

Geography

Newsletter 12 Autumn 2006

Department of Geography
University of Sussex

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Sussex geographer researches displacement in Sri Lanka



Michael Collyer has just started a two-year visiting fellowship at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He will be working with people displaced by the conflict and the tsunami across the country and refugees in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

It's not been a good summer for Sri Lanka. I arrived in July to witness the final unravelling of the 2002 ceasefire agreement and the end of the longest period of calm since hostilities initially broke out in July 1983. Since the beginning of this year the ceasefire has looked increasingly shaky but from the end of July onwards it began to collapse as both sides became involved in full-scale military attacks. An estimated 200,000 people have been displaced by this renewed fighting, joining the hundreds of thousands of others who have been forced from their homes by violence and those who have still not been rehoused after the 2004 tsunami. As has frequently been the case in the past, the minority Muslim population (8%) have suffered the most severe losses in the fighting. Many Muslims have been living in makeshift camps for people displaced by the conflict for many years. The camp in the picture was established in 1990, near the town of Puttalam. People who had arrived in the previous weeks were living in tents nearby. (*cont.p3*)

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Welcome to new students



As Head of the Geography Department I warmly welcome you to Sussex and congratulate you on achieving the grades for entry. This year we put our standard requirement at 'A' level at BBB and we were delighted to welcome 85 first-year geographers. So well

done!

You are joining a vibrant and supportive department in which I feel confident that the expertise and enthusiasm of my colleagues for teaching their subject will interest and excite you in whichever geography degree pathway you have chosen to follow at Sussex.

Geography is unique amongst the university family of disciplines: the only academic subject which can claim to be a science, a social science and a humanity. Geography offers you an intellectual landscape of almost infinite variety through which you can, by choosing the courses and options that suit your taste, navigate your own scholarly path, personalising your degree to the type of geographer you want to become. Of course, there are core concepts and methodologies you must know, and these are taught to you mainly in the first year. Thereafter, your degree of choice in course options increases up to the final year.

What distinguishes university geography from school or sixth-form geography? First, university-level study is not about acquiring knowledge and skills for themselves, but about engaging in a critical dialogue with the material you are studying – thinking about it, evaluating it and learning not to accept it at face value. Second, at Sussex all your lecturers and tutors are actively engaged in research, and use that research to inform their teaching. All of the Geography Department's six professors are internationally recognised for their research in their specialised fields; and all of the younger lecturing staff are fast on their way to acquiring international fame for their work, if they have not achieved it already.

But this introductory note is not about trying to impress you. It's about welcoming you into the Department and hoping you will quickly feel at home in its supportive environment in which academic rigour is combined with an informal and friendly approach. In one of the Department's earlier Newsletters, the President of the Student Geography Society wrote that 'people often comment on how well geographers get on with each other – there is something about geographers, perhaps their shared love of international cultures or their generally laid-back, liberal attitudes ...'. Well, I don't want to stereotype geography students (or staff), and there are probably limits to how laid-back one should be, but there is surely truth in what he says. Above all, I wish you every success in your time at Sussex.

Russell King, Head of Department



What are Westlife doing in the cloud forest?

What are they looking at?

Are Ant and Dec about to announce who's leaving the jungle today?

The balloon goes up in Ecuador

.....Actually, they're looking at this balloon. Sussex environmental science researcher **Mika Peck** was joined in NW Ecuador this summer by Geographers **Dom Kniveton, Mick Frogley, Tim Cane** and 3rd year geography student **Claire Sorrin** who gave their expertise to the Darwin Initiative PRIMENET project <http://www.primenet.org.uk/>. This work aims to develop a comprehensive strategy for the critically endangered Brown-Headed Spider Monkey (*Ateles fusciceps*). Botanical and primate data collected by the trained parabiologists and expert field survey team will be displayed on a geographical information system database showing primate species ranges, population density and habitat status. The information is vital for monitoring the success of conservation activity in the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve and the Awa indigenous Reserve and for the development of species and habitat action plans. The balloon was used to raise a remote controlled camera above the forest canopy to capture images for use in vegetation analysis.



