

# Bulletin Autumn 2024

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Inside

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**Next generation**  
.....  
**Building the future**



## About the Society

### Need to know

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

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

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

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

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



## A message From the President

It is my great pleasure to write my first introduction to the Bulletin as President of the Society shortly after attending my first event as President – this year’s medals and awards ceremony. You can read more about our two inspiring Gold Medal recipients on page 44, but, as ever, all of this year’s recipients demonstrated the real value of geography to us all, as well as the amazing breadth of our discipline.

The Society plays a vital role in supporting geography and geographers whether they are students, teachers, researchers, professionals, expeditioners or simply interested in the world’s people, places and environments. Unlike many similar organisations, our retention rates have remained high over the past few years, but we would like to attract new members. The Membership team are working with external consultants to better understand how to reach and recruit greater numbers

of new members. As part of this they have been undertaking surveys and focus groups with our existing members – a big thank you to all of you who have contributed to this important project.

As I settle into my four-year term as President, I will be listening and learning to understand how best I can support the staff team while representing your views. While I look forward to meeting many of you in person, you can also contact me at any time if you have anything you’d like to raise with me.

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

**Professor Dame Jane Francis**

President



# Society News

## **Changes to our displays**

In recent months we have been bringing more Collections material into view throughout the building, and adding interpretation. We are also adding elements of contemporary art and photography, as well as digital content that displays the work of geographers and expeditioners today. This includes a new mural by Hormazd Narielwalla inspired by our map collection, which is being installed in the Map Room this August.

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

## **Earth Stories**

Our Earth Stories initiative is supporting engagement and action on environment and sustainability issues by bringing together leading climate, biodiversity and sustainability specialists with key media

industry figures, as well as top creative talent. The aim is to inspire media and cultural participants through seminars and fieldtrips to find new ways of telling some of the biggest but most tricky stories of the day.

One year since the initiative launched we have hosted four such events. Earth Stories will require patient and sustained work as a multi-year programme and will need further external funding to achieve its potential.

## **King's Birthday Honours**

Congratulations to Society Fellows Professor Judith Petts, University of Plymouth, on receiving a DBE for services to higher education and to sustainability, and to Professor Harriet Bulkeley, Durham University, who was awarded an OBE for services to geography and to environmental governance, in the King's Birthday Honours list.



## **OS partnership renewed**

Ordnance Survey have renewed their Corporate Benefactor support for a further three years, demonstrating long term commitment to advancing geospatial understanding.

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

## **Transglobe Expedition Trust**

We have recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Transglobe Expedition Trust (TET) to use remaining TET funds to provide grants through the Society's grants programme for expeditionary projects. These grants will support humanitarian, scientific or educational projects of the kind previously supported by TET. Join us on Wednesday 23 October to launch the 'Ran and Ginny Fiennes' grant, and help raise funds for future grants.

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

## **Election results**

Congratulations to our new President, Professor Dame Jane Francis, and our newest Council and committee members who were elected at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June.

Our new Council members are: Alan Parkinson (Vice President, Education), David Wood (Councillor, Professional Practice) and Clare Hadley (Councillor, Membership).

Our new committee members are: Jenny Pickerill (Research and Higher Education Committee) and Patricia Noxolo (Chair of Annual Conference 2025, Research and Higher Education Committee).

Thank you to our outgoing Council and committee members for their hard work and dedication to the Society.

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

# Education News



© Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London, Department for Education.

## **National Education Nature Park**

We are pleased to recognise two major project milestones. Firstly, reaching one year since the project launched, and secondly, over 2000 schools, colleges and nurseries have now joined the National Education Nature Park. As a partner, the Society is developing resources to use in the geography

classroom, along with a range of materials about green careers.

Register your school now to join the free programme, with resources, support and guidance to embed climate and nature into learning in a way that suits your setting and learners.

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



## Competitions for schools

The Young Geographer of the Year and School Essay Competition are both designed to get students thinking beyond the curriculum and engaged with the opportunities geography offers. For trainee and early-career teachers with innovative ideas to engage pupils, the Rex Walford Award celebrates emerging talent in educational resource writing.

Our Young Geographer of the Year competition recognises the outstanding work of the next generation of geographers. This year's theme is *Choose Geography*, and students are being asked to create eye-catching and inspiring posters that promote the value of choosing geography at school, as further study, or in the workplace, linking geographical skills to real people and jobs that make a difference.

The Rex Walford Award sits alongside the Young Geographer of the Year.

Trainee and early-career teachers are being asked to submit a scheme of work and resources that use innovative and effective approaches to engaging pupils with the Young Geographer of the Year theme of *Choose Geography*.

Lastly, this year's School Essay Competition, run in conjunction with the *Financial Times*, asks A Level or equivalent geography students to write a well-evidenced essay of 1,000 words answering the question: "Drawing on information from your daily life, what sustainability action points would you prioritise?"

The entry deadline for all three competitions is 5.00pm on Friday 4 October.

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



# From the field

## News

### **Society funded fieldwork in 2024**

Many of the 70 field research projects funded through the Society's grants programme in 2024 are now in the field.

Recipients include Professor Niki Alsford from the University of Central Lancashire, who was awarded a Ralph Brown Expedition Award to support fieldwork on the South Korean island of Jeju. In collaboration with the Haenyeo, the island's professional female divers, the Haenyeo Voices Project combines their traditional ecological knowledge with cutting-edge scientific methods, to analyse a section of the reef ecosystem.

Funded by a Frederick Soddy Postgraduate Award, Lindsay Sekilowicz at the University of Brighton has undertaken research focused on the historic collections of 19th century British botanist Richard Spruce, and contemporary art and craft

production in the Upper Rio Negro region of the Northwest Amazon.

Application deadlines for the 2025 grants programme begin in November 2024.

**W** [www.rgs.org/grant-stories](http://www.rgs.org/grant-stories)

### **Explore festival**

The RGS Explore festival returns from 28 October - 4 November and features two compelling Monday night lectures and a range of inspiring events celebrating expeditions and fieldwork. The Festival culminates in our flagship annual planning weekend, the Explore symposium. Speakers and workshop leaders will inspire anyone with an interest in planning future field projects and expeditions, while exhibitors and Society staff will provide personalised advice and guidance.

Book now with your member discount.

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





# Research and higher education News

## Annual Conference 2024

We are excited to be welcoming more than 2,000 delegates from across the globe to attend this year's Annual Conference in London in the last week of August. Chaired by Professor Stephen Legg the overall theme is Mapping. It will explore mapping in all its forms, in a world that is saturated with maps, from historical cartography to the newest digital technologies and practices of map-making.

Alongside Research Group and Journal organised sessions, highlights include the conference plenaries. This year they take the form of conversations around themes of public maps and mapping, counter-cartographies, mapping abolition and mapping COVID-19.

The opening plenary conversation brings together two very different forms of mapping as a way of exploring ways in

which we can engage and create public geographies of understanding. This will be open to Fellows and Members via a livestream and afterwards on Talks on demand. To book this event, visit **W** [www.rgs.org/plenary-booking](http://www.rgs.org/plenary-booking)

We will also be hosting a joint plenary with the 35th International Geographical Congress, which is running at the same time in Dublin, and will be live-streamed to the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, with two respondents in London continuing the conversation regarding digital twins and the future of mapping.

The finalised conference programme is available to view online with a great range of keynotes, paper sessions, panels, workshops and more. Registration is still open with discount rates for members. **W** [www.rgs.org/ac2024](http://www.rgs.org/ac2024)



## Dissertation prizes

Each year the annual dissertation prizes awarded by the Society's Research Groups recognise outstanding work from undergraduate and postgraduate students at higher education institutions, both in the UK and overseas. Students recognised this year include Shona Galloway, University of Edinburgh, for her research on *Decolonising the Scottish Higher geography curriculum colonial narratives and key barriers to change*, as well as Lucas Evans, University of Oxford, for his his work titled *Forest: exploring the possibilities of digital technologies for enhancing forest restoration*. There are many postgraduate prize deadlines upcoming in November and the full list of recipients is available to view online.

**W** [www.rgs.org/dissertation-prizes](http://www.rgs.org/dissertation-prizes)

## Collaborative Doctoral Awards

Congratulations to George Tobin and Alice Oates on the completion of their doctoral research, which made great use of the Society's Collections. George's project looked at the history of physical relief models in British geography as crucial components of research and teaching, while Alice's work focused on the emergence of scientific governance in Antarctica, by focusing on the Halley Bay research station. Both of their recent talks about their research are available to watch online in the Talks on demand section of our website. We look forward to welcoming four new CDA students this autumn.

