Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the SoGEES Newsletter. While the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted SoGEES staff and students in many different ways, there is still much to celebrate from our teaching and research community.

Teaching has continued throughout and staff have made every effort to keep learning interesting, engaging and varied. Students have worked hard to adapt to new ways of learning and gain excellent results in their degree programmes. And research has continued on some of the most pressing sustainability issues facing the world today, with significant funding for new research projects secured. From research into green walls, understanding the causes of tree deaths in the Amazon Basin, to new ways of modelling landslide and earthquake hazards and learning how citizens experience anti-terrorism measures in European cities, SoGEES staff are at the forefront of research into sustainable societies and environmental futures. I hope you enjoy reading about some of our student and staff successes in the following pages.

Dr Nichola Harmer
Editor
NOVEL DIGITAL MAPPING AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE WARNINGS

Geologists in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science (SoGEES) are part of a £1.2 million project to develop better modelling and warning for affected communities of landslide and flooding hazards.

The impacts of climate change and increased population are contributing to increasingly frequent and dangerous flooding and landslide events on coasts and inland.

The project will use a new integrated approach to monitoring flood and landslide risks, which also builds on new technologies including advances in Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, microelectronics and machine learning.

Dr Irene Manzella, Lecturer in Engineering Geology and Geohazards, who is leading the research team at Plymouth, explained that the new monitoring sensors are relatively low cost, easy to set up and will provide warnings of instability and hazardous movement.

She said: “the sensor data on granular flow experiments and debris movement in floods and landslides will be used to improve mathematical models of these processes. We will also create compelling 3D visualisations of landslides and floods as it is essential we not only enhance our understanding of these hazards, but find ways of communicating them to communities they are likely to affect.”

The University team will also involve a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, Professor in Environmental Fluid Mechanics Alison Raby, Associate Professor in Active and Neotectonics Dr Sarah Boulton, and Professor of Geoscience Communication Iain Stewart.

The project, SENSUM (Smart SENSing of landscapes Undergoing hazardous hydrogeological Movement), is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and is led by researchers from the University of Exeter, working with research teams from Plymouth and the University of East Anglia.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/irene-manzella
https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/sarah-boulton

The Jurassic Coast. Photo: Lloyd Russell.
A documentary directed, filmed and edited by recent Plymouth Geography graduates Alex Felstead and Chess Fearnley is a finalist in the ‘new voice shorts’ category of the London Lift-Off Film Festival. The work addresses the social and economic impacts of accelerating levels of glacial melt in the Hindu Kush and Himalayan mountains, which is caused by climate change and has created water scarcity, which seriously impacts on the people’s livelihoods.

It focuses on Kulum, near Leh in the Indian Himalayas, a remote mountain village, which has been experiencing drought since 2007 and where just one family remains. The lack of groundwater available for agriculture has forced most families to leave the village to seek paid work.

The film hears from villagers about their experiences of the challenges in sustaining livelihoods in the face of declining water supplies and the lack of facilities for water storage. And Deskit Angmo, an environmental lawyer for the Ice Stupa Project, discusses work with the community to address these challenges, partly through an innovative eco-solution - conical shaped artificial glaciers, which gradually release water for irrigating crops during the summer.

The film also highlights climate justice issues whereby communities in the global south, who contribute least to climate change emissions, suffer many of its worst effects; and it calls on citizens in the global north to make urgent changes to address the climate crisis.

The film was directed, filmed and produced by documentary and filmmaker Alex, who visited the area during a British Exploring Society Expedition to Ladakh in 2019 and was assisted by the NGOs Local Futures and the Ice Stupa Project. Chess, a landscape architect, created the storyline and edited the film, liaising remotely with Alex during lockdown. Alex and Chess both graduated with BA (Hons) Geography degrees in 2017 and Chess said she feels that the degree was hugely powerful in helping her to learn and think about the pressing environmental and social changes affecting the planet.

Alex, who has just returned from sailing across the Atlantic, added: “As a Geography graduate with a passion for working in documentary and factual TV, I have always been drawn to storytelling about the natural world, most significantly looking at the complex relationships between humanity and environment. With the ever-growing pressures as a result of the climate crisis, there has never been a more important time to document what it is we are doing to our planet.”

