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Geography Southwest Newsbites February 2026



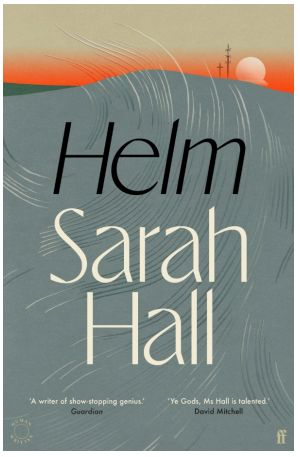
Welcome to the February Newsbites with our topical round-up of news, resources and events.

Do read our latest **guest blog** on the website where Jon Banks shows the educational benefits of school fieldwork in Morocco.

Our January guest blog by **Sarah Hall about her novel *Helm*** discussed her views on nature writing and her latest novel which features the only named wind in the UK. A **free** copy of *Helm* will be sent to the first person to send the answer to the question "In which English County would you experience the Helm Wind?" to **Simon Ross** at **rosstrout02@gmail.com**

Don't forget that bookings for the Geography South West on Monday 22 June will open on April 1, 2026.

Ron Cooke Award: student award for A Level independent investigation. Do you have a student who has produced a particularly good NEA? The RGS Ron Cooke Award acknowledges excellent work on an independent investigation. The closing date is 1700 on **Friday 13 March**.



Geography in the News



Coastal A379 road closed by wave erosion at Slapton Sands. The main road between Kingsbridge and Dartmouth has been closed as a result of storm damage at the beginning

of February from Storm Ingrid and **Storm Chandra**. Strong south easterly winds and powerful waves coinciding with high tide destroyed a 200 metre section of the A379, caused damage to housing and businesses at Torcross and eroding the car park. Commuters to Dartmouth face a lengthy diversion and local businesses are worried about the potential disruption to the tourist trade. Government funding has been sought to repair the road but may not be forthcoming. **Tim Poate wrote a guest blog** in January 2021 on the effects of climate change on the coast, and coastal change management areas (CCMA), which features Slapton. There is also a **detailed case study of Slapton Sands** and the risks from coastal erosion on our website. See also this BBC article on **coastal change** in 2026

UK's first operational geothermal electricity facility. opens in Cornwall. The £50 million **United Downs power plant near Redruth** opened on 26 February 2026 generating 3 MW of electricity, enough to power 10,000 homes. It will also produce approximately 100 tonnes per year of lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE), a valuable by product. The production well uses brine at 190 degrees C to come from 5 km below the surface and generate electricity before the lithium extraction. The water is then pumped back down so the project is sustainable. Two more Geothermal plants are planned to open by 2030, increasing generating capacity from renewable geothermal energy to over 10MW. **https://cornishstuff.com/geothermal/united-downs-geothermal-power-station-begins-generating-electricity/**

New geography resources

The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) have a range of **new resources for schools** including **Building new communities in England** looking at the new towns that are currently being created.

Teaching the importance of coastal salt marshes and the carbon cycle? Look at the latest news from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology on the **The Role Of Saltmarshes In Tackling Climate Change** which includes useful links to other resources.

Looking for a quick way to tell your students about careers in with Geography? Look at the short TimeforGeography video on **Why study geography?**

There is still time to do the **Royal Meteorological Society Climate Literacy Survey** with your students to before the deadline at the end of March. The survey takes around 7-8 minutes to complete and the results will help with the planning of future educational resources.

Studying Glaciers? Discover the World have an informative case study on the **Sólheimajökull Glacier** glacier in Iceland. It is a valuable case study for A level.

Teaching climate change? Look at the **ASE webinars on climate change** for both scientists and non-scientists for a useful overview.

Forthcoming events for geography teachers

Connecting the Culm annual Forum: Thursday 26 March, 7 - 9pm Cullompton Community Centre.
This free important annual event of interest to teachers in East Devon and Somerset. This year the focus is on soils and their crucial role in both nature recovery and flood resilience. Two Devon farmers join us to talk nature, soils, water and business. And we'll have updates on our work with Network Rail and National Highways to use nature-based solutions to tackle flood risk and water quality.

University of Southampton Science and Engineering Day. If you are within reach of Southampton, consider attending the free events on Saturday 14 March showcasing the research of University of Southampton. Several events feature research done by the **National Oceanography Centre.**

RGS CPD

Assessment and feedback in geography on Wednesday 18 March, 1700 to 1830 online will look at practical approaches to assessment and feedback in the classroom.

Choose Geography: Careers in Global Governance. Tuesday 10 March 2026, 15.30

GA CPD events:

Being an effective secondary geography lead: Thursday 19 March, online.

GA Annual Conference and Exhibition. Sheffield. 8-10 April.

Look out for our March Newsletter to be published nearer the end of term.

If you have not already signed up to receive this newsletter directly by email, please click on the **Sign-Up box** and complete the short form below.

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