 Jan	Wisdom sits in places	Madeleine Bunting
M+G	5 Feb	Full circle? From extraction to geology as an environmental solution	Michelle Bentham
M+G	12 Feb	Breaking boundaries	Preet Chandi
M+G	19 Feb	Jihadi exploitation of the Arabic poetic tradition	Dr Elisabeth Kendall
M+G	26 Feb	Might Al unleash Earth's secrets?	Dr Matt Blackett
M+G	4 Mar	The future of UK oil	Professor Gavin Bridge
M+G	11 Mar	Nine Quarters of Jerusalem	Matthew Teller
M+G	18 Mar	Adventure in the Andes: The Life Cycle biodiversity bike ride	Dr Kate Rawles
M	25 Mar	Tales from my latest travels	Sir Michael Palin

Events

Kev to events

Book tickets in advance В

M Members only

M+G Members plus one guest

Supper to follow lecture S

(advance booking required)

Е 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 22 January, 12 February and 25 March and meet other members and their guests. Supper is served at 8.00pm, finishes by 10.00pm and is £42 per person (two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee).

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

Accessibility 🚯 🚳



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

Events listings

In chronological order

E Until Sunday 14 January

Exhibition (Exeter)

Earth Photo: Haldon Forest Park

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images from this year's Earth Photo competition.

Haldon Forest Park, Bullers Hill, Kennford, EX6 7XR.

Free.

E Until Sunday 28 January

Exhibition (Ringwood)

Earth Photo: Moors Valley Country Park

and Forest

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images from this year's Earth Photo competition.

Moors Valley Country Park and Forest, Horton Road, Ashley Heath, BH24 2ET. Free.

BM+G Monday 8 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

On a precipice: saving wildlife in India

Prerna Singh Bindra

This talk explores the challenges and complexity of conserving endangered wildlife in a densely populated, land scarce, fast growing economy. At the Society and online. Free.



B Thursday 11 January 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Lecture (online)

Maths for teachers of A Level geography: using technology

Join us for a series of online sessions for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography.

Online. Free to teachers working in state-funded schools and colleges in England, for others £195.

B Thursday 11 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Rivers over rock: potholes and their significance

Professor Stephen Tooth and Dr Hywell Griffiths Drawing on examples of river potholes, the talk combines science, art and culture with landscape and underwater photography. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Online. Free.

B Thursday 11 January 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Mount Everest: a hundred year fascination

Rebecca Stephens

When Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Everest in 1953, he said that never again would anybody be interested in the mountain. Today, climbers queue to stand on the summit; some die in the attempt. Rebecca throws light on 100 years of fascination with Everest from 1921 to the current commercial era – not missing out her own ascent as first British woman in 1993. Organised by the East of England regional commmittee.

Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close.

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

B M Monday 15 January 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social event (London)

New members' welcome tour

Recent joiners are warmly invited to join us in London to discover more about the history of the Society, who we are today and how to make the most of their membership. You will enjoy a tour and drinks reception ahead of our Monday night lecture, giving you the chance to meet fellow members. At the Society. Free.

BM+G Monday 15 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The environmental future of Iran: the urgent need for democracy

Shooka Bidarian

Forty years of poor governance by the Iranian regime has caused extensive environmental damage and driven many distinct species to extinction.

A democratic Iran is the only way to save its unique environment and people.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Tuesday 16 January 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (online)

Professional insights: CPD

Planning is an important part of continuous professional development (CPD). In this webinar hear from experienced professionals about approaches to planning and reviewing your development.
Online. Free.



B Tuesday 16 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Rewilding revisited

Andy Lester

Andy will be taking us on a journey around the UK to look in detail at the progress of rewilding and other landscape projects. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

B Wednesday 17 January 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Workshop (online)

Postgraduate insights: taking part in the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference

This session, featuring organisers of the conference as well as those with experience of presenting there, will offer insights on how you can take part in the conference and how to make the most of the process. Online, Free.

B Thursday 18 January 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

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

Christy 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.

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



B Thursday 18 January 7.15pm - 8.30pm | ecture (York)

Antarctic climate change and variability

Dr Julie Jones

Julie is a climate scientist who works on Antarctic and Southern Hemisphere climate change, and also on reconstructing past climate from historical data. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with York and District Geographical Association.

Bootham School, Portland Street, YO30 7BU. Free.

