

The Lancing *Geographer*

Geography and the Legal profession
Coastal management in Worthing
International expeditions



Journal of the Geography Department of Lancing College

Editorial:

Welcome to the 2023 Lancing Geographer.

We are proud to present an edition that focuses on women in geography! You will notice as you read through the articles that they have all either been written or edited by a woman. We are a female editing team.

This edition contains articles from international migration, Lancing College field trips to interviews with retired lawmakers and a UN relief worker. From Costa Rica to Barcelona and Iceland this journal spans many issues and covers a wide range of riveting topics.

We also have the winning entries from the Geography and Music competition that ran this year where students were asked to write the lyrics for a song about a place that means something to them.

We hope you enjoy the journal.

Jorja S

Amelie L

Rosalind D

The Editorial board



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In addition, there are the Highly Commended and Winning entries from the Geography and Music competition throughout this issue of the Journal.



All views expressed are those of the article authors, and not those of the geography department or Lancing College.

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Cover and back cover images were taken in Barcelona on the LVI Geography field trip, along with the photo montage on pages 20 and 21.

My Expedition to Costa Rica

Zoe C



Zoe ventured to Costa Rica and here reflects on her geographical trip of a lifetime!

In the Lent Term of Lower Sixth, I decided to apply for the Lancing travel awards, with a plan to go to Nepal for 5 weeks with Raleigh International. Raleigh is a youth expedition organisation which works in remote and rural areas to improve access to safe water and sanitation, build community resilience, sustainably manage resources, and protect vulnerable environments. It was founded in 1984 and since then over 40,000 young people have taken part in Raleigh expeditions. I applied for the travel awards and was kindly awarded the Peter Beattie Prize and half of the Patrick Halsey prize, coming to a total of £1000. This contributed greatly to me having

enough to go and over the next few months I fundraised in other ways by washing cars, cat sitting, winning a travel award from the Brighton Geographical Association and giving presentations to my local WI and Rotary Club. Everything was on track and I was slowly preparing to set off at the start of July.

However, in late May, Raleigh International suddenly went into voluntary liquidation meaning my whole expedition was cancelled and I would not be receiving any of my money back (all of which I had paid just 3 days prior). I was absolutely devastated but then, thankfully, I was soon contacted by Raleigh Costa Rica, Raleigh International's independent partner organisation. They were going to continue operating as a separate organisation and invited anyone



going to Nepal, to go to Costa Rica instead. Despite me being sceptical, I applied for the 7 week one which I was quickly accepted on to. The expedition would include 3 weeks on either an environmental project or a community project and then a 3 week trek. I had also planned to use the trip to collect data for my geography A Level coursework which I will talk more of later.

I eventually set off on July 16th after months of preparation. I spent the first few days at field base, situated near the town of Turrialba, getting to know everyone and having induction sessions preparing us for whatever our first phase would be. I was selected to be in Alpha 3 alongside 14 others which was the community project. This meant I would be spending the next 3 weeks at a secondary school in the remote indigenous Cabecar community building a new classroom. The

Cabecar community is situated in the middle of the rainforest has its own language and culture, although most of the students speak a mix of Spanish and Cabecar.

We began work on building our classroom straight away once arriving. First, we had to level out the ground using pickaxes and shovels as we were working up a hill. Next, we built the metal foundations we would be pouring the concrete into. The concrete itself required a mix of cement and sand which all had to be carried up the hill by hand. We then had to mix the concrete by hand for each section of the classroom floor. Once the floor was complete, we moved on to the construction of the wooden walls and roof which meant carrying wooden planks up the hill and then lots of measuring, sawing and hammering.

Soon enough our classroom was almost finished being constructed. No windows were added whilst we were there as the principal had plans to add glass windows which did not currently exist in any other building at the school and I know this has now been done. During an activity day we had with the kids at the school, we painted a tree on the front of our classroom, having handprints of all the students as the leaves. We also spent almost every evening in the traditional Cabecar 'ranch' with a lit fire which is where they teach the kids about their culture.

Having the opportunity to live and work in such a remote region of Costa Rica was truly incredible. I learnt so much about the Cabecar culture and definitely gained a new appreciation for the simple things in life. Many of the students have to trek for 2 hours just to get to school and for many of them the breakfast and



Costa Rica is a very climate aware and active country with a plan to become carbon neutral by 2050.

lunch they receive are the only meals they have in the day. The school itself was purely powered by a few solar panels which was due to the fact that the Costa Rica government funds for indigenous communities like this one to help increase their standard of living in a sustainable way. During our time there, the school principal had a meeting with the Costa Rican president about a dangerous bridge nearby which many children had to cross

to get to school and there are now plans to build a new bridge. We also had to filter our water each day as their water supply is not clean, the students however aren't able to do this as water filtration supplies are very difficult to come by in Costa Rica.

Whilst at the school we also had many discussions about sustainability in such rural areas and discovered the students were given lessons in gardening and reusing materials was very important to them due to their lack of waste disposal.

Soon enough it was time for me to return to field base for the second phase. Having still kept in contact with people at the school, I'm pleased to report our classroom is being used to teach English and Raleigh just completed building a new cafeteria area at the school with the volunteers currently out there. Overall, it was incredibly rewarding to be able to build the classroom in those three weeks and know I've made a difference to the community as well as learn about the Cabecar culture and its people. During my time there I was able to find out

information for my Geography coursework about Costa Rican lifestyles, their outlook on sustainability and challenges that indigenous communities like this face which were all fascinating to learn about.

Phase 2 was a trek where I would be walking 245km over 17 days. We were put into new groups and set off. Despite it being a challenge at times, it was great to test myself both physically and mentally. The trek itself allowed me to walk through some of the most rural and least touristy areas of the country which I believe gave me a unique outlook on the country. Our daily routine consisted of waking up between 3am and 4am so we could avoid the heat and rain which often started in the afternoon very predictably. Each day we had a day leader who would navigate and decide when we would stop. Before leaving we had to organise all our food into sections so we would carry 5 days of food at a time and then have a food drop. Along the way I made some incredible memories.

I was able to collect lots of photographic evidence for my coursework of all the different landscapes and land uses I saw including deforestation, palm plantations, cattle farming and protected areas of forest. As a geographer it was fascinating to experience this sort of climate and environment after studying places like it in the past. It allowed me to produce a coursework project on climate change as Costa Rica is a very climate aware and active country with a plan to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Once trek was over I had a few more days at field base before heading home.

Overall, I had such an incredible time, made life-long friends, gained many new skills, and learnt so much about the beautiful country that is Costa Rica. What was most rewarding is knowing I helped make a difference in the Cabecar community and had the opportunity to educate myself more on life in indigenous rural communities, the challenges they face, and the solutions which can and have improved their quality of life in a sustainable way.

Zoe C is an UVI Geographer who plans to study Geography at University.

Does international migration have a positive influence?

Jorja S



Jorja investigates the impacts of the global movement of people.

International migration happens on a large (global) scale. International migration is defined as the movement of people across international borders for the purpose of settlement. An estimated 3.5% of the world's total population are international migrants (UN Census data 2023). Many people migrate around the world due to conflict, famine, poverty, better education, better healthcare, more employment opportunities and an improved quality of life. There are many contributing factors to why a person may migrate globally, these can be placed into two distinct categories: push and pull factors. A push factor is something that causes inhabitants to leave their homes. For example, mechanisation which is the

introduction of machines or automatic devices into an environment, is a key push factor in many rural areas as employment opportunities decrease drastically. A pull factor is something that is attractive to inhabitants causing them to leave their homes and relocate. Some examples of pull factors are the improved employment opportunities with higher wages, better education systems and significantly better healthcare in cities or HICs (High Income Countries.)

International migration results in an enriched cultural diversity, as people bring other aspects such as cuisine, music, television and language to other parts of the globe (furthermore, popular TV and music is collectively known as 'pop-culture.')

