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Geography Southwest Newsbites September 2024



Welcome to the September 2024 Geography Southwest Newsbites with news from the South West, recently published geography resources and details of forthcoming geography events.

On Monday 17 June, we welcomed 75 geography teachers, guest speakers, workshop leaders and educational companies to the 2024 **South West Geography Conference** at the University of West of England, (UWE). A report of the conference is **here**, along with Powerpoints from several presentations. Next year's conference will be in June 2025 at the same venue. The date will be confirmed in early Autumn 2024.
Do look at recent additions to the Geography Southwest website, particularly our new **Careers page** profiling

geographers in a variety of workplaces and our wind energy resources for **Key Stage 3** and **A level.**
Do also look at our regular **guest blogs.**



Geography in the News

Environment Agency's Calstock Wetlands Project reduces flood risk.
The Cornish village of Calstock is now less at risk of flooding. Eleven hectares of new intertidal habitat have been created, encouraging new and returning wildlife species.
Calstock is being protected by over 600 metres of new earth embankments. These are set back from the River Tamar, and part of the old flood bank has been removed enabling water to flow into newly created pools and creeks. The new intertidal wetland is being monitored closely to see how wildlife responds. The Calstock project is an example of action being taken to respond to climate change and sea-level rise through climate adaptation.



Okehampton to get a new park and ride station interchange station.

The Exeter to Okehampton railway will get a new station called **Okehampton Interchange** close to the A30 dual carriageway on the outskirts of Okehampton. Devon County Council announced in June that it has approved the £14.95 million park and ride station with space for 200 cars, covered parking for cycles, bus stops and accessible ramps. The location is alongside the Business Park and it is hoped it will attract new businesses as well as encouraging travel to Exeter with its direct services to London. The Okehampton to Exeter Dartmoor railway reopened in 2021 and carried over 250,000 passengers in its first year.



Hayle beach mining creates raises local concerns.
Residents in Hayle, Cornwall have rasied concerns about sand being removed by diggers and dredgers from Hayle beach.

Several tonnes of sand are being removed day and night and sold to a local aggregate company. **People are worried about the landscape and effects on local ecosystems.** The Authorities say removal of the sand is permitted under the 1989 Hayle Harbour Act to prevent the channel to the harbour becoming blocked and the work is closely monitored. After hearing local concerns the local Council is seeking advice on the environmental effects and looking at a dredge and dune restoration scheme rather than dredge and remove. They are also investigating the restoration of sluicing, by which releases of water naturally removed sediment from the channel.

The **Journal For Student Geographers** is launching a call for papers for a special issue on young people and rewilding, in collaboration with **Youngwilders**.
Secondary School students, undergraduates and Masters students are encouraged to apply. The deadline is 30 November 2024 and full details are on the Routes website.

New geography resources



Teaching about the weather and climate change?
The Royal Meteorological Society have updated and extended their award winning **Teachers' Guide** for teachers new to teaching weather and climate in secondary schools. This is a very comprehensive package of free resources with classroom activities and ideas. They have recently published **The State of**

the UK Climate Poster Their alongside other free resources on their website.

Teaching about Polar regions?
Look at the National Oceanography Centre's website for news and resources including details of **new surveys showing how ice sheets are melting.**

Teaching about environmental threats and water quality? Look at the resources and **Counting the Earth** podcasts from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

Teaching about landscape change and ecosystems? New teaching resources on **Landscape Change and sustainable forests** for Key Stage 3 from Forestry England have been published, supported by Geography Southwest.



Forthcoming events for geography teachers



Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather
Understand and explore the physical processes behind the weather by joining the Royal Meteorological Society's **online distance learning course.**
Organised with Future Learn, this 3 week course will help you understand our weather.

RGS courses and presentations in September and October.
The RGS have a range of **lectures, courses and events** in September and October. These include **Using Digimaps for Schools for GIS** on Wednesday 25 September,
Building Confidence in Geographical Fieldwork, a day course at Juniper Hall, between Dorking and Leatherhead on Friday 27 September and
The Changing City - alternative uses of urban space, an online free twilight lecture for School Members. The ongoing RGS courses on Teaching with GIS are also on the website.

Geographical Association events and CPD
The GA's **Quality Secondary Geography for non-specialists online course starts** on Thursday 26 September. The practical and interactive in-person course **On location: geography fieldwork in Southampton** is on Tuesday 8 October. Follow this link for more **Geographical Association events and CPD**

The **Great Exe Salmon Run** is happening again on **September 29th 2024.** The eventis to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the Exe Atlantic river salmon as they run upstream to spawn! Come along and take part or cheer the runners on. See the website for more details of the event and the River Exe ecosystem.

Glosgeog have a range of events on for Key Stages 3-5. These include an online talk by Alan Parkinson on Geography case studies on Wed 25 September, and a presentation on Antarctic research on Tuesday 8 October. Contact **Emma Espley** at **emma.espley@gmail.com** for more details of GlosGeog events and to register.

Look out for our next Newsletter in October 2024.
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John Davidson 22/09/24
Co-Director and Newsbites editor

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Geography Southwest
Snows Cottage, Wrangway, Wellington, TA21 9QG
john@geographysouthwest.co.uk

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