B Monday 22 January 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

A magic lantern mystery tour

Nick Fielding

This is the story of Willie Read and his 1912 unknown expedition from Srinagar, over the Pamirs and across Central Asia to Siberia. Hear Nick's tale from when he bought a set of 87 magic lantern slides with little idea of who was in them and where they were taken. At the Society and online. £5, RGS-IBG members free.

SM+G Monday 22 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The future of immersive storytelling

Anthony Geffen

From Attenborough to Stephen Hawking to the *Titanic* documentary, multi-BAFTA and Emmy award-winning filmmaker Anthony Geffen is a pioneer in immersive storytelling. Join him on a journey into this new world.

At the Society and online. Free.

BM+G Monday 22 January 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 18 January and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



B Tuesday 23 January 5.00pm - 6.30pmWorkshop (online)

Subject knowledge update: globalisation

This session will provide experienced and newer geography teachers with an opportunity to update their globalisation and global systems knowledge. Specific themes covered include (but are not limited to) trade and TNCs, economic migration, refugee flows, shrinking world technologies (including Al), global culture and land grabs.

Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.



B Wednesday 24 January 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (online)

Use geography: careers in international development

In this careers webinar, learn from geography professionals working in international development as they share their insights and advice, and explore opportunities for starting your career in the sector and how you can use geography to develop professionally. Online. Free.



B Thursday 25 January 4.00pm - 6.00pm | ecture (online)

Maths for teachers of A Level geography: Spearman's rank and correlation

Join us for our online sessions for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography.

Online. Free to teachers working in state-funded schools and colleges in England, for others £195.

B Thursday 25 January 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

Reverend Bray's bardic boulders: sermons in stone

Simon Dell

Within the private land of Beardown Farm on Dartmoor are boulders of granite inscribed with sermons at the behest of the Reverend Bray which are the subject of this talk. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Online. Free.

B Saturday 27 January 1.00pm - 3.30pm

Guided walk (Ringwood)

Earth Photo: Moors Valley Country Park and Forest guided walk

Join us for a lunchtime visit and guided walk to enjoy the Earth Photo 2023 exhibition followed by refreshments, outdoors in the iconic Moors Valley Country Park in Dorset. Organised by the South regional committee.

Moors Valley Country Park and Forest, Horton Road, Ashley Heath, BH24 2ET. Free.



B Monday 29 January 11.15am - 3.15pm

Guided walk (Leeds)

Retail change in central Leeds: is it bucking national trends?

During the walk we will discuss the apparent success of Leeds as a shopping destination in comparison with neighbouring and national towns and cities. Joint event with PLACE. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Leeds Railway Station. Bookings should be made by E place@yorksj.ac.uk £5.

BM+G Monday 29 January 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Wisdom sits in places

Madeleine Bunting

Three books and two decades of writing and thinking about the power of place in Britain to inspire identity, belonging and attachment.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Tuesday 30 January 6.00pm - 8.00pm Lecture (Oxford)

Predicting our climate future: what we know, don't know and can't know

David Stainforth

How does climate science work? How do we know what to trust and what to disregard? David goes to the heart of the climate change problem to answer these questions. Organised by the Midlands regional committee.

University of Oxford, School of Geography and the Environment, Hinshelwood Road, OX1 3QY. £5, RGS-IBG members and students free.



B Wednesday 31 January 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Teach with GIS: getting started with ArcGIS online

This session is for teachers with little or no previous GIS experience and includes an overview of GIS pedagogy, using ArcGIS as a geography visualiser, adding data and making your own maps in 2D and 3D. At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.



B Wednesday 31 January 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Workshop (online)

The KS3 curriculum: planning to make the magic happen

A workshop looking at how we can structure our KS3 curriculum to be more cohesive to build on student knowledge and understanding as well promoting geographical curiosity.

Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.

Thursday 1 - Thursday 29 February

Exhibition (Saint Austell)

Earth Photo: The Lost Gardens of Heligan

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images from the 2023 Earth Photo competition.
Pentewan, PL26 6EN. £18.50, £11 students and £8.50 for children



B Thursday 1 February 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

Going further with GIS

Dr Ailsa Naismith

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



B Thursday 1 February 7.15pm - 8.30pm Lecture (Bootham)

Science and risk communication at active volcanoes in Guatemala: living with the beast Dr Ailsa Naismith

In this talk, Ailsa will share her experiences of working with people living around active volcanoes, her involvement in volcano science and volcanic risk communication with people in these communities. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with York and District Geographical Association.

