

# Bulletin Summer 2022

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Inside

- News
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- Our work



**Everest's legacy**  
.....  
**Reinterpreted**



## 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 President

It has been terrific to see the wealth of the Society's activity during my first year as President. The breadth of influence and the positive impact of our work astonishes me.

To a very large extent, this is due to you – our Fellows and members. Alongside our roles as a learned society, a professional body and a charity, the Society is firmly a membership organisation blessed with an extremely engaged membership.

There are many ways to engage with your Society – attending our regular and special events, contributing to our annual conference, mentoring Chartered Geographers or sharing expedition advice.

Our members also contribute in more formal ways: serving on regional committees, committees of Council that help steer the work of the management team, and advisory groups that contribute to projects – such as the upcoming Everest exhibition (see p.26).

With this in mind, I would like to highlight our annual Council elections. This year, nominations close on Thursday 24 March and, if you know someone you believe will be a strong and positive Trustee, please do nominate them. The election will take place at the AGM in June. We intend to deliver a hybrid event this year, with attendance and voting possible in-person or online.

However you engage with your Society, your support for our work and enthusiasm for geography is what makes the Society a success. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting even more of you over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Nigel Clifford'.

**Nigel Clifford**  
President

# Society News



© Ray Ansohn Photography

## **Restoration project progress**

Works to conserve the oldest section of the Society's building, Lowther Lodge, are progressing well with some major repairs completed towards the end of 2021. The south façade has been the focus of the first stage of restorations, with repair work done to stabilise the tall chimneys that are a signature feature of architect Richard Norman Shaw. Substantially more efficient boilers have also been installed.

## **New Year Honours**

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 New Year Honours. Several Society Fellows were recognised including Anton Bowring OBE, Kenn Dunn MBE, Professor Lynne Frostick CBE, Dame Joanna Lumley and Susan Manns MBE.

**W** [www.rgs.org/honours2022](http://www.rgs.org/honours2022)

## **Medals and awards ceremony**

In December, we were joined by our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal as we celebrated the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Society's medals and awards.

Forty five awards were presented including the Gold Medals which are approved by Her Majesty The Queen every year.

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



## Earth Photo 2022

Entries for this year's Earth Photo competition are now open. The competition aims to further understanding of the world around us through captivating photographs. The deadline to submit photographs is 3 May.

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

## New Shackleton exhibition

Our exhibition, *Shackleton's legacy and the power of early Antarctic photography*, marks the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's death. The images on display highlight the influences and motivations which repeatedly drew Shackleton to the polar region, documenting the role of photography and literature in his career. The exhibition is on display in the Society's Pavilion until May and an online version is on our website.

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

## Council nominations

We are now accepting nominations for the Council positions of Honorary Secretary (Education), Councillor (Education), Councillor (Expeditions and Fieldwork), Vice President (Research and Higher Education), Chair of Annual Conference 2023, and Councillor (Research and Higher Education). Nominees should have an understanding of our activities and audiences, as well as experience relevant to the position. The nomination deadline is 9.00am on 24 March with the election taking place in June.

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

## Latest membership card

One of the spectacular shortlisted Earth Photo 2021 images has been selected as this year's membership card image. This image, *Magic Tree* by Yevhen Samuchenko depicts Ukraine's Sofiyivsky Park.

**W** [www.rgs.org/card2022](http://www.rgs.org/card2022)



# Education News

## **Geography heroes in training**

A group of Geography Ambassadors and recently qualified teachers have begun working on a new initiative to share engaging content about Antarctica with school students using TikTok. The selected advocates have undertaken a social media training course and are now working on their content. We are grateful to the Flotilla Foundation for funding this initiative and the wider project. Follow @geographyheroes on TikTok to see the results.

## **School Essay Competition winners**

We are delighted that Cameron Allan, Royal Grammar School Guildford, was selected as the winner of last year's joint competition with the *Financial Times*. His essay on transport changes persuasively demonstrated how we can accelerate action on the Paris Agreement goals.

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

## **Young Geographer of the Year and Rex Walford winners**

Congratulations to the four overall category winners of Young Geographer of the Year 2021, Aarav Gupta, Faatimah Ali, Kate James and Katie O'Shea. Congratulations also to Paul Greenhalgh, Berkhamsted Boys' School, who received the Rex Walford Award which recognises the best scheme of work developed by trainee or newly qualified geography teachers on the same theme as the Young Geographer of the Year competition.

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



## Endurance22

Endurance22 is a major international scientific expedition aiming to locate the wreck of *Endurance*, Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship. At the time of writing it was scheduled to have departed 5 February.

We have been funded by the project to produce free resources for Key Stage 1 and 2 geography and history lessons, which will utilise our Collections, including polar maps, photographs, documents, and artefacts.

**W** [www.rgs.org/endurance22](http://www.rgs.org/endurance22)

## MacKay Carbon Calculator

We have produced teaching resources to accompany the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) MacKay Carbon Calculator, which allows users to explore how we might reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and beyond. Sir Patrick Vallance, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, provides a helpful introduction to the calculator in one of the resources.