**W** [www.rgs.org/collaborative-doctoral-research](http://www.rgs.org/collaborative-doctoral-research)



# Professional News

## Geography in practice

Our Geography in practice series of webinars continues to celebrate the contribution of geographers and geography in professional practice. As well as the live webinars, which provide continuing professional development for anyone working towards, or maintaining, Chartered Geographer status, recordings of past webinars make up a library of resources. Alongside each webinar recording, we add relevant geovisualisations and case studies to build valuable references.

Recent webinars include a collaboration with Queens University Belfast on how their work on the Ethnic Group Deprivation Index (EGDI) can be used to understand ethnic inequalities in local areas. Upcoming webinars this autumn will feature digital twins and data governance and management.

**W** [www.rgs.org/geography-in-practice](http://www.rgs.org/geography-in-practice)

## Professional networks

The geospatial sector is made up of a wide range of businesses, many of which are small enterprises. We are establishing a new network for geographers working in these small enterprises, providing opportunities for sharing experiences, learning and development, and a forum to discuss the particular issues faced by small geospatial businesses. Contact us to connect with this network.

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

## Professional collaborations

The Society is pleased to have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to further collaboration between our organisations. This strategic relationship will deliver activities to support knowledge sharing, developing professional skills and leadership.

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

# Events Highlights



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## Autumn events programme

Browse our upcoming programme for our latest inspiring series of talks, events, webinars, conferences and exhibitions which open up new worlds, ideas and possibilities.

In particular, we look forward to welcoming you to the RGS Explore festival, which returns for its third year this autumn. During a week that celebrates all things expeditions and fieldwork, learn about globe making, discover the art of storytelling or better

understand how to apply for funding. If you are a student, researcher, teacher, traveller with a purpose, media professional, expedition healthcare professional, or enthusiast and supporter of exploration then Explore has discussions to inspire you.

Whether you are based in London or across the UK, your regional committees have organised a fantastic programme of fascinating events which provide great opportunities for both members and the public to come together. A few highlights include the South committee's Monday night lecture screening, the East of England's winter social, and the Christmas quiz in London. For those outside of our UK regions we also have opportunities to engage with like-minded people online with our Geographical journeys: microlectures in October, and the online Christmas quiz in December.



# Autumn 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](http://www.rgs.org/livestream)

<b>For</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>M+G</b>	23 Sept	The growth of GIS: a personal journey	Charles Kennelly
<b>M+G</b>	30 Sept	Democratising how we make decisions about land	Guy Shrubsole
<b>M+G</b>	7 Oct	Mapping the world's rivers, estuaries and deltas: processes, landforms, stressors and developing solutions	Professor Steve Darby and Professor Jim Best
<b>M+G</b>	14 Oct	Blue machine: how the ocean shapes our world	Dr Helen Czerski
<b>M+G</b>	21 Oct	Health and household transitions among older people; trends over time and differences between England, Wales and Scotland	Professor Emily Grundy
<b>M+G</b>	28 Oct	Why we travel: a journey into human motivation	Ash Bhardwaj
<b>M+G</b>	4 Nov	Observations from African climate change hotspots	Dr Callum Munday
<b>M+G</b>	11 Nov	Tracks on the ocean: a history of trailblazing, maps and maritime travel	Dr Sara Caputo
<b>M+G</b>	18 Nov	Machu Picchu: changes and challenges	Dr John Hemming <small>CMG</small>
<b>M+G</b>	25 Nov	The art of globemaking: inside the hidden world of an ancient craft	Peter Bellerby
<b>M+G</b>	2 Dec	A short history of flowers	Advolly Richmond
<b>M+G</b>	9 Dec	The future of geography: how power and politics in space will change our world	Tim Marshall

## Events

### Key to events

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

### Events booking

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

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

### Online events

All Society-organised online events can be booked and watched via our website. Search for the individual event page on **W** [www.rgs.org/events](http://www.rgs.org/events). You will be able to ask your questions and interact with the speakers if you join live. Fellows and Members are able to catch up on many of our events, including our Monday night lectures, online **W** [www.rgs.org/talksondemand](http://www.rgs.org/talksondemand).

### Monday night lectures

Fellows and Members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our live stream page **W** [www.rgs.org/livestream](http://www.rgs.org/livestream). If you haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgotten password' link on the login page.

You will need to book in advance to attend our Monday night lectures in-person at the Society. We are continuing to take bookings to guarantee you a seat in the Ondaatje Theatre, and be able to contact you should there be any late changes to the programme.

### Suppers

Stay for supper at the Society after Monday night lectures on 23 September, 14 October, 18 November and 9 December 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](mailto:events@rgs.org) Registered assistance dogs welcome. The Ondaatje Theatre has an induction loop for those with hearing impairments. An accessible toilet is available.

### **Opportunity to give a microlecture**

The London regional committee are seeking speakers for the March 2025 *Geographical journeys: microlectures* event. Visit the website for guidelines and submit proposals by 8 November.

**E** london@rgs.org **W** www.rgs.org/microlectures

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## **Events listings**

In chronological order

### **E until Monday 9 September**

Exhibition (Warminster)

#### **Earth Photo: Stourhead**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world.

National Trust Stourhead, Stourton, BA12 6QF. £20.

### **E until Saturday 28 September**

Exhibition (Presteigne)

#### **Earth Photo: Sidney Nolan Trust**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world.

Sidney Nolan Trust, The Rodd, LD8 2LL. £6.

### **E until Sunday 29 September**

Exhibition (Farnham)

#### **Earth Photo: Alice Holt Forest**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world.

Alice Holt Forest, Bucks Horn Oak, GU10 4LS. Free.

### **E until Monday 30 September**

Exhibition (Goudhurst)

#### **Earth Photo: Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world.

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest, Bedgebury Road, TN17 2SJ. Free.

### **E until Thursday 31 October**

Exhibition (St. Austell)

#### **Shackleton's legacy and the power of early Antarctic photography**

Marvel at striking images of Shackleton's ill-fated *Endurance* expedition that brought Antarctica to life in this exhibition. Shipwreck Treasure Museum, Quay Road, Charlestown, PL25 3NJ. £10.50.

### **E until 23 November**

Exhibition (Cumbria)

#### **Other Everests: one mountain, many worlds**

Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the 1924 British Mount Everest expedition, this exhibition shares fascinating archives from the Society and the Mountain Heritage Trust with photographs presented in large format lightboxes and displays of artefacts.

National Trust Wray Castle, Low Wray, Ambleside, LA22 0JA. Free.

## **E Tuesday 3 - Thursday 12 September**

Exhibition (London)

### **Everest platinum prints**

See a stunning selection of platinum prints from the British Mount Everest expeditions from 1921-1953. These prints have been made direct from the negative and printed using the platinum palladium process by the Society's print partner, Salto Ulbeek. See a selection of images from these iconic expeditions as never before. [At the Society, Monday - Friday 10.00am-5.00pm.](#) Free.

## **B Saturday 7 September 2.00pm - 5.00pm**

Field visit (Papplewick)

### **Exploring industrial archaeology: Papplewick**

Dr Stephen Walker

The three mile walk will visit Moor Pond Woods, looking at features of the water system of 18th century cotton mills near this pretty Nottinghamshire village. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. [The Griffins Head, Moor Road, Papplewick Village, Nottinghamshire, NG15 8EN.](#) Free.



## **B Tuesday 10 September**

**10.00am - 10.30am**

Networking (online)

### **Chartered Geographer virtual networking**

Join the Chartered Geographer coffee morning to meet with Chartered Geographers online. [Online.](#) Free.

## **B Tuesday 10 - Wednesday 11 September**

**10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London and online)

### **Enhanced fieldwork learning showcase**

The 14th annual EFL Showcase event brings together fieldwork educators from a range of disciplines in higher education to share innovations in field teaching and learning, with a particular focus on the use of technology. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

## **B Wednesday 11 September 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (London)

### **Early photography at the Royal Geographical Society**

Join the Society's manager of photography for a glass of wine, talk and display of original photography and archival documents related to the Society's early adoption of the photographic media. This event is made possible by the generous support of our Corporate Member, Riverstone. [Riverstone Kensington, Coe House, 4 Warwick Lane, W14 8FN.](#) Free.

## **E Saturday 14 September - Sunday 3 November**

Exhibition (Morpeth)

### **Earth Photo: Wallington**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world. [National Trust Wallington, Cambo, Northumberland, NE61 4AR.](#) £18.