Bootham School, YO30 7BU, Free.



B M+G Monday 5 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Full circle? From extraction to geology as an environmental solution

Michelle Bentham

Mineral extraction powered the industrial revolution, which in turn powered anthropogenic climate change. Have things come full circle where geology is now part of the solution to reach net zero?

At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 7 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (online)

The continental shelf seas: heatwaves, blue carbon and renewable energy

Professor Thomas Rippeth

In this presentation we will explore the seas around the UK, including the reasons for the June 2023 marine heat wave and how their development could be key to achieving net zero. Organised by the South regional committee



B Thursday 8 February 4.00pm - 6.00pm Lecture (online)

Maths for teachers of A Level geography: exploring large data sets

Join us for our online sessions for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography.

Online. Free to teachers working in state-funded

schools and colleges in England, for others £195.

B Thursday 8 February 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

Predators

Paul Goldstein

Paul Goldstein is a guide, wildlife photographer and presenter whose career has taken him all around the world, working with many leading conservationists and documentary makers. His talk will focus on the world's great predators and the challenges of seeing and photographing them up close. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

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

B M Monday 12 February 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Social event (London)

New members' welcome tour

Recent joiners are warmly invited to join us in London to discover more about the history of the Society, who we are today and how to make the most of their membership. You will enjoy a tour and drinks reception ahead of our Monday night lecture, giving you the chance to meet fellow members. At the Society. Free.

S M+G Monday 12 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Breaking boundaries

Preet Chandi

Driven by curiosity, Preet embarked on an Antarctic adventure fuelled by a simple Google search. Preet wanted to show people that they could start anywhere, they could have any goal and achieve whatever they want, regardless of where they were born, or where they are from.

At the Society and online. Free.

B M+G Monday 12 February 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 8 Feburary and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 13 February 7.00pm - 8.15pm Lecture (online)

Crossed off the map: travels in Bolivia

Shafik Meghji

Award-winning travel writer and author Shafik Meghji talks about journeying from the Andes to the Amazon to research his latest book *Crossed Off the Map: Travels in Bolivia*. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

Online Free



B Tuesday 13 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion (London and online)

Poverty in Britain

Unraveling spatial disparities, socio-economic factors, and policy solutions, our panel analyse sustainable solutions in this insightful discussion.

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



B Thursday 15 February 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Armagh, Birr and Dunsink Observatories: research and education entwined with history and heritage

Professor Michael Burton

Michael explores how Armagh, Birr and Dunsink Observatories remain active today as places where frontline science continues to be carried out whilst providing science to the public and explaining it to students. 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 Thursday 15 February 7.00pm - 9.30pm Lecture (online)

Perceiving climate change: ice

How do scientists, artists and the wider public 'notice' climate change by witnessing changes in the cryosphere? Organised by the Yokshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Space and Place Group. Online, Free.

B M+G Monday 19 February 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Jihadi exploitation of the Arabic poetic tradition

Dr Elisabeth Kendall

What drives militant jihadis to compose poetry? This talk seeks to reveal why and how Arabic poetry is deployed as a weapon by groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Tuesday 20 February 10.00am - 4.00pm

Workshop (London)

GIS makerspace

This CPD event is for teachers with some previous GIS experience (previously attended a Teach with GIS workshop, for example). It will offer a hands-on creative session where you help to set the agenda. At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.



B Tuesday 20 February 12.00pm - 1.00pmWorkshop (online)

Professional insights: networking

One of the most effective and rewarding ways to expand your professional network is to make introductions or be introduced to someone by a colleague who knows you both. Good introductions of mutual benefit can help build your professional reputation and open up opportunities.

Online. Free.

B Tuesday 20 February 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion (London and online)

How does sustainable travel

impact economic development?

How can sustainable tourism contribute to local economies and provide job opportunities? Our panel highlight case studies and success stories of destinations benefiting from responsible tourism. At the Society and online. In person: £12 RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wednesday 21 February 12.00pm - 1.00pm

Workshop (online)

Use geography: careers in risk management

In this careers webinar, learn from geography professionals working in risk management as they share their insights and advice, and explore opportunities for starting your career in the sector and how you can use geography to develop professionally. Online. Free.