**W** [www.rgs.org/my2050](http://www.rgs.org/my2050)

# From the field News



Resident interview © Nabila Soysa

## **Migrants on the margins final report**


The Society's field research programme, *Migrants on the margins*, was a five-year collaborative project that investigated the movement of migrants into and around four of the world's most pressured cities: Colombo in Sri Lanka, Dhaka in Bangladesh, Harare in Zimbabwe and Hargeisa in Somaliland. Supported by the Society, the research team, led by Professor Michael Collyer (University of Sussex) and Professor Laura Hammond

(SOAS, University of London), adopted a comparative approach to look at the opportunities available to migrants to better understand their experiences and vulnerabilities.

The team engaged with both newly arrived and well-established residents of 13 neighbourhoods in the four cities through focus groups, surveys, walk along interviews, oral histories, Q methodology, and GIS and participatory community mapping workshops.

The key findings from the project have shed light on the incredible challenges of living in these neighbourhoods as well as the significant levels of population mobility, or churn, within these communities. Evictions were found to be commonplace and extremely damaging to the long-term livelihoods of residents, even many years after an eviction had taken place. The





research also highlighted the clear gender differences between men's and women's roles in communities as people moved from rural to urban lifestyles and how people can easily become 'trapped', unable to move to better neighbourhoods and without the resources to move back to their previous home.

The project found that solutions to these issues are achievable when policymakers consider that migration is unlikely to be stopped and that legislation aiming to stop people moving is rarely successful, especially where people are moving within their own country. Policymakers also need to understand that gender differences remain fundamental to any policy interventions and that migration to urban areas transforms what is traditionally seen as men's and women's work in the communities. Equally, the overwhelming impact and ongoing fear of forced evictions

found in the report shows how tenure security is the first step to sustainable improvements in residents' living conditions. Finally, the research points to the need for policymakers to consider the detrimental impact climate change has on city populations and how it can be a significant factor in affecting people's mobility, resulting in residents becoming 'trapped' in low-income neighbourhoods with limited resources to move elsewhere.

Results from the research are continuing to influence policy within the four cities and beyond. The research team have worked to support local policymakers and municipalities to improve the situations that migrants find themselves in.

The full project report is available on our website.

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



# Research and higher education News

## **Annual International Conference 2022**

We are delighted that this year's conference will be held at Newcastle University from Tuesday 30 August to Friday 2 September 2022, and with Professor Rachel Pain of Newcastle University as Chair. The theme is Geographies beyond recovery, which asks geographers and our research collaborators to critically interrogate the idea and practice of recovery, across scales of life and global contexts, and to explore the geographies that might lie beyond.

This year we will be further developing expectations and initiatives about sustainability, inclusivity and accessibility in and around the conference and our broader activities with Research Groups and the geographical community. The Chair's statement on inclusivity and safety at the conference highlights our intentions.

The open call for submissions for the conference will close on Friday 25 March. We are encouraging a wide range of session formats – guidance and examples can be found on our website.

We hope this conference will feature a strong in-person element, with hybrid and online ways to participate to allow broad and quality participation regardless of location or other factors.

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

## **Book series**

In the latest publication in the Society's book series *The Unsettling Outdoors: Environmental Estrangement in Everyday Life*, Russell Hitchings (University College London) looks at our relationship to greenspace experiences, linking geographies of nature and the study of social practices.

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



# Professional News

## **Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group**

Our Professional Practice Groups connect people with an interest in a thematic or sectoral area of professional geographical practice for networking and professional development.

The Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group, which was launched last year, brings together risk-focused professionals from across disaster risk reduction, re/insurance and the humanitarian, governmental and academic sectors.

In its first year, the group has hosted several online discussions which brought together professionals from across sectors, and across the globe, and focused on climate change risk management, understanding risk, and reflecting on lessons from COVID-19. Recordings of the events are

on our website, alongside links to upcoming events and resources showcasing the breadth and range of professional pathways in Disaster Risk Management.

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

## **Chartered Geographers**

We continue to expand our support for professional geographers interested in accreditation as Chartered Geographers. This includes accelerator programmes for those developing an application and mentors to support reflective professional development. Recognising that mentors also benefit from support, the new forum, 'Mentoring the mentors', has been established, which provides an opportunity for mentors to explore best practice in mentoring and share experiences. More information on these initiatives can be found online.

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

# Events Highlights

## Summer events programme

This summer we look forward to building on the success of our return to in-person events and bringing you closer to inspiring speakers.



© Nando Marnato

You can also continue to join us wherever you are for our online events, including fascinating Monday night lectures, informative CPD sessions, helpful workshops and intriguing regional events.

Each listing highlights whether events are in-person, online or both. This term we will broaden conversations on topical issues such as modern food injustices, visiting sites of natural disasters and how visual media shapes conversations around climate change.

One of our upcoming Monday night lectures will reveal the secrets behind the making of DisneyNature's *Polar Bear*, and in May Charlotte Connelly, from the Scott Polar Research Institute museum, journeys through extraordinary stories of human endeavour.

We advise checking our website before visiting the Society for the latest information.