Read more about the film here: https://www.thecommongroundcollective.co.uk/post/the-final-family-in-the-village

Instagram @AlexFelstead
GREENWALLS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY?

The recently installed greenwall at the University of Plymouth has generated plenty of interest since its installation, part of wider sustainable building retrofit at the Sustainability Hub in 2019. Now research, which is underway as part of the Low Carbon Devon project aims to optimise the performance and viability of greenwalls in sustainable building design and share information and best practice across Devon.

Greenwall Industrial Research Fellow Thomas Murphy, who is undertaking the research at the University of Plymouth, will examine how plant choice and growth medium can maximise the insulation capacity and energy savings potential offered by greenwalls. This is particularly important for a low carbon Devon as buildings comprise of around 17% of UK greenhouse gas emissions, with 60% of this from space heating alone.

The greenwalls project also offers support to Devon based SMEs to help them take advantage of the expanding opportunities within the greenwall sector by offering research support, events, and workshops. Thomas says, “There is considerable potential for Devon businesses to take advantage of greenwalls, and the many opportunities within the greenwall sector. Our aim is to help in that process.”

If you would like to know more and are interested in the research or events please get in touch with the Low Carbon Devon team and fill out an expression of interest form via https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/sustainability-hub-low-carbon-devon
INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES OF AMAZON TREE MORTALITY

Research by Environmental Sciences lecturer, Dr Sophie Fauset, has helped shed light on the rate of, and reasons for, increases in tree mortality in the Amazon.

Dr Fauset is part of an international team which found the mean growth rate of tree species is the main risk factor behind Amazon tree death, with faster-growing trees dying off at a younger age.

The findings are significant, particularly as climate change tends to select fast-growing species and if the forests selected by climate change are more likely to die younger, they will store less carbon.

The study was compiled using long-term records gathered by the international RAINFOR network and the results were published in Nature Communications.

Dr Fauset explained:

“This is the biggest study to date assessing the mortality rates of Amazonian trees. It is a really important research area as it is a crucial component of the Amazon forest carbon cycle. Having a better idea of how different species die, and the spatial patterns of tree death, improves our understanding of how the Amazon forest ecosystem works.”

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/sophie-fauset

PLYMOUTH GRADUATE IS RTPI YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Daniel Young, who graduated with BSc (Hons) Geography in 2014 and MSc Planning in 2017 from the University of Plymouth, has won the Royal Town Planning Institute’s (RTPI) Young Planner of the Year Award for the South East of England in 2020. He is currently a Senior Planning (Policy) Officer with Portsmouth City Council and faced tough competition for the award from planners in the private sector.

The judges were impressed with his enthusiastic commitment to the natural environment and with his Master’s dissertation on how coastal local authorities are responding to climate change, which has been published in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. Daniel now goes forward to be considered for the National Young Planner of the Year Award. He said...

“It was a great honour to receive this award from the RTPI. Planners have a vital role to play in creating healthy, sustainable places for all and I am excited to be in a position to be able to champion the benefits that the profession can bring to addressing the challenges we face today and in the future.”

Daniel Young: planning for success

Photo: Lloyd Russell
STUDY EXAMINES IMPACTS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM IN EUROPEAN CITIES ON RESIDENTS’ EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE

In recent years, terrorism has become a predominantly urban phenomenon in Europe, with attacks in everyday spaces such as shopping promenades, hotels, restaurants or cafés. In response cities have developed defensive infrastructures and policing approaches.

However, very little is known about how terror threats and counter-terror measures alter the felt experience of cities for their residents or how the emotive experiences of threat and counter-terrorism translate—often profoundly unequally—across different urban communities.

University of Plymouth Associate Professor of Human Geography, Dr. Paul Simpson, is part of a leading-edge European project comparing how counter-terrorism and urban security change the everyday experiences of residents across cities in Europe.

In recent years, terrorism has become a predominantly urban phenomenon in Europe, with attacks in everyday spaces such as shopping promenades, hotels, restaurants or cafés. In response cities have developed defensive infrastructures and policing approaches.