Migration wins major funding award

Russell King has been awarded a grant of £382,500 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of its Diasporas, Migration and Identity Programme. The title of Russell's project is 'Cultural Geographies of Counter-Diasporic Migration: the Second Generation Return "Home"'. The research will examine the 'home-coming' migrations of second-generation Greek-Americans, Greek-Germans and British-born Greek Cypriots, and what this 'ancestral return' means for notions of identity, 'home' and belonging. The research will start in January 2007 and run for three years. Also involved in the project are Professor Ivor Goodson of the University of Brighton, who is an expert of life-history analysis; Dr. Anastasia Christou, who will be the project's Research Fellow, responsible for most of the fieldwork in London, New York, Berlin, Greece and Cyprus; and a DPhil student, yet to be appointed.

.....Sri Lanka - cont from p.1

My research here is focused on the ways in which people displaced by the conflict and the tsunami become involved in the places where they now live. Camps, such as the one pictured here are a fairly extreme example where people are institutionally separated from their surroundings. These camps are typically located on the poorest quality land - this one housed people who had previously been farmers but was located next to large salt flats, making the land almost totally infertile. The only employment was difficult and unhealthy work in the salt panning facility nearby. At a national scale, forced displacement is increasing segregation amongst the island's three ethno-religious communities: Tamil, Singalese and Muslim. The Puttalam camps for displaced Muslims were established in an area which already had a high concentration of Muslims and this is true of movement of Tamils and Singhalese too.

There are plenty of other stories, however, which show that such forced migrations can produce more positive results. In fact, a minority of displaced people live in camps, most rent places

themselves or move in with family or friends. Again, this tends to increase segregation but shows that forced displacement need not result in the desperate situation of people living in camps for decades. The district of Puttalam was previously one of the poorest in Sri Lanka, but thanks to the numbers of wealthy, entrepreneurial people who have moved in, the local economy is now doing much better. Relatives working abroad provide a key source of resources. Although Sri Lanka is often used as an example of migrant remittances funding conflict, it is clear that remittances also help people cope with conflict. Over the next few years I will be working in three sites around the country, including Puttalam, trying to identify the factors that help mitigate the negative aspects of forced displacement. **Mike Collyer**



Sayonara to Professor Tony Fielding.....

September saw the retirement, after more than 40 years at Sussex, of Professor Tony Fielding. With a BA and PhD in Geography from the LSE, Tony came to the then fledgling University of Sussex in 1964, initially as a Research Fellow and then, from 1967 on, as Lecturer in Human Geography. He was promoted to Reader in 1993 and to a Personal Chair in 1996.



Tony's contribution to the development of Geography at Sussex has been immense. A deep and highly original thinker, he sustained broad interest within and beyond his chosen discipline. This was reflected in the range of courses he taught across the spectrum of human geography – social, economic, population and migration, history of geographic thought – as well as important contributions to interdisciplinary programmes in social science. He was one of the pioneers at Sussex in the development of postgraduate courses in urban and regional studies in the 1970s and 1980s, and of Japanese studies since the 1990s. Nor was he one to shirk administrative responsibilities: he was Geography subject chair in 1998-2001 and organised the 2000 Conference of the Institute of British Geographers at Sussex.

His research focussed on three main areas: patterns and processes of urban development in the UK; the relationship between social and geographical mobility; and migration at regional development in Europe and Japan. As well as authoring and editing several books and monographs, he wrote a number of landmark articles; perhaps the most famous were his studies of counter-urbanisation in Western Europe and the paper which proposed the notion of London as an 'escalator region' in personal mobility trajectories. Typical of his engagement with new ideas of fields of study, was his late-career interest in Japan, facilitated by Visiting Professorships at Kyoto and Ritsumeikan Universities.

But for me Tony will always be remembered as an unfailingly good-natured and collegial member of the department; an excellent teacher who gave generously of his time to students; an 'ideas' person yet one who never took himself too seriously, always willing to trade good humour and banter over coffee or a beer; he stuck to his guns, so to speak, even if he was in the minority of one, as sometimes happened.

The good news, after all this, is that Tony has not, *de facto*, retired: he continues as Research Professor and has a desk in C326 where I'm sure he'd be pleased to receive colleagues and students alike.

Russell King, Head of Department

....goodbye to Hazel Lintott, cartographer....