**B Sunday 15 September 3.15pm - 4.15pm**

Lecture (Appledore)

**A history of the world in 12 shipwrecks**

David Gibbins in conversation with Martin Kemp  
From a treasure-filled Bronze Age craft and a Viking warship made for King Cnut, from Henry VIII's flagship, *Mary Rose*, to a steamship lost during World War II, renowned maritime archaeologist, David Gibbins, reveals the riches beneath the waves. Organised by the South West regional committee with Appledore Book Festival. *St Mary's Church, Churchfield Road, Appledore, EX39 1RL. £10.*

**W** [www.appledorebookfestival.co.uk](http://www.appledorebookfestival.co.uk)**B Sunday 15 September 5.00pm - 6.00pm**

Lecture (London)

**When digital worlds meet the real world**

Kate Edwards

Explore the challenges that arise when digitally created worlds meet real-world geography, including cultural appropriation, geopolitics, and human representation. Learn how geography can be an incredibly powerful tool to help navigate these complex issues as companies strive to make inclusive content that maximises the global reach of their creative visions. Joint event with the British Science Festival. *University House Great Hall, UEL Stratford Campus, Water Lane, E15 4LZ. Free.*

**E Monday 16 September - Sunday 27 October**

Exhibition (Dartmouth)

**Earth Photo: Coleton Fishacre**

See a stunning selection of the shortlisted images which stimulate conversations about our world.

National Trust Coleton Fishacre, Brownstone Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0EQ. £15

**B Monday 16 September****2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

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. Free.*

**B Tuesday 17 September 3.00pm - 4.00pm**

Webinar (online)

**UK to global: doing geospatial business internationally**

Bringing together UK and international market, business, and investment specialists in the field of geospatial, entrepreneurial support and geospatial service delivery, this panel will discuss how to succeed in doing geospatial business internationally and the support available to enable this. *Online. Free.*

**B Tuesday 17 September 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Workshop (online)

**Creativity in the geography curriculum**

This session will give a range of ideas on ways in which creativity can be injected into the classroom and is suitable for teachers at any stage of their career.

*Online. £40, RGS-IBG members £30.*



**B Wednesday 18 September**  
**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Workshop (online)

**Chartered Geographer introductory webinar**

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. [Online](#). Free.



**B Wednesday 18 September**  
**5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Workshop (online)

**Top tips for teaching A Level geography**

This session aims to share innovative ways that we can both teach and engage our A Level students in a variety of topics, mainly focusing on the core units of the water and carbon cycles and changing places. [Online](#). £40, RGS-IBG members £30.

**Thursday 19 September 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

**Travelling women:**

**Dervla Murphy and Jan Morris**

Ethel Crowley, Paul Clements, Dr Tim Campbell  
The intrepid and contrasting worlds of Dervla Murphy and Jan Morris. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. [School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University, BT7 1NN](#). Free.

**B Saturday 21 September 12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Exhibition (Cambridge)

**Private view: George Mallory exhibition**

Professor Tom Spencer

Join us for a private view of *George Mallory: Magdalene to the Mountain*, with an introduction by Professor Tom Spencer. This exhibition marks the centenary of the death on Everest of the Magdalene College alumnus George Mallory. The Magdalene College Archives reveal much about Mallory as student, soldier, husband and mountaineer. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [The Robert Cripps Gallery, Magdalene College, Magdalene Street, CB3 0AG](#). £5, RGS-IBG members free.

**B Monday 23 September 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

**The Hayes expedition to the Arctic 1860-61**

Tom Walker

Tom will discuss the expedition to the Arctic led by Isaac Hayes, which overwintered at Port Foulke on the north-west coast of Greenland. The earliest photographs of the high Arctic were taken during the expedition and the talk will include many of these as well as original drawings made by Hayes and other crew members. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

 **B M+G Monday 23 September**  
**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**The growth of GIS: a personal journey**

Charles Kennelly

This lecture will focus on the development of the capabilities of GIS and its use across society over the last 30 years, tied into Charles' own experiences from a GIS developer to CTO of ESRI UK. *At the Society and online. Free.*

**B M+G Monday 23 September**  
**8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Social (London)

**Monday night lecture supper**

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

*At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 19 September and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.*

 **B Wednesday 25 September**  
**10.30am - 1.00pm**

Workshop (London)

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

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

This event is being run in conjunction with Ordnance Survey. *At the Society. Free.*

 **B Wednesday 25 September**  
**2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Using Digimap for schools**

In this fully interactive face-to-face session you will have an introduction to the *Digimap for Schools* online mapping product. *At the Society. Free.*

**B SM Wednesday 25 September**  
**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

School Member lecture (London)

**The changing city: alternative uses of urban space**

This lecture will give an overview of the ideas, theories and case studies of how city places and spaces are developing, and how urban citizens are responding to that change with changes of their own. *At the Society. Free, School Members only.*

**B Wednesday 25 September 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (London)

**Platinum print Collections talk**

Join the Society's manager of photography for a glass of wine, talk and private viewing of a new, permanent, display of platinum prints created from the Society's Everest negative collection. The Society's entire collection of platinum prints will be on display including those from the Endurance expedition as well as period prints by the photographer's own hand. *At the Society. Free.*

**B Thursday 26 September 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Social (Chichester)

**Autumn social: South**

An eclectic evening of short geography related stories, tales, explanations, expect almost anything. Organised by the South regional committee. [Chichester College](#), Westgate Fields, PO19 1SB. £5.



**B Friday 27 September 10.00am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (Mickleham)

**Building confidence in geographical fieldwork**

Field Studies Council and the Society are offering this joint CPD session to help build a toolkit for teachers to support delivery of high-quality fieldwork. [Juniper Hall](#), Old London Road, RH5 6DA. £120.



**B Friday 27 - Monday 30 September**

Workshop (Marlborough)

**Expedition medicine training**

This remote medical responder course is for those undertaking expeditions to parts of the world where medical help is not readily available. [Marlborough College](#), Bath Road, SN8 1PA. Level one (two days) £295, level two (four days) £795.

**B Monday 30 September 11.00am - 3.00pm**

Guided walk (Bradford)

**Changing religious buildings in the changing urban landscape of Bradford**

Professor David McEvoy

Buildings often outlive their original use, even imposing religious buildings. David leads an engaging and informative walk exploring the impact of this phenomenon on Bradford's city centre environment. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with PLACE. [Bradford Forster Square Railway Station](#), Forster Square, BD1 4HY. £10.

**E** [place@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:place@yorks.ac.uk)



**B M+G Monday 30 September**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Democratising how we make decisions about land**

Guy Shrubsole

From *Sunday Times* bestselling author comes *The Lie of the Land*, a fierce exposé of how a small elite of landowners have wrecked the countryside, and how the public can restore it. [At the Society and online](#). Free.



**B Wednesday 2 October 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights (online)

**Applying for grants to support your research**

Are you looking to secure funding for your postgraduate research? Join us for a comprehensive webinar on how to find and secure grants to support your research endeavours. [Online](#). Free.

**B Wednesday 2 October 5.30pm - 6.30pm**

Lecture (Swanage)

**Tales from the Jurassic Coast**

Charlie Newman

Join Charlie for an engaging talk on Jurassic Coast fossils, local geology, and palaeontology. Organised by the South regional committee. *The Square and Compass, Worth Matravers, BH19 3LF. Free.*



**B Wednesday 2 October 6.45pm - 8.00pm**

Lecture (York)

**Ice: why its many changing forms will change our geography and our future**

Alex Hibbert

World record-holding polar traveller Alex draws on his unique experience to explore the importance of ice in our future world. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with York and District Geographical Association. *Bootham School, Portland Street, YO30 7BU. Free.*

**W** [www.booth.am/BoxOfficeGA](http://www.booth.am/BoxOfficeGA)

**B Monday 7 October 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

**Vindicating Cherry**

Hugh Turner

Apsley Cherry-Garrard knew he could have done nothing more to save Scott's polar party, but he could never quite shake off accusations levelled at him after the expedition. Blending personal memories and considered analysis, Hugh remembers his uncle's later years and reflects on why his uncle's life had such an unhappy ending. *At the Society and online. Free.*



**B M+G Monday 7 October**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Mapping the world's rivers, estuaries and deltas: processes, landforms, stressors and developing solutions**

Professor Steve Darby and Professor Jim Best

This lecture will explore how advances in mapping the world's rivers, estuaries and deltas delivers insight into their behaviour, response to anthropogenic pressures, and their more sustainable management.

*At the Society and online. Free.*



**B Tuesday 8 October 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 8 October 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Getting started with ArcGIS**

This CPD event is for teachers with little or no previous GIS experience. *At the Society. £25, RGS-IBG members £18.*

## **B Tuesday 8 October 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (London)

### **Collections event**

Join the Principal Librarian for an evening viewing iconic artefacts from the exploration of the Arctic and a selection of beautiful elephant folios illustrating the epic Pacific voyages of the 18th and 19th centuries and enjoy a unique opportunity to socialise and meet others with a glass of wine. Organised by the London regional committee. [At the Society.](#) £15, RGS-IBG members, £12.