I believe it positively impacts the human population as it significantly helps create global links between different cultures, places and people which is

known as globalisation. Additionally, these links can be social (which relates to society and its organisation) or economic (which relates to economics or the economy – it can be on a local, national or global scale) due to time-space compression which means that the time taken to get from one place to another has rapidly reduced over the past few hundred years, and the connections forged through the internet result in instantaneous links all over the world which allow family, friends and colleagues to communicate openly.

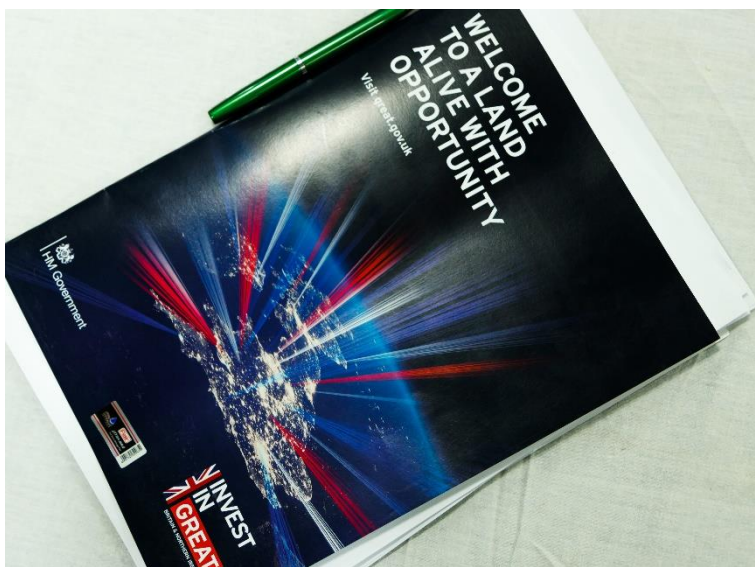
Contrastingly, international migration can cause tension and strain on communities within a country. Racial tension can lead to conflict between local communities. Furthermore, an estimated 85,200 racially motivated offences in the UK were reported in 2020 and 2021 (UK Government, 2023). This can be linked to the xenophobia which is defined as the dislike of or prejudice towards people from other countries which many people in the UK feel, particularly during COVID-19 because social media and news outlets alike caused racism towards Asian and

ethnic minority groups to increase by nearly triple in the past two years. Discrimination and prejudice from local inhabitants create a racial rift or divide within communities particularly in the UK (United Kingdom).

Additionally, migrant communities may struggle to assimilate and relate to the local inhabitants within countries such as the England or other places with very different cultures to their own. This may create challenges for example, migrant groups may be more prone to staying within their own communities once they reach another country, as this can offer support, structure and reduce social anxieties facing many who migrate without knowing the language or culture. Furthermore, international migrants may feel the added pressure of cultural homogenisation which is when all cultures all become the same, and assimilation of communities and cultures. Assimilation is when migrating communities lose or abandon their own original cultures when they leave their original countries to either fit the social conformities within the country they are migrating to or

because it is harder to have cultural pluralism. Cultural pluralism is when smaller groups within a wider community can maintain their original and unique cultural identities.

Furthermore, international migration allows LICs (Low Income Countries) to relieve the strain and pressure on the natural resources: food, water, energy and land. Moreover, there is a dramatic reduction in the pressure that is placed on the tertiary systems



in LICs (Low Income Countries) such as: education, healthcare and emergency services (the police, health care and the fire services). This helps limit the conflicts that can be provoked due to limited resources and finances, leading to safer conditions and lower mortality rates.

One of the many favourable impacts of international migration is the influx of qualified staff that can therefore be employed in the public or tertiary sector of employment. This results in a significant reduction in the unemployment rates around the country. The unemployment rate within the United Kingdom of inhabitants ageing from 16 years

old to 55, between the months of June and August 2022 was 3.5% of the population. This has declined 0.3% since the COVID-19 lockdown travel restrictions have been lifted. In addition, local economies, on a small scale, are boosted on a social and economic level. Migrants can create a greater sense of job competition and add to the previously mentioned idea that international migration may cause a constrained atmosphere within local communities.

According to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2023) 58% of migrants within the UK have reported cases of exploitation within the employment sector and other tertiary services for example healthcare and

insurance. One of the reasons exploitation of migrants occurs could be because of language barriers, extreme cases of xenophobia and the theory that migrants from poverty-stricken countries will work for below minimum wage and for will work for longer hours, in worse working conditions. This can lead to a reduced quality of life which is defined as the

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standard of health, comfort and happiness experienced by an individual or group.

Many migrate to other countries or other [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

places like the UK and United States of America

(USA) due to the stereotyped media portrayal of specific areas of the world. This is known as place identity, meaning the way people perceive a specific place through representation in the media and through social views and opinions. Frequently, through the media, these countries are portrayed to offer wealth, freedom and an overall more rewarding life. The opportunities for higher wages, more employment opportunities, an improved quality of life, increased education and standard of healthcare – all appeal to international migrants looking for a better lifestyle! Although HICs (High Income Countries) do typically provide all of these opportunities in greater abundance than LICs (Low Income Countries) there are also other factors

that may prohibit the migration process, which consists of visas (employee visas or student visas) and accommodation or housing. These can all create challenging and stressful situations when trying to migrate.

On balance, international migration can be caused by many contributing push and pull factors such as conflict, poverty, educational opportunities and improved healthcare. The changing place identity of specific areas can be the by-product of international migration as a result of globalisation. Place identity refers to people's opinions or views surrounding a specific place due to stereotypes, media portrayals and personal accounts. Differences in diversity such as languages, music, religion and culture can create a rich and enhanced community. It offers a broad range of opportunities for many who live in LICs (Low Income Countries) like employment opportunities and improved quality of life through better healthcare systems and public services. On a global scale international migration results in a rich cultural mix and diversity which allows globalisation and time-space compression to form deep seated links and connections all across the world. International migration has significant benefits for high income countries (HICs) such as England, overall international migration does not only have a positive impact on the host country but rather affirmative impacts globally due to vast factors that affect both the origin country, host country and other countries all over the world.

Jorja S is a LVI Geographer, and member of the Lancing Geographer Editorial Board.

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Lancing Geographer Interview: Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR

Amelie L



Amelie interviews a Senior Protection officer at the UNHCR. Given the sensitivities of her work, the interviewee has asked to keep their identity a secret.

Could you tell me a little bit about yourself? - What is the UNHCR and what is your role within the organisation?

My Background is in social anthropology. I ended up in the humanitarian field because I was working in Bosnia and in Kosovo, there I met the UNHCR because I was working with displaced populations. I stumbled into a special field within the UNHCR called protection, one among several different technical fields. UNHCR is particularly interesting as it has a specific and strong mandate, based on the 1951 Refugee Convention; UNHCR's mandate states that when a government is not able to or willing to carry out its obligations

towards refugees or displaced people, the UNHCR will do it.

In the case of refugees – if a country does not have the means or the capacity to process refugee claims, the UNHCR does. It is called mandate refugee status determination and is one of the fields I've been working in. Every country you go to there is a different legal context, a different history of why people end up being displaced. For instance, in my last placement in Yemen, I was working with both IDPs (Internally Displaced People) and refugees. The real interesting thing about UNHCR is its mandate because of the refugee convention where the UNHCR has a supervisory role. For instance, in many countries the governments have not ratified the refugee convention and in those cases the UNHCR steps in and does what normally the government is supposed to be do, which is very challenging in some cases as you decide if a foreigner is allowed to stay legally in a

country. So, the work touches upon a lot of interesting questions.

Which countries have you worked in previously in your career? Which locations have been most interesting or perhaps challenging?

I started out working for the UNHCR in Kosovo, in the beginning of 2000s, moved on to Sri Lanka, to Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, to Greece and now Yemen- very different contexts. In Sri Lanka and Yemen I worked on internal displacement (IDPs), which is very challenging as you are dealing with the nationals of the country you're working in. In Jordan and Lebanon, I worked with refugees, a very different situation.