Hazel arrived in the department as a mature student in 1990. Her final year dissertation was on the future of map libraries and the sharing of information. Following a 'year out' when she and her husband Ted lived aboard their narrowboat touring around the English canals for a year of middle-aged hippie-dom, she returned as an employee to work in the Cartographic Unit with Sue Rowland and undertook a part-time MA with a thesis entitled 'Images of England', which looked at graphical representations of rural England in both geographical journals and popular magazines from 1945 - 1995, and responded to the then emerging debate within geography concerning the geographical gaze, in particular the gendering of landscape.

Her professional output has included all kinds of maps and diagrams for Sussex geography faculty, typesetting of books, a considerable amount of digital image editing, work for people outside the university (which brought some

income for the geography department), and for other departments and groups on campus.

Hazel has found working at Sussex inspiring and stimulating both as a student and as a member of geography staff and has appreciated the friendly and supportive approach of everyone in the department. She plans a busy retirement, with many activities and interests to follow up. Still in academic mode she is fascinated by the idea of a 'soundscape' being as much part of our geographical location as the visual landscape and hopes to experiment with the mapping of sound – difficult because it is often so ephemeral. Her colleagues are very relieved to know that she will also be returning on an ad hoc basis to continue to provide graphics and maps for members of the department.



...and hello and welcome to

Katie Walsh (pictured below right, with Ben Rogaly, Grace Carswell and Catherine Senger at the recent Geography dinner) who joins us as Lecturer in Migration Studies. She completed her postgraduate research and her first postdoctoral position in the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London. Katie's research examines British expatriate identities and she uses ethnographic methods to try and get at the everydayness of these geographies. For instance, this summer she published an article in the journal *Home Cultures*, which analysed how expats use domestic objects to construct a sense of home. Other articles focus on a more embodied experience of being abroad. Katie's PhD research involved eighteen months of fieldwork in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates and, in June this year, Katie returned to the Gulf region to begin comparative research in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. In this context, her future research will focus on the entanglement of race and sexuality. Katie says: "I'm so looking forward to being part of the Department of Geography at Sussex. My impression is that it's friendly while being at the front of academic debates. And, of course, it's by the sea!"



.....and Bob Allison

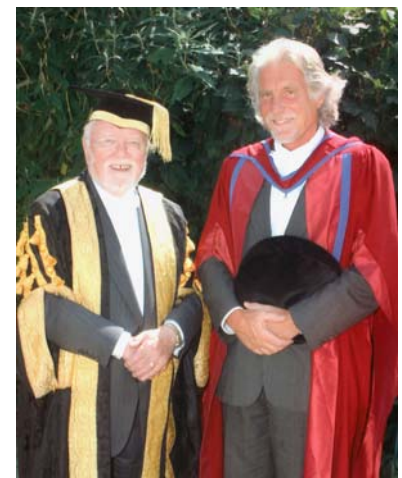
Professor Allison recently took up duties as Pro-Vice Chancellor (PVC) with responsibility for the research agenda at Sussex. Bob was previously Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health at Durham University and formerly head of the Geography department there. A physical geographer and a former external examiner at Sussex, he will be undertaking some teaching within the department.

Teaching award for Russell King

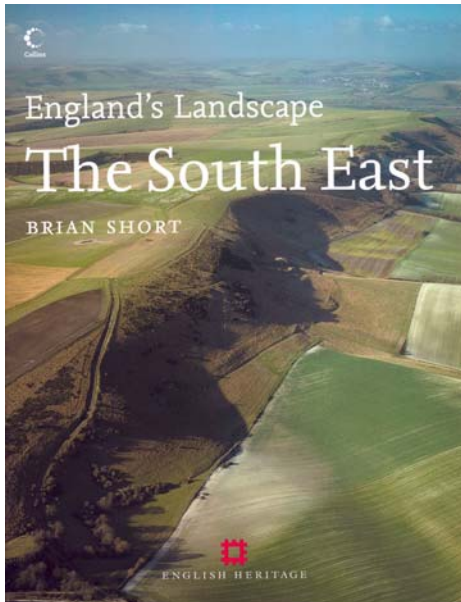
Professor Russell King, Head of Department, has been awarded a Sussex Teaching Award for his contributions to teaching - particularly at graduate level in migration studies and in recognition of his pivotal role in establishing and delivering postgraduate teaching and doctoral supervision on migration studies at Sussex over the last decade.

