# Council and Committee elections 2024 Profiles of nominees

Royal Geographical Society

with IBG

Advancing geography and geographical learning

# **Council elections**

## **President**

#### 1. President (unopposed)

#### **Professor Dame Jane Francis**

Our planet is changing fast with impacts for all its people. The Society has a crucial role to play in education and advocacy to find a more sustainable way to live in balance with our planet.

As an Earth scientist my expertise is in the reconstruction of past environments and climate change, particularly in the polar regions. I hold a leadership position as Director of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and am responsible for the delivery of a clear strategy for the future, world class science, financial sustainability, productive relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, and engagement with public and policy makers. My values include equality and inclusiveness, as well as a drive towards more sustainable operations.

I hope my leadership experience can support the Society in this period of change and the exciting opportunities it provides, through increasing its membership, its sustainability, and its influence.

Website: www.bas.ac.uk/profile/janefr/

## **Education**

#### 2. Vice President (unopposed)

#### **Alan Parkinson**

I am currently Head of Geography at King's Ely Prep. I have over 30 years of teaching experience – having previously worked for the Geographical Association in curriculum leadership. I've received awards for teaching, writing and advocacy including the RSGS Tivy Medal in 2013 and Ordnance Survey Award from the Society in 2008. I've written numerous textbooks, led hundreds of CPD sessions, and written resources for over 50 organisations. I would bring significant high-level experience and knowledge gained from time spent working in primary and secondary phases of education, 12 years of ERASMUS project experience and significant advocacy work. I've worked as an Ordnance Survey GetOutside Champion supporting outdoor education, was a UCL Fawcett Fellow for 2022-23, researching curriculum making, and the pinnacle of my career to date was to serve as President of the Geographical Association for 2021-22 which taught me further about governance, the importance of Trustee roles and policy work.

#### **Professional Practice**

# 3. Councillor (unopposed)

## **David Wood**

I am a chartered economic geographer working in the Civil Service. My job is to bring a geographical approach to the design and delivery of a range of complex public policy problems and I have worked across six government departments, including leading the first use of live maps with the Cabinet of the UK Government to solve a policy problem.

I am also the first Head of the Government Geography Profession (GGP). Over the last six years, working closely with the Society, I have grown the GGP from a standing start to 2,000 members which has resulted in the geography discipline now having a place at the heart of Government decision making.

I am a member of the Society's Professional Practice Committee and the Geographical Club. I also have experience as a school governor and academy trustee; I supported the organisation to grow, develop, generate income and transform its physical infrastructure.

# Membership

## 4. Councillor (one position)

## Clare Hadley

A passionate geographer, I have spent my professional career promoting the benefits of geography in the UK and internationally. I led Ordnance Survey's sponsorship of the Society, and the transfer of the international map archive to the Society's Collections. I have been a Chartered Geographer Assessor, on the Society's Professional Advisory Group, and Deputy Head of the Government Geography Profession. I am Co-Chair of South Region Committee and an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

I have a sound knowledge of the Society's activities including the regions, profession, research, schools, and Collections enabling me to take a strategic view and to represent the breadth of our membership. My skills and experience include leading taskforces, stakeholder engagement, membership development, programming and partnering. My approach is analytical and pragmatic. The Society can bring great value to our membership and more widely. I will bring enthusiasm to help to expand and develop it.

## Julia Massey-Stewart

Co-founder of The Mango Lab, a London/Cornwall school specialising in visual media, I have filmed documentaries across Africa, commercial ice-fishermen in Canada, and learnt Russian through German. My multiple roles as strategist, marketer, educator, and presenter fold into a singular ethos – a passion for people, wildlife and our planet. With a podcast co-production promoting a local market-farm to schools-to-farms geography-linked workshops I continue to inspire young people about compost, worms, food waste and plant-resource heat generation.

As a fourth generation Fellow for over 30 years, I have witnessed the Society's progressive shifting direction. As one of the longest serving Younger Members' Committee members, now London Regional Committee, I have run events, auditioned speakers, hosted Microlectures, and during the pandemic headed the post-lecture Virtual Map Room. I love engaging audience members to meet each other, network, and aspire to bring in fresh wind with this new role – a committed Councillor of Membership.

# **Committee elections**

# **Research and Higher Education Committee**

## 5. Committee member (one position)

#### **Professor Jenny Pickerill**

Jenny Pickerill is a Professor of Environmental Geography at Sheffield University. Her research focuses on inspiring grassroots solutions to environmental problems and in hopeful ways in which we can change social practices. She has secured funding from the ESRC, USF, ISRF, Leverhulme and British Academy. Jenny has been an editor of the *Antipode* journal and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She has published books and articles on themes around eco-housing, eco-communities, social justice and environmentalism.

Jenny has been the Chair of the Society's Participatory Geographies Research Group (2014-2017). Jenny is currently Secretary for the Conference of Heads of Geography in Higher Education (CHGHEI) (2020-

••••••••

present). She has served as Head of Department of Sheffield Geography (2019-2024). Jenny led on devising the EDI principles at Sheffield. Jenny is keen widen who belongs and flourishes in the discipline, and in what is considered geographical fieldwork, research and teaching.

# **Dr Myles Harris**

Health geography is a common thread through my research and higher education career. My background is nursing, with most of my clinical experience as an expedition medic. My Masters was in Education and my PhD in Risk and Disaster Reduction, which included researching the health and geographic risks for military deployment to humanitarian crises. I am currently the fieldwork lead at UCL, advising on risk mitigation during undergraduate field trips through to professorial research programmes.

As a researcher and educator of geography and cognate disciplines, I would like to use my skills and expertise in public outreach, values-based leadership, and senior charity management as an active member of the Research and Higher Education Committee. Examples of my experience at national level include (1) strategic engagement and communication in my professional and charitable roles, (2) leading lecture series and university teams, and (3) representing organisations in public and policy engagement.

#### 6. Chair of Conference for 2025 (unopposed)

#### **Professor Pat Noxolo**

Professor Pat Noxolo is Chair in Postcolonial Geographies at the University of Birmingham. Her research uses literary, discursive and arts-based approaches to bring together the study of culture and in/security. She is a committee member of the RACE group, former chair of the Society for Caribbean Studies and former coeditor of *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and was awarded the Society's 2021 Murchison Award.

Pat Noxolo has led two major interdisciplinary international networks around culture and in/security, funded by AHRC and Leverhulme Trust. She is currently co-lead of the Stuart Hall Archive Project, at the University of Birmingham. She has organised and chaired more than 10 international conferences and has given numerous keynote lectures. Pat co-initiated and co-organises the Fi Wi Road annual internships for Black Geography undergraduates, and is a leading voice in the field of Black Geographies.