Most challenging is internal displacement, because it is very difficult. As the UN we support governments who are responsible for their citizens, the situations are very difficult, but they are in charge. You then have to try to influence their decisions, through dialogue and capacity building, to support their displaced population in the best possible way.

In the context where I worked in with an ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka and Yemen, this is very tricky. There are security and safety issues for staff and for the displaced themselves. It is very difficult to

handle, it always takes a lot of discussions and negotiations.

The first country you work in is always the most interesting as you are taken away by what you experience. Sri Lanka and Yemen have been very remarkable experiences for me because the conflicts are very difficult and the people really amazing. I think the work is the hardest. These are the two that I so far take with me as the peak of challenges!

Do you ever feel emotional regarding the things that you witness daily, are you able to switch off your emotions at the end of the day?

I don't think you can switch off at the end of the day, but I do believe that when you work in this field you have to find different ways to absorb and process what you experience. Especially at the time I was doing lots of interviewing of refugees for status determination, it was a very tough discipline as your job is to understand the details of people's stories. A lot of the time the things people have



gone through are violent and traumatizing, and you emotionally use yourself to support them. Another aspect is also that when you are working in such a large operation, even though you have a lot of power – in the sense that you can propose or do things- you do not necessarily see the immediate result for people personally which can be difficult. Then other times you see a direct impact. You have to break things down also and be realistic within yourself on what you can do. If you try at least to do your best and make sure that the humanitarian interventions that you work on have an impact coming out of them. You must balance little success stories within the larger sometimes depressing context.

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What does a typical day look like - could you give an insight into your daily tasks?

Recently I was working in Yemen as a senior protection officer, meaning that I am head of the section in the office. A typical day consists of many online meetings, now with covid more or less gone we have gone back to physical meetings. It is a lot about administration and discussing issues with colleagues. I also try to do regular visits to the field in order to look at project implementation. The UNHCR has direct implementation projects which we do on our own. The large majority of our activities are done through partners, meaning that we work with most often local organisations, also

larger humanitarian agencies which do the different projects for us.

A lot of time is spent on visiting project sites and discussing with partners and those displaced benefitting from the projects. One of the interesting aspects to

my work is to go and try to understand their situation better but also discuss with them on how the intervention are assisting them and how they could be better.

What methods of intervention/aid do the UNHCR use in Yemen to help current the situation. What is your involvement in these methods of aid and intervention?

In my case, I am focussing on only the protection activities, meaning that it's a lot about field teams work in areas where you have displaced populations. Some work on child protection projects, meaning that they try to identify children who aren't in such a good situation and try to assist them individually, through setting up social activities for children. We call them child friendly spaces. Many activities are ongoing so that these children at least for a couple of hours can leave the problems that they feel from their parents and focus on being children. We also have a lot of activities which are aimed at trying to prevent or respond to gender-based violence, it's about identifying mainly women but also children or men who have experienced violence and try to support them. Then we have more general protection activities – trying to understand what is



are always very visibly successful. You help people to obtain birth certificates, identity documents, marriage certificates, all these documents which are crucial to move on with your life. These are some of the activities I really like because you really see an impact on people's lives.

going on in the different areas, in a country like Yemen. You cannot just open a news website and check what is actually going in IDP camp xyz. You need to go there and understand what has happened during the last week, if there have been any problems or types of violence. In those cases, it's important to document what has happened and try to address the problem. You have to work with local authorities, the military, the communities in trying to mitigate and prevent this from happening again.

Are some methods more successful than others?

It's difficult, I think that each one of them has its impact. I have other colleagues working on other aspects - setting up shelters making sure that there is camp management (meaning that when there is a camp for displaced people you will make sure that there is some basic governing structure in place).

Some of the projects we have where we have been working on civil documentation

How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted the situation in Yemen? Has it limited the amount of aid that individuals have been able to receive over the past years?

Covid has definitely made things a lot worse. Just in practical terms, humanitarian staff got stuck all over the world, could not travel due to bans in their country or the destination country. In Yemen, it meant a lot in terms of things not working, people who used to have casual jobs no longer had casual jobs. At the same time a country like Yemen, a country where things are difficult in the first place, and something like this happens – they just carry on.

The fact that the rest of the world came to a standstill did affect people in Yemen. Humanitarian organisations quickly found ways of doing activities with a smaller number of participants; how can we ensure social distancing? How can we make sure that populations are protected?

The UN built isolation wards and made sure that there were care facilities available. But what we saw in general was that people carried on with life as they used to, despite people getting infected and dying. For us as internationals traveling the world, suddenly everything became difficult and full of risks. Also, we would travel from one country another meaning that we potentially could bring something to our destination country as well. So, I think in general, everything got a lot more complicated, a lot of quarantines and there was a long period where a scale down of activities took place in order to prevent covid from spreading.

What advice would you give to others wishing to join the UNHCR? i.e., what qualifications would they require, how would they apply?

I work with people from a variety of backgrounds from all over the world, also from a lot of different technical fields. I think if one would like to work for UNHCR, one should try to understand what the types of activities is we do. There is work for engineers, building shelters, social scientists, and social workers. Working on social service programs for displaced populations. Then there are lawyers working on legal programs and determination of status.

My advice would be to try to do something that interests you and is

Be curious, listen and learn from people and prepare yourself to tolerate a bit of chaos.

practical but has room for an international perspective. And to link whatever you choose to study with this international dimension- I think that can be very helpful. Some people specifically study to be a humanitarian and then crash out into the field, realising that this isn't really the type of work that they would like to do. Therefore, in my view, it is better to have a foundation which is a bit more general and applicable in more contexts, rather than specialising from the very beginning. Also, try out working in the field. There are many organisations working internationally and it is good to try to get a taste of it. If it's something you really feel interested in and want to continue pursuing, then you can move on and specialise in studies that could support you to work for the UN or other humanitarian organisations. With UNCHR, being a lawyer is very useful, but somebody like myself I have done a lot of interesting work without being a lawyer. But be curious, listen and learn from people and prepare yourself to tolerate a bit of chaos.

Interview conducted by Amelie L, who is a LVI Geographer and member of the Lancet Geographer Editorial Board.

Iceland Trip 2023!

Rosalind D



Rosalind reports on the Lancing College Geography trip to Iceland. This is a similar report to that featured in The Quad.

Iceland was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I learned and gained so much and made many memories with my friends to last a lifetime. From the moment we landed, we were surrounded by the magic of the Iceland climate... and of course the temperature, which reached a low of -16 degrees Celsius while we were out there. A fond memory I have is the sudden speed that everyone was pulling on more layers while Dr Bustin said "Yes, the clue is in the name ICEland!"

We then embarked to the bridge between continents (Miðlína). which is where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. It's a perfect example of a constructive plate margin which all of us on the trip had learnt about in our courses. It was an incredible experience to stand between the two and see the margin I had only seen in a textbook, in real life! In addition, Dr Reesink threw in



some of his awesome rock knowledge about the volcanic soil between the plates.

We then went to Grindavik hot springs, where we were greeted by a very familiar smell for our chemistry

lessons... SULPHUR! Due to the high volcanic activity, water underground is heated, and due to the geothermal origin, the water vapour smells of sulphur. The mist was so thick that on one of the walkways our group was completely submerged in it, and we couldn't see a thing!

We then went to check into our first hotel before heading out to our evening meal at the Burger factor in Reykjavik. The food was incredible! We were all absolutely fascinated that the burgers in Iceland are square! The best part of the evening must be when a bell suddenly rung at the end of our meal. Suddenly one of the waitresses came out and spoke in Icelandic. We were told that she said that the Iceland population had risen by one that day, so she changed the number up by one on their number of Icelanders



board and everyone cheered! It was a beautiful tradition to be a part of. The second day was waterfall day! We put on our waterproofs to avoid getting soaked by the spray. The first waterfall we went to see was Rangarping eystra. It was a beautiful waterfall, created by glacial till. We then walked along to Hvolsvollur, a hidden waterfall.

We had to navigate our way through a small crevasse within the rock to get there, but it was so worth it! The sight of the water plunging down into the cave was an amazing moment!

Our final waterfall to see was the most famous in Iceland, Skogafoss! We viewed it from both the bottom and the top. To get the view from the top, we had to climb over 500 steep stairs. Our guide challenged in us to count how many there were, but we all ended up with different numbers.

Our final destination of the day was Reynisfjara Beach. It is known for its powerful and dangerous sneaker waves, so we stayed back from the water. The most interesting thing to look at on the beach were the Basalt rock columns. These are hexagonal rock columns that form when lava cools. Due their thickness they cool in the hexagonal shape, however, this does make them look man made, but they are completely natural. Day three contained an experience that I still cannot believe was real today. We went walking on a glacier. The glacier was called Solheimajokull. We put on crampons to walk on the glacier, and we got an ice axe each (we all felt very

professional). Our tour guide, Bea, was amazing! She knew so much about the glacier from geographical knowledge, to how it was used in Iceland. She told us how Icelandic farmers hike their sheep up the glacier every summer for them to reach their summer grazing. She told us the tale of a very lucky sheep that fell into the glacier and the farmer thought he wouldn't be able to help the sheep. However, it managed to flow through one of the channels within the glacier that leads to the river and was saved! Bea then told us to get out our ice axes and cut away some ice to taste. Seeing as this glacier is around 400 years old, it was the oldest thing I had ever put in my mouth. The second activity of the day was to visit the Hverageroi Geothermal Park. Where once again our senses were greeted by our old friend, sulphur. Here we boiled eggs in a natural hot spring and got to eat



them along with bread made using the springs too! Both were delicious! We then headed to my favourite hotel of the trip, located in Floahreppur, deep within the Icelandic countryside. That evening we saw one of the most beautiful sunsets I had ever seen.

The next morning, we all woke to the sad fact that this was our last full day in Iceland. But as Lancing students we went out with a bang! We started off the day with a trip to the secret lagoon a natural hot spring, that we got to go in! We then had to have a quick shower and head off on our way again to the Blaskogabyggo waterfall. But on the way we got to stop off to meet some Icelandic ponies! As a member of the equestrian team this was a highlight for me. The waterfall was huge and partially frozen, its size and aesthetics made it my favourite waterfall of the trip. I had a surreal experience a week later

when I saw the same waterfall in a TV series.

Next on the agenda was the Haukadalur Geothermal field, home to Iceland's thermal geyser. It erupts every 15 minutes. We arrived just as it has gone off, so we waited for the next eruption. Holding your camera at the ready for 15 minutes builds up a lot of tension. So, as you can imagine I jumped out of my skin when it finally went off!

Our last geographical location of the trip was the Thingvellir National Park. The views were sensational, I could have stared at them all day long! There was also another gap between two tectonic plates, and I got stuck into exploring them—literally!

Unfortunately, the time came to head back to Reykjavik and check into our hotel. The geographical side of the trip had come to an end. I truly could have stayed between those tectonic plates all

day while looking at the view and hearing Dr Reesink talk about the structural formation about the rocks. The sixth formers were allowed to discover Reykjavik by ourselves, where a few of us sat by a frozen lake in Reykjavik and talked about our favourite moments from the trip. We all believed that it was a trip we would never forget.

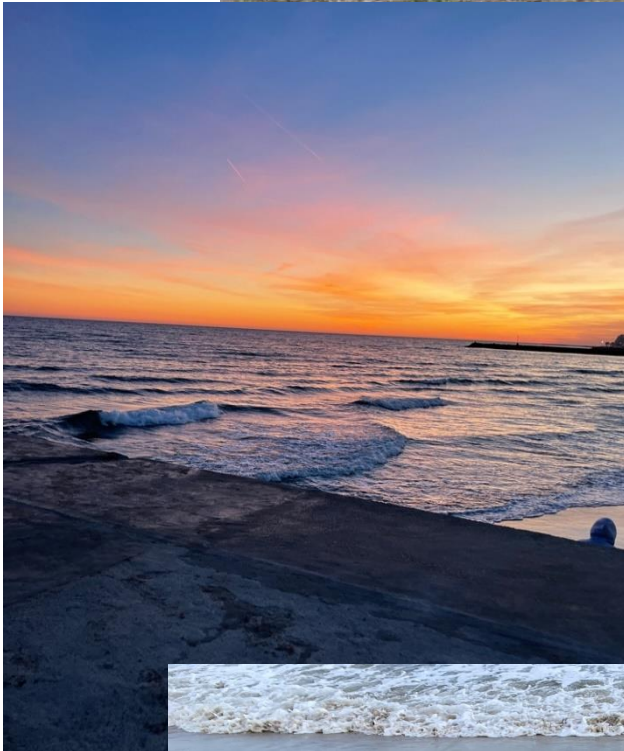
We ate our last meal in the Hard Rock Cafe and headed back to our hotel to pack and brace ourselves for the 3:00 AM get up the next morning. Although, there were many sleepy faces everyone was just taken back by what an incredible experience we all had. Arriving back in the UK felt tropical! But while I was happy to see my family again part of me wanted to book a flight straight back out there!

Rosalind D is a LVI Geographer and part of the Lancing Geographer Editorial board.



Barcelona LVI Field trip 2023!





Coastal management in Worthing

Serena F



Serena reports on some original research into coastal defences in Worthing. This article was part of *Serena's* A Level project.

My investigation looks at the use of groynes as one type of coastal management strategy to defend against coastal erosion.

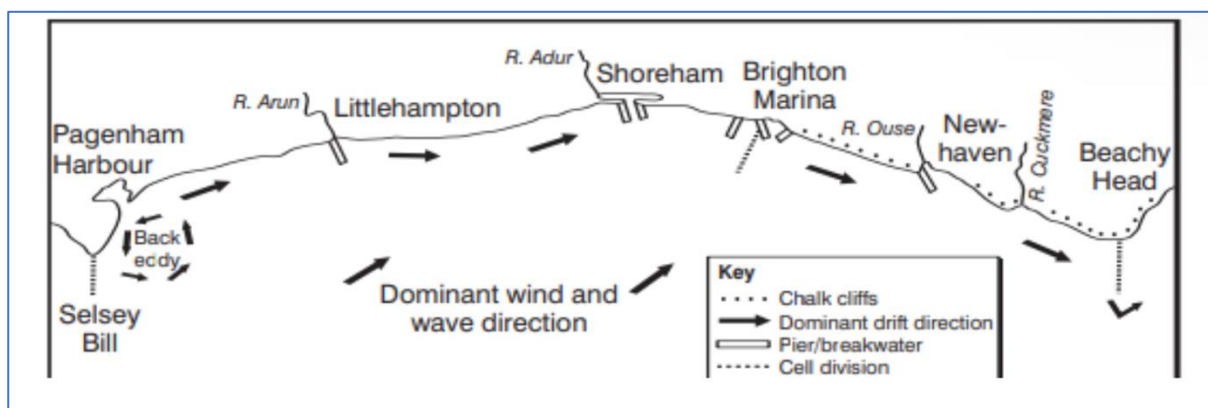
The aim of this investigation is to explore the impacts that groynes have on the sediment transport along Worthing beach, and the greater effect this has on the sediment cell. A sediment cell is defined

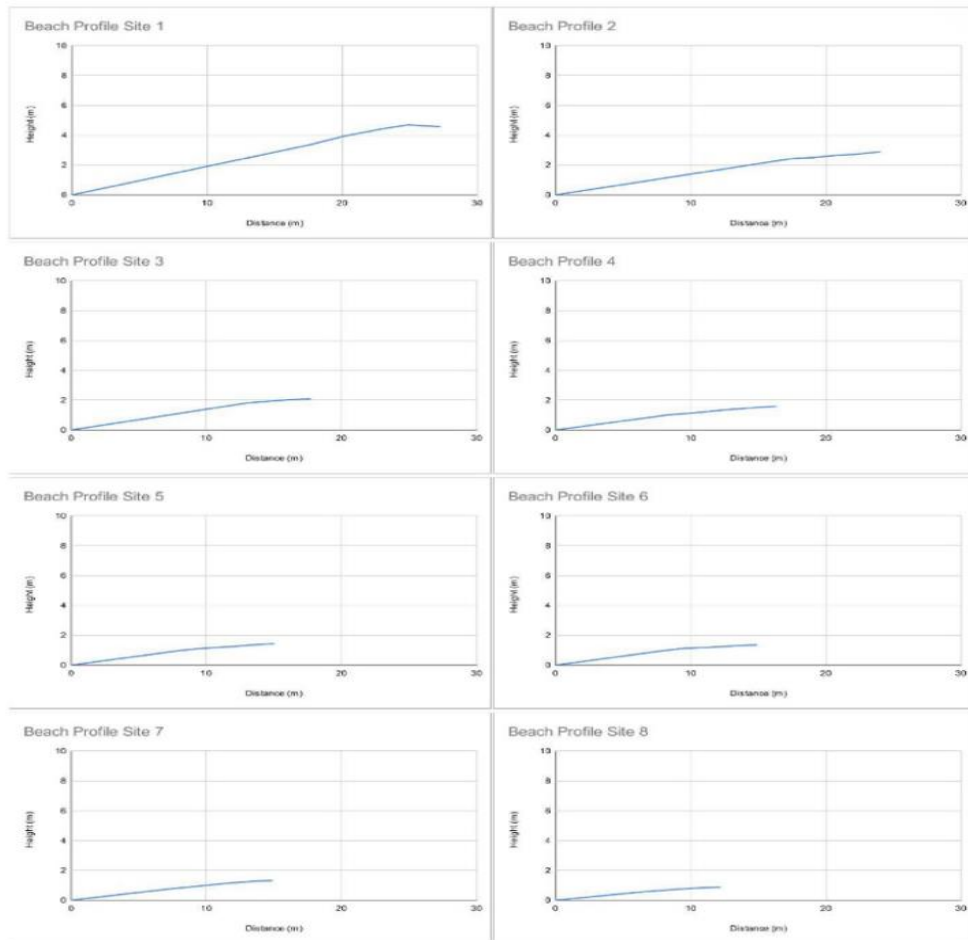
as: 'A length of coastline and its associated nearshore area within which the movement of coarse sediment is largely self-contained'

[Source: Geofile no.575 September 2008]

I carried out 4 methods of primary data collection at each site, along an 800m stretch of Worthing's coastline.

1. Measuring Longshore Drift Rates
2. Beach Profiling
3. Sediment Analysis (Size and shape)
4. Measuring the height of sediment on either side of the groyne





While measuring the rate of longshore drift, I noticed the float travelling from east to west, (Site 8 to Site 1) despite the direction of longshore drift along the coast of South-East England typically being west to east, due to the direction of prevailing winds being south-west in the UK. Therefore, the rate of longshore drift from Site 8 to Site 1 does decrease.

These graphs show the beach profiles of each site. From Site 1 to Site 8, there is a negative trend in beach height and width. The steeper beaches may be explained by the fact that Worthing is a shingle beach. At shingle beaches, the sediment does not fit tightly together, creating a porous environment.

The increase of beach size in the direction of longshore drift can be explained by the use of groynes. Groynes slow longshore drift and the movement of sediment down the coast, leading to the deposition of material, resulting in wider beaches.

I also measured sediment size and noticed an overall positive trend, that from west to east along the coast the mean sediment size increases.

If longshore drift rates are slowed by the use of groynes, this would mean that more material is deposited, leading to wider beaches. This in turn would lead to the absorption of more wave energy, thus reducing erosional processes. The data shows that the rate of longshore drift

does decrease, with a weak negative correlation. This, therefore, shows that groynes, in this part of the beach, are effective in reducing erosional processes by slowing the rates of longshore drift.

The beach size does increase in the direction of longshore drift. This helps to answer my question as groynes are successful in creating wider beaches to absorb more energy.

During my investigation there were some limitations to my methods and secondary data collection, which may have affected the results. For example, when investigating longshore drift rates, the floats used did get lost or travel too far out to sea retrieve or measure accurately the distance travelled. In addition, the floats had to be thrown out towards the

coast to ensure they travelled in the water, as the tide was quite low. This meant that each time the float may have been thrown with more or less strength than the one before, which may have had an impact on the distance travelled, resulting in inaccurate or unreliable results.

Another limitation found was the use of rulers and tape measures to collect data. For instance, when attempting to find the height of each side of the groyne, a 15cm ruler was used instead of a tape measure. This is because there was only one tape measure available, and this was being used to measure the length of the groyne and find the 4 transects to determine the height of each side. This meant that where the height was more than 15cm, an estimate was used to replace the ruler



and measure the next 15cm of the groyne. This obviously will cause the results found to be slightly inaccurate, but this is only because the correct equipment was unavailable.

If I were to carry out the investigation again, I would make sure to plan more thoroughly. I did not intentionally plan to carry out my data collection on a specific day and time, so I would do this while ensuring the tide times were suitable. In addition, I would design my methods more carefully, confirming I had the correct number of equipment needed, such as tape measures.

Upon evaluation of my data, the trends I found were, on the whole, expected and matched my hypothesis. However, I did not expect the direction of longshore drift to be different on the day of data collection. This did not entirely affect my data collection or methods but meant I had to make some adjustments to my data analysis. Instead of reading the data and trends from Site 1 to Site 8 (west to east), I looked at the data starting at Site 8. This is so the trends were understood in the direction of longshore drift.



Serena F is an UVI Geographer who plans to study Geography at University.

“Norfolk Broads”

Isaac H

The winding Ant reflects the tranquil sky,
A calm horizon hosts a mass of sails,
Black canvas of a wherry towers high,
Above the mast a group of swallowtails.

Marsh harrier glides 'cross a broad of reeds,
The famous call of bitterns passing by,
Fandangos danced by lively crested grebes,
Their last pursuit before the dark draws nigh.

The sound of peace, the calm relaxing still
The whispering wind is creeping down a notch,
The only noise the hushed turning windmill
A sentry guard of honour keeping watch.

A timeless secret refuge from the world,
The stresses of a modern life unfurled.

Isaac and Jethro are both Third Form Geography students. Their songs were Highly Commended in the Geography and Music competition.

“Ikea”

Jethro S

You fill me with joy
A beacon of Sweden
The cuisine divine
It will all be eaten
So neatly arranged
In columns and rows
Four times a football pitch
Where we are, no-one knows.

Ikea, Oh Ikea;
A land of wonder
Of strange items
That come from yonder
Your packed shelves
Are like a maze
A wondrous place
To spend all your days.

All over the world
Your bright light colours
Your flatpack lagkapten
Not from any other
People spend their time
Wanting to play
I just want,
To be in Ikea all day.

Cumbre Vieja Volcanic Eruption in La Palma

Amelie L



Amelie reports on a dramatic volcanic eruption.

The eruption at Cumbre Vieja, La Palma, Canary islands, began on 19th September 2021. This was the longest known eruption on the island of La Palma, lasting 85 days - ending on the 13th December 2021. Caused by aftermath of an earthquake swarm; 25,000 earthquakes reaching 5 on the Richter scale.

A yellow warning of potential volcanic activity was issued for 35,000 people living in its proximity. Eventually this

resulted to evacuating approximately 7000 people.