## **B Wednesday 9 October 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 Wednesday 9 October 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

### **Going further with ArcGIS**

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. The course is suitable for anyone who has previously attended Teach with GIS or acquired equivalent experience in another way. [At the Society.](#) £25, RGS-IBG members £18.

## **B Wednesday 9 October 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

### **Geography and the history of Southampton**

Andy Skinner

A talk which explores the way in which the geography and history of Southampton are entwined. Organised by the South regional committee. [University of Southampton, SO17 1BJ.](#) Free.

## **B Wednesday 9 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Cambridge)

### **Travelling the world through a lens: expedition photography through the decades**

Nick Dimbleby

In this illustrated talk, leading photographer Nick will speak about his life photographing expeditions across the world. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [Great Hall, The Leys School, Trumpington Road, CB2 7AD.](#) £5, RGS-IBG members free.

## **B Thursday 10 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Lecture (London and online)

### **Pathfinding for the fleet: front-line hydrography 1793-1823**

Captain Michael Barritt

This lecture illustrates the evidence that belies the received wisdom that the Royal Navy of the period showed neither interest in nor aptitude for hydrography, and that there was clear encouragement from leaders such as Nelson. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

**B Thursday 10 October 8.00pm - 9.30pm**

Social (London)

**EGR Taylor lecture supper 2024**

Stay for supper at the Society after the EGR Taylor lecture and meet other audience members. At the Society. £55 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 3 October and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

**B M Monday 14 October 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 14 October  
6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Blue machine: how the ocean shapes our world**

Dr Helen Czerski

Earth's ocean is a 3D liquid engine, and the way it turns has shaped our history, culture and our planet's natural history. This talk will tell its story. At the Society and online. Free.

**B M+G Monday 14 October 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Social (London)

**Monday night lecture supper**

Stay for supper at the Society after our Monday night lectures 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 10 October and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



**B Wednesday 16 October  
1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Workshop (online)

**Chartered Geographer introductory webinar**

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. Online. Free.



**B Wednesday 16 October  
1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights (online)

**New to teaching geography at university**

Are you a postgraduate geographer teaching undergraduate students for the first time? Join us for a workshop designed to help you develop your pedagogical skills. Delivered in collaboration with the Society's GeogEd Research Group, this workshop will provide you with effective strategies and introduce you to the Society's New to teaching guide. Online. Free.

### **B Thursday 17 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Discussion (online)

#### **Pando: the world's largest tree**

Utah's clonal aspen covers 106 acres and is 9,000 years old, but faces challenges. Who cares for it and how can we understand it better? Organised by the North West regional committee. [Online](#). Free.

### **B Thursday 17 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Norwich)

#### **The iconic places and species of Africa and their future**

Professor Jeff Price and Ellie Harris

The speakers, from UEA's Tyndall Centre, will examine the projected impacts of climate change on some of the iconic places and species of Africa - how they will fare with increasing levels of warming and what are the adaptation options. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD](#). £5, RGS-IBG members free.

### **B Friday 18 October 7.00pm - 9.30pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Lecture (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. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.



### **B Saturday 19 October 10.30am - 1.30pm**

Field visit (Kendal)

#### **Low carbon landscapes: exploring the Sizergh country estate**

An opportunity to learn how the National Trust is working in partnership to develop a low carbon country estate at Sizergh, near Kendal. Organised by the North West regional committee. [Low Sizergh Farm, Sizergh, LA8 8AE](#). Free.



### **B M+G Monday 21 October**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

#### **Health and household transitions among older people; trends over time and differences between England, Wales and Scotland**

Professor Emily Grundy

In this talk data from the ONS Longitudinal Study of England and Wales and the 'sister' Scottish Longitudinal Study will be used to investigate changes over time in older people's household transitions and mortality. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

### **Monday 21 October 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

Lecture (Chester)

#### **English Breakfast and the story of Ceylon tea**

Jim Holmes

The famed 'English Breakfast' name is known the world over but the story of tea in old Ceylon is far less refreshing. Jim toured tea estates and factories and met the immigrant villagers who still hand pick this everyday product to bring you the true story. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee with The Society of Thirteen. [Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester, CH1 2DD](#). Free.





**Tuesday 22 October 7.45pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Oxford)

**A very British success story: the unique history and evolution of the Ordnance Survey**

Clive Boocock

Clive will talk about the origins, evolution and publications of the OS, covering stories from more than 230 years since its founding. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. St. Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, OX2 6TN. £2 (cash only), RGS-IBG members free.

**B Wednesday 23 October 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Discussion (London and online)

**The science of the Transglobe Expedition**

Professor Mike Stroud and Professor Chris McQuaid

Learn more of the scientific outputs from the first expedition to make a longitudinal circumnavigation of the Earth using only surface transport. At the Society and online. £7, RGS-IBG members £5.

**B Wednesday 23 October 3.00pm - 4.00pm**

Social (London)

**Transglobe Expedition reunion tea party**

Join members of the expedition to enjoy informal tea and cake in the Main Hall and afterwards explore the Director's Gallery exhibition. At the Society. £10, RGS-IBG members £8.

**B Wednesday 23 October 4.00pm - 5.45pm**

Film screening (London)

**To the ends of the Earth**

A screening of the classic 1983 documentary sharing the incredible story of the 1979-1982 Transglobe Expedition, an unprecedented human endeavour: the first north-south circumnavigation of the Earth without leaving its surface, narrated by Richard Burton. At the Society. £10, RGS-IBG members £8.

**B Wednesday 23 October 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Social (London)

**Transglobe Expedition drinks reception**

Meet and mingle with friends old and new in the convivial Main Hall at the Society to celebrate the achievements and legacy of the Transglobe Expedition Trust. At the Society. £15, RGS-IBG members £12.

**B Wednesday 23 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Tribute evening to Ran and Ginny Fiennes and the Transglobe Expedition**

Join a panel of distinguished speakers and past grant beneficiaries together with members of the Transglobe Expedition alongside other leading figures from the world of expeditioning for an evening of entertaining conversation and reflection to celebrate the official launch of the Ran and Ginny Fiennes grant in support of emerging travellers. At the Society and online. In person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.

## **B Wednesday 23 October 8.00pm - 10.30pm**

Gala dinner (London)

### **Transglobe Expedition gala dinner**

Enjoy a gala dinner and help us raise funds to continue the Transglobe Expedition Trust's legacy by ensuring that future awards which support travel with purpose will be presented in the name of Ran and Ginny Fiennes long into the future. *At the Society.* £150, RGS-IBG members £125.



## **B Thursday 3 - Thursday 24 October**

**1.00pm - 1.30pm**

Workshop (online)

### **Chartered Geographer application accelerator**

A four-week accelerator for those eligible for Chartered Geographer to focus your efforts in preparing your application portfolio. *Online.* Free.



## **B Thursday 24 October 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (Leeds)

### **Getting started with ArcGIS**

This event is for teachers with little or no previous GIS experience. *University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, LS2 9JT.* £25, RGS-IBG members £18.

## **B Monday 28 October - Monday 4 November**

Festival (London and online)

### **Explore festival**

Brace yourself for an epic eight-day extravaganza, filled with awe-inspiring events and captivating workshops that will redefine the way you approach field science and purposeful travel. *At the Society and online.*

## **B Monday 28 October 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

### **Exploring the explorers' maps**

Dr Katherine Parker

This talk will discuss explorers' maps with an especial emphasis on the collaborative effort that goes into creating them, an effort that often included Indigenous peoples. It asks what stories we can and should tell with explorers' maps? Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society and online.* Free.

## **B M+G Monday 28 October 6.00pm - 8.15pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

### **Monday night lecture screening: Southampton**

A live screening of the Monday night lecture from Ash Bhardwaj on why we travel. Preceded by refreshments and followed by a discussion on the lecture. Organised by the South regional committee. *Ordnance Survey, Adanac Drive, SO16 0AS.* Free.

## **B M+G Monday 28 October 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

### **Why we travel: a journey into human motivation**

Ash Bhardwaj

Award-winning author, journalist and broadcaster Ash talks about *Why We Travel*, his smart-thinking debut book, which explores our motivations for travel, how to do it better, and how it helps us live more fulfilling lives. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society and online.* Free.



**B Tuesday 29 - Wednesday 30 October  
10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Off-site safety management course**

A must for those involved in planned visits in the UK or overseas, this course looks at the safety management issues involved in planning, managing and evaluating local visits, fieldtrips, residentials and exchanges. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society.* £280, RGS-IBG members £252.



**B Wednesday 30 October**

Lecture (London and online)

**Unstoppable: reimagining planetary conservation**

Sacha Dench

We will explore how scientists, explorers, and business leaders can collaborate to save our planet. This is our biggest challenge yet, and the leadership required to tackle it will be unlike any we've seen before. Be part of this pivotal dialogue and reimagine leadership. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society and online.*



**B Wednesday 30 October  
1.00pm - 5.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Field journals and sketching in nature workshop**

Roseann Hanson, Tom Napper, Ali Foxon, Alex Boon and Kirsten Carlson

Keeping a field notebook not only strengthens our bond with the natural world but also enhances our understanding of it. Join us for this workshop where you'll learn the essential tools and techniques for keeping a nature journal. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society.* £55, RGS-IBG members £48.

**B Wednesday 30 October 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Social (London)

**Art of exploration gathering**

Join us for a dynamic and interactive evening sharing how artists around the world are using art to explore geography. Attendees will be able to explore the Society where we will have themed displays and short presentations by artist-geographers, view gallery displays of maps and polar art, and visit the bar. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society.* £12, RGS-IBG members £10.

**B Wednesday 30 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Oxford)

**The ship beneath the ice:**

**the discovery of Shackleton's Endurance**

Mensun Bound

The story of the search and discovery of *Endurance*, Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic expedition ship, one of the most famous wrecks in history, lost beneath the ice in 1915. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. The Oxford Union, St. Michael's Street, Oxford, OX1 3JB. £7.50, RGS-IBG members free.



**B Thursday 31 October 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Off-site safety management course: training the trainers**

A one-day course for trainers with relevant previous experience in managing a wide range of visits in the UK and overseas who wish to deliver the off-site safety management course to their own groups. Part of the Explore festival. *At the Society.* £280, RGS-IBG members £252.

**B Friday 1 November 2.00pm - 6.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Expedition and wilderness medicine: update session and celebration**

Expedition medicine offers an exciting opportunity to combine your medical skills with travel, field research and exploration. This gathering is intended to share experiences and encourage best practice. This year topics will include hypothermia and avalanche rescue, restorative health and research reports on nutrition and physiology in extreme environments. [At the Society](#). £35.

**B Friday 1 November 6.30pm - 9.00pm**

Microlectures and social event (London and online)

**Welcome home: postcards from the field**

Short presentations from recently returned expeditions and field research projects, what they did, and lessons learned. Followed by an opportunity to meet and celebrate. Part of the Explore festival. [At the Society and online](#). In person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5. Explore weekend delegates free.

**B Friday 1 - Sunday 3 November**

Conference (London)

**Explore 2024: the expedition and fieldwork symposium**

With over 90 leading field scientists and explorers, our expedition and fieldwork planning weekend is unmissable for anyone wanting inspiration, advice or contacts for their own project. Part of the Explore festival. [At the Society](#). £125, RGS-IBG members £95.

**B Monday 4 November 2.30pm - 3.45pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Be inspired afternoon talk (London and online)

**Hamilton Rice's Amazon**

This talk celebrates the centenary of Alexander Hamilton Rice's final expedition to Amazonia (1924-25) which pioneered technological innovations such as the use of hydroplanes for reconnaissance, aerial photography and shortwave radio in the field. Part of the Explore festival. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

**B M+G Monday 4 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Observations from African climate change hotspots**

Dr Callum Munday

Africa is the continent least responsible for anthropogenic climate change but is highly vulnerable to its effects. This lecture explores new fieldwork designed to uncover the science behind African climate change. Part of the Explore festival. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

**B Tuesday 5 November 10.00am - 10.30am**

Networking (online)

**Chartered Geographer virtual networking**

Join the Chartered Geographer coffee morning to meet with Chartered Geographers online. [Online](#). Free.

**B Tuesday 5 November 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Creative ideas in teaching physical geography: natural hazards**

This workshop led by Pete Loader and Gillian Finucane will explore Earth learning ideas relating to natural hazards, Earth structure, climate change and plate tectonics. *At the Society.* £45, RGS-IBG members £30.



**B Wednesday 6 November**

**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights (online)

**How to write an academic CV**

Writing an academic CV can be a mystifying process, raising a wealth of questions. How long should a CV be? What headings are helpful? And how do you make sure it stands out from the crowd? *Online.* Free.



**B Thursday 7 November**

**10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (Exeter)

**Going further with ArcGIS**

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. The course is suitable for anyone who has previously attended Teach with GIS or acquired equivalent experience in another way. *Exeter School, Victoria Park Road, EX2 4NS.* £25, RGS-IBG members £18.

**Thursday 7 November 6.30pm - 8.15pm**

Film screening (Tiverton)

**Savage waters: a family goes in search of adventurer's big wave**

Matt Knight

A trip in the tracks of explorer EF Knight becomes an unexpectedly poignant portrait of a passionate family in a film by Mikey Corker. Organised by the South West regional committee. *Ondaatje Theatre, Blundell's School, Halberton Road, EX16 4DN.* Free.



**B Thursday 7 November 6.45pm - 8.00pm**

Lecture (York)

**Human dimensions of climate change in the Arctic**

Ishfaq Hussain Malik

Ishfaq's research examines the human dimensions of climate change in the Arctic, understanding how communities experience, perceive, and respond to climate change. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with York and District Geographical Association. *Bootham School, Portland Street, YO30 7BU.* Free.

**W** [www.booth.am/BoxOfficeGA](http://www.booth.am/BoxOfficeGA)



**B Thursday 7 November 7.00pm - 9.30pm**

Webinar (online)

**Perceiving climate: education**

How do educators respond to the challenge of climate change, and help their communities to more clearly perceive and respond to it? Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with Sheffield Hallam University Space and Place Group. *Online.* Free. **W** [www.shu-spg.eventcube.io](http://www.shu-spg.eventcube.io)

**Thursday 7 November 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Lecture (Norwich)

**The rise and rise of the French Riviera**

Jim Ring

Jim traces the story of the Riviera back to the British aristocrats who discovered it in the late eighteenth century. Despite rampant development since World War II, he identifies the qualities that have enabled the Cote d'Azur to stay ahead of the pack. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [Blake Studio](#) at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, RGS-IBG members free.

**B M+G Monday 11 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Tracks on the ocean: a history of trailblazing, maps and maritime travel**

Dr Sara Caputo

Sara charts a hidden history of the modern world through the tracks left on maps and the sea. Taking us from ancient Greek itineraries to 21st century digital mapping, via the voyages of Drake and Cook, Sara reveals how marks on maps have changed the course of modernity. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

**B Tuesday 12 November 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

Webinar (online)

**Fieldwork focus teachmeet**

In this session, we will be asking geography teachers to share their ideas and innovation with a fieldwork focus with the teacher community. [Online](#). Free.

**B Thursday 14 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (online)

**It shouldn't happen to a conservationist**

Andy Lester

Andy will be discussing the need to change the way we do conservation for a more resilient future. Organised by the South regional committee.

[Online](#). Free.

**B Saturday 16 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Penrith)

**Waterbaby**

Sarah Smout

Waterbaby invites us on a personal and global journey exploring our fragile and intrinsic relationships with water. Through her innovative combination of live-looped cello soundscapes, soulful poetry and mesmerising vocals, Sarah sings of her voyages to waters near and far, by boat and over land, carrying the stories of people, places and beings whose voices need to be heard. [Rheged Centre, Redhills, CA11 0DQ](#). £12.

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

**B M+G Monday 18 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**Machu Picchu: changes and challenges**

Dr John Hemming [CMG](#)

The iconic Inca ruin Machu Picchu is crucial to the economic geography of Peru. John will show thrilling changes over the last 65 years and current challenges faced by mass tourism. [At the Society and online](#). Free.

**B M+G Monday 18 November**  
**8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Social (London)

**Monday night lecture supper**

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

At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 14 November and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.



**B Tuesday 19 November 9.45am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Educational visits coordinator training**

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



**B Wednesday 20 November**  
**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 SM Wednesday 20 November**  
**5.00pm - 6.00pm**

School Member lecture (London)

**Glaciation and cold environments**

School and Student Members are invited to come along to this lecture to hear from leading academics in the field of glaciation and cold environments.

At the Society. Free, School Members only.

**B Wednesday 20 November 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (London)

**Platinum print Collections talk**

Join the Society's manager of photography for a glass of wine, talk and private viewing of a new, permanent, display of platinum prints created from the Society's Everest negative collection. The Society's entire collection of platinum prints will be on display including those from the *Endurance* expedition as well as period prints by the photographer's own hand. At the Society. Free.



**B Thursday 21 November**  
**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 Thursday 21 November**  
**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Workshop (online)

**Chartered Geographer introductory webinar**

Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. Online. Free.