In the mid 1990s Russell launched the Sussex MA in Migration Studies- the first of its kind in the UK. He continues to teach the core course on the degree and draws on 30 years of his own research and scholarship (about 150 publications on migration) and professional practice (e.g. as leader in several research projects), as well as established literature by others. He tries to bring the same research-led and open-minded approach to DPhil supervision as he does to MA teaching and has acted as a mentor to numerous younger colleagues, advising them on their teaching, learning and assessment strategies.

The award includes a small financial element, which Russell is donating towards an MA Dissertation Prize for the MA in Migration Studies.



Russell was presented with his award by the Chancellor of the University – Sir Richard Attenborough



New publications by members of the department

Brian Short: *The South East* (England's Landscape: Volume 1), Collins/English Heritage, 2006.

This is a detailed description of why the countryside of SE England looks the way it does, discussing its geology, archaeology and history and what effects each has had on the landscape we see today. It includes: landscapes of power and control; cultural topography; regional patterns in an ancient landscape; the peopling of the South East and the evolution of settlement patterns; changing ways of life and the landscape; urban landscapes; London lives; landscapes and reactions; landscape and the creative imagination; and describes the South East as having 'infinite riches in a small room'.

Greco, Lidia and Dunford, Michael *After the Three Italies: Wealth, Inequality and Industrial Change* (RGS-IBG series), Blackwell, 2005. *After the Three Italies* provides a novel synthesis of the literature on convergence and the new economic geography, and develops a new political economy approach to the

analysis of the territorial division of labour. New theoretical and methodological approaches are exemplified through an up-to-date account of Italy's economic performance and of its recent development relative to other European countries and the rest of the world. Grounded also in the animated recent discussion of Italian development, and drawing on the results of recent ESRC-funded research, as well as on a large range of official data sets, the authors provide a new and more complex picture of Italian industrial change and regional economic performance.

Cyber-geography

In Autumn 2005 (newsletter 9) we reported on how DPhil student **Ceri Oeppen** was using a website to recruit participants for her field research.

Since then, Ceri and ex-Sussex geography student **Sarah-Louise Quinnell** (currently a PhD student at King's College London) have been awarded nearly £1,000 by the University of London Central Research Fund and King's Department of Geography, for a collaborative project evaluating the use of web-based communication technology in social research. Both Sarah and Ceri are using their own websites as part of their research methodology (see Ceri's at

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Users/cjo20/index.html>).

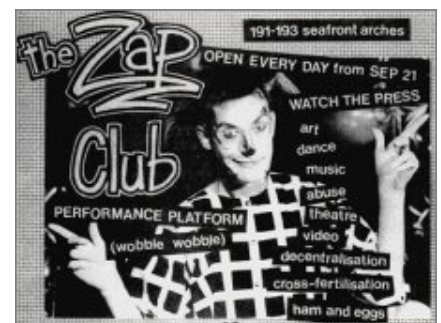
The money awarded will enable them to develop their websites into more interactive research tools by including discussion forums and space for private online interviews.

And just to show that Sussex connections are truly global... ex-Sussex Geographer Professor **Tony Binns** has invited Ceri & Sarah to visit New Zealand in November to give a presentation about their website work at the Development Studies Network Conference (DEVNET 2006) at the University of Otago

<http://www.devnet.org.nz/conf2006/index.html>.

Also on the organizing committee of this conference is **Alec Thornton**, former Sussex student and now Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Poverty, Inequality and Development (PID) Research Cluster, an inter-disciplinary cluster in the Division of Humanities, University of Otago at Dunedin. Alec recently submitted his DPhil thesis at Sussex on "Beyond the metropolis: a critical analysis of urban and peri-urban agriculture in two selected small urban centres in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa".

This summer's **Geography Ball** at the Zap Club was a big success, attended by over 200 Geographers and friends. The hard work of the organizers, Claire, Pom and Ali, raised £500 for the charities MapAction and Rainforest Concern. If you'd like to help organise next year's ball or have any other ideas for social events for the department please speak to Catherine Senger or Evelyn Dodds. Anyone fancy a day trip to Dieppe? Or a weekend visit to the Eden Project? Or an afternoon at the Brighton Earthship in Stanmer Park?