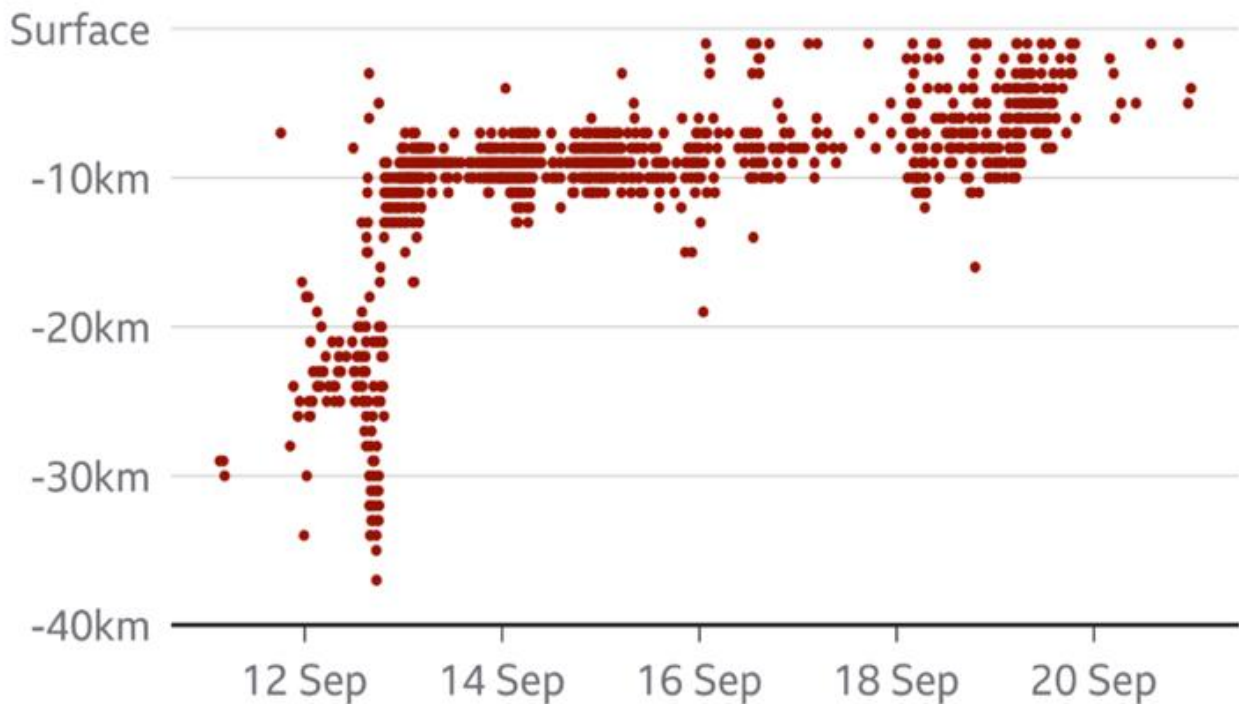
The lava flow enclosed on almost 3.5 km of land on the southern side of the island, destroying more than 3,000 buildings and cutting off the coastal highway, and engulfing and destroying banana plantations, a major aspect of the local economy. This eruption was the most damaging La Palma has seen in many years, costing over \$300 million.

Prediction

La Palma 's 'Cumbre Vieja' Region was predicted to erupt during this century many years ago. In 2001, it was believed that when La Palma would next erupt, a 'mega-tsunami' would occur. La Palma's stability was questioned due to its endurance of many previous eruptions (1949,1971). Scientists and volcanologists believed that the southern side of the island would collapse into the Atlantic causing a 'mega-tsunami' with waves reaching 25m. There was an issue regarding the tsunami - these high waves were predicted to travel across the



How deep was the seismic activity leading up to the eruption?



Source: Spanish National Geographic Institute



Atlantic, heavily impacting the east coast of the US, causing damage in places such as New York – an important international financial hub.

Collapses of the Canary Island volcanos are extremely rare; however, La Palma was deemed to be unstable. Despite being classified as 'unstable', in recent years, slope and stability analyses proved that La Palma's structure is in fact stable, and the idea of the mega-tsunami would be highly unlikely unless the volcano grew significantly. Indeed, the eruption in September 2021 did not create a large collapse into the Atlantic Ocean. euros in damage and the tremendous ramifications to its economy.

Course of the eruption

11th & 12th September 2021

A swarm of earthquakes at depths of 10km with magnitudes of less than 3 on the Richter scale. Ground surface deformation detected (changes of shape in the volcanos landscape), several centimetres in height.

12th – 14th September 2021

Magma had collected between 10 and 13 km in depth. The Earth's crust began to fracture from below due to the magma's high gas content (the ultimate cause of eruption).

15th September 2021

Nearly 1000 earthquakes were detected at shallower depths between 0 and 19km.

Ground surface deformation of 22cm had reached high values after 4 days of volcanic seismic activity, resulting in the crust fracturing more quickly.

16th – 18th September 2021

The high number of earthquakes becoming shallower. The high ground surface deformation indicated that the eruption was due imminently. Supposedly 6 million m³ of magma had gathered at a depth of 11-13km.

This magma was rapidly rising towards the surface.

19th of September 2021

Eruption

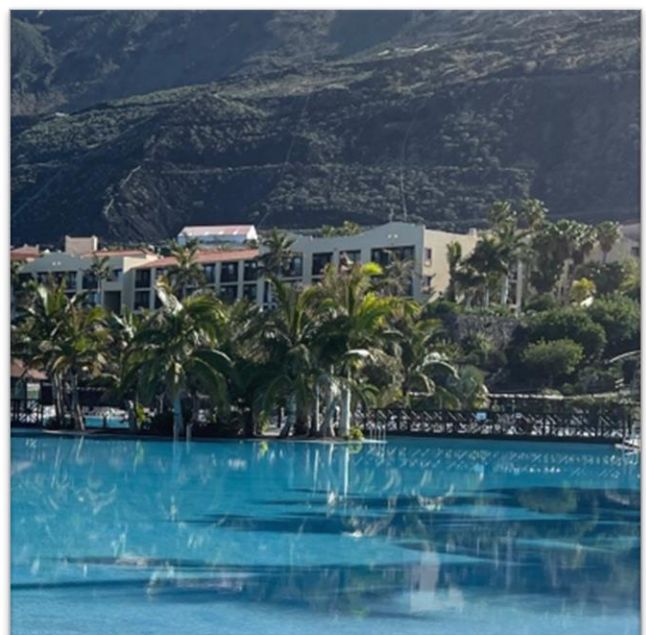
Impacts

In La Palma, the banana farming industry provides 30% of the economic livelihood on the island. Over 390 acres of land used for banana farming was covered in molten rock and mounds of ash. In addition to this, more than 700 acres of farming land were cut off by the lava flow. The farmers could not access their plantations due to many reasons, primarily road blockages due to the flow. Farmers therefore lost their harvests, and their products became unmarketable due to the ash damaging the banana peels and occasionally even the whole crop being engulfed in lava. This was catastrophic for the economy, many jobs were affected, not necessarily directly the farmers, however, the packers and workers transporting the fruit. A lack of tourism further struck the economy. The island's airport was shut, international flights could not land. The main resort on the island was also closed

to tourists due to evacuees taking shelter. Despite the negative effects, many people wanted to travel to La Palma to witness the end of the eruption, people sailed in from neighbouring islands to see this natural phenomenon. To this day, people are still travelling to La Palma like myself to witness the aftermath of the eruption.

My experience

I visited La Palma on 1st April 2022, just short of 5 months after the eruption had finished. I stayed at the La Palma Princess hotel on the southern tip of the island. The hotel is the only major resort on the island and was a place of refuge for many evacuees. The hotel had only just recently reopened to tourists. However, when I visited in April, some of the local evacuees were still living there. On arrival, I noticed piles of ash at the sides of the roads and ash gathered at the bottom of the pools (see photo). I had visited this island back in 2019 and I was truly fascinated seeing how the landscape had changed. The photo with the building shows before and after the eruption.





I spoke to the hotel receptionist and asked her about how the eruption had affected her personally. The main long-term affect for her, was the closure of the coastal highway (heading south on the western side of the island). The lava flow had engulfed parts of the road and surrounding area around El Paraiso. The road was indeed closed – making it a challenging detour to her workplace. The closure added an additional 2 hours onto her journey as opposed to 15 minutes before the eruption took place. The rebuild of the road is thought to take many years as the lava flow is still warm. Workers must cool down the flow (one method is spraying with cold water) and then either cut through it or build a structure on top.

Despite the traumatic circumstances the locals endured, many seemed upbeat about the future. There was a definite local communal atmosphere especially in the hotel; for example, they had their own area set aside in the restaurant. The authorities had started to build small roads across the lava flow to enable access to banana plantations (again a main source of income for many) and to people's homes. I witnessed the start of



the clearing of the main road and the removal of the endless mounds of ash in the El Paraiso area. They monitored and predicted the eruption accurately, evacuating people in good time – this is the main reason why there was no loss of life. However, 1,184 homes were still destroyed, and many banana plantations also.

Visiting the Lava Flow

Visiting the lava flow was a true eye opener. Seeing how much of the land had been engulfed by the molten rock was fascinating. I had walked up to the extremities of the lava flow and seen a garden outbuilding burnt and half submerged in lava. One of the most striking things, was how some resident's homes had avoided the lava flow by a matter of metres and the residents were back living their lives again. Yet, a stone's throw away, others have had their lives ruined by the flow. One could imagine the contrast in emotions of relief and despair of residents just metres apart from each other.

I walked on the edge of the flow and dug a few centimetres into the loose lava rocks. Even after 5 months the heat was

unimaginably hot. I poured some cold water on to the flow - it instantly evaporated into vapour. When the construction workers were excavating the lava to reveal the old main highway, they sprayed it with water to cool down the rock.

Conclusion

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to La Palma and researching the effects of the Cumbre Vieja eruption. Having visited the island both before and after the eruption, it was fascinating to see first-hand the impacts on places & people. Feeling the heat from the flow and visually grasping the humongous mounds of ash and immense destruction after the eruption. Hopefully I will get a chance to visit again in the future and see how the island recovers and adapts to its new landscape.

Amelie Lyne is a LVI Geographer and is on the Lancing Geographer Editorial Board.



“Bognor”

Emily S

The home of chips,
And many beach trips,
Where the sun sometimes shines,
And where I like to rhyme,
Down on the coast,
You don't need to boast,
As beach is more pebbles than sand,
and you certainly won't get tanned,
Bognor o Bognor not the place to be
Bognor o Bognor where you have to pay to wee
Walks along the prom,
The Family's not getting along,
And the dog is firing out turds,
Whilst chasing the poor birds,
Where it's so overpriced,
To have your tea iced,
That you'll crying whilst paying the price,
So, before you come, please think twice!
Bognor o Bognor not the place to be
Bognor o Bognor where you have to pay to wee

Third Form Emily S's Highly Commended entry for the Geography and Music competition.

Geography in Planning Law! Interview with Carl Dyer

Jorja S

Jorja interviews a former A Level geographer, Carl Dyer, who went on to work in Planning Law.

“How I got here...”

I took geography A Level in 1976. I also took an economics A Level, which fitted well; and English A Level, which fitted less well, but was nonetheless useful. I took a law degree at the University of Kent and Canterbury, and then did my part two law course at the college of law in Guildford. I then did a two year trainee solicitor contract with Havant Council. On qualification, I worked as a solicitor for Brighton Council for 19 months. I moved into private practice, and spent the rest of my nearly 40 year legal career specialising in town and country planning law. I can say without reservation that my work involved the application of the training and principles that I learned in my geography and economics A-levels on a daily basis throughout that time.

One of the great things about being a planning lawyer is the opportunity - actually the necessity - to travel around the country to visit the places where you are promoting developments: it is necessary to see the sites, meet the clients and other professionals on the team, meet and negotiate with council

planning officers and lawyers, and, if planning permission cannot be secured from the council, to take part in the planning inquiries which determine planning appeals.

“Accomplishments within his Career...”

I have secured permission for various developments from Berwick Upon Tweed, Newcastle and Sea-ham in the northeast down to Brighton, the Isle of Wight, Southampton and Poole on the south coast; and from the Forest of Dean to Norwich and East Anglia. I have visited professionally nearly every major city in the country, including Bristol, Canterbury, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Plymouth, Poole, Portsmouth, Sheffield, and Southampton; and more smaller market towns and villages than I can count.



Clients I have acted for have included: Tesco for five years, and Asda for twenty; News International, for whom I helped get permission for the biggest print works in the world at Broxbourne; Sunrise Senior Living and Audley Court, who develop and operate up market care homes; Daniel Levy, for whom I secured permission to demolish and rebuild the house next to his (at the other end of its plot, so that what had been its grounds could be used to extend Daniel's property) and numerous developers.

I have been involved in securing planning permissions for over 50 major supermarkets, two dozen care homes, 20,000 plus homes and many other commercial developments, including about two dozen crematoria. Every one of those scenes was an exercise in applied geography.

"Geographical impacts on the job..."

Fundamentally, you have to be able to read and understand maps, both to identify and locate a site, and also to consider and advise upon the designs for its redevelopment.

I once acted on the site in Chester-le-Street, where the architects had designed a Tesco store without visiting the site. Whoever prepared the plans could not read an Ordnance Survey map. The site was in the valley and a substantial

Victorian railway viaduct ran across it. The architect who designed the scheme did not recognise the viaduct on the map and had designed a 40,000 ft.² Tesco store on the space occupied by the viaduct. The problem was soon resolved: the plans were hastily recalled from the professional team, and the scheme

redesigned with the car park under the viaduct instead of the store.

It is also necessary to work with a wide range of professionals and be able to understand what they do and how the other side's lawyers might attack their work if the scheme has to be taken to a planning

inquiry. I have spent many professional hours discussing road schemes with highways engineers; architectural and urban design with architects and landscape architects; retail impact with retail consultants; national and local planning policy with planning consultants; tree preservation with arboriculturists; and conservation with wildlife and countryside specialists.

"Are we going to build new housing locally?"

I have been asked to comment on where we are going to build homes locally. The short answer is that we are not going to build enough homes locally.

The local plan for Adur makes provision for only about half the number of homes to be built that are actually needed. This is

Young people not yet on the housing ladder... will have bleak choices: stay with their parents longer than they would have wished, share overcrowded accommodation, or leave the area.

because the local planners succumbed to the local NIMBY (“Not in my back Yard”) lobby and persuaded a local planning inspector that because we have the South Downs to the north and the sea to the south there was insufficient land to build enough houses.

Nearly every Parliament rightly faces calls to reform the planning system. Every government that I have known - of all political hues - has promised to do so. Every Secretary of State responsible for planning takes office and makes the same two promises: to make the planning system simpler, so that it is easier to get planning permission; and to give more power to local people. These are contradictory objectives; and no one has managed to reconcile them since the modern planning system was created under the Town & Country Planning Act 1947. There are currently no less than seven separate government consultations circulating on the form of the planning system. None of them are expected by planning professionals to make any meaningful reform.

Meanwhile Adur council planners are reaping what they have sown. With the local plan allocating only half the land needed for housing, developers are producing planning applications to change the use of non-allocated sites. Many are securing permission, much to the vexation of the local NIMBYs.

One housing scheme in the town centre is currently being delayed by selfish green luddites camping in a tree they want to protect.

The more nuanced answer to the question is that there will be a shortfall of housing

locally, but this will be mitigated by windfall brownfield change if use sites brought forward through the appeals process, notably in the built up areas and on the north bank of the River Adur. The result will be to maintain or exacerbate local house prices, to the benefit of the existing home owners who have opposed further development; and inadequate properties coming into the market, to the disbenefit of the local economy and young people not yet on the housing ladder who will have bleak choices: stay with their parents longer than they would have wished, share overcrowded accommodation, or leave the area.

“Greenfield vs. Brownfield sites:”

All this brings us conveniently to the Greenfield/Brownfield land debate. Some greenfield development will always be necessary if the economy and the built form are to expand. Arguing for a zero growth economy, when household numbers are increasing as a result of rising life expectancy, later marriage, rising divorce rates, and net inward migration is not a sustainable position. So the only real debate is over how much development should take use on reused Brownfield land.

Where Brownfield land is available and either derelict or can be better used for some new purpose, it makes sense to build there first rather than expanding urban areas unnecessarily, not least because existing developed land is more likely to have existing infrastructure around it, which can support the new development.