B Thursday 22 February 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Lecture (Liverpool and online)

The triple planetary crisis: perspectives from fieldwork in the Arctic

A series of short lectures focused on the triple planetary crisis with recent findings from fieldwork in Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

Online and Stanton Fuller Lecture Theatre, Liverpool John Moores University, 79 Tithebarn Street, L2 2ER. Free.



(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Might Al unleash Earth's secrets?

Dr Matt Blackett

With all the hype around Al at the moment, this talk will discuss the potential (or otherwise) for using it to help us better understand (and perhaps predict) earthquakes and volcanoes.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Tuesday 27 February 5.00pm - 6.30pmWorkshop (online)

Assessment and feedback in geography: debunking theory into practical classroom approaches

We will offer teachers practical advice and strategies on where to begin when implementing new assessment and feedback methods in the classroom. Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.

B Wednesday 28 February 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Workshop (online)

Postgraduate insights:

how to write an academic CV

This session will bring together experienced scholars with knowledge of the academic job market to answer questions about academic CVs.

Online. Free.

B Wednesday 28 February 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Skipton)

Walking the mountains of Spain

Phil Lawler

Phil will relive the routes in Picos de Europa in Cantabria, the Sierra Almijara and Tejeda in Andalucia, and on the mountains of Madrid he discovered, and sometimes created, illustrated by photos and accurate maps. He will also reflect on the landscape changes which can overtake the written word. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Skipton Town Hall, High Street, BD23 1AH. £5, RGS-IBG members free.

B Thursday 29 February 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Stamford)

A short history of flowers: the stories that make our gardens

Advolly Richmond

Have you ever wondered about the stories behind your favourite garden flowers? How and why, they came to be there or why some cultivars go in and out of favour? Each flower has a story, and in this lecture Advolly Richmond takes you on a global tour of some intriguing, surprising and enriching tales and scenarios. Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, PE9 2DL. £14, RGS-IBG members £10.



BM+G Monday 4 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

The future of UK oil

Professor Gavin Bridge

How has the UK's oil sector evolved and what is its future in the context of a climate emergency? Gavin shares findings from a four year research project on the changing relations between global oil networks and the UK.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Wednesday 6 March 1.00pm - 2.00pmWorkshop (online)

Postgraduate insights: publishing vour first journal article

This webinar will bring together experienced authors to offer insights on the publishing process, such as selecting a journal, writing an article, preparing the manuscript and dealing with reviewers' comments. The panel, including the Society's Journals Managing Editor, will answer your questions about the publication process.

Online. Free.

B M+G Monday 11 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Nine Quarters of Jerusalem

Matthew Teller

In Jerusalem, what you see and what is true are two different things. Join author Matthew Teller as he deconstructs some myths to show the Holy City in a new light.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Tuesday 12 March 9.45am - 4.30pm

Workshop (London)

Educational Visits Coordinator training

Essential training for new EVCs responsible for the policies and practice around risk management for out-of-school visits.

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

B Tuesday 12 March 11.00am and 2.30pm

Collections display (London)

Everest 1953

Join us to celebrate 20 years of *Unlocking the Archives* as we showcase outputs from our latest project digitising over 1,800 negatives and slides from this iconic expedition which uncover new perspectives on the legacy of mountaineering on Mount Everest.

At the Society. Free.

B Tuesday 12 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Norwich)

High Caucasus: a mountain quest in Russia's haunted hinterland

Tom Parfitt

Based on his 2007/08 Neville Shulman Challenge Award journey, Tom shares his remarkable thousand-mile quest in search of personal peace – and a greater understanding of the roots of violence in a region whose fate has tragic parallels with the Ukraine of today. 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 Wednesday 13 March 9.45am - 4.30pm

Workshop (London)

EVC update workshop

This course gives trained EVCs the opportunity to revalidate while looking at current issues and sharing good practice.

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

B Thursday 14 March 7.00pm - 9.30pm

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Short talks (London and online)

Geographical journeys: microlectures

An informal evening of short illustrated talks packed with tales of adventure and discovery to entertain and inspire. Organised by the London regional committee. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10, group of 10 £90. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

B Friday 15 March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Penrith)

A short history of flowers: the stories that make our gardens

Advolly Richmond

Have you ever wondered about the stories behind your favourite garden flowers? How and why, they came to be there or why some cultivars go in and out of favour? Each flower has a story, and in this lecture Advolly Richmond takes you on a global tour of some intriguing, surprising and enriching tales and scenarios. Rheged Centre, Redhills, CA11 0DQ. £12, RGS-IBG members £8.