Migrant Workers

There has been increasing policy and media interest in migrant workers in Britain recently and yet surprisingly little research has been done on the employment and social integration of migrants in rural areas. Sussex has been leading the way, however. In May, the Joseph Rowntree Report 'Fair Enough? Central and East European Migrants in Low-Wage Employment in the UK' was published to coincide with the second anniversary of the enlargement of the European Union. **Ben Rogaly** co-authored the report along with Bridget Anderson, Martin Ruhs and Sarah Spencer of Oxford University. In July Ben presented a paper setting out his findings on migrant working in the agriculture sector at the annual conference of the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society at Oxford.



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A version of this is available as a working paper at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/documents/mwp36.pdf>. The paper argues that work-place regimes in the sector have intensified due to pressure on growers from supermarkets and that this has been a major cause of the increased employment of migrant workers. Two ESRC DPhil studentships have been awarded to Sussex for further research. One is held by Donna Simpson, who has just completed her MSc year and the other by Jennifer Crook who joins us this October. Recently, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Sussex Centre for Migration Research have agreed to co-fund a workshop to pull together research on the topic of migrant workers in British agriculture at Sussex in January 2007.



Sussex air photos now on-line

The Geography Resource Centre collection of air photos taken by the RAF in 1946 gives a valuable picture of post-war Sussex. These images are now available in a test version on-line at <http://www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/grc/info/airphotos-historic/>. The project was supported by the University's Teaching and Learning Development Fund. This year the GRC, with the Art History Slide Library, has been awarded further funding from the TLDF to create guidelines for simple departmental image collections. The aims of the collection for Geography are to provide resources for teaching and learning, publicity and archival purposes.

People

Uwe Dornbusch recently welcomed a party of adults with learning disabilities to the Resource Centre. Under the auspices of the EU funded project 'Nature Corridors' and East Sussex County Council the group has been creating a photographic record of monthly changes to the cliffs and beach at Birling Gap. Uwe outlined the work he had been doing with the Beaches at Risk project and advised the group on further work they might undertake. <http://www.riverocean.org.uk/nature-corridors/index.htm>

Over the summer **Russell King** was first in Dublin as part of an international panel judging applications for the Irish Research Council's Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Humanities and Social Sciences. In July he helped to convene a Workshop at Sussex on 'Love, Sexuality and Migration', the purpose of which was to explore the emotional and sexual aspects of the lives of migrants who are too often only constructed as 'workers' or 'refugees'. In August he presented a paper (jointly with Julie Vullnetari, a Sussex DPhil student) on the 'care drain' brought about by mass migration from Albania; the paper was presented at the Royal Geographical Society's Annual Conference in London. And in September he co-ordinated the research cluster discussions on

'Gender, Family, Generations' at the IMISCOE Migration Conference in Vienna.

Anastasia Christou gave a seminar in Stockholm in August, entitled: "Migration – Culture – Politics – Globalisation: discussing the role of Cultural Power, Cultural Citizenship & Social Movements in conceptual and practical terms". She also organised a workshop entitled *Narrating the city: migration, everyday experience and urban networks* and gave a paper at the European Association of Urban Historians Biannual Conference at the University of Stockholm. And in September she organised another workshop on *Migration and Cultural Change in Europe* and gave a paper on "Spaces of Europe – places of homeland: Greek female migrant life stories in Denmark", at the European Association of Social Anthropologists Biannual Conference at the University of Bristol.

Mick Dunford gave a paper on 'Territorial development, welfare and growth' at a high-level EU-China Regional Development Policy Seminar (organised by European commission and Chinese national Development and Reform Commission), in May 2006 in Beijing. This was followed by in August by 'Fiat and failed globalization' - a paper presented at the IBG/RGS Annual conference 2006, in London.

People cont.....

In late July **Mick Frogley** took part in a 2-week expedition to the cloud forests of Ecuador along with Dom Kniveton, Tim Cane and Mika Peck (see report elsewhere in this issue).