Dr. Paul Simpson, of the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, is leading the University of Plymouth part of the project and a post-doctoral research fellow will be appointed in the summer of 2021 to work with Dr. Simpson over two and a half years.

Dr. Simpson said: “Across the three countries there are very different histories and recent experiences of terrorism. For example, since the Bataclan attack in 2015, the sight of armed security personnel on the streets of Paris has become the norm. Recent events in Nice have very much brought such issues to the fore of people’s minds.

The project, which has received over £1.1 million from the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), France’s Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and the German Research Foundation (DFG), has been launched by an international team, led by the University of Birmingham and in collaboration with the University of Plymouth (UK), Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany), CY Cergy Paris Université and Institut Paris Region (France).

The research will involve a large scale public survey across all three countries and in-depth studies in Berlin, Birmingham, Nice, Paris and Plymouth. The research across France, Germany and the UK will reflect the different countries, experiences and approaches.”

“By comparison, somewhere like Plymouth has had no real direct experience of terrorism, so seeing armed police has a very different effect and affects. We aim to get an idea of what it is like to live in these managed spaces in light of security threats, and the research across France, Germany and the UK will reflect the different countries, experiences and approaches.”

Dr. Paul Simpson, Associate Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, has also just published a book titled Non-representational Theory with Routledge.

The book explores a range of ideas which have recently engaged geographers and have led to the development of an alternative approach to the conception, practice, and production of geographic knowledge.

Non-representational Theory refers to a key body of work that has emerged in Geography over the past two and a half decades that emphasizes the importance of practice, embodiment, materiality, and process to the ongoing formation of social life. This title offers the first sole-authored, accessible introduction to this work and its impact on geography.


https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/paul-simpson
GRADUATE PROFILE

Inspiring alumni Diva Rayani, BSc (Hons) Chemistry, 2020, discusses her career as a Graduate Nuclear Safety Engineer at Babcock International in Plymouth

What is the best, most exciting or fun thing that you have done in your career?
Unfortunately, due to Covid19 I have been mainly working remotely at home and haven’t been able to do too many exciting things just yet but I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know lots of other graduates that also joined Babcock recently through skype calls and it’s been so exciting and interesting working on projects involving nuclear submarines and learning about how the company operates.

What was your main reason for choosing to study your course at Plymouth?
The course was accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry and offered a good range of modules and more hours per week undertaking practical sessions in the laboratory than a lot of other universities which was most appealing to me. As well as this, it offered training to use a range of advanced instrumentations. The location was also pretty appealing as I love being by the sea.

How did the academic staff support you in your studies?
Academic staff were always helpful and easy to get hold of when you had questions to ask or needed extra guidance. They set up tutorials which were great as they challenged/tested our knowledge regularly and it was a weekly opportunity to solve problems, gain better understanding of the module content, ask questions and get help if needed.

What aspect of your studies did you find most inspiring?
Working in teams or individually to tackle chemical problems with real life contexts and achieving good results and success was most inspiring to me and gave me a real sense of excitement for the innovating chemistry world. I’m excited to use all the skills learnt in my current and future jobs.

If you used any support services whilst at the university how did they enable you to get to where you are today?
For me, PALS was one of the best support services as students in the academic year above who had already undertaken coursework / exams were able to support and guide me through any difficulties I had and provide useful feedback on work to develop for the future. They also provided us with extra questions and tasks for different modules which was great for revision.

How did studying at Plymouth change your career aspirations and plans?
Plymouth University had a module where the cohort took part in FLUX which is a fast paced one-day business competition where you work in a team to solve a business idea for a real business challenge and is judged by employers who are professionals in these areas. It was here I met an employee of Babcock international (a former Plymouth University Chemistry student) undertaking a nuclear safety engineer role. My career aspirations initially were to go into pharmaceuticals. However hearing about her role at Babcock was so amazing and I didn’t realise it was even a career option for me - so this really opened my eyes to the range of different job roles I was able to apply for with my degree. And so, It was one of the jobs I applied for and now I am doing exactly that!