**B Thursday 21 November 5.00pm - 7.00pm**

Lecture (Peterborough)

**Youth microlectures: Peterborough**

Join us to hear students from schools in and around Peterborough talk on the theme of people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace from the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The King's (The Cathedral) School, Park Road, PE1 2UE. Free.

**B M Monday 25 November 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 25 November 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**The art of globemaking: inside the hidden world of an ancient craft**

*In conversation with Peter Bellerby*

A rare glimpse inside the London studio of Bellerby and Co, Globemakers with founder Peter and a cast of traditional makers, fine artists and craftspeople.

*At the Society and online. Free.*

**B Tuesday 26 November 5.00pm - 7.30pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

**Youth microlectures: Norwich**

A fun evening of microlectures from senior pupils from the Norwich Schools Partnership showcasing a broad range of subjects in human, physical and environmental geography. Organised by the East of England regional committee. *Blake Studio at Norwich School, 71a The Close, NR1 4DD. £5, free for RGS-IBG members, students and teachers.*

**B Tuesday 26 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

(Doors open at 6.00pm)

Panel discussion (London and online)

**Protecting marine ecosystems**

Examine the challenges facing marine ecosystems, including overfishing, pollution, and climate change, and discuss potential solutions for their preservation. *At the Society and online. In person: £12, RGS-IBG members £10. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £5.*

**Tuesday 26 November 7.15pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Huddersfield)

**Water security and climate change in Africa**

*Declan Conway*

Declan's research cuts across water, climate and society. He has current interests in behavioural and psychological approaches to water security and adaptation. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee with Huddersfield and Halifax Geographical Association. *Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, HD1 3DH. Free.*

**B Wednesday 27 November 10.00am - 12.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**A Level study day – morning**

A Level students will benefit from a series of sessions led by experts that focus on areas of the key stage five curriculum. Please only attend one session. *At the Society. £15, RGS-IBG members £10 per student (accompanying teachers free).*



**B Wednesday 27 November 1.30pm - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**A Level study day – afternoon**

A Level students will benefit from a series of sessions led by experts that focus on areas of the key stage five curriculum. Please only attend one session. *At the Society.* £15, RGS-IBG members £10 per student (accompanying teachers free).



**B Wednesday 27 November  
12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Meeting (online)

**Disaster Risk Management Professional  
Practice Group AGM**

Join the Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group for their Annual General Meeting. *Online.* Free.

**B Wednesday 27 November 6.30pm - 7.30pm**

Lecture (online)

**Impact of tourists on Nunavik and its community**

Will Hotopf

Arctic tourism has developed exponentially. Tour operators and cruise ships enhanced by the Northwest Passage melting in summer. The Arctic is often presented as an empty and vast landscape of ice and snow with a focus on wildlife such as the majestic polar bear. The lecture gives an overview on the Arctic and its tourism and the impact of tourism on the Inuit peoples and what options are available to ensure the lives of the communities are not adversely affected. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee. *Online.* Free.

**B Wednesday 27 November 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Stamford)

**Waterbaby**

Sarah Smout

Waterbaby invites us on a personal and global journey exploring our fragile and intrinsic relationships with water. Through her innovative combination of live-looped cello soundscapes, soulful poetry and mesmerising vocals, Sarah sings of her voyages to waters near and far, by boat and over land, carrying the stories of people, places and beings whose voices need to be heard. *Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's Street, PE9 2DL.* £14, RGS-IBG members £10.

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

**B Thursday 28 November 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (King's Lynn)

**Waterbaby**

Sarah Smout

Waterbaby invites us on a personal and global journey exploring our fragile and intrinsic relationships with water. Through her innovative combination of live-looped cello soundscapes, soulful poetry and mesmerising vocals, Sarah sings of her voyages to waters near and far, by boat and over land, carrying the stories of people, places and beings whose voices need to be heard. *St. George's Guildhall, King Street, Norfolk PE30 1EU* £14, RGS-IBG members £12.

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

**B Friday 29 November 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Darlington)

**Waterbaby**

Sarah Smout

Waterbaby invites us on a personal and global journey exploring our fragile and intrinsic relationships with water. Through her innovative combination of live-looped cello soundscapes, soulful poetry and mesmerising vocals, Sarah sings of her voyages to waters near and far, by boat and over land, carrying the stories of people, places and beings whose voices need to be heard. *The Hullabaloo*, Borough Road, DL1 1SG. £15, RGS-IBG members £13.

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

**B M+G Monday 2 December 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**A short history of flowers**

Advolly Richmond

From stories of exploration and unrequited love to excessive hybridisation and botanical piracy, Advolly will bring the histories of our most-loved flowers to life. *At the Society and online. Free*



**B Wednesday 4 December**

**1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Postgraduate insights (online)

**How to write your first academic book review**

This comprehensive webinar will bring together experienced authors and reviewers to offer invaluable insights specifically tailored for geography scholars. *Online. Free.*

**B Thursday 5 December 6.30pm - 9.30pm**

Social (Norwich)

**Winter social: geographical travels and the creative arts**

Eugene Rae, Principal Librarian at the Society, and Sainsbury Centre experts will be talking to a selection of outstanding objects and artworks, each linked in some way to a geographical journey or to the theme of travel. Organised by the East of England regional committee. *Modern Life Café, Sainsbury Centre, NR4 7TJ. £15, RGS-IBG members and under 25s £10.*

**B M+G Saturday 7 December 2.30pm - 4.30pm**

(doors open at 2.00pm)

Children's lecture (London and online)

**Children's lecture**

Join us for our annual children's lecture, where stories of our fascinating world will come to life! Our special guest speaker, soon to be announced, will captivate young minds with engaging tales. After the lecture, enjoy a variety of fun activities, explore our giant floor map, and of course squash and biscuits. *At the Society and online. RGS-IBG members free.*



**B M+G Monday 9 December**

**6.30pm - 7.45pm**

(doors open at 5.30pm)

Monday night lecture (London and online)

**The future of geography: how power and politics in space will change our world**

Tim Marshall

Geopolitical expert Tim Marshall explores how politics and geography are as important in the skies as on the ground, covering great-power rivalry; technology; commerce; combat in space; and what it all means for us down on Earth. *At the Society and online. Free.*

**B M+G Monday 9 December 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Social (London)

**Monday night lecture supper**

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

At the Society. £42 per person, including two courses, two glasses of wine or soft drink, and coffee. Please book by 12.00pm on Thursday 5 December and advise us of any dietary requirements you have.

**B Wednesday 11 December 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (London)

**Northwest Passage and the quest for the North Pole**

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 Northwest Passage and the quest for the North Pole. This event is made possible by the generous support of our Corporate Member, Riverstone.

At the Society. Free.

**B M+G Thursday 12 December  
6.00pm - 8.00pm**

Exhibition (Norwich)

**Private view: Extinction exhibition**

Robert Ferguson and Sara White

An exhibition of sculpture and art which highlights climate change through fossils and early human tools recovered from Happisburgh, Norfolk. The curators of the collection, Robert and Sara, will give a short talk on the works and the message behind them. Organised by the East of England regional committee. The Crypt Gallery, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. Free.

**B Thursday 12 December 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Social (online)

**Fellows and Members Christmas quiz**

As the year draws to an end, join the South regional committee for a festive online get-together and test your geography knowledge in our Christmas quiz! Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Tuesday 17 December 7.30pm - 10.00pm**

(doors open at 6.45pm)

Social (London)

**Christmas quiz**

Get ready for a holly, jolly evening filled with festive cheer and brain-teasing fun at our Christmas quiz. Organised by the London regional committee. At the Society. £15, RGS-IBG members £12.

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## Non-Society events

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

### **B Tuesday 10 September 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Spoken word

#### **The Poetry Pharmacy in partnership with Mind**

William Sieghart in conversation

with Stephen Fry and friends

Readings and discussions on the healing power of poetry inspired by *The Poetry Pharmacy* trilogy.

From £30.

**T** 07974 197448 **E** ameliakaterichards@gmail.com

**W** www.thepoetrypharmacy.com/events

### **B Thursday 12 September 7.30pm - 8.45pm**

Conversation

#### **How To Academy: Oliver Burkeman**

Oliver Burkeman

Oliver joins How To Academy for a wise and practical plan for shedding our illusions and finding true fulfilment. From £31.95.

**E** contact@howtoacademy.com

**W** www.howtoacademy.com/events/oliver-burkeman-author-of-four-thousand-weeks

### **B Wednesday 18 September 7.45pm - 10.00pm**

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Reception

#### **Hitch-hiking, haggling and the lost art of getting lost**

Hilary Bradt, Nicholas Crane and Colin Thubron

Celebrating 50 years of *Bradt Guides*, join Bradt for a panel discussion followed by drinks. £25.

**E** marketing@bradtguides.com

**W** www.bradtguides.com/50th-anniversary-event

### **E Wednesday 18 September - Saturday 28 September 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition

#### **Waterlines**

An exhibition sharing artists work from the Wilderness Art Collective, exploring water and the environment through art. Free.

**E** info@wildernessart.org **W** www.wildernessart.org

### **B Tuesday 24 September 7.00pm - 9.30pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

#### **Making waves: voices for water**

Mark Agnew, Professor Jules Pretty, Amy-Jane Beer, Paul Rose and Dr Helen Scales

Join Wilderness Foundation UK for an evening exploring seas and rivers through adventurous and therapeutic journeys, and being mindful of the threats to these wild, precious places. £15.

**T** 0300 1233 073 **E** info@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

**W** www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-waves-voices-for-water-speaker-programme-tickets-925865858707

**B Friday 27 September 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Conversation

**In conversation with Jon Sopel**

Jon Sopel

Explore post-Brexit Britain and what it means to be British with renowned British journalist, author, political insider and presenter of the chart-topping podcast

*The News Agents*. £60 with book, £50 without book.

**E** faneonline@fane.co.uk **W** www.fane.co.uk/jon-sopel

**B Wednesday 9 October 7.15pm - 10.30pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture and reception

**Remembering Tigers book launch**

The book launch for *Remembering Tigers*, the incredible ninth book in the *Remembering Wildlife* series. £27.50, £115 VIP ticket with drinks reception.

**E** contact@rememberingwildlife.com

**W** www.rememberingwildlife.com

**B Thursday 10 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 6.45pm)

Conversation

**An evening with Adrian Chiles**

Adrian Chiles and Zoe Williams

Join Adrian, one of Britain's best-loved writers and broadcasters, in conversation with fellow columnist Zoe Williams. £30 in-person, £10 online.

**E** guardianlive.events@theguardian.com

**W** www.theguardian.com/guardian-live-events/article/2024/jun/03/an-evening-with-adrian-chiles-live-in-london-and-online

**E Wednesday 16 October - Saturday**

**9 November 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Exhibition

**Arabia Phoenix: a journey through time**

This third exhibition in a series about Arabian exploration looks at vision, change and growth in the past century. Free.

**T** 07968 028072 **E** ann@mia.gb.net

**W** www.arabiaphoenix.com

**B Thursday 17 October 7.00pm - 10.00pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture and reception

**Arabia Phoenix: vision, change and growth**

HRH Prince Khalid bin Bandar Al Saud and Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO

Two ambassadors, from Saudi Arabia and the UK, discuss vision and change and their impact. Free (registration essential) and includes Taste of Arabia reception.

**T** 07968 028072 **E** ann@mia.gb.net

**W** www.arabiaphoenix.com

**B Tuesday 12 November 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

**Zaire-Congo River expedition**

**50th anniversary lecture**

Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE

Hear the story of this epic 1974-75 scientific expedition, from members of the 160 strong team navigating the 2,700 mile Congo, pioneering the use of giant inflatable craft and jet boats. **£24.54, SES Members £19.12.**

**T** 01747 854456 **E** jenny@ses-explore.org

**W** www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-great-zaire-congo-river-expedition-50th-anniversary-tickets-857113217707

**B Thursday 14 November 7.00pm - 9.30pm**

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lecture

**On the edge**

Dr Julian Fennessy, Rebecca Stephens MBE  
and hosted by Ash Bhardwaj

An unmissable evening exploring wild places, threatened species and why we travel, in aid of conservation charity Explorers Against Extinction. From **£15**, RGS-IBG members **10% discount** with code **RGS1024**.

**E** sara@realworldconservation.org.uk

**W** www.explorersagainstextinction.co.uk/support-us/events

**B Friday 15 November 9.30am - 12.30pm**

(doors open at 9.00am)

Lecture and reception

**A conversation with Sophie Conran**

Sophie Conran

Sophie will be sharing stories around her rich career in design, and life as daughter to Sir Terence and Caroline Conran. **£15.**

**E** programmes1@KCWC.org.uk

**W** www.kcwc.org.uk/activity/november-2024-general-meeting-speaker-series-sophie-conran

**B Tuesday 26 November 1.00pm - 5.00pm**

(doors open at 12.00pm)

Conference

**Future of food competition**

Barney Mauleverer

A unique competition for the entrepreneurial mind to pitch ideas to solve the future of food. **Free.**

**T** 07730 496947 **E** barney@futureoffood.org.uk

**W** www.futureoffood.org.uk

 **B Thursday 28 November 8.30am - 5.00pm**

Conference

**AGI GeoCom 24 – connecting communities; the geospatial perspective**

GeoCom is the AGI's flagship event, and the largest independent event in the UK GI calendar that is organised for geospatial professionals by geospatial professionals. **Early bird** from 2 September, **£150**, AGI members **£90**, students **£25**.

**E** info@agi.org.uk **W** www.agi.org.uk/geocom

**B Friday 29 November 7.00pm 10.00pm**

(doors open at 6.00pm)

Short talks

**For the love of sharks**

Steve Backshall, Simon Rogerson,

Ali Hood and Kirsty Andrew

The evening will be filled with stories of discovery and connection, with speakers sharing their love for these incredible ocean creatures. £35, Shark Trust members £25, children (U16s) £15.

**T** 01752 672008 **E** enquiries@sharktrust.org

**W** [www.sharktrust.org/Event/flos24](http://www.sharktrust.org/Event/flos24)

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## Regional committees

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

### Vice President, Membership

Matt Pycroft

**E** regionschair@rgs.org

### East of England

James Firebrace

**E** ea@rgs.org

### London

Annabel Illingworth

**E** london@rgs.org

### Midlands

Martin Haslett

**E** midlands@rgs.org

### Northern Ireland

Tim Campbell

**E** ni@rgs.org

### North West

Jonathan Stevens (Cumbria)

**E** nw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (Cheshire)

**E** cnw@rgs.org

### South

Henry Hogger

**E** south@rgs.org

### West of England

Sam Scott

**E** wesw@rgs.org

### South West

Alan Smith

**E** sw@rgs.org

Martin Kemp (North Devon)

**E** northdevon@rgs.org

### Wales

Sam Scott (South Wales)

**E** wesw@rgs.org

Owen Kelly (North Wales)

**E** cnw@rgs.org

### Yorkshire and the North East

Jon Bridge

**E** yne@rgs.org

### Singapore

Oliver Worsley

**E** singapore@rgs.org

### Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

**E** admin@rgshk.org.hk

**W** www.rgshk.org.hk

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





# People and their place

## Earth Photo 2024

**We are pleased to showcase some of the outstanding Earth Photo 2024 award winning images and films, including overall winners Jean-Marc Caimi and Valentina Piccinni, whose series *Tropicalia* documents the methods employed by Sicilian farmers as a response to climate change.**

Created in 2018 by the Society, Forestry England and Parker Harris, Earth Photo is a world-leading programme engaging with still and moving image makers to showcase the issues affecting the climate and life on our planet.

Caimi and Piccinni's series of photographs documents the drastic effects of climate change on food sovereignty in Sicily. Each pair of images introduces a story and ways of resistance, such as a mango shoot being prepped for grafting as Sicilian farmers shift from citrus to tropical

groves, which is paired with the image of entrepreneur Francesco Verri who spearheads a network of small-scale growers in Messina, who cultivate lesser-known tropical fruits.

“How the world will adapt to the new scenario of our planet can already be seen in the struggles of microcosms like Sicily, which has become the epicentre of the new tropical battle,” Caimi and Piccinni explain.

“As Europe experiences a wave of extreme weather events, we documented the far-reaching consequences of climate change in Sicily. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and an increased risk of extreme events have transformed what was once Europe's breadbasket into a testing ground for adaptation and survival.”



Topcatalà © Jean-Marc Carini and Valentina Piccini





The Forest Ecosystem Award, selected by Forestry England, went to Marc Lathuilière for his film *Ser Guardianes Madre Arbol* (*Becoming Guardians of Mother Tree*). In northern Colombia, the Bajo Atrato basin is a Biodiversity Zone, one of the most humid and diverse areas on Earth.

Telling the story of afro-descendant communities practising small-scale sustainable agriculture and that of their environmental group, the film testifies to the threats facing this community. It invokes magical realism with infrared images and guardians wearing calabash masks.



Still from *Sar Gardanes Madre Albol* (Becoming Guardians of Mother Tree) © Marc Latmulliere



Raymond Zhang, a 14-year-old student from Shanghai, China, was awarded the David Wolf Kaye Future Potential Award – Photo, a cash prize towards the cost of the recipient's next project, and mentoring by a leading photographer. His photograph *Walking on the Palette* documents a farmer walking along terraces found in Southern China, capturing the depths of the colour palettes within the landscape.

The Earth Photo exhibition is on display at the Society until 21 August and selected shortlisted images are on display at various Forestry England and National Trust properties until February 2025.

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

# Medals and awards

## Meet this year's Gold Medalists

### Dr Vanessa Lawrence csc



© Lucy Pope

A geographer known for her work as senior advisor to governments as well as inter-governmental and private sector organisations.

What role do you do now and how would you describe your work?

“Today, I work internationally as a senior advisor to governments and large private sector organisations, assisting them to underpin all their data with authoritative geographic information, to help their decision-making. Often, I am assisting the country to build, for the first time, authoritative geographic information – the equivalent of the large-scale geographical information that is available in Great Britain from Ordnance Survey and used every day by thousands of organisations from the NHS and the Police to every estate agent.”

What projects are you working on?

“I am currently supporting several governments to think through their geographical information needs. Taking The Bahamas for instance, their important work will inform their assessment of climate impact, the emergency response they can provide to their citizens at a time of a hurricane and also e-commerce and home delivery.”

What is one thing you wish you had learned earlier in your career?

“That most people are very approachable and wish to be helpful.”

Do you have any advice for someone wanting to go into your field?

“The best advice I ever received was the saying, ‘If you can dream it, you can do it.’”



## Stephen Venables

© Sue Flood



A mountaineer, writer and public speaker. Stephen was the first Briton to climb Everest without supplementary oxygen.

What did you want to be, or where did you want to work, when you were a teenager?

“I wanted to be performing Brahms’ first piano concerto, to a sold out audience at the Royal Festival Hall, with a top orchestra like the London Philharmonic. That was never going to happen. In the real world, I had no idea what work I would actually end up doing, but I did love wild mountain country and I wanted to go climbing, preferably on big, remote, glaciated mountains.”

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

“Everest. Not because it was Everest, but because of the way we climbed it – the smallest team ever to climb such a hard new route on the mountain, without oxygen or high altitude porters, on the rarely visited East Face. But perhaps more exciting was the day when Maggie Body, the legendary editor at Hodder & Stoughton, said that she was going to publish my first book.”

What are you looking forward to in the future?

“In September, Skip Novak and I will be leading another expedition to South Georgia (my 12th visit to the island) where we have unfinished business – some of the last major unclimbed summits on the island.”

**W** [www.rgs.org/awards-showcase](http://www.rgs.org/awards-showcase)



# Geography's next generation

## Supporting young people

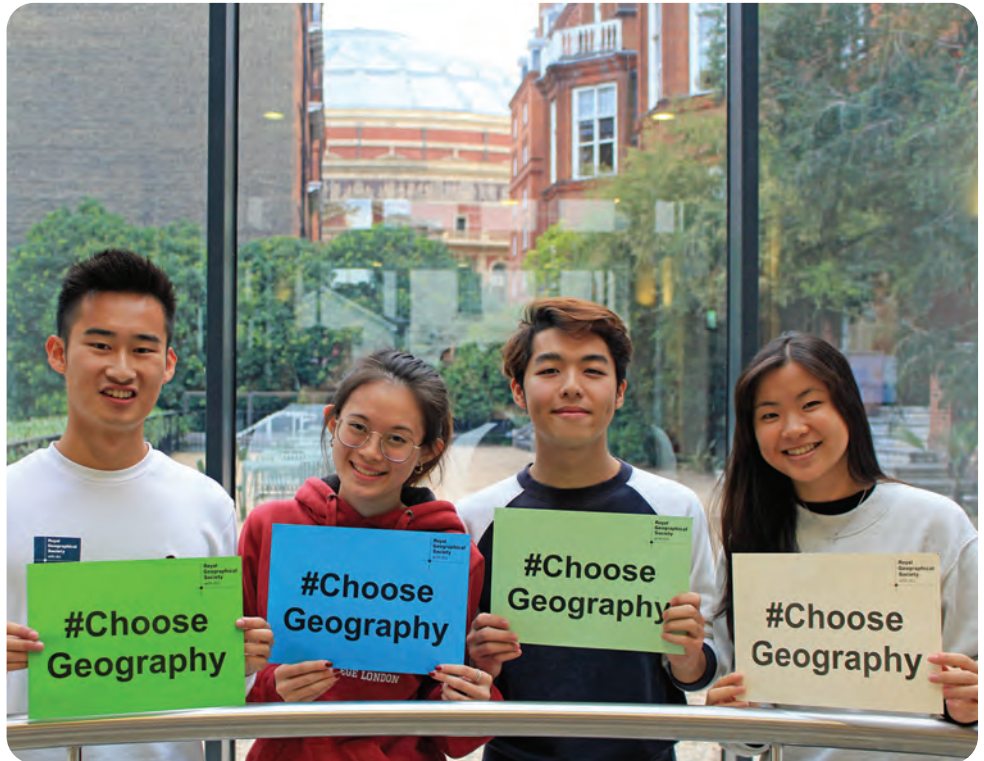
**In a rapidly changing world, the need for a deeper understanding of our planet and innovative ideas to help tackle the challenges we face is crucial. The Society's commitment to geography in schools and cultivating a new generation of geographers capable of addressing these needs remains unwavering as we champion the discipline's impact and evolve how we approach this work.**

Geography is attracting increasing numbers of young people – in 2023 it was the sixth most popular subject at GCSE in England. As a learned society we are keenly aware of the importance of inspiring and nurturing curiosity at an early stage, but it is just as important to encourage and support clear pathways for geographers through school and further education and into their careers.

The core of our work for the educational community focuses on developing teaching resources, providing continuing professional development (CPD) training for teachers, promoting professional standards, and highlighting study and career opportunities. The Society's recent strategic review resulted in an investment in additional staff who will be responsible for ensuring this work reaches a wider range of schools and pupils, increasing the number and diversity of young geographers.

We know that choosing to study geography opens doors, first to university and then to fulfilling and rewarding careers. However, budding geographers need the right tools, guidance and opportunities, so from January 2025, a new Coordinator in the Schools team will deliver a formalised *Choose geography* programme of work. This will focus on working with schools and teachers to promote geography as







a useful and relevant subject to study, providing guidance and support for school-based geographical careers education and progression through GCSE, A Level and on to university. Alongside this, we will also continue to work with universities and professional geographers to deliver a reimagined Geography Ambassadors scheme in response to the changed needs of schools post-pandemic. Through this more targeted, consistent approach we hope pupils will be inspired to keep studying geography and develop the skills they need to make a difference as geographers.

A second new role will be dedicated to better reaching underrepresented groups and widening participation in geography. This area of work will expand upon our *Geography for all project* which sought to address underrepresentation as defined by income and ethnicity. The initial focus

will be on connecting and amplifying some of the great external initiatives already underway across schools, universities and in business. Working in partnership with others will maximise our collective impact and facilitate the cross-pollination of approaches in pursuit of not simply a greater number, but also a wider range of students studying geography at all educational stages.

Up and coming geographers are crucial to the future of the discipline. With the support of our members and partners we are well positioned to be a stronger advocate for geography and geographers in the making.

**W** [www.rgs.org/choose-geography](http://www.rgs.org/choose-geography)



# Venue hire Your event

**The Society's unique and well equipped building has long been a venue for learning, discussion and socialising. We are one of London's leading venues for a wide range of events, from conferences, lectures and meetings, to receptions, weddings and exhibitions. With distinctive spaces and venue packages tailored to your needs, hiring our venue gives you the perfect backdrop for your event.**

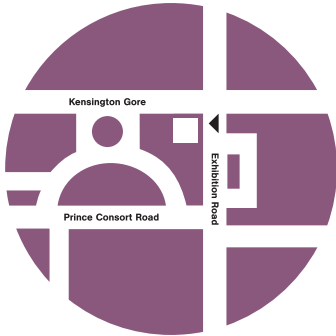
Maximise the impact of your gathering with state-of-the-art AV broadcast and recording facilities which enable engaging hybrid events, allowing you to share content digitally with the widest possible audiences.

Planning an event at the Society allows you to curate a truly special experience, with the option to add a Collections private view, an incredible opportunity to discover some of the Society's fascinating historical items.

With cost-effective hire options and reduced rates for members, our expert venue team can bring your event to life.

**W** [www.rgs.org/venue-hire](http://www.rgs.org/venue-hire)

# How to find us



Entrance is on Exhibition Road  
Nearest Tube station South Kensington

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

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



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

## Corporate Partners