In late September he also took part in fieldwork in NW Greece with colleagues from Leeds University, trying to obtain a continuous Holocene sediment core from an ancient lake in the region. "Although we all got extremely muddy coring the lake sediments (and - predictably - overdid the ouzo later on), we did manage to obtain some first class material that will form the basis for several new and ongoing projects."

Following his DPhil viva, **Richard Charman** has undertaken a new role in Flood Risk Management at the Environment Agency, Sussex Office, in Worthing. Following 4 years of research on the hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics of the Ouse estuary between Lewes and Newhaven, his new role includes inspection and cost-benefit analysis for the upkeep of individual flood walls, embankments, outfalls, etc. in the same catchment. The main focus is the inputting and upkeep of these data in the new DEFRA online GIS system known as the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database. His work with the Geography Department's cohesive foreshores project (now focusing on shore platform down-wearing at Pett Level, Hastings) and the Centre for Continuing Education's GIS for Landscape Studies course will continue, maintaining contact with the University.

Mike Collyer, who has been appointed Lecturer in Geography and Migration Studies. Mike has just started a Marie Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship shared between Sussex and the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Accordingly he will not take up his lectureship until 2009. He will, however, continue to make teaching and research contributions to the department in the interim.

In June **Brian Short** delivered a paper on *British official cadastral and agrarian surveys 1910-1945* as part of the conference on Land Use Mapping, organised by the Great Britain Historical GIS project. He has also been invited to join the Victoria County History external panel of peer reviewers. The VCH is the premier source of information on the history of the counties of England.

Brian is a steering committee member and seminar organizer for the AHRC-funded seminar network project awarded to Sussex University to begin in 2007 on the 'Landscape and Environment of Interwar England' seminar series. This will bring an interdisciplinary approach to interrogate current ideas and arguments about perceptions and understandings of the English rural landscape in the inter-war period.



Publications

Christou, A. and King, R. (2007) "Migrants Encounter Migrants in the City: the Changing Context of 'Home' for Second-Generation Greek-American Return Migrants", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31(1), in press.

Christou, A. (2007) "Nordic-Hellenic negotiations of ethnocultural belongingness: segmented selves and diasporic lives of the second generation", *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 28 (3), in press.

Dunford, Mick

After the three Italies: wealth, inequality and industrial change, RGS-IBG Research series, Blackwell, 2006, (with Lidia Greco).

'Industrial districts, magic circles and the restructuring of the Italian textiles and clothing chain', *Economic Geography*, 82(1): 27-59
Economic Geography
A review of Boyer, Robert (2004) The future of economic growth, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, in *Economic Geography* 82(2): 227-9

King, R. and Vullnetari, J. (2006) Orphan pensioners and migrating grandparents: the impact of mass migration on older people in rural Albania, *Ageing and Society*, 26(5): 783-816.

King, R., Thomson, M., Fielding, T. and Warnes, T. (2006) Time, generations and gender in migration and settlement, in Penninx, R., Berger, M. and Kraal, K. (eds) *The Dynamics of International Migration and Settlement in Europe*, Amsterdam University Press, 233-267.

Lester, Alan 'Empire', in M. Low, K. Cox and J. Robinson (eds) *Handbook of Political Geography*, Sage, 2006, 385-407.

Short, Brian (2006) *The South East*. England's Landscape series-vol.1; English Heritage/Collins.

Short, Brian (2005) Victorian heathland as a social and cultural environment: the case of Ashdown Forest, Sussex, in Prendergast, H.D.V. (ed.) *Heathland- past, present and future* (ESCC for the 8th National Heathland Conference).

The **Royal Geographical Society** (with The Institute of British Geographers) <http://www.rgs.org/> represents Geography and geographers, supporting research, education and training, as well as fostering a wider public understanding and enjoyment of Geography.

The Society also provides funding for research, fieldwork and teaching and run an annual Expedition and Fieldwork Planning Seminar which provides inspiration, contacts and practical advice needed to organize a successful expedition or field project. This year Explore 2006 takes place on November 25th/26th. Earlier this year two Sussex geography undergraduates received funding from the RGS for their thesis fieldwork in Tanzania. In October look out for details of a departmental briefing session for students on applying for RGS fieldwork funding.