# Summer 2022 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)

Date	Title	Speaker
04 April	Life lessons from the Amazon	Pip Stewart
25 April	<i>Polar Bear</i> : how the movie was made	Alastair Fothergill and Jeff Wilson
09 May	Lost in Papua New Guinea	Benedict Allen
16 May	Ranulph Fiennes: man and myth	Matthew Dyas and Sir Ranulph Fiennes
23 May	Travels with my tripod	David Constantine <small>MBE</small>
30 May	Objects from the ends of the Earth	Charlotte Connelly

## Exhibitions

Exhibitions are held in the Pavilion and are free.

Monday to Friday 10.00am-5.00pm

Saturdays 10.00am-4.00pm

### **Monday 7 February - Wednesday 4 May**

Exhibition (London and Charlestown, Cornwall)

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

Documenting the role of photography and literature throughout Shackleton's career, the exhibition presents the influences and motivation which led him to a lifetime commitment to the polar region, building public awareness and understanding of the continent.

Exhibition to tour to the Shipwreck Museum in Charlestown, April - October 2022.

### **Saturday 25 June - Friday 26 August**

Exhibition (London)


#### **Earth Photo 2022**

The competition has attracted hundreds of photo and video submissions which stimulate conversations about our world and its inhabitants. Visit the Society's Pavilion to see a stunning selection of the shortlisted images, from categories including people, place, nature, changing forests and a climate of change. Developed jointly by the Society, Forestry England and Parker Harris. Supported by Jaguar Land Rover and the Sun Institute: Environment & Sustainability.

## Events listings

(in chronological order)

### Key to events

- B** Book tickets in advance
- M** Members only
- M+G** Members plus one guest
-  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.

### We're Good to Go

We want you to feel confident and safe when you visit us. On our website we explain how we are keeping staff and visitors COVID-secure based on the latest government and public health guidelines.

**W** [www.rgs.org/good-to-go](http://www.rgs.org/good-to-go)

The Society has 'We're Good to Go' COVID-19 industry standard accreditation in partnership with The National Tourist Organisations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which recognises we have followed government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, ensuring processes are in place to maintain cleanliness.

### 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/whatson](http://www.rgs.org/whatson). You will be able to ask your questions and interact with the speakers if you join live.

### 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 this term. We are continuing to take bookings should we be required to reduce the capacity of those in attendance.

### 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 meet other members

The Younger Members' Committee will host an informal get-together on Zoom following the live stream of each Monday night lecture from 7.45pm.

**B Friday 1 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Topical discussion (online)

**How do we make global food systems more just?**

The pandemic, climate change, geopolitics and economic instability are all creating problems with the ways we produce, distribute and consume food. Are we heading towards a post-pandemic boom period? Join us on the European night of geography when we ask our panel how we can challenge modern food injustices. [Online. £6, RGS-IBG members £4.](#)

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

Monday night lecture (online and London)

**Life lessons from the Amazon**

Pip Stewart

This is the tale of an incredible three-month kayaking adventure through Guyana's unexplored jungle terrain – with learnings that may bring inspiration to how you approach life and travel. [At the Society and online. Free.](#)

**B Tuesday 5 April 7.00pm - 10.30pm**

Social (Exeter)

**Map, chart, slide and artefacts evening**

A chance to hear members' own stories, talking for ten minutes about their travels, treasures and experiences. Organised by the South West regional committee. Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. £18, includes buffet. Apply by 27 March to Chris Brightman, 61 Exeter Road, Topsham, EX3 0LX with cheque for £18 payable to RGS South West Region.

**B Wednesday 6 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (online)

**Slow ways: help create a national walking network**

Dan Raven-Ellison

Slow ways is a grassroots initiative to create a network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain's towns and cities. Join us to discover what Slow ways is all about with the initiative's founder. Organised by the South regional committee. [Online. Free.](#)

**B Thursday 7 April 7.15pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

**Sailing between Robinson Crusoe Island and Pitcairn Island**

Sam Davis

Sam will talk about his life at sea and his unique perspective on global oceanic spaces. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee.

[Elmwood Building, Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.](#)

**B Wednesday 20 April 2.00pm - 2.30pm**

Lecture (online)

**What kind of global Britain?****Who belongs in the post-Brexit age?**

Dr Nabeela Ahmed

Nabeela's research focuses on questions of precarity, in terms of gender and race as well as class, citizenship and state welfare in urban contexts, and is currently looking at how these questions evolve in the digital age, primarily in South Asia. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Geography and Environment Group. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online. Free.](#)

### **B Wednesday 20 April 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Forum (online)

#### **Teaching and scholarship forum**

A forum for meeting, sharing and supporting teaching and scholarship in higher education. Run by the Geography and Education Research Group. Online. Free.

### **B Wednesday 20 April (four sessions)**

#### **7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture and online (York)

#### **PLACE short course: Yorkshire Battles**

A series of four two-hour sessions focusing on the geographies of battles in Yorkshire. Joint event with PLACE. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Bedern Hall, Bartle Garth, St Andrewgate, YO1 7AL and online. £15. To book email [place@yorksja.ac.uk](mailto:place@yorksja.ac.uk)

### **M+G B Monday 25 April 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Polar Bear: how the movie was made**

Alastair Fothergill and Jeff Wilson

In a lavishly illustrated lecture, the co-directors Alastair Fothergill and Jeff Wilson reveal the secrets behind the making of this Disney movie. At the Society and online. Free.



