



Geographical Society Newsletter

January 2014



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas!!!

It's been a very busy term for DUGS and for all of you but we all made it!

This newsletter will summarise what's been happening in DUGS and in the department this term. We have tried to include as much variety as possible with what we offer, sticking with the old but also developing the new.

We hope that the events we have put on and the opportunities we have provided this term have been informative and inspiring. The exec have definitely enjoyed them!

From every Monday Night speaker and film night to the very last mince pie eaten at the Christmas Social, we hope you enjoyed everything you attended with DUGS.

And particularly to Geography Freshers this year, we hope you enjoyed your first term at Durham both in the department and in the society.

As always if you have any suggestions or comments about the events we hold and the way we run them, do not hesitate to contact us by email, Facebook, or Twitter and we will definitely get back to you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

The DUGS Exec xx

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In the Department...

Over the summer, there were many fieldtrips embarked on by Durham Geography Students, including trips to Nepal, Iceland, Switzerland, and California.

This term, there were fieldtrips to Norfolk with Quaternary of Glaciated Regions (L3), and North Yorkshire with Reconstructing Environmental Change (L2).



Nepal



Iceland



California



Michaelmas Speakers

Prof. Andy Russell from Newcastle University spoke to us about jökulhlaups induced by volcanic eruptions and the impact they may have in Iceland in particular.

Dr. Richard Waller from Keele University discussed glacier-permafrost interactions and the impacts of cold-based glaciers on the landscape.

Prof. Graham Clarke from the University of Leeds discussed issues in Health and Deprivation.

Prof. Roland Gehrels from the University of York talked about sea level prediction and why it is important.

Epiphany guest speakers will include talks from Dr Alex Hughes who specialises in Economic Geography, Dr Heather Lovell who specialises in the politics of climate change, and many others!

“What I did last summer”

This term, DUGS, launched “What I did last summer” to give members of the society the chance to find out what other members have got up to, whether it be travelling, dissertation fieldwork, or work experience and internships.

Whilst the audience members sat down with a glass of wine and crisps, a huge range of different activities undertaken were discussed, ranging from charity work to internships at the Met Office.

It was amazing to see how much everyone gets up to in their on time, whether it be course related or simply because of a passion they have about something in their lives.

Travel Grant Winner Rachel Brown

This summer, I travelled to South-East Iceland with fourteen other Geography undergraduates, in order to conduct research for our individual dissertations in glaciology. We studied several outlet glaciers of Vatnajökull, the largest ice-cap in Europe. The study of modern glaciers is key for understanding what has occurred in ancient glacial landscapes, such as in the Lake District, as well as gaining an insight into the response of glaciers to changing environmental conditions.

Throughout my degree, I have developed a specific interest in glaciology and Quaternary Science. As Iceland is such an interesting geographical location, it was very exciting for me to be able to visit and conduct my research here. I feel the trip has been beneficial for me in several ways – both for my personal and my academic development. My dissertation is an investigation into the formation of lateral moraines by the Falljökull and Virkisjökull glaciers, and using sedimentological and geomorphological data from these moraines I aim to understand the transport pathways of debris through the glaciers. Our expedition was accompanied by Professor Dave Evans, an expert in glaciology. The opportunity to gain his feedback on my research methods was highly appreciated.

Although I felt prepared for most elements of the expedition, with experience in camping and hiking, there were certain conditions which are unique to modern glacial environments. It was necessary to hike across ice-cored moraine and glacier ice with crampons - something I had no experience in prior to the trip. However, by communicating and working with more experienced members of the expedition, my confidence quickly increased. This will be extremely helpful if I decide to pursue my interest in glaciology further.

What DUGS members did last summer...

Work Experience at the Environment Agency.

Volunteering with the Charity

PHAB Kids

Interning at the Met Office

Conducting dissertation research in Norway and Iceland

Going on a Pilgrimage from London to Rome

More information about these experiences can be found on the DUGS website under the “Careers” tab.

The expedition was one of the best things I have ever had the opportunity to do. I visited some truly amazing places, both of geographical and cultural interest. It will not only provide the basis of my dissertation, but will also aid my understanding of glacial environments in my other studies. The personal development I made before and during the trip will be useful in many things throughout my degree and career, and I would not hesitate in advising anyone with a similar opportunity to work as hard as they can at fundraising and preparing, to make sure they can make the most of the chance.





Michaelmas Socials!

Freshers' Social



Farmers' Bar Crawl



Mince Pies and Mulled Wine





SAVE THE DATE!

DUGS

SAVE THE DATE!

**MONDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY
2014**

SUPER SOCIAL

Keep tuned for more information via email/twitter/facebook coming soon!

Merry 
 *Christmas*