

# Bulletin Summer 2021

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Inside

- News
- What's on?
- Our work



**A new strategy**  
.....  
**For our 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) **T** [@RGS\\_IBG](mailto:@RGS_IBG) **E** [membership@rgs.org](mailto:membership@rgs.org) **T** +44 (0)20 7591 3080



## A message From the Director

The past year has been a challenging and unsettling time for us all. Many of you will also have been seriously affected by COVID-19. Let me start then with a big thank you for your ongoing support for the Society. I hope you will be able to benefit from our online events, exhibitions, learning materials, and more.

However, the pandemic has also given us a chance to reflect on our priorities and how we achieve them. Now more than ever, issues of environmental, social and economic sustainability are of paramount importance and hence these objectives are now central to the Society's strategy and vision.

In December, after several months of consultation with Fellows, members, and other stakeholders, Council agreed a new strategy which sets out the direction for the Society's activities over the coming years.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to its development. You can read more about the new strategy on page 23.

I am very much looking forward to the time when we are able to welcome you back to the Society and we can meet in person again. But until then, remember you can watch live streams of our Monday night lectures each week, and that we have plenty of resources on our website for those of you who are teaching geography at home.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Professor Joe Smith**  
Director

# Society News



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## Council elections

We are inviting nominations from Fellows for a number of Council positions to be elected in June 2021, including the next President of the Society. The following positions are open for nominations: President, Vice-President (Education),

Councillor (Education), Honorary Secretary (Expeditions and Fieldwork), Councillor (Expeditions and Fieldwork), Chair of Annual Conference for 2022 (one year position on Council), and Councillor (Research and Higher Education).

The deadline for Council nominations is 9.00am on Thursday 25 March.

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

## Annual General Meeting day

This year's AGM will be held on Monday 7 June and we are anticipating it will be an online-only event. At the time of writing we are intending to hold a combined 2020 and 2021 Medals and Awards Ceremony, and an Annual Reception at the Society in London on Wednesday 1 December.



## **New Year's honours**

Congratulations to those Fellows and members who were recognised in this year's New Year Honours list, including Professor Mark Brandon who received an MBE for services to polar science, John Geiger who has been made Member of the Order of Canada, Paul Hackett who received a CBE for services to social housing, Alan Mills who received an MBE for services to international development, and Emily Penn who received a British Empire Medal for services to conservation and to charity.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the Blood Bricks team at Royal Holloway, University of London lead by Professor Katherine Brickell and Dr Laurie Parsons, who were awarded Research Project of the Year for the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences in the THE Awards.

## **Society opening**

At the time of writing, all Society staff will be working from home where possible for the foreseeable future.

Events, including our Monday night lectures, will continue to take place online for the time being. We will continue to keep you updated on any developments related to the building reopening to Fellows and members as and when we can.

## **Preferences for digital publications**

Fellows and members can now choose to receive the Bulletin, Annual Review, election ballot papers and renewal reminders as digital-only publications. By choosing to receive any or all these publications digitally, instead of in print, you will help reduce the Society's costs as well as our environmental impact. Simply login to the Society's website and complete the form.

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



# Education News

## **Financial Times competition winners**

The Society and the *Financial Times* ran a joint Schools Essay Competition that asked students to discuss the geographical story behind a chosen set of data related to sustainability and climate change. The overall winner was Reuben Meadows, with highly commended entries received from Benjamin Xavier Jacob, Jack Doran, Marina Semple, and Clara Zibell.

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

## **Young Geographer of the Year 2020**

The 2020 Young Geographer of the Year competition gave school pupils the opportunity to explore their wider geographical horizons through the theme: 'The world beyond my window'. The overall category winners were: Sianna Sutton (9-11 years), Zahra Khan (11-14 years), Michael Siani-Davies (14-16 years), Zoe Henderson (16-18 years).

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

## **Teacher Training Scholarships**

Alongside some other subjects, the Department for Education decided not to provide teacher training bursaries and the accompanying Geography Scholarship for trainee geography teachers over the academic year 2021/22. However, we are continuing to provide a programme of support, including CPD and Fellowship of the Society, for our current Geography Scholars until the end of the current academic year.

## **Weddell Sea resources launched**

We have launched a new online Antarctic Album designed for pupils, teachers and parents to learn more about Antarctica and its adjacent ocean, the Weddell Sea. The digital album of collectable images is available to download for free from the Microsoft, Google Play and Apple App stores. Throughout the spring term we have been posting Antarctic snapshots



on our Instagram channel containing passwords that unlock the album to reveal a wealth of additional Antarctic information.