B Monday 18 March 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

The amazing power of very small teams: from the Polar regions to the Moon and everything in between

Brad Borkan

From the Wright Brothers, Hillary and Tenzing, and Apollo 13 astronauts, to Gilbert and Sullivan and Abbott and Costello, very small teams have transformed our appreciation of the world.

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

B M+G Monday 18 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Adventure in the Andes:

The Life Cycle biodiversity bike ride

Dr Kate Rawles

Kate cycled the length of South America, following the spine of the Andes on a bamboo bike she built herself, with the aim to explore and champion biodiversity.

At the Society and online. Free.



B Date TBC 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Panel discussion (London and online)

What's in store for UK climate policy in the next five years?

In the light of UK Climate Change Strategy running 2021-2024 and a refresh expected, this event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the state of UK climate policy, highlight achievements of the past five years and discuss priorities moving forward. At the Society and online. In person: £12 RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



B Wendesday 20 March 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Lecture (Penryn)

How might climate change trigger earthquakes and volcanoes?

Dr Matthew Blackett

Earth's climate is changing rapidly. Research suggests climate changes might exacerbate dangers beneath the earth's surface. Organised by the South West regional committee.

University of Exeter Penryn Campus. Treliever Road, Penryn TR10 9FE. Free.



B Wednesday 20 March 5.00pm - 7.00pm Workshop (online)

Subject knowledge update: hazards and risk

This session for teachers will look at a range of hazards and how risk can be mitigated. Several case studies will be used to demonstrate different approaches to risk and risk management.

Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

B Thursday 21 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Lecture (Belfast)

Antarctica: land of ice and snow

Margie Crawford

In January 2020 Margie Crawford was a crew member on the square rigged Tall Ship *Europa* which sailed from Ushuaia, Argentina, to the Antarctic. In this talk she discusses her adventures and how she spent three weeks exploring the Antarctic Peninsula. 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 Monday 25 March 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Be inspired afternoon lecture (London and online)

Behind Everest: Ruth Mallory's story

Kate Nicholson

Ruth Mallory, wife of Everest climber George, was a founder member of the Pinnacle Club, the first all female rock climbing club in Britain. In the four years from her marriage to George in 1914 to the end of the First World War, she had three children, learned to lead climbs and even made one first ascent.

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

S B M Monday 25 March 6.30pm - 7.45pm

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

Tales from my latest travels

Sir Michael Palin

With a career spanning the globe, join Sir Michael Palin for a talk on his latest travels in another region of our world.

At the Society and online. Free. Members only, advance booking required.

B M Monday 25 March 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.

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 21 March and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

B Tuesday 26 March 7.15pm - 8.30pm

Lecture (Huddersfield)

Limestone quarrying in the Yorkshire Dales

David Johnson

This talk will give an account of lime's myriad uses, the historical and technological forces that led to each, and its impact on one of the most beautiful areas in Britain. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax District Geographical Association.

Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, HD1 3DH. Free.



B Wednesday 27 March 1.00pm - 2.00pmWorkshop (online)

Postgraduate insights: procrastination and the PhD

How do you avoid procrastination during you PhD? This webinar will examine techniques to help you to use your time effectively. It will bring together

a panel of geography academics to answer your questions about the research process, how to use your time effectively, and how to maintain a good work life balance

Online. Free.

Get involved

We are delighted to announce that we now have a London regional committee. The London regional committee, formerly known as the Younger Members' committee, will continue to organise a programme of geographical events with a strong social element, providing an invaluable contribution to the Society's London activities, and an opportunity for like-minded individuals to meet each other and to engage with geographical topics in an informal atmosphere.

This means we now have 10 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? Please see the contact details on the following page.

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. If you have an idea for an event, or simply want to be part of a group who champion geography in your local region, please get in touch with your local chair. If you are not sure which region you fall under or if you have any further questions, please email us at **E** events@rgs.org

Vice President, Membership

Matt Pycroft

E regionschair@rgs.org

East of England

E ea@rgs.org

London

Annabel Illingworth

E london@rgs.org

Midlands

Martin Haslett

E midlands@rgs.org

Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

E ni@rgs.org

Cheshire

Tina Lees-Jones

E cnw@rgs.org

North West

Jonathan Stevens

E nw@rgs.org

South

Henry Hogger and Clare Hadley

E south@rgs.org

West of England

Sam Scott

E wesw@rgs.org

South West

Alan Smith

E sw@rgs.org

North Devon

Martin Kemp

E northdevon@rgs.org

South Wales

Sam Scott

E wesw@rgs.org

North Wales

Tina Lees-Jones

E cnw@rgs.org

Yorkshire and the North East

Jon Bridge

E yne@rgs.org

Singapore

Oliver Worsley

E singapore@rgs.org

Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

■ admin@rgshk.org.hk

W www.rgshk.org.hk

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

Journey of a Lifetime 11,000 miles of exile

Supporting a passion for radio and storytelling, and a genuine curiosity about the world around her, the Journey of a Lifetime Award enabled Chahrazade Douah to travel to Algeria and New Caledonia earlier this year. We spoke to Chahrazade about her journey, which you can listen to now on BBC Sounds.

Can you describe your journey?

My journey took me from the mountains of Kali, a region on the eastern coast of Algeria all the way to New Caledonia, an island in the Pacific 11,000 miles away from where I started my journey. The idea was to follow the footsteps of people who my grandmother told me about, people who were exiled because they revolted against French colonial rule at the end of the 19th century and had to start over very far away from home.





What was your main motivation for going on this journey?

My main motivation was to understand how people who you've never met, can play such a big role in your upbringing. I grew up with stories of exile and I was told that these people mattered to us and they serve a very special role for the Algerian people as a whole. A lot of Algerians heard stories of exile as a way for the family to deflect away from their own pain and trauma around what happened during colonial rule and the war of independence.

How did you approach planning?

The most important part was to find the people, both in Algeria and New Caledonia. People who had a direct link with exile, either an ancestor who was exiled or a story that was passed down to them. I had to play detective and I was lucky enough to find people on both sides of the world who welcomed me with open arms. In Algeria,



if you walk around long enough, you will find someone who has a grandfather who was exiled somewhere.

Why is it important to share the story of those exiled from Algeria and their descendants?

I think it's the most beautiful lesson, that caring about people you don't know, finding them and creating deep bonds can give you a sense of belonging in a way that archival work alone can never give you. Another reason is because this story is about the complexity of history. I went to find people who, in a twist of history, became settlers when they started off as freedom fighters. We need to tell these stories of complexity and nuance in history and not fall into nostalgic traps.

What do you hope others will take away from your experience?

I hope people take one main lesson and that is go out and ask questions. If your grandmother doesn't answer you, other people will in different ways. And listen, because other people's answers might bring you more reassurance and more comfort than direct answers can ever bring you.

How did you find the experience of recording sound when traveling?

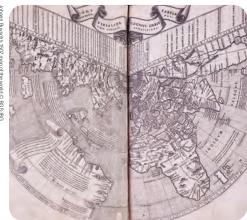
Trying to tell a story through sound at first felt challenging but then it puts you in another frame of mind and you switch off some senses. The emotion and the knot in the throat that you hear when people tell stories, you suddenly notice them more. It opened up new doors in my mind of how you should travel and how you make memories.

W www.rgs.org/JOLT

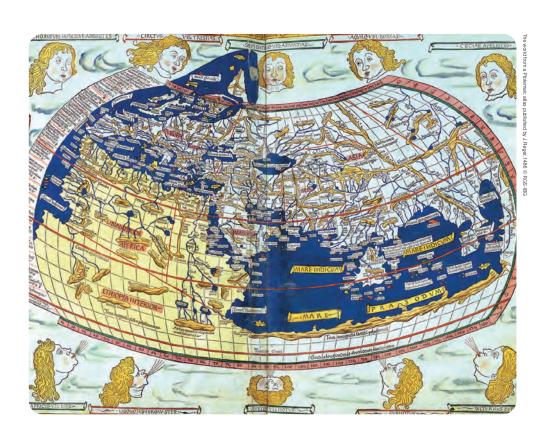
Theatre of the World A history in atlases



Venture into the Society's latest online exhibition, *Theatre of the World*, and explore our historic Collections from home. This fascinating exhibition provides an insight into the Society's cartographical collection, a treasure trove of over a million maps, atlases, and globes.