What is your favourite memory of studying for your degree at Plymouth?
Studying my degree at Plymouth was the best decision. I met incredible friends for life who were motivated and always encouraging. I was able to learn so many practical skills in the laboratory and build my knowledge from the different modules offered. The networking events thrown by the university enabled me to gain insight into the working world and the vast opportunities I would have once obtaining my degree. The lecturers were great and always so supportive.

How did studying at Plymouth prepare you for the challenges that you have faced, or will face, in your career?
Studying at Plymouth University has given me all the skills and confidence needed to face the real world. From problem solving to IT skills to advanced chemical understanding, it has covered the essentials needed to boost my employability. The complex problem solving and array of technical skills I learnt at the University of Plymouth have enabled me to solve problems, gain deeper understanding and progress in my current career.

Why would you recommend undertaking a course with Plymouth University?
Because the courses have so many different modules, giving a broad understanding, lots of hours dedicated to practical learning in the laboratory with so many advanced instrumentations to use, incredible support services from lecturers to PALS to the hundreds of textbooks available in the library. Also, the city is so nice with everything in walking distance, loads of restaurants, bars, things to do and a great nightlife. Sitting on the Hoe on a nice sunny day is the best!
CHAIR APPOINTMENT TO BRITISH SOCIETY FOR GEOMORPHOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS STRONG LINKS WITH TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) is a registered charity and the professional organisation for British geomorphologists, bringing together some 500 scientists from across the UK and overseas from education, research and applied professional backgrounds.

Geomorphology research is presented at annual and sponsored meeting sessions and published via its flagship journal Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. The society provides resources such as an online Geomorphological Techniques guide, financial support for geomorphology related activities and recognises excellence in geomorphology through its awards.

The School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science (SoGEES) at the University of Plymouth has strong ties with the BSG. The current Chair of the Society is Anne Mather who is a Professor of Geomorphology in SoGEES and geomorphology underpins many of the degree programmes offered in SoGEES. Professor Mather explained:

“Geomorphology is the study of landforms and associated sediments and the processes that create them on the surface of the Earth, and other planetary bodies. Reading the resultant landscape informs us about past, current and future processes on our own and other planetary bodies. On Earth, an understanding of geomorphology is crucial to understanding the current challenges we face such as natural hazards and climate change.”

 geomorphology research from Plymouth has been recognised with recent awards for excellence in research for our undergraduates (Joshua Jones for his work on landslides in the Himalayas and Jessica Kitch, for her undergraduate dissertation on sediment erosion in Somerset). Our postgraduates have also received awards from the society, including Jesse Zondervan for his work on long term landscape development in the Moroccan High Atlas and Dr Martin Geach, for his doctoral research on long term landscape development in SE Spain, and research staff funding including supporting scientific research in Iceland, Morocco and Cape Verde.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/anne-mather
https://www.geomorphology.org.uk/
CATALYST FOR CHANGE: RESEARCHERS PIONEER NEW PROCESS FOR TURNING WASTE OIL INTO BIOFUEL

A chemist in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences has been pivotal in researching and developing a new efficient and inexpensive method for turning used cooking oil and agricultural waste into biodiesel.

Currently, to be used in biodiesel, waste kitchen oil must undergo an energy-intensive cleaning process. The new method, using an ultra-efficient catalyst, has been developed by an international team led by RMIT University in Australia and including University of Plymouth Lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Lee Durndell.

Dr Durndell explained: “The new catalyst can make low-carbon biodiesel and other valuable complex molecules out of diverse, impure raw materials and could double the productivity of the manufacturing processes for transforming waste like food scraps, microplastics and old tyres into high-value chemical precursors used to make a range of products including medicines, fertilisers and biodegradable packaging.”

As part of the study by the research team and published in Nature Catalysis, Dr Durndell worked on the synthesis and optimisation of material properties, before characterising them using a variety of cutting edge techniques, including electron microscopy analysis.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/lee-durndell

SEISMIC CHANGES TO EARTHQUAKE MODELLING: GEOLOGY LECTURER AWARDED FUNDS TO WORK ON NEW APPROACH

Dr Zoë Mildon has recently been awarded funding to develop a new approach to modelling earthquakes that will challenge the current way that earthquake hazard is calculated globally.

The project “Quake4D” will involve collaboration with partners across Europe and risk-industry experts and aims to unite the fields of geology, physics and computer science to generate a new multi-disciplinary way of calculating earthquake hazard. The main study area is the central and southern Apennines in Italy, which is one of the most earthquake prone parts of Europe.

One of the biggest challenges to better understanding earthquakes and the associated hazard is that the record of historical damaging events is only decades to centuries long, which isn’t enough to capture the full natural variability. Quake4D is a new approach to this problem and it will improve understanding of the variability in the size, location and timing of damaging earthquakes on faults.

Dr Mildon is funded as a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow (£1.4 million). This scheme aims to give UK-based talent the freedom and support to tackle challenging and inter-disciplinary research.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/zoe-mildon

Photo credit Getty: Southern Apennine Mountains, Italy
COP26 PUBLICATION TO FEATURE STUDENTS’ FOOD WASTE PROJECT

Environmental Science Students have been successful with their project Food Waste Collection in the Community, which has been accepted by the Global University Climate Forum. Stage Two students Charlotte Abrahams, Coral Bailey, Shauna McClurg, Ada Myers and Beatrix Teasdale competed against 160 submissions from 40 countries. They will join a series of workshops in November and are working with mentors and their academic advisor in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Dr Charlotte Braungardt, on their project.

Following completion of the project in May, they will be included in a publication to be issued during the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, Scotland.

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

This autumn saw the approval of a new master’s programme that spans the Earth and Environmental Sciences – MSc Environmental and Engineering Geology.

This new programme is aimed at those working in or wishing to join companies working in the built environment, with a specialism in understanding the ground conditions prior to infrastructure works and a growing concern for sustainable development and global climate issues. Students will gain a broad education in rock and soil properties, contamination and site investigation. Providing a steppingstone to chartered geologist, the master’s degree is suitable for a range of graduates from environmental and geoscience disciplines.

This new programme builds upon the strong environmental ethos in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science and complements our other MSc programmes and the new undergraduate BSc (Hons) Environmental Geoscience degree. Applications are open for a September 2021 start.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/msc-environmental-and-engineering-geology
PLYMOUTH RESEARCHERS JOIN €10MILLION PROJECT EXAMINING CULTURAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACROSS EUROPE

Researchers from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences are contributing to a €10 million project examining how the genetic and cultural diversity of Europe developed over thousands of years.

The research focuses on northern areas of Europe from the advent of agriculture around 6000 BCE to the end of the Bronze Age and will use novel modelling approaches to explain how changes have been shaped by the dynamic interaction of cultural innovation, migration, admixture, population growth and collapse, dietary change, biological adaptation, social structure, and the emergence of new diseases within the context of changing landscapes.

The project, which is funded by a European Research Council Synergy grant, is led from the Universities of Gothenburg, Copenhagen and University College London.

Dr Jessie Woodbridge and Professor Ralph Fyfe, from the University of Plymouth, will contribute European fossil pollen-inferred vegetation change, essential to understanding how past human populations interacted with their landscapes.

The project findings will serve to determine what the impact of the movement of people was on the European landscape, simultaneously, and on multiple scales. By identifying prehistoric regularities in the interactions of human biology, social and economic organisation, landscape change and demography, researchers can compare them to anthropological and historical models of such processes in recent times.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/jessie-woodbridge
https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/ralph-fyfe

Researchers from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences are contributing to a €10 million project examining how the genetic and cultural diversity of Europe developed over thousands of years.

The research focuses on northern areas of Europe from the advent of agriculture around 6000 BCE to the end of the Bronze Age and will use novel modelling approaches to explain how changes have been shaped by the dynamic interaction of cultural innovation, migration, admixture, population growth and collapse, dietary change, biological adaptation, social structure, and the emergence of new diseases within the context of changing landscapes.

The project, which is funded by a European Research Council Synergy grant, is led from the Universities of Gothenburg, Copenhagen and University College London.

Dr Jessie Woodbridge and Professor Ralph Fyfe, from the University of Plymouth, will contribute European fossil pollen-inferred vegetation change, essential to understanding how past human populations interacted with their landscapes.

The project findings will serve to determine what the impact of the movement of people was on the European landscape, simultaneously, and on multiple scales. By identifying prehistoric regularities in the interactions of human biology, social and economic organisation, landscape change and demography, researchers can compare them to anthropological and historical models of such processes in recent times.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/jessie-woodbridge
https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/ralph-fyfe
MSc Sustainable Environmental Management student Julia Grunnill has gained a sought-after six-month internship with the Brussels European regional office of the International Union of Conservation Nature (IUCN). Julia’s role is described as a Nature-based Solutions Intern and she supports two major projects which focus on implementing and upscaling nature-based solutions: GrowGreen, demonstrating the value of nature for climate and water resilience in cities; and NetworkNature, a European and global platform for strengthening the use of nature-based solutions.

Julia explained that the internship followed a placement with Plymouth City Council (working virtually due to COVID-19), which provided her with an initial understanding of Nature-based solutions implemented at a local level, such as the Council’s Plan for Trees and their beaver re-introduction project.

She praised the staff at the University of Plymouth who she said: “have not only supported me throughout my MSc Sustainable Environmental Management masters by giving me a depth of knowledge and skills but continue to support me throughout the development of my professional career.”

It’s no secret that this year’s GEOLSOC experience has been very different to previous, with COVID-19 stopping us from doing our much-anticipated annual balls and boat parties. This year, to keep spirits high within the society throughout lockdown, we have joined forces with other Geology societies across the UK to take part in the Universities in Britain and Ireland Geology and Earth Science League. A series of quiz nights have been taking place across the UK, pitting universities head to head, with the aim to get further in the league. So far, we’ve been up against both Leeds and Birmingham University, winning both times!

The partnership with other university geology societies hasn’t stopped there. This year we have also become part of a Talks on Earth Science Topics Hosted by Young Students project. This project allows undergraduates across partnering universities to present projects they have been involved in to other students, on a range of topics – from ore minerals and exploration to planetary science. Despite the challenges the pandemic has placed on societies this year, GEOLSOC has been able to keep the community feel from previous years, albeit virtually.

“Fingers crossed face-to-face socials will resume next year!”

Cesca Willcocks, President GeolSoc

Masters student lands internship with key international conservation

“\textbf{I am now playing my part in shaping the future of sustainable environmental management...}”

at the IUCN, by strengthening the awareness and implementation of nature-based solutions in urban planning, regional development, and for businesses.”

The internship involves contributing to mapping potential partners for nature-based solutions at EU, national and regional level, follows relevant EU policy developments, and maintains an overview of reports, documents and case studies of nature-based solutions.

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/msc-sustainable-environmental-managementhttps://www.iucn.org/
PLANTS, PLASTIC AND POPCORN: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY CONTINUES INSPIRING ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC

The Environmental Society is running quite differently this year, with more events held virtually than face-to-face.

In semester one we led a house plant Growing Competition through our Facebook page, with prizes of a house plant, plant pot and packets of seeds.

Ideas for upcoming events are litter-picks and movie screenings. We have recently commenced a campaign called “Ethical Technology” where we are uncovering human rights exploitation within electronics supply chains. Working with charities who act to dismantle modern-day slavery is one of our goals! As this is a challenging campaign, made more so due to the current pandemic, we need all the ideas and creativity we can get from students!

Movie screenings will be a mixture of educational and entertainment. All our events can be found on the University of Plymouth Student’s Union (UPSU) website and our Facebook page: Plymouth University Environmental Society.

Past events have included a big seaweed search and identification afternoon, teamed up with the Marine Conservation Society (which was incredibly fun and interesting!); a club night; themed parties where participants dressed up according to the theme; and talks given by specialist speakers about a variety of environmental topics.

We would love to host an event where we have a guest speaker and we are keen to hear your thoughts on who these people should be! What are you interested in? What do you want to know more about? Who inspires you? Let us know by messaging us on our 
Facebook page or emailing us at plymenvirosoc@gmail.com.

Alyssa Carrington, Chair of the Environmental Society, second year BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Sustