

Support for all

Perched by the porch of an *estancia*, miles from civilisation in the ruggedly wild setting of northwest Argentina, Jas Jhalli, recipient of the Society's 2012 Journey of a Lifetime Award, watches intently as Argentina's legendary cowboys, the gauchos, usher their cattle down the steep hills and into the valley. It's only a year since Jas applied for the award with her idea of travelling to discover more about the gaucho tradition and culture, looking at their identity and place in current society.

During her time in Argentina, Jas gained the utmost respect for the gauchos and their way of life. 'I found it incredibly moving that they still maintain the traditions of their forefathers,' she says. 'They live, breathe and sleep horses and cattle, and it was an honour not only to spend time with them, but also to share their stories.'

Since 2001, the Journey of a Lifetime Award, supported by the Society in partnership with BBC Radio 4, has been inspiring an interest in the world's people, places and environments, and helping to discover new radio broadcasting talent. As the name suggests, it offers the chance to make a journey of a lifetime and then tell the world about it in a BBC Radio 4 documentary. Jas's documentary will be broadcast on 3 September at 11am.

Her journey is just one of more than 90 geographical projects around the world that the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is supporting this year. More than £180,000 is being awarded to independent travellers, researchers, students and teachers to enable them to undertake scientific expeditions and geographical research.

This year's Go Beyond Bursary has seen Andy Campbell and his Pushing the Limits team set off on an expedition from the UK to the Black Sea in a Land Rover Defender 110. Andy, a wheelchair user, is hoping that the expedition will demonstrate that the exploration of a range of landscapes is within everyone's reach, whatever their ability. Following the route of the River Danube, Andy is using a wide range of equipment - including off-road wheelchair, hand-cycle, kayak and paraglider - to explore the river and its surroundings by water, land and air. Along the way, the team is encouraging people to become involved through social media, by helping the team to choose the route and by setting them challenges.

This year's Neville Shulman Challenge Award is supporting the work of the Hugging the Coast team, made up of six women sea-kayakers and social scientists who will traverse the 250-kilometre length of the Sangihe Archipelago, from Bunaken to Sangihe in the Celebes Sea of the western Pacific Ocean. The team will observe, document and engage with life in the archipelago's rapidly changing and



ABOVE: Jas Jhalli during her Journey of a Lifetime; **BELOW:** Andy Campbell on his way to the Black Sea



sensitive coastal areas, where seaweed farming provides a livelihood for many local people, especially women.

The Society's longest-running awards, the Geographical Fieldwork Grants, continue to support the next generation of field researchers on projects around the world - from conservation of the Moluccan woodcock in Indonesia to disaster management in rural Taiwan. This year marks the creation of the Field Centre Grants, which support research partnerships at field centres in some of the world's poorest countries. Dr Kevin White of the University of Reading, the grant's first recipient, will be integrating new techniques for dune survey alongside researchers at the Gobabeb Field Research Centre in Namibia.

If you would like to follow in the footsteps of any of these teams, the Society's website has more details (www.rgs.org/grants). The deadline for this year's independent travel grants is 21 September, while deadlines for the Society's senior research awards and student fieldwork grants are in November, January and February.



ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (WITH IBG) SELECTION OF EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

13 September, 6.30pm
Journeys with purpose, hosted by Alastair Humphreys (Fieldwork and Expeditions Event, London)

An informal gathering for those planning expeditions or fieldwork. Come and share your expertise and experiences.

Tickets: £5.
For details, visit www.rgs.org/goseminars or call 020 7591 3030



13 September, 7.30pm
Shackleton and sponges: marine life of South Georgia (Lecture, Belfast)

An introduction to the marine life discovered during a scuba survey of the north coast of South Georgia, where marine biologist Dr Claire Goodwin braved sub-zero temperatures and giant sea-spiders. Venue: OG-029, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast, BT7 1NN.

Tickets are free. Please email rgsni@hotmail.co.uk to indicate attendance

20 September, 8pm
The natural explorer: Tristan Gooley (Lecture, Kendal)

Tristan, who has spent the past 15 years learning to read landscapes, shows us how his techniques, as well as those of insightful travellers of the past 2,000 years, can enrich our travels - a short walk can compare with an epic expedition. Venue: Brewery Arts Centre, Highgate, Kendal, LA9 4HE.

Tickets: RGS-IBG members £5, non-members £10. For further details, call 01539 725 133

20 September, 7.30pm
7,000 years of Cotswold enterprise (Lecture, Bath)

Dr Jenny Lunn, project manager for the Society's new Discovering Britain website, will introduce the site, and Dick Bateman will talk through his website walk from Saltford onto the Cotswold Hills. This will be the first promotion of Discovering Britain outside London. Venue: Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath, BA1 2HN.

Tickets: RGS-IBG members and guests £4 each. For further details, call 01225 312 084

22 September, 10am-5pm
Architectural festival (Open house, London)

The Society will reopen its doors to the general public as part of the capital's biggest celebration of excellence in architecture. There will be showcases from the collections in the Foyle Reading Room, as well as the chance to take part in a free guided walk around Albertopolis, exploring the area's international connections as part of the Society's Walk the World project.

For further details, visit www.londonopenhouse.org

29 September to 12 October, 10am-5pm
Geographical blueprint: the art of the handcrafted globe (Exhibition, London)

The inaugural exhibition of Stoke Newington-based artisan globe makers Bellerby & Co will display an impressive selection of beautiful handmade globes of many styles, sizes and colours. Bellerby & Co will offer a glimpse into the detailed and creative world of contemporary globe making.

Free and open to all. Please use the Exhibition Road entrance

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is a leading world centre for geographers and geographical learning. One of our aims is to stimulate the awareness and enjoyment of the subject to a diverse range of people.

Geography is about the understanding of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing, and the interconnections between them - both locally and globally.

The Society carries out a wide range of activities to support its aims. We support research groups; promote geography within the national curriculum; produce scholarly publications; provide training in scientific field techniques and expeditions; offer information through our large map collection, library and picture library; and engage the wider public through our popular national lecture series.

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HUGH MACDERMOTT; ALISTER THORPE/LAND ROVER



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