The Antarctic Album, and five educational interactives about the continent, are part of the Society's Discovering the Weddell

Sea programme. This builds on our education programme that accompanied the 2019 Weddell Sea Expedition and is supported by the Flotilla Foundation.

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

# From the field News

## In the field

Despite many field-based research projects being put on hold during the past 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the projects that we have funded did manage to get out into the field safely.

Supported by the Dudley Stamp Memorial Award, PhD student Yu-Kai Liao, from Durham University completed a year of field-based research into how different modes of commercial shrimp farming shape relations of hydrology, infrastructure, and social life in the Mekong Delta.

Whilst Dr Elia Apostolopoulou, from the University of Cambridge, has begun research on the right to energy justice in Greece, supported by the Society's Environment and Sustainability Research Grant.

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



Fieldwork team, Sayan Mountains © Meg Picken

## Grant stories

We have introduced a new set of pages on our website to tell the stories of some of the research projects that our grants support. Grant stories feature a short Q&A with team members for each project and explore how they conducted their research, the highlights of the trip and what they will take away from the experience. Recent grant stories feature projects conducting biodiversity surveys in Madagascar, and reconstructing past climate in the Sayan Mountains, Siberia.

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



# Professional News

## Geography unlocks data

Over the past year, geographical skills and insights have been put to work addressing some of the greatest challenges of our lifetime, such as the response to COVID-19, climate change, and the journey to net zero. Location data are a 'golden thread' that enable big and interconnected data sets to be interrogated in new ways. As the UK Government turned its attention to a National Data Strategy and strengthened support for adult skills development, the Society highlighted the central importance of located data and geographical insight for place-sensitive policy and decision making. Our work with schools and universities in developing data skills, and in highlighting the value of those skills for employers, has emphasised the continuing importance of geography in developing data skills across the breadth of the future workforce.

**W** [www.rgs.org/national-data-strategy](http://www.rgs.org/national-data-strategy)

## Careers advice

The Society has launched a new webinar series to help geography students explore future career options. In the *Use geography* sessions, professional geographers from across a range of sectors share some of the many possibilities studying geography can lead to, as well as insights into why they've pursued their career and advice to maximise success of securing a job.

Each webinar focuses on different sectors or career paths, such as risk management and insurance, environmental consultancy, teaching, geographical data science, international development, and transport, utilities and infrastructure. Recordings are available on our website for anyone to view, with advice, information and resources for those considering a career in that sector.

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



# Research and higher education News

## **Annual International Conference 2021**

The theme of this year's Annual International Conference, taking place from Tuesday 31 August to Friday 3 September, is Borders, borderlands and bordering. Selected by Chair of conference Professor Uma Kothari, this theme has become even more salient and timely over the past year. She said: "While the key issues I outlined last year still resonate, relationships with borders and processes of bordering have changed dramatically through desperate measures the spread of COVID-19, which have had devastating and unequal effects."

The call for sessions, papers and posters is open until 12 March and we welcome sessions and papers focusing on all areas of geography, as well as the Chair's theme. Information on registration will be circulated soon.

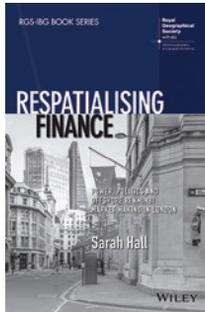
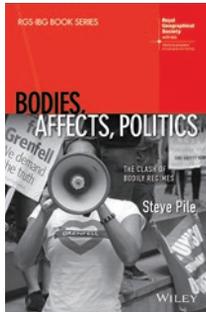
**W** [www.rgs.org/ac2021](http://www.rgs.org/ac2021)

## **First Master's courses accredited**

The Society has awarded accreditation to Master's degree programmes for the first time. Programmes at Royal Holloway, University of London (MSc Quaternary Science) and Swansea University (MSc Environmental Dynamics and Climate Change and MSc Geographic Information and Climate Change) have received this recognition. Through the accreditation scheme, the Society recognises good practice in geography learning and teaching across UK higher education, while supporting continuous quality improvement and promoting good student outcomes across the sector. To date, geography undergraduate programmes in over 50 universities have been accredited.

The next deadline for applications is 31 March.

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



### **RGS-IBG book series new additions**

Two new additions to the RGS-IBG book series are now available to pre-order on the Wiley website.

In *Bodies, Affects, Politics*, Professor Steve Pile sets out a new way for geographers to think about how everyday political forces shape different kinds of bodies. Drawing significantly on the works of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Ranciere, the book illustrates these ideas with examples, from Hollywood films to the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

*Respatialising Finance*, by Professor Sarah Hall offers one of the first detailed empirical studies of how and why London became the leading western financial centre within the wider Chinese project of internationalising its currency. The book challenges traditional ideas about financial centres, and draws out the ways that economic and political relations between London and Beijing serve to establish territorial fixes for capital within a dynamic global financial system.

Fellows and members receive up to 35% discount on book titles in the series when using the discount code in the Members' Area of the website.

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

# Events Highlights



Courtesy of Tyler Casey / Unsplash

## Summer events programme

This summer many of the Society's events will be held online. Our Monday night lecture series is available via live stream and our speakers include Professors Patricia Daley, Wade Davis and Jonathan Drori.

Fellows and members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our Livestream page. If you

haven't previously logged in, you can set a password using the 'forgotten password' link on the login page.

Our public events this term include a topical discussion on how energy production in the UK is changing and how we will power our future, our travel event will focus on destinations in the UK and how we can protect our amazing landscapes, and we will join geographers across Europe for the European night of geography and look at the evolution of protest and activism.

Other events coming up this term include talks on a range of topics including the natural history of the South Atlantic, the journey of the first person to run across Africa, and COVID-19, transport and the green recovery.

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



# Summer 2021 events

## Monday night lectures at a glance

View online [www.rgs.org/livestream](http://www.rgs.org/livestream)

6.30pm - 7.45pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
12 April	Where the world is heading and how we can stop making things worse	Professor Joanna Haigh CBE
19 April	Respatialising finance: power, politics and offshore renminbi market making in London	Professor Sarah Hall
26 April	Magdalena: river of dreams	Professor Wade Davis
10 May	Uncharted!: A Black woman's journey through the discipline of geography	Professor Patricia Daley
17 May	Beyond the narco frontier: rethinking an imaginary of the margins	Professor Jonathan Goodhand
24 May	Around the world in 80 plants	Professor Jonathan Drori CBE

## Events listings

(in chronological order)

### Key to events

- B** Book tickets in advance
- M** Members only
-  Continuing professional development for the Chartered Geographer scheme

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.

We are monitoring the public health advice on large gatherings, events and use of public transport closely, and will resume physical Monday night lectures when it is safe and feasible to do so. Any face-to-face events will be held in a COVID secure venue.

Fellows and members can access the live stream of our Monday night lectures and Annual General Meeting by logging in to the Members' Area and accessing our Livestream 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.

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.

### **B** Tuesday 6 April 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Lecture

#### **The perimeter: a photographic circumnavigation of Britain**

Quintin Lake

Join us to hear from Quintin about his photographic project *The Perimeter*, and see some of the amazing images that he captured around the coast of Britain on a journey where each footstep leads to different surprises, beauty and strangeness. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

### **B** Wednesday 7 April 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Lecture

#### **Around the World with Nellie Bly**

Rosemary Brown

Trailblazer Nellie Bly circled the globe faster than anyone ever had in 72 days in 1890. 125 years later Rosemary followed in her global footsteps and has now written her biography. Organised by the West of England and South Wales regional committee.

Online. Free.

### **B** Friday 9 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Topical discussion

#### **The roaring 20s?**

Are we heading towards a post-pandemic boom period? Join us on the European night of geography when we ask our panel what global recovery strategies should be deployed and whether the pandemic has increased the appetite for global action.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

**M Monday 12 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Where the world is heading and how we can stop making things worse**

Professor Joanna Haigh CBE

Joanna will outline the scientific evidence for a human influence on climate and discuss pathways to limit the rate of global warming and its disastrous impacts.

Online. Free, members only.

**B Wednesday 14 April 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

Lecture

**The girl who ran across Africa**

Emma Timmis

Emma is the first person to run across Africa from Henties Bay, Namibia to Pemba, Mozambique. Emma shares the lessons learned on this and her other adventures. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Thursday 15 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Topical discussion

**Powering our future**

Energy demands and energy production are changing on an epic scale. Join our panel to discuss this transition and what further changes we can expect.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

**B Monday 19 April 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk

**Shackleton's ghost writer: are authorship standards always important?**

Art Gertel

Many of us have read and enjoyed popular literature, without giving a second thought to issues of authorship. Using the historical drama of Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* voyage and subsequent publications, Art will juxtapose authorship criteria between popular and scientific / medical literature.

Online. Free.

**M Monday 19 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Respatialising finance: power, politics and offshore renminbi market making in London**

Professor Sarah Hall

Sarah examines how political authorities in both London and Beijing identified the importance of London's financial district in shaping renminbi internationalisation and, in turn, the changing place of China within the global finance.

Online. Free, members only.

**B Wednesday 21 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture

**Land of the emerald forests**

Andy Lester

A tour of Costa Rica's habitats, which has more species than anywhere on earth. If Costa Rica has achieved this, why can't the rest of us? Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

**M Monday 26 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Magdalena: river of dreams**

Professor Wade Davis

Wade reflects on his Magdalena River travels in Colombia, a country where people have overcome years of conflict and is home to the world's greatest ecological and geographical diversity.

Online. Free, members only.

**B Wednesday 28 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Travel event

**Keeping it local**

Our contributors have gone off the beaten track in the UK and will share with you their guide on where and when to go, sharing ideas around how we can all travel and live a little more sustainably.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

**B Monday 10 May 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk

**Sir Clements Markham FRGS FRS**

**President of the RGS: success or failure?**

Isobel Williams

Joining the Navy at 14, Markam served in the Pacific before embarking on an Arctic expedition in search of Franklin. He subsequently left the Navy and organised the removal of cinchona trees from Peru to India to produce quinine. In the late 19th century he organised the National Antarctic expedition which took Scott and Shackleton to the frozen continent.

Online. Free.



**B Monday 10 May 4.30pm - 6.30pm**

Workshop

**Teaching about climate change in primary schools**

The 'climate emergency' is an important part of the primary curriculum. Many resources are available for teachers, but what should you use? How can you incorporate it into your lessons?

Online. £45, RGS-IBG members £35.

**M Monday 10 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Uncharted!: A Black woman's journey through the discipline of geography**

Professor Patricia Daley

Patricia talks about charting a career in geography as a Black British woman researching on refugee migration in Africa. She asks how might lessons from her experience inform the development of anti-racist practices in the discipline.

Online. Free, members only.



**B Tuesday 11 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

**Port of Tyne: challenges ahead in a changing world**

Simon Brett

Simon will outline the challenges faced by the Port of Tyne in the coming years as the port's industry has adapted to a post-Brexit environment in which the green economy is becoming ever more important. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Wednesday 12 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

**Horseland journey: the cultural role of horses through history**

Vyvyan Wood-Gee

An epic 1,500 mile journey on Fell ponies round Britain to discover the cultural importance of horses. Organised by the East of England regional committee.  
Online. Free.

**B Monday 17 May 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk

**The Cape of Flowers: explorations in a forgotten corner of the Portuguese Empire**

Cliff Pereira

Beyond the Southeast Asian islands of spices lay islands of flowers and sandalwood. For a period between the 16th and 20th centuries this was part of the Portuguese empire. This is an account of an exploration of Lusitanian cultural legacies.  
Online. Free.

**M Monday 17 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Beyond the narco frontier: rethinking an imaginary of the margins**

Professor Jonathan Goodhand

The narco frontier is frequently invoked in popular narratives about the drugs-intensified borderlands of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Colombia. What ideological work does this imaginary perform and for whom? What are the implications of an alternative imaginary of the margins?  
Online. Free, members only.



**B Tuesday 18 - Wednesday 19 May  
9.30am - 5.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**Off-site safety management**

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.  
RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR.  
£360, RGS-IBG members £300.

**B Wednesday 19 May 6.00pm - 10.30pm**

Lecture and dinner (Tavistock)

**Annual forum: HMS Endurance in Antarctica**

Rear Admiral Nick Lambert

Nick takes a trip down memory lane with some reflections on the vitality of the marine environment. Organised by the South West regional committee.  
Mount Kelly, PL19 0HZ. £30 (dinner included).  
Please send s.a.e. and cheque (payable to 'RGS South West Region') by 10 May to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, PL6 7LN.  
Contact Derry Corey T 01752 703354



**B Thursday 20 May 9.30am - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

**OSSM 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.  
RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR.  
£216, RGS-IBG members £192.

**B Thursday 20 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

**Navigating our way towards a plastic free ocean**

Sally Earthrowl

Sally, an environmentalist and adventurer, has spent the last three years at sea with eXXpedition researching the North Pacific Gyre plastic pollution solutions.

Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.

**M Monday 24 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture

**Around the world in 80 plants**

Professor Jonathan Drori CBE

Jonathan takes us on a botanical adventure, in which science, geography, history and folklore are intertwined and brought to life through surprising stories of plants and their curious relationships with humans.

Online. Free, members only.

**B Tuesday 25 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture

**Maps for local and family history**

David Rymill

David is an archivist at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Archives. This talk will explore some of the typical types of map found in county archives, which provide insights into the history of local communities. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Wednesday 26 May 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

Lecture

**COVID-19, transport and green recovery?**

Dr Llinos Brown

A discussion of how travel has changed in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic and what this might mean for a green recovery. Organised by the Midlands regional committee.

Online. Free.