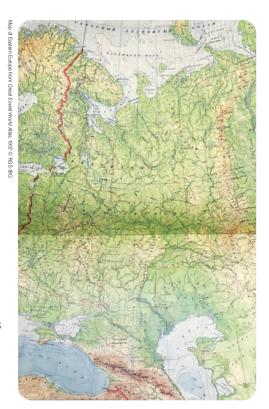
Theatre of the World explores the art of map-making and its evolution. The dissemination of geographical knowledge was a challenging endeavour and creating precise maps demanded resources beyond the capacity of Renaissance publishers. They therefore turned to existing sources such as Claudius Ptolemy's Geography. In turn, Ptolemy, a second century Greek



scholar, had used the works of earlier scholars to compile his work on geography and astronomy, and his detailed textual descriptions enabled the reconstruction of lost maps. Some 'hybrids', including the 1486 edition of Ptolemy's *Geography* produced by Ulm printer Johannes Reger, maintained unusual features such as the strange 'wind-swept' shape of Scotland in the map of the British Isles.

View the exhibition to discover more moments that mark the transition to modern representations of the world. The exhibition also shines a light on major milestones such as the *Atlas Mira* from the Soviet era and the Philip's 2021 *Atlas of the World*. Each map and atlas tells not just of lands and seas but of the age it was created in, the people who crafted it, and our ever-evolving knowledge of our world.

W www.rgs.org/TOTW



EDI spotlight Society initiatives

The promotion of equality, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) are core values for the practice, study and teaching of geography and for the Society. In response to the Society's latest annual EDI report we have selected a few of our initiatives that illustrate the ways the Society is seeking to collaboratively address under-representation and barriers within the discipline.

In schools and universities, inequalities in uptake across race, ethnicity and socioeconomic background are significant. The Society's Geography for all project has been addressing EDI in the subject at school by focusing on under-representation by income and ethnicity. A recent event What do geographers actually do? brought more than 1,500 students together with five geography professionals from underrepresented backgrounds to learn more about their jobs and career paths.

Not only did this give students valuable insights into the discipline, it also provided an opportunity to understand a range of practical applications of skills and career paths in the subject. Over the past year, *Geography for all* has worked directly with young people, their teachers and wider networks to support and better promote pathways into higher education and the workplace.

The Society has also taken proactive steps to foster inclusivity and equality of opportunity by supporting strategic initiatives. This includes financially supporting the FI WI Road internship, a scheme led by the community interest company Black Geographers, which supports Black students in building networks, voice and experience, encouraging them to remain in the discipline after graduation. During the summer we welcomed our third cohort



of FI WI Road interns, providing them with direct support and practical experience as they helped with the planning and coordination of our Annual International Conference. This project is just one example of how we are using positive action to effect change and work towards a geographical community where all sections of society are represented and meaningfully participating in the discipline.

Partnerships and collaborative work that amplifies initiatives by others in the geographical community with expertise and knowledge are a core aspect our EDI work. For example, the Society is a formal partner in the second phase of the EQUATOR project, which aims to enhance equity and inclusion in Geography, Earth, and Environmental Science (GEES) disciplines through evidence-based interventions that target barriers to ethnic minority participation and retention. We led a workshop contributing to transferable skills training and increased awareness of research careers in geography at the project's five-day residential summer school for Black, Asian and minority ethnic students in higher education.

Such initiatives recognise and confront systemic under-representation and barriers in the discipline of geography, particularly concerning race, ethnicity, and income. These provide immediate opportunities and benefits to under-represented communities but also create a ripple effect, influencing other sectors and disciplines to adopt similar values and practices. By fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, disciplines like geography can better address global challenges, produce more comprehensive research, and create a sense of belonging for all members of society.

We include regular updates on our ongoing EDI activities in our latest news articles published on our website.

W www.rgs.org/EDI

Venue hire at the Society Discover what we can offer

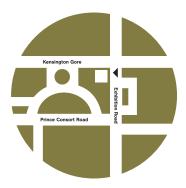
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How to find us



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.

Entrance is on Exhibition Road Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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

1 +44 (0)20 7591 3000

info@rgs.org

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