

Ted Ellis

31 October 2022 saw the end of an era at the GA, with the retirement of our Membership Administration/IT Manager, Ted Ellis. Ted joined the staff at HQ in 1998, following an earlier career in the RAF.

Ted's was the welcoming voice of the GA on the telephone to many members and a friendly, familiar face at every GA Annual Conference. 2022 was a momentous year for him – he and Maggie were married in February and he retired in October. Ted plans to spend his retirement enjoying some foreign travel and improving his golf handicap. We thank Ted for all his hard work and wish him all the best for the future.



People

Hedley Knibbs

The GA would like to thank Hedley Knibbs for his work as Honorary Reviews Editor for Geography, following his decision to step down in January 2023. Hedley took over the position in 2005 and has checked and assigned hundreds of books submitted to the journal over the last 18 years, not to mention editing the returned reviews and even writing the occasional one himself!

Featuring Becky Morrish



Becky Morrish is Deputy Principal and Curriculum Lead at Oasis Academy Clarksfield in Oldham, and has been a member of the GA for a year.

What is a typical work day like for you?

A typical day for me involves working with our wonderful children,

providing knowledge, vocabulary and experiences to them and supporting our teachers to do this well. My colleagues are brilliant at what they do and it is a joy to work with them. This is all powered by countless cups of coffee!

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

The effects of COVID-19 and lockdown have been incredibly challenging for everyone. I teach in a school in an extremely disadvantaged area where many children and their families really struggled over the lockdown period. Supporting our families with remote learning, food, finances and mental health was incredibly challenging, but it is why we are here. Getting back to learning on-site was again a huge challenge – finding gaps in children's learning and supporting all staff and children to adjust back to life in the classroom.

What is the most important skill you have developed in your career so far?

The ability to listen. It is so important to listen to colleagues, children and our families.

What do you find inspiring?

Seeing how our wonderful staff support our children

every day. They go above and beyond to give them as many experiences as possible. Our staff run an evening called 'Tremendous Tuesday' where every member of staff runs an enrichment club that children can sign up to. The clubs aim to provide experiences that the children wouldn't normally have access to outside school such as sports clubs, music clubs where they learn to play a musical instrument, performing arts, First Aid and many, many more.

When you are not working how do you unwind?

I love going on walks with my partner and little boy who is really into adventuring and exploring. We spend lots of our time doing exploring our local woodlands and building dens, all with a hot chocolate in a flask of course! It is so important to try and switch off when you can!

Have you participated in GA programmes and activities, e.g. Quality Marks, presenting at Conference, writing articles, etc.

I have been involved with Oldham Learning delivering CPD to schools across Oldham to enhance their geography subject knowledge, and ensuring geography leaders can lead their subjects effectively. We are currently working towards gaining the Primary Geography Quality Mark at our school, which we are very excited about.

What part of your GA membership do you value the most?

Access to the resources and the CPD. The CPD has been invaluable for our staff at school to improve the quality of teaching and learning of geography. The staff's subject knowledge has significantly improved, and geography is taught confidently. The resources are brilliant for staff to use in their planning and have been key to our children accessing our geography curriculum well. Many of the resources really help to deepen children's understanding of geographical concepts well.