**B Wednesday 26 May 6.30pm - 8.00pm**

Lecture (Sheffield)

**Zero carbon Sheffield: the challenge of 2030**

John Grant

Sheffield City Council has declared a climate emergency and has established a plan to become zero carbon by 2030. What are challenges it faces in achieving this ambitious target? Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with the Sheffield Hallam University GeogSoc.

Peak Lecture Theatre, 527 Owen Building, Sheffield Hallam University, City Campus, S1 1WB.  
£3, RGS-IBG members and students free.

**B Wednesday 2 June 6.30pm - 7.30pm**

Lecture

**Britain's summer snows**

Iain Cameron

Join Britain's preeminent chionophile as he discusses where and why Britain's snow lasts the longest, why he studies it, and how it can be seen as a record of climate change. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee.

Online. Free.

**M Monday 7 June 4.30pm - 5.30pm**

**Annual General Meeting**

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

Online. Free, members only.

**B Wednesday 9 June 6.00pm - 7.00pm**

Lecture

**The research and activities of the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust**

David Colbourne

An insight into the research and activities of the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust, focusing on the unique habitat and wildlife of the Estuary. Organised by the Cheshire and North Wales regional committee. Joint event with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalist Society.

Online. Free.

**B Wednesday 9 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

**Penguins, albatross and whales: natural history of the South Atlantic**

Carl Chapman

Carl, the founder of Wildlife Tours and Education, will talk about penguins, albatross and whales, from a wealth of experience in ecotourism and natural history tours. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.



**B Tuesday 15 June 9.45am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**EVC update workshop**

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

RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR.

£280, RGS-IBG members £252.



**B Wednesday 16 June**

**9.30am - 1.00pm**

Workshop (London)

**Management of visit emergencies**

This scenario-based course is for school EVCs and senior management. It is intended to meet the needs of staff who may have a role to play during a visit emergency.

RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR.

£280, RGS-IBG members £252.

**B Wednesday 16 June 7.00pm - 10.00pm**

Social event (Chichester)

**Members and supporters evening**

Come and join us in the historic town of Chichester for an evening of short presentations on various geography-related topics, specialist subjects, personal journeys or places visited, near and far! Organised by the South regional committee.

Cathedral Room, Chichester College,

Westgate Fields, PO19 1SB.

£12, £10 RGS-IBG members (includes buffet).

**B Monday 28 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Topical discussion

**What can I do?**

Join our panel during London Climate Action Week to discuss the role individual behaviour change can play in reducing our emissions from food, housing and transport.

Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

**B Tuesday 29 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture

**Island of the fairy tern**

Andy Lester

Come on a journey around St Helena and encounter the wildlife and landscapes of one of the most remote corners of the planet. Organised by the South regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Tuesday 6 July 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture

**Building, health, hope and happiness through the power of nature**

Tom Brown

Tom will outline the methods used by the Green Light Trust to have such lasting effects on the lives of the people they support. During the talk, you will hear from the people the trust supports and understand its novel approach to measuring its impact. Organised by the East of England regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Thursday 8 July 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Bath)

**Iran**

Ian Gilchrest

From 1976 to 1979 Ian lived in Iran. Upon returning to England, he eventually became Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Council, and later Mayor of Bath. In 2019 he returned for a study visit. This personal view has illustrations from both periods in Iran and includes Ian's observations on what has changed and what has not. Organised by the West of England and South Wales regional committee. Joint event with the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution.

BRLSI, 16 Queen Square, BA1 2HN.

£5, RGS-IBG members and students £2.

**B TBC**

Lecture

**Liverpool's Covid-19 response**

Dr Mark Green

Liverpool was selected for a mass-testing pilot programme. Dr Mark Green (University of Liverpool) led analysis work for the Council to identify inequalities in uptake of testing. Organised by the North West regional committee.

Online. Free.

**B Tuesday 31 August to Friday 3 September**

Conference

**RGS-IBG Annual International Conference**

Chaired by Professor Uma Kothari

The three-day conference attracts over 2,000 geographers from around the world. This year, the conference is taking place online and in-person if it is possible to do so, with the theme borders, borderlands and bordering.

## Field visits



### **B Wednesday 26 May 10.00am - 5.00pm**

Workshop (Thames Estuary)

#### **Building and deploying low-cost DIY field sensors and loggers for research and teaching**

Scientific sensors are usually very expensive and may not measure what you want to but these days you can build your own using open-source hardware and software. Come and learn how to implement field research involving low-cost sensors using the freestation.org approach. This field practical is for those who attended the training on 24 March 2021 or are already familiar with Freestation sensors.

Chalkwell, Leigh on Sea, Hadleigh. £50.00

### **B Saturday 12 June 9.30am - 1.00pm**

Walk (Sheffield)

#### **A landscape partnership, what do they look like in the landscape?**

Keith Tomkins

This walk will look at the Sheffield Lakeland Project. We will be able to see physical work on the ground together with hearing about (and possibly seeing) how other community based initiatives link to these capital works. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joint event with Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership (supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund).

Low Bradfield. Free. Please email [E.yne@rgs.org](mailto:E.yne@rgs.org) for any queries on terrain and accessibility.

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

Field visit (Leamington Spa)

#### **Two woods on the summer solstice**

Martin Haslett

Martin leads a three mile walk between two community woodlands which both encourage wildlife diversity and community involvement. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. Joint event with Friends of Foundry Wood.

Foundry Wood, 66 Princes Drive, CV32 6AF.

Free, book by 17 June. [E midlands@rgs.org](mailto:midlands@rgs.org)

to book. Contact Martin Haslett **T** 01926 429254

### **B Tuesday 29 June 10.30am - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Tavistock)

#### **Tavistock world heritage site: copper, cottages and canal**

Andrew Thompson

After a talk on Tavistock World Heritage Site, Andrew will lead a walk around Tavistock to include the canal and the Bedford Cottages. Organised by the South West regional committee.

Tavistock Methodist Church Upper Hall, Chapel Street, Tavistock, PL19 8BX. £10. Please send a cheque (payable to 'RGS South West Region') to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN by Monday 21 June. **T** 01752 703354

**B Sunday 11 July 10.30am - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Torquay)

**Field day: Kents Cavern and Babbacombe**

Pat Wilson

Visit Kents Cavern and Babbacombe Downs to see the famous landslip. Organised by the South West regional committee. Date dependent on tides.

Kents Cavern, 91 Ilsham Road, Torquay, TQ1 2JF.  
£12. Please send a cheque (payable to 'RGS South West Region') with s.a.e to Pat Wilson, 19 Locksley Grange, St Marychurch Road, Torquay, TQ1 3HX.

**T** 01803 311952

**B Saturday 17 July 10.30am - 3.00pm**

Field visit (Bristol)

**Kingsweston and Blaise Castle Estates**

Professor Kathryn Monk

This field trip will include a presentation, followed by a guided walk about the estate of the Grade I listed Kingsweston House and onwards to the adjacent Blaise Estate, SSSI and Roman road. Organised by the West of England and South Wales committee.

Kingsweston House, Kingsweston Lane, BS11 0UR.  
Please email Alessandra Badino to book by 16 July

**E** [alessandra.badino@airbus.com](mailto:alessandra.badino@airbus.com)

**T** 07515297787

**B Saturday 7 August 2.30am - 4.30pm**

Field visit (Mendip Hills)

**Mendip magic: a field day**

Les Davies MBE

At the heart of the Mendip Hills lies the ancient area of Charterhouse, a landscape full of history, mystery, myth and legend. Find out about its past from the arrival of the Roman 2nd Legion in AD 46, through the end of lead mining in 1880s, to the anti-invasion plans for the defence of Mendip in 1939/40. Organised by the West of England and South Wales regional committee.

Meet at Charterhouse Centre car park, Somerset, BS40 7XR. Please email Brigadier John Hemsley to book by 6 August. **E** [starvelark@gmail.com](mailto:starvelark@gmail.com).

## Regional event organisers

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

For more information on any of the events run by the regional committees or to get involved yourself please see the website or get in touch with the following volunteers.

### Regions Chair

David Lovell

**E** regionschair@rgs.org

### East of England

Clare Brown

**E** ea@rgs.org

### Midlands

Martin Haslett

**E** midlands@rgs.org

### Northern Ireland

Oliver Dunnett

**E** ni@rgs.org

### North West

Cheshire

Tina Lees-Jones

**E** cnw@rgs.org

North West

Jonathan Stevens

**E** nw@rgs.org

### South

Henry Hogger

**E** south@rgs.org

### South West

West of England

Geoffrey Parkes

**E** esw@rgs.org

South West

Derry Corey

**E** sw@rgs.org

North Devon

Martin Kemp

**E** northdevon@rgs.org

### Wales

South Wales

Geoffrey Parkes

**E** esw@rgs.org

North Wales

Tina Lees-Jones

**E** cnw@rgs.org

### Yorkshire and the North East

Jonathan Bridge and David McEvoy

**E** yne@rgs.org

### Singapore

Oliver Worsley

**E** singapore@rgs.org

**W** www.rgs.org/singapore

### Hong Kong

Rupert McCowan

**T** +852 2583 9700

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

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



## Catch up Our lectures online

**The majority of our lectures and events are currently being live-streamed, but if you're not able to make one of our online events at its scheduled time, you can easily catch up on a selection, or watch your favourites again, via our website. [W www.rgs.org/lecturesonline](http://www.rgs.org/lecturesonline)**

Fellows and members are able to catch up on our previous Monday night lectures and our other event content. Some you may have missed include:

### **Building relationships to ensure humanitarian delivery of aid**

**Henry Chamberlain**

Ensuring aid safely reaches the right place is a vital job. Henry gives us an insight into the obstacles in supplying aid and the strategies used to overcome them.

### **Erebus: the story of a ship**

**Sir Michael Palin**

Sir Michael retraces the history of *HMS Erebus* and her crew; from the part it played in Ross' Antarctic expedition of 1839-43, to its abandonment during Franklin's ill-fated Arctic expedition.

### **The future of food**

Our expert panel look at food security and the potential role of new technology, as well as how we can be more mindful of seasonality, production processes, consumption and waste.

### **The invention of nature**

**Andrea Wulf**

Alexander von Humboldt is the great lost scientist. Historian Andrea talks about how his ideas revolutionised science and why he is the forgotten father of environmentalism.

# A new strategy

## Building on our successes

© European Geographical Society / Unsplash



**The Society’s Council, our body of elected trustees, agreed a new strategy when they met in December. The mission of the Society to ‘advance geographical science’ has been a keystone of our work throughout our history.**

The new strategy expresses this in terms of a vision for geography and geographers that places the subject, and the Society, at the heart of progress towards a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable world.

The strategy is structured around four key aims: to empower and support geographers, and those applying geographical thinking and expertise, in the gaining and sharing of geographical knowledge; to amplify the contribution that geography makes to understanding the world and the difference it makes to people’s lives; to engage, serve



and develop the Society's membership; and to sustain the reputational, financial and institutional future of the Society itself.

To meet these aims, we must continue to build on our current work providing access to the best possible resources, supporting the professional development of geographers, and ensuring that the discipline, and its ability to connect the physical and social sciences, is widely appreciated across all sectors of society, including the general public, policymakers and business.

For the Society to remain a vibrant and relevant membership organisation, learned society and professional body, it is essential to retain the enthusiasm and expertise of our current Fellows and members, while reaching and engaging with new ones. And, to deliver on our objectives, we need to nurture and protect diverse income

streams, well-supported and well-trained staff, appropriate technology, and good governance structures.

The new strategy has been developed during one of the most challenging periods of the Society's history, yet despite the difficulties presented by a global pandemic this has been one of the most participatory processes the Society has run. All of the Society's varied constituencies, including staff and trustees, Fellows and members, sub committees and other stakeholders including institutional partners and supporters, have been engaged in every stage of the new strategy's development. Thank you to everyone who contributed to workshops and discussions, and those who provided written comments throughout this process.

The strategy is not intended to provide detailed plans for implementation or



activities that the Society will undertake, rather it gives a holistic overview of the Society's aims and direction. Specific activities and project plans will be outlined in annual workplans and budgets, enabling the management team to be more agile in their response to both internal and external challenges and opportunities within the guidance provided by the strategy. This approach also suits an institution that has very different types of activity being pursued, from the care of our historic Collections and grant funding of field research projects through to running public events and the support of time-pressed professionals. Progress against the workplans for the different teams will, as now, be reported regularly to Council with reference to the wider strategy.

Unlike the previous series of five-year strategies, the new strategy is not time-bound. Instead, it will be reviewed at

regular intervals by Council to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This, alongside it being a much more concise document, and a more agile approach to implementation are direct responses to the challenges of the current conditions. They also equip the Society, and our team, to take full advantage of emergent opportunities in these unusual times.

The new strategy can be read on our website.

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



# The House project

## Investing in the home of geography

**The House project is a multi-year programme of work that will ensure that the Society gets the most out of Lowther Lodge, our building in South Kensington, London. The House, as it has often been known, is a very valuable material asset but it is in urgent need of attention. Rather than tackling some of the care and repair needs in a piecemeal way, this initiative takes a long-term, cohesive view of our property and the Society's changing needs and opportunities over time.**

We have commissioned a team of designers and architects to develop a 10 year plan, which will enable us to understand, integrate and get the best value out of our complex site. This approach will help us to 'spend well and spend once' in every decision and will also give us a strong foundation for raising funds to support the works.

The multi-disciplinary project team includes the highly respected architecture practice Caruso St John to ensure that we meet our ambitious objectives. The strategic plan has been informed by a series of research workshops with a wide range of Society staff and trustees. This integrated approach offers a route to the most cost-effective long-term outcomes. While elements of the care and repair work are being met from the Society's own resources it will be vital to raise additional funds if we are to make the most of our key asset.

The whole House project is structured as a body of sub-projects, allowing a clear process of evaluation of the needs of each element and its funding. In the near term we are making urgently needed repairs, and at the same time taking every opportunity to make the building more environmentally sustainable. In January 2021 we started on a programme of essential and urgent



repair work on the South Elevation and one of the signature Norman Shaw chimneys. Our heating and cooling systems are past their end of life and we plan to install new, considerably more efficient, equipment over the course of the year.

The objectives guiding the House project include radically improved accessibility and sustainability performance for a building such as ours, enhanced Fellow and member benefits, better working conditions for staff and partners, and increased income from venue hire. The project team is also exploring options for improved public and Society catering, café and bars. We also see rich opportunities to enable greater public engagement with the past, present and future of geography, and the Society, through enhanced interpretation of the building and its contents. This rolling programme of improvements, all threaded together by the plan, will start to deliver benefits to staff, members and visitors by the end of this year, but some of the more ambitious ideas will require additional funds. We will keep you up to date with progress on the project.



Jonk won the 2020 Earth Photo competition for his stunning series *Coffee Shop, Abkhazia, region of Georgia* (left); *Hotel, Portugal* (right); *Swimming Pool, Italy* and *Theater, Abkhazia, region of Georgia*, which depict abandoned spaces reclaimed by nature. His series of images also won the competition's Place category.

Jonk and the five other category winners were selected from over 2,600 submissions by an expert panel of judges, chaired by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Marissa Roth. She said of Jonk's winning work: "We chose Jonk's compelling photographs as the overall winner because of the high degree of skill and vision that they represent, and also because they exemplify Earth Photo by straddling the duality of human coexistence with nature."

Hotel, Portugal © Jonk



Yanrong Guo won the People category for her striking image *Miss taken* of a pipe-smoking man in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, the largest settlement of ethnic minority Yi people in China.

Sean Gallagher won the Video category for *Cambodia Burning*, a short film revealing the impacts of rampant deforestation decimating the forests of the South East Asian country.

Joe Habben won the A Climate of Change category for *In Moleca*, an image which documents the effects of the 'Acqua Alta' (high-water) which transpires annually in the city of Venice.

Charles Xelot won the Changing Forests category for his work *Dead Tree #1*, which was taken of a contorted grey trunk, two years after a human-caused forest fire destroyed the landscape.



Yi Sun won the Nature category for his work *Dryland Farming, Study 7*, which depicts an aerial view of interlaced tractor lines carved into a Spanish farm suffering from drought.

You can view an online exhibition of the Earth Photo shortlist, including the winning images on our website.

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



Mass © Yanning Guo



# Hire our venue

## The perfect setting



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We pride ourselves on helping clients to use the Society as a charming backdrop for digital content that can be shared with the widest possible audience.

We have introduced a range of safety measures that follow UK government guidelines to ensure a secure environment within the venue, and are here to work closely with you to manage the additional aspects of event planning to deliver a successful event.

During these uncertain times it can be challenging to plan for the future, however our dedicated team at the Society have many flexible options that can help you plan your events with confidence. Whether it's a conference, lecture, seminar, meeting or filming location, we would love to help with your enquiry.

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

Are you planning an event and looking for a venue? The Society is an iconic venue that offers event organisers state-of-the-art audiovisual broadcast and recording facilities to deliver their events online as well as high quality rooms and catering for physical events.

Our impressive Ondaatje Theatre has professional live streaming and recording facilities that enable the broadcasting of lectures, conferences and presentations, as well as the opportunity to run interactive Q&A sessions with a virtual audience.



# Nominate a Fellow Fellowship

If one of your friends, family members, or colleagues would benefit from being part of a vibrant community of geographers, why not nominate them for Fellowship?

Fellowship is open to anyone over the age of 21 who can bring geographical or allied subject expertise to the Society – this could be from an academic, educational or professional background. Any Fellow can make a nomination.

Our Fellows bring a wide range of experiences to the organisation and are vital to the Society's mission to advance geography. They enable us to achieve so much more as a result of their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm for the discipline.

So nominate a friend for Fellowship today – encourage their passion for geography and support our work.

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

# Contact us

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society's building is currently closed to visitors.

Please check our website for details of our re-opening date and for departmental contact information.



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Please note that there is a delay in us receiving post.  
Please phone or email us instead.

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**F** +44 (0)20 7591 3001

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

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

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