### **B Tuesday 26 April 4.00pm - 6.00pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Maths for teachers of A Level geography**

These sessions are for geography teachers who wish to build their confidence in teaching the mathematical content of A Level geography. Online. Free.

### **B Tuesday 26 April 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

#### **Sons of the waves: the common seaman in the heroic age of sail**

Stephen Taylor

Stephen is a writer of maritime history, biography and travel. In this talk he rewrites our maritime history, by turning the limelight from the admirals, generals and company men, onto the ordinary seafarers. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5 on entry, RGS-IBG members and students free.

### **Tuesday 26 April 7.15pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Huddersfield)

#### **Ascension Island, outpost of Empire: past, present and future**

Adam Nichols

Ascension Island has been regarded as useless for long periods since its discovery in 1501, but episodically of enormous strategic importance. Joint event with Huddersfield and Halifax GA. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Joseph Priestley Building Room JPG/18, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, HD1 3DH. £3 on entry, RGS-IBG members free.



### **B Thursday 28 April 9.00am - 10.00am**

Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. Online. Free.





## **B Tuesday 3 May 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

Workshop (online)

### **Go local: great ideas for fieldwork in and around your school grounds**

Chloe Searl

This session explores some new and creative ways of delivering fieldwork in the environment either within or close to your school grounds. The session focuses on fieldwork experiences that come at little to no cost to geography departments, but which at the same time do not compromise academic rigour. [Online](#). £40, RGS-IBG members £30.



## **B Wednesday 4 May 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

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

Darren Bailey

This course is aimed at Key Stage One and Two teachers who are interested in developing spatial awareness skills linked to the primary geography curriculum. [At the Society](#). Free.

## **B Monday 9 May 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk (London)

### **Isabella Bird: Britain's fearless Victorian adventurer, and her magic lantern slides from China**

Jacki Hill-Murphy

On 10 May 1897 Isabella Bird was engaged to lecture on Western China at the Society in London. Jacki, author of *The Life and Travels of Isabella Bird*, will recreate that lecture, using Isabella's original magic lantern slides and discuss her solo world travels and how she survived many dangers. [At the Society](#). £5, RGS-IBG members free.

## **M+G B Monday 9 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

### **Lost in Papua New Guinea**

Benedict Allen

Benedict's expedition created headlines worldwide when he disappeared. He considers the Papuan perspective – and what it really means to be an explorer today. [At the Society](#) and [online](#). Free.

## **Tuesday 10 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

### **Wild: life and landscape**

Ben Osborne

Ben will take us on a retrospective journey through 35 years of professional wildlife and landscape photography across all seven continents. Organised by the East of England regional committee. [Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD](#). £5 on entry, RGS-IBG members free.

## **B Wednesday 11 May 2.00pm - 2.30pm**

Lecture (online)

### **The geography of vaccine politics**

Dr Camila Bassi

Camila's principal research interests are: geographies of race, ethnicity and sexuality, critical geographies, and Marxist geographies. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Geography and Environment Group. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online](#). Free.

### **Thursday 12 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Salisbury)

#### **Aerial archaeology in the 1920s and 2020s**

Martyn Barber

This talk explores Historic England's annual flying programme and analysis of aerial photographs over the past century. Organised by the South regional committee. The Salisbury Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, SP1 2EN. Free.

### **Saturday 14 May 10.00am - 3.15pm**

Guided walk (Nottingham)

#### **Nottingham city walk**

A city tour taking in green spaces and historical connections including The Tunnel in the Park Estate. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. NET Clifton South, NG11 8BF. Free.

### **B Monday 16 May 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk (London)

#### **Unbound beauty: Venezuela in the Wiley Digital Archive**

Dr Sherezade García Rangel

Explore historical accounts of Venezuela and discover what archival research, podcasting and creative writing can illuminate about Venezuela and its people. At the Society. £5, RGS-IBG members free.

### **M+G B Monday 16 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Ranulph Fiennes: man and myth**

Matthew Dyas and Sir Ranulph Fiennes

This year sees the theatrical release of the film *Explorer*, a portrait of Ranulph Fiennes. Matthew, the director, discusses the challenges of getting to the man behind the myth. At the Society and online. Free.

### **B Tuesday 17 May 6.00pm - 10.30pm**

Annual forum, lecture and dinner (Exeter)

#### **The Island of Socotra**

Hilary Bradt and Janice Booth

Hilary and Janice visited this UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2020, and were overwhelmed by its bizarre beauty. Organised by the South West regional committee. Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, EX2 7AE. Lecture free. £35 for dinner, please send s.a.e. and cheque (payable to RGS South West Region to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN by Monday 9 May.

