

BSG Outreach and Education Committee

Report, AGM, September 2025

1. Marjorie Sweeting Prize

12 submissions were received. The quality was outstanding and it was once again a pleasure to award the prize to Sophie Snowball for their dissertation 'Investigating exposure and pollution risk from an unexposed, historic coastal landfill, Ryhope, Sunderland' completed while at Newcastle University. It was also a pleasure to award the runner up prize to Adam Wright for their dissertation 'Fluvial Geomorphology on Mars: The Hydrological Evolution of a Valley System in Northwestern Arabia Terra' completed at the University of Sussex. The call for submissions for the 2025 prize is currently open and will close on the 30th September.

The committee has proposed that the prizes be changed from the current situation (£200 and conference costs awarded to the winner and a year's free membership to the runner up) to £200 and conference costs for the winner and conference costs to the runner up. The reasons for this are to reflect the quality of submissions, to encourage and support careers of student geomorphologists, and to further encourage engagement with the BSG conference and society more generally. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis every year according to the quality of the runner up.

2. Geomorphological Outreach Grant

Three applications were received for the September round of funding (£1000 available), and the award was made to Dr Janet Richardson, Edge Hill University for a project entitled: 'Outreach with organisations that work with agricultural land managers and their advisors'. No applications were received for the February round. The next round will close on the 30th September.

Resources produced by Dewi Roberts with a Geomorphological Outreach Grant were uploaded to the BSG Youtube channel. 24 short films, focusing on fluvial geomorphology, can be viewed in the [Fluvial Geomorphology Outreach](#) playlist. Engagement with this content has been very positive, with viewing numbers ranging from several hundred to over 20,000 views for some of the field-based films.

Other activities related to previous years' awarded grants have also been added as news items on the [BSG website](#).

3. International Geomorphology Week

- i. The League of Landforms was held across our social media channels during International Geomorphology Week (3rd – 8th March). Owing to the changing social media landscape (move away from X, and without reaching the same level of engagement on Bluesky) the polls were held on Instagram with the hope of increasing engagement on that platform, and advertised on other platforms. This did encourage some new engagement (28 new followers across all platforms, between 50 and 100 votes in each round and some interesting discussion), but the challenges of the current social media landscape did limit engagement this year.
- ii. Two online talks were organized ('How can we build inclusive, accessible, and future-focused fieldwork in the geosciences' by Lynda Yorke of Bangor University and 'A strategic national approach to communicating coastal change' by Gwyn Nelson of the

Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre). Recordings can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

4. Geographical Association

The BSG's sponsorship of the GA's Physical Geography student photo competition continued and the society again benefitted from promotion by the GA. The winners can be viewed here [2024 - winners announced - Geographical Association](#).

The Committee Chair attended the GA Conference at Oxford Brookes University (15th – 17th April) as an exhibitor. BSG literature was disseminated, including flyers for the new Fluvial Geomorphology Outreach videos.

5. Time for Geography

The BSG's agreement with Time for Geography has continued this year and had the following reach (from Time for Geography annual report).

'In the year to August 2025, [promotional video content provided by British Society for Geomorphology](#) was broadcast as rotating pre-roll and post-roll content on Time for Geography educational videos. Data from this period are summarised in Table 1. In addition, Time for Geography actively promoted British Society for Geomorphology across the project's social media channels throughout the year.'

Table 1. Viewing audience data for British Society for Geomorphology promotional content spaces, August 2024 to August 2025.

Promotional video total audience	110,000 (+11,000 / -45,000)
Promotional video total classroom audience	101,000 (+11,000 / -45,000)
Promotional video number of plays	9,194
Percentage of plays in school classrooms	68 %
Total views of British Society for Geomorphology partner-branded web pages and social media posts	102,196

Some highlights and future work include:

- New videos in [Isle of Fire series](#) developed and launched in collaboration with BSG member Dr Iestyn Barr, Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Isle of Fire videos receive [national award from Geographical Association](#) recognising significant contribution to secondary education.
- New video "Why do rivers meander?", in collaboration the British Society for Geomorphology, Aberystwyth University and Cardiff University, is currently being finalised ahead of launch for the new school year in September.
- New videos "What are landslides and why do they occur?" and "How does landslide hazard change after a large earthquake?", in collaboration the British Society for Geomorphology, University of Plymouth, Cardiff University and University of Exeter (involving various BSG members), now in production. To develop these videos we have secured £16,200 match-funding from UKRI plus overseas travel support from Time for

Geography educational travel partner NST. Filming taking place in the Apennine Mountains, Italy in September 2025.

- A proposal to develop Welsh medium videos, with BSG members in Wales, submitted to Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol was well-received but pending available funding. We are looking into ways of creating this videos without external support, as Welsh-narrated explainer videos.

6. Windsor Workshop

Thanks again to Dr Lucy Clarke and the team for organising the BSG Windsor Workshop (training for 1st year PhD students) held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park on 2-5 December 2024 (see attached report). The venue has been booked for the BSG Windsor Workshop 2025 on Mon 01 – Thu 04 December, with 24 student places confirmed and an additional 6 on reserve. Expression of interest for places will open in September/October 2025 to capture the autumn cohort of new PhD students.

7. Art-science session at the RGS-IBG annual conference

A call for papers was circulated for a BSG-sponsored session at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference on 'Art-science collaborations in the geosciences'. Enough papers, many closely linked to geomorphological outreach and education themes, were proposed for a two-part session, and these took place on the 28th August.

8. Committee Membership

The committee thanks Sam Humble for their service as Education Officer over the past two years. This position is now vacant – please get in touch if you are interested in undertaking the role.

Thanks also to Julian Martin for their service as RGS representative and to Simon Pinfield and Dr Catherine Souch for stepping into the role.

As outgoing chair of the committee I would like to thank all members of the committee who have contributed over the past four years, as well as members of the BSG Executive for their support.

Hywel Griffiths