

# Networks Branches

**Rob Morris**, Networking Officer, provides an overview of recent activity in the branches. Rob is keen to hear from colleagues looking to re-establish or start new branches. Please contact him at [info@geography.org.uk](mailto:info@geography.org.uk).

Rob Morris is the GA's Network Officer. This new role aims to develop networks within the GA and through the Branches – CPD networks, phase committees/special interest groups and links with HE. Rob has vast experience as a teacher, examiner and author, a branch chair and Special Interest Group secretary.

The main priority, at present, is to re-establish GA branches that have not been able to function during the pandemic. Many are keen to restart their activities in September 2022, though some have found that enthusiastic volunteers to run these are short on the ground. There has also been expressions of interest in other areas where people want to establish new branches. Many branches are proposing a new model for running their activities and Rob will be writing about this exciting new development in the next issue of the *GA Magazine*.



Rob Morris

## EYPPC – Geography starts here!

From March 2021, the Early Years and primary Phase Committee (EYPPC) committee has had four work teams, each focusing on different aspects of work. This is an update on the activities of some of the groups.

The Curriculum group made a successful bid to the GA Innovation Fund to produce guidance on geography in EYFS. This will be published as a pull-out supplement in *Primary Geography*, supported by an article and additional materials on the website.

The GeogLive! team organises regular half-termly free CPD webinars to provide much appreciated practical support and guidance and promote the GA. There have been over 2100 views of the first six webinars,

available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzLz6CzszsDS1xZlf3ZqzQ>. The Issues group has produced a short, animated video to support teachers in responding to the outbreak of war in Ukraine. A small research team has recently completed a detailed study of Primary Geography Quality Mark Moderators' feedback reports to schools, entitled 'Aspiring to High Quality Primary Geography'.

In all its work, EYPPC acts as an advocate for primary geography, believing that the essential foundations for success in later education and adult life are laid in the early and primary years.

## GA staff appointments

**Isobel Wordsworth** joined the staff team in February as Editorial Assistant working with the publications and web team. Izzy is a geography graduate and is doing a Masters in international relations.



**Featuring  
Olwen  
Lintern-Smyth**  
the Chair of Trustees for  
the GA Governing Body.

**How long have you  
been involved with the  
GA?**

I became Chair of Trustees in 2020, but I have been a regular attendee at the GA conference since 2014. My involvement started when I was Programme Director of the Global Learning Programme, of which the GA was one of the partners.

**What is your current job role?**

I'm a freelance consultant, working on a range of projects and initiatives. Over the last few years, I have increasingly worked for non-profit organisations, in a range of different subject areas. As well as an enduring focus on education, I've recently been working on projects to do with Adult Social Care and Homelessness.

**What is the biggest challenge facing you in your current role?**

While I love the flexibility of being freelance, I sometimes feel a bit isolated. I enjoy many aspects

of working from home, but I miss having a team and being part of an office environment.

**Who has been the most influential person in your career?**

Again, it's impossible to narrow it down to one. However, my first manager when I was starting out in publishing had a big influence. She was charismatic and excellent at getting the best out of every team member, however senior or junior. She empowered us and encouraged us not to let fear of failure hold us back.

**What else do you find inspiring?**

Currently, I'm inspired by the courage of the president of Ukraine, and his demonstration of true leadership.

**Where is your favourite place?**

This has to be somewhere in Wales – but I'm torn between the Gower, Tenby on the coast of Pembrokeshire, and the Shropshire–mid-Wales border area where I grew up. When I drive back there, and see the Breidden, then I know I'm really back home.

**When you are not working how do you unwind?**

I love singing (perhaps inevitably being Welsh!) and regularly perform as a soloist, and as part of a quartet for an Oxford-based early music group. I'm also a member of the Oxford Wine Club.



Isobel Wordsworth

**Liam Byrne** joined us in early April as Membership Services Coordinator, providing support for the membership team. Liam's background is in sports coaching and customer services.



Liam Byrne