### **Tuesday 17 May 7.45pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Oxford)

#### **Isabella Bird: fearless Victorian's magic lantern slides of China**

Jacki Hill-Murphy

Jacki, author of *The Life and Travels of Isabella Bird* recreates Isabella's 1897 RGS lecture, using original lantern slides and describes Isabella's dangerous, solo travels through China and beyond. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. St Margaret's Institute, 30 Polstead Road, OX2 6TN. Free.



### **B Wednesday 18 May 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Fieldwork for primary geography**

Dr Paula Owens

The session will cover the basics needed to provide meaningful, fun and curriculum relevant geography fieldwork experiences at Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Online. £60, RGS-IBG members £50.

### **B Wednesday 18 May 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Forum (online)

#### **Teaching and scholarship forum**

A forum for meeting, sharing and supporting teaching and scholarship in higher education. Run by the Geography and Education Research Group. Online. Free.



### **B Friday 20 May 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (London)

#### **Fieldwork for primary geography**

Dr Paula Owens

The session will cover the basics needed to provide meaningful, fun and curriculum relevant geography fieldwork experiences at Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. At the Society. £60, RGS-IBG members £50.

### **M+G B Monday 23 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Travels with my tripod**

David Constantine MBE

Co-founder of NGO Motivation, designing and providing wheelchairs in low-income countries, David has photographed across four continents. As a wheelchair user himself, he has a natural affinity with the beneficiaries. At the Society and online. Free.



### **B Tuesday 24 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Panel discussion (online and London)

#### **Tourism and natural disasters**

The pandemic has shown that tourism is a resilient industry. We will ask our panel how should the tourism industry respond to such disasters? At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £9. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £4.



### **B Thursday 26 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **Where is everyone? The importance and challenges of mapping human populations**

Professor Andy Tatem

Accurate maps of population distributions are vital for effective governance, but can often be lacking. How can we use new geospatial technologies to address this? Organised by the South regional committee. Online. Free.

### **Thursday 26 May 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Norwich)

#### **Isabella Bird: fearless Victorian's magic lantern slides of China**

Jacki Hill-Murphy

Jacki, author of *The Life and Travels of Isabella Bird* recreates Isabella's 1897 RGS lecture, using original lantern slides and describes Isabella's dangerous, solo travels through China and beyond. Organised by the East of England regional committee. Blake Studio, Norwich School, The Close, NR1 4DD. £5 on entry, RGS-IBG members free.

### **B Thursday 26 May 7.15pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (Belfast)

#### **Shadowing Miss Grimshaw: from Ireland to Papua New Guinea**

Diana Gleadhill

Born in 1870, the remarkable Beatrice Grimshaw is followed across the world by author Diana Gleadhill. Organised by the Northern Ireland regional committee. Elmwood Building, Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue, BT7 1NN. Free.

### **B Monday 30 May 2.30pm - 3.30pm**

Be Inspired afternoon talk (London)

#### **Dr Edward Wilson: Antarctic explorer and Scott's confidant and friend**

Isobel Williams

A look at the life of ornithologist, natural historian, physician and artist, Edward Wilson, who ultimately perished with Scott after reaching the South Pole in 1912. [At the Society.](#) £5, RGS-IBG members free.

### **M+G B Monday 30 May 6.30pm - 7.45pm**

Monday night lecture (online and London)

#### **Objects from the ends of the Earth**

Charlotte Connelly

Join the Scott Polar Research Institute's museum curator to explore extraordinary stories of human endeavour from the world's coldest, highest and windiest places. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.



### **B Tuesday 31 May 1.00pm - 2.30pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. [Online.](#) Free.



### **B Thursday 2 June (four part series) 1.00pm - 1.30pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Chartered Geographer application accelerator**

Join our four-week accelerator to focus your efforts in preparing your application portfolio. [Online.](#) Free.

### **M Monday 6 June 4.30pm - 5.30pm**

(online and London)

#### **Annual General Meeting**

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

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

### **M+G Monday 6 June 6.15pm - 7.15pm**

(online and London)

#### **Medals and awards celebration**

Our medals and awards recognise people or organisations for their outstanding contributions to geographical research, fieldwork and teaching, and public engagement. [At the Society and online.](#) Free.

### **B M+G Monday 6 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

(London)

#### **Annual reception**

Join us as we celebrate another successful year for the Society. RGS-IBG. £25, includes drinks and canapes (max. two per member).



### **Wednesday 8 June 2.00pm - 2.30pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **Will the climate crisis make us more vulnerable to hazards?**

Dr Natasha Dowey

Natasha's research focuses on uncertainty in our analysis and communication of explosive volcanic hazards, and also on sustainability, diversity and inclusion in geoscience. Joint event with Sheffield Hallam University Geography and Environment Group. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. [Online.](#) Free.

### **Thursday 9 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

#### **The President of the Society: his formative years in the south**

Nigel Clifford

Spend an evening with the President of the Society, who will share his love of the great outdoors having spent his formative years exploring the coasts and hills of the South. Organised by the South regional committee. Ordnance Survey, Explorer House, Adanac Drive, SO16 0AS. Free.

### **Friday 10 June 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Darlington)

#### **Through a wild lens**

Toby Strong

Over the last 25 years Toby has travelled across every continent as a multi-Emmy and BAFTA-winning wildlife cameraman. As someone who has seen the beauty of this world but also its demise, this talk will be full of passion, extraordinary tales, humour, and heart. Darlington Hippodrome. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.

### **Monday 13 June 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Lecture (Exeter)

#### **Through a wild lens**

Toby Strong

Over the last 25 years Toby has travelled across every continent as a multi-Emmy and BAFTA-winning wildlife cameraman. As someone who has seen the beauty of this world but also its demise, this talk will be full of passion, extraordinary tales, humour, and heart. Exeter Phoenix. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.

### **Tuesday 14 June 8.00pm - 10.00pm**

Lecture (Worcester)

#### **Through a wild lens**

Toby Strong

Over the last 25 years Toby has travelled across every continent as a multi-Emmy and BAFTA-winning wildlife cameraman. As someone who has seen the beauty of this world but also its demise, this talk will be full of passion, extraordinary tales, humour, and heart. Huntingdon Hall. £12, RGS-IBG members £10.

### **B Wednesday 15 June 2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Forum (online)

#### **Teaching and scholarship forum**

The forum provides an informal but regular meeting place for HE staff at all career stages and primarily focuses on teaching and scholarship within geography and related disciplines by providing support, advice, encouragement, and resources. Run by the Geography and Education Research Group. [Online](#). Free.



### **B Wednesday 15 June 2.00pm - 4.30pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Subject knowledge for Key Stage Two geography**

Dr Paula Owens

This session will focus specifically on the subject knowledge needed to teach Key Stage Two geography including key components of human and physical geography. [Online](#). £60, RGS-IBG members £50.

### **B Thursday 16 June 6.30am - 7.00pm**

Field visit (Bideford)

#### **Lundy Island**

Simon Dell MBE

Day trip to Lundy Island on *MS Oldenburg* and guided tours of the Island led by Simon Dell and Rangers. Organised by the South West regional committee. Bideford Quayside, EX39 2QS. £50 (includes ferry ticket), please send cheque (payable to RGS South West Region) by 16 May to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN.

### **B Saturday 18 June 11.00am - 3.00pm**

Guided walk (Leeds)

#### **The retail heart of Leeds: an ever-changing scene**

Professor David McEvoy

See how Leeds has preserved the best of 19th century retail venues and architecture, yet adjusted to 20th and 21st century stores and innovations, including six enclosed shopping malls. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Leeds Railway Station, New Station Street, LS1 4DY. Free.

### **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June**

(London)

#### **The Great Exhibition Road Festival**

The Society will collaborate with 20 neighbours across Albertopolis, including some of the world's most iconic museums and institutions, to create a unique festival fusing art, science, technology and curiosity. At the Society and Exhibition Road. Free.



### **B Monday 20 June 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Workshop (London)

#### **Fieldwork essentials for early career teachers**

Chloe Searl

Join us for this face-to-face full day session which explores everything teachers need to know as they plan and deliver fieldwork for the first time. At the Society. £150, RGS-IBG members £120.



### **B Tuesday 21 June 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Lecture (online)

#### **Can disused mines heat our future?**

Dr Charlotte Adams

In the wake of COP26 and the energy price crisis, this talk introduces the Seaham Garden Village mine energy district heating project. Organised by the Yorkshire and North East regional committee. Online. Free.



### **B Thursday 30 June 9.00am - 10.00am**

Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

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

### **B Thursday 30 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Panel discussion (online and London).

#### **Climate change through the lens**

Join our panel as they discuss the role that visual media plays in shaping our future and a closer look at some of the entries from the Earth Photo exhibition. At the Society and online. In-person: £12, RGS-IBG members £9. Online: £6, RGS-IBG members £4.

### **Thursday 30 June 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Lecture (Southampton)

#### **True environmental progress or just political blah blah?**

Dr Mark Wright

Join Mark from the WWF to examine how the ambitious plans and commitments from international and high-level meetings are translating into action. Organised by the South regional committee. University of Southampton, SO17 1BJ. Free.

### **Sunday 3 July 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Guided walk (Leake)

#### **Logan Trail and East Leake**

Christopher Sweetman

Ten-mile countryside walk in the South Nottinghamshire Wolds taking in the Cuckoo Bush, Portway and Logan Trail. Participants will need suitable clothing and a packed lunch as we will be stopping for a picnic lunch. Organised by the Midlands regional committee. East Leake Car Park, Gotham Road, SK5 526. Free.

### **B Thursday 14 July 10.30am - 4.00pm**

Field visit (Liskeard)

#### **Bodmin Moor**

Colin Buck

Focusing on the industrial archaeology of Minions Moor we will be guided by Colin Buck, senior archaeologist from Cornwall Council. Organised by the South West regional committee. Hurler's Halt Cafe, Minions, PL14 5LE. £15 (to include refreshments), please send cheque (payable to RGS South West Region) by Friday 1 July to Derry Corey, 47 Glenfield Road, Glenholt, Plymouth, PL6 7LN.