Similarly, well there are some people genuinely concerned about the proper balance of Greenfield and Brownfield land in the area (or generally) for every one of those there are many more anti-capitalist greens, who simply want to stop anything happening as part of wider political objectives.

After nearly 40 years operating in our planning system, looking back I would say that probably 80% plus of the schemes that I promoted were built on Brownfield land. But that does not mean Greenfield land does not and should not have a part to play in promoting and developing the wider economy.

“Damage to wildlife:”

Not all Greenfield development is necessarily harmful to the countryside or the rural economy. For example, some years ago, I secure planning permission for a major Asda store outside the town of Frome in Dorset- a river ran through the site and had to be diverted. Additionally, the site was in the floodplain of the river, and we had to make sure that the store and its car park would not be flooded. Asda took its duties to the local area very seriously: its shoppers and staff were all going to be drawn from the local area and it did not want to do anything to harm



their lives or lifestyles; and they could see the promotional value of designing an ecologically sound scheme.

The result was at the engineers design the scheme, which elevated the Asda store’s car park above the hundred year flood level, diverted the river around it, recasting its profile to provide a better mix of wildlife habitats, and signed an agreement which delivered a major wetland wildlife Park downstream from the store. When I last visited the store, it was a noticeboard on the wildlife Park listing literally dozens of species of birds, newts, frogs, toads etcetera which were thriving in the newly created enhanced habitat.

As a spin-off benefit, widening the amount of wetland capacity available in the valley helped mitigate a pre-existing flooding problem in Frome town centre at times of heavy rainfall by providing a greater capacity for water retention at peak times.

Aside from that particular example, the protection of wildlife is treated very very seriously by the whole development industry. Every developer I have ever acted for has scrupulously respected all of this legislation; and all regularly take advice from specialist ecologists to establish what is on their site what they can legally do in respect of the wildlife there, and when they can legally do it.

Jorja S is a LVI Geographer and on the Lancing Geographer Editorial Board.

“My Love Dubai”

Amelia G

People cannot always see who I truly am, I'm a traveller kinda person, with not a clue or plan. I like Sight Seeing on Sundays, I like Swimming in the ocean waves.

That one place Dubai, all hopes and dreams come alive...

Sometimes I look at myself and I look into my eyes, I notice the way I think about travelling with a smile. That grin I just can't disguise. But I think it's Dubai making my life worthwhile, I wish it could be so simple for me to go back.

My love Dubai...why can't I always be there?

I like to use the word 'Relaxing' when describing the beach and its tide. I like to use the word 'Amazing' when having a helicopter ride. The most brilliant experiences are found where this city lies

Living the unforgettable memories, hidden within the crystal blue skies...

Sometimes I look at myself and I look into my eyes, I notice the way I think about travelling with a smile. That grin I just can't disguise. But I think it's Dubai making my life worthwhile, I wish it could be so simple for me to go back.

My love Dubai...why can't I always be there?

I love those malls – you will always find me here. Or trying new foods, or conquering that waterslide fear

And when I am left alone, my happy place comes around. My mind turns straight to travelling, not a flinch, nor a sound

Sometimes I look at myself and I look into my eyes, I notice the way I think about travelling with a smile. That grin I just can't disguise. But I think it's Dubai making my life worthwhile, I wish it could be so simple for me to go back.

My love Dubai...why can't I always be there?

I'm not too fond of the usual home kinda weather, I really hate the thought of going back But I just think back to travelling to Dubai And those memories you cannot deny.

Third Form Amelia's Highly Commended entry for the Geography and Music competition.

Exploring the rich cultural differences between the UK and Thailand

Daisy D



Daisy reflects on the differences between UK and Thai culture.

You never realise how different people live their lives in other countries until you've been lucky enough to see it for yourself. Having lived in countries in Europe and Asia, it's clear that there are many differences in the lifestyle around the world. Things as small as the food on their plates to important things like holidays and religions. In this article I'll share a few key differences between the UK and Thailand.

The first clear difference is in the religion of these countries. Thailand has a population of nearly 72 million people and 93% are Buddhist, and only 1% are

Christian. This means that wherever you travel in Thailand it is impossible not to catch a glimpse of one of the 40,000 Temples there. The Buddhist religion is central to life in Thailand. Many people pray in the temples on a daily basis, attend religious festivals and young boys will often be encouraged to serve a period as a novice monk. The monks often act as teachers in their communities and are well respected by the Thai people who show their respect in the provision of alms.

Conversely the UK has a population of 67 million people and is very multi faith. Its main religion is Christianity but only 46% of the UK identify as Christians. In direct comparison to Thailand only 0.5% of the

population in the UK are Buddhist. In the UK there are thousands of religious buildings but they are more diverse, including Churches, Synagogues, Temples, Mosques and prayer and meeting houses.

Religion is not the only difference between these two countries. The foods eaten are immensely different. The UK does not have its own cuisine, because it is a mixture of other styles and ingredients that have been introduced into UK cooking over hundreds of years. Thailand, however, has a strong traditional cuisine using crops that can easily grow in their climate. These crops are used in their cooking to create a strong, unique flavours that can't be recreated easily, using ingredients such as lemongrass, Thai sweet basil, and mangos. Thailand's national dish is Pad Thai which consists of fried rice noodles, fresh vegetables, bean sprouts, egg, sweet-spicy sauce and completed with either tofu, fish, or meat. Returning to England, our national dish is fried fish and chips. You do not get the flavours in British cooking that you do in Thai cooking. The average price for these dishes is £11 for fish and chips in the UK and ฿70 (which is just under £2) for Pad Thai in Thailand.

Finally, it is interesting to observe the differences in national holidays and festivals. In the UK the most celebrated holidays are Christmas, New Year and Easter. These are celebrated by giving and receiving gifts, spending time with family and friends and consuming special foods.

New Year's Eve celebrations in the UK take place on the December 31st, however, in Thailand their New Year's

celebration takes place in April. Thailand's new year's celebration is a festival called Songkran. If you are in Thailand during Songkran, it is a given that you will get wet, because Songkran is celebrated with a huge water fight. The Thai people believe that they are washing away the bad luck from the previous year.

Another important holiday is Loy Krathong which is the festival of lights. During Loy Krathong people gather around lakes, rivers, and canals to pay respect to the water goddess. They do this by releasing lotus shaped rafts decorated with candles, incense, and flowers into the water and they also release floating lanterns into the sky.

Three of the major differences between Thailand and the UK are religion, the foods eaten, and the festivals celebrated. However, when living in Thailand I observed hundreds of differences between the lifestyles of Thai people and those in the UK. Being aware of how differently people live is crucial to helping us understand people who come from different backgrounds and live in a different way to us. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to live it first-hand.

Daisy is a Third Form Geographer.

“Worthing My Home”

Sophia B

(Verses to be rapped, chorus to be sung)

Broadwater, Durrington,

Offington and Heene

From Findon to Ferring

(Which I’m not comparing!)

Town Centre, Tarring

And everywhere in between.

Since Twelve ninety-seven,

Full of history

Wilde, Shelley, and Austen,

Wrote books we get lost in.

Why they came to my town?

It’s still a mystery.

Worthing.

From the pier to the beach, to the Dome.



Worthing.

It’s the place that I call home.

The beach, it goes for miles.

Pebbles all along.

It’s not the Caribbean,

Or even the Aegean

But the hordes still bathe,

In bikinis and sarongs.

Windy in the winter,

Stormy in the spring.

Autumn has the fireworks,

(We gotta have some perks),

And in the summer

There’s things that bite and sting.

Worthing.

From the pier to the beach, to the Dome.


Worthing.

It’s the place that I call home.

Nothing to do, no shops,

Nowhere

***This is the winning entry from the
Geography and Music competition.
Sophia is a Third Form Geographer***



Young people not yet on the housing ladder... will have bleak choices: stay with their parents longer than they would have wished, share overcrowded accommodation, or leave the area.

Costa Rica is a very climate aware and active country with a plan to become carbon neutral by 2050.



The Lancing Geographer has been produced by students of Geography at Lancing College.