### **B Wednesday 20 July 1.00pm - 2.30pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. Online. Free.



### **B Thursday 18 August 9.00am - 10.00pm**

Workshop (online)

#### **Making an application for Chartered Geographer: introductory webinar**

Chartered Geographer is the Society's professional accreditation for those using their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in the workplace. Join this webinar to learn more about the benefits of becoming Chartered. Online. Free.

### **B Tuesday 30 August to Friday 2 September**

Conference (online and Newcastle)

#### **RGS-IBG Annual International Conference**

Chaired by Professor Rachel Pain

The four-day conference regularly attracts over 2,000 geographers from around the world. This year, the conference is taking place at Newcastle University on the theme geographies beyond recovery, with in-person, online, and hybrid ways to participate. Newcastle University and online.

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## Regional events

Events are open to all unless otherwise stated. Please bring your RGS-IBG membership card to events and contact venues directly about the facilities available and accessibility.

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 a Regional Event Organiser.

### Regions Chair

David Lovell

**E** regionschair@rgs.org

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Clare Brown

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### Midlands

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# From Lima to Canton and beyond

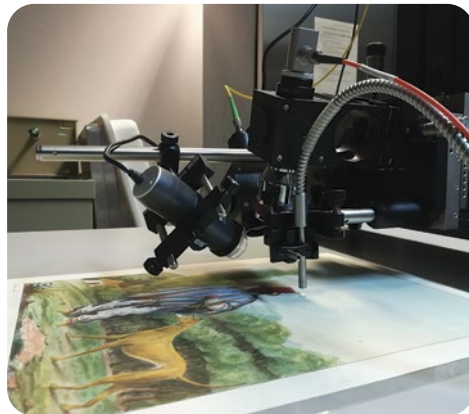
## Studying globalisation through art

**Over the last 20 years, digital imaging or digitisation of collections has become the norm within museums and archives, but it has mainly been focused on recording what humans can see with their eyes – colour images and sometimes laser scanning of 3D objects.**


However, there is growing interest by digital humanities scholars in advanced imaging techniques and the new layers of information they can yield.

Working with the award-winning ISAAC research lab, led by Professor Haida Laing at Nottingham Trent University (NTU), the Society is collaborating on a new project which utilises multi-spectral imaging and artificial intelligence to uncover the mysteries of important historical artworks including watercolour paintings, maps and botanical drawings. Since each material combination has its unique spectrum, imaging

Spatially offset Raman spectroscopy © D. Sotiria Kogou



spectroscopy can record to a greater or lesser extent, the material makeup (e.g. the pigments, dyes, binders, substrates) of an object. These added layers of information about heritage objects can lead to new insights about their creation, the history of trade and cultural influences, and can impact significantly on conservation and preservation decisions.



From the late 18th century, European colonial powers such as Britain and Spain were active in collecting information from around the world. Maps and charts as well as scientific drawings of flora and fauna were in high demand. Local artists were often employed to paint these according to European scientific conventions in cartography and botanical drawings. These scientific drawings expanded to paintings of costumes or export paintings of the daily lives of local people.

The first items analysed from the Society's Collections have been the paintings of Joseph Brown, Colombia c.1826-1841 (X0842/1 to X0842/68). They include a selection of watercolours of various materials, formats and purposes, depicting scenes in and around Bogotá compiled by Joseph Brown, a trader who lived in Colombia from 1826 to 1841. Some of the sketches also bear the names of José

Manuel de Groot and the Castillo brothers as the makers of the original drawings or the creators of the watercolours, evidence suggesting a degree of collaboration between Brown and local artists.

The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA). The NTU team will be working across a number of important collections held by the Society, The National Archives, The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, The Hispanic Society, Library of Congress, Getty Conservation Institute and the Museum of International Folk Art.

Preliminary scientific analysis has shown some unique characteristics of the Brown collection. To find out more and to see results as they emerge visit the project website.

**W** [www.isaac-lab.com](http://www.isaac-lab.com)





# Eyes on Everest

## Capturing the first expeditions



Captain Noel Holmographing the ascent of Mt. Everest from the Chang La base of the Sherpa porters can be seen standing by the tripod. © RGS-BIG

**To mark the centenary of the first European expeditions to Mount Everest, the Society is holding an exhibition this autumn which will explore how film has helped create the popular image of Everest and reveal the less well-known elements of the expeditions.**

The Society and the Alpine Club, London were instrumental in the planning and execution of the first European-organised expeditions, having formed the Mount Everest Committee in 1921, combining the geographical, cartographic and scientific interests of the Society with the mountaineering expertise and technical knowledge of the Alpine Club.

Following the success of the 1921 expedition which gathered and shared vital geographical information, the Mount Everest Committee sought to further survey, map and photograph the

Captain Noel and his photographic parties by J.B. Noel 1922 © RGS 186



landscape and document the people of the Himalayas. This led to the involvement of the photographer and filmmaker, Captain John Noel, who was aware of the commercial opportunities available to present first film footage of the people and landscapes of Tibet, and the attempt to summit the mountain, to public audiences in the West.



1924 film poster © RGS-IBG

At the heart of the Society's planned new exhibition are the films that Noel produced of the 1922 and 1924 expeditions. Using the latest research on the films and the films themselves as a lens through which to reframe the story of the expeditions, the exhibition will explore topics such as the role of local labour and local knowledge; how porters made filming on location possible; the tragic death of a group of porters during an avalanche in 1922; the contrasting colonial and local perceptions of the mountain and what it represented; the making and commercialisation of the films as a means to support future

expeditions; and the context and uses of expeditionary films then and today.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an events programme which will draw upon and further develop the ideas presented through lectures, film screenings, panel discussions and Collections talks, driven by recent research on Noel's films and on the items in the Society's Everest collection. A learning programme for schools will incorporate resources, workshops and teacher training sessions.

The Everest centenary exhibition, produced in partnership with global experience design agency, Event, will be on display in the Pavilion from early October 2022 until January 2023.





# Meet the Ambassadors

## Inspiring the next generation

**One of the Society's key aims is to empower and support geographers in the gaining and sharing of geographical knowledge. Inspiring the next generation of geographers with this unique and vibrant discipline is an essential part of this goal. Our volunteer Geography Ambassador scheme connects students with positive role models and introduces them to a wider view of the benefits of the subject.**

University geography students, recent graduates and those working in geographical professions are trained to deliver sessions to school students on the relevance of geography in the world today. They showcase the benefits of taking geography past compulsory stages of education to GCSE, A Level and beyond. The Ambassadors are specifically trained to bring their own reflections and experiences to the sessions, allowing them to challenge




© RGS-IBG

the stereotypes that are often associated with the subject.

Since September last year, over 150 students have taken part in the scheme's training, joining around 2,000 other active Ambassadors in regular school visits, both online and in-person.

The feedback from these sessions reflects just how much impact they have. When surveyed, 99% of teachers who have had an Ambassador visit their school said they would use an Ambassador again and refer the scheme to their colleagues.





Providing vital insight about geography for young people in schools is not the only aim, the scheme also provides Ambassadors with a rewarding experience and the opportunity to develop their skills.

One of our newer Ambassadors, Claire from St Andrews University, shared the aspects of the scheme that she has most enjoyed so far: “[Being an Ambassador] has allowed me to meet and work with a variety of people. I have learned practical skills related to content planning and organising, and have greatly enjoyed the element of creativity we as Ambassadors can bring to planning our sessions and content.”

Another Ambassador, Sofia, has gained valuable in-classroom experience from her sessions, saying, “I would recommend the Ambassador programme to anyone interested in teaching because it gives you a taste of what it’s like in a way that is

manageable with a busy university schedule.” Sofia was inspired when leading a session at her own former school: “Despite being 9.00am on the Wednesday before the Christmas break, we got the students talking about ideas and topics they could study in geography, which felt gratifying. The session was a full circle moment for me as I was back in the place where I fell in love with geography, teaching the next generation the vast possibilities the world of geography holds for them.”

Ambassadors have a lot to give, and a lot to gain. If you’re interested in developing your presenting skills as well as your geographical and professional network, or if you’re a teacher interested in arranging a session, visit our website to take the first step.

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

# Society Print Store

## A piece of history

**The Society is home to one of the world's finest Collections of photography, artwork and mapping which records over 500 years of geographical discovery, people and places from the 1480s to the present day.**

Bring a piece of this unique history into your home or gift a loved one with an image from the Society's Print Store. With the online store you can order high quality reproduction prints of some truly remarkable images from our Collections. From a volcano in Antigua to a zoological map, you can enjoy an image that captures key historic moments or snapshots from every corner of the world.

Explore collections relating to our latest exhibitions such as photographs from the travel writer Eric Newby, Mount Everest expeditions or the pursuit of the Northwest Passage.



Endeavour frozen in the ice by Frank Hurley, 1914-16 © RGS-IBG

There is a wide range of breathtaking photography and historic maps available and every purchase supports our charitable work and the care of our Collections.

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



# Propose a Fellow Fellowship

Share a wealth of opportunities with your friends, family members, or colleagues by inviting them to join you in our vibrant community as a Fellow.

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.

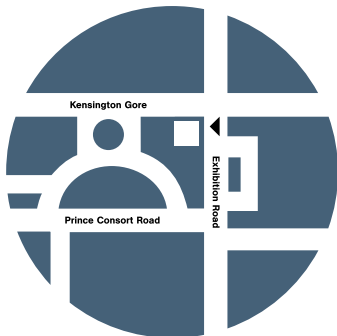
Our Fellows bring a wide range of experiences to the organisation and are vital to the Society's mission to advance geography. They enable us to achieve so much more as a result of their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm for the discipline.

New Fellows who quote NOM22 will benefit from 15 months for the cost of 12. This offer code can be shared on the Fellowship application form and is valid until 10 April 2022.

So propose a friend for Fellowship today by directing them to the Join Us page and instructing them to use the code above. Encourage their passion for geography and support the development of the field.

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

# 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)

**Cover image** Team members including Mallory and Sherpas  
at a rest stop on Everest by J.B Noel 1922 © RGS-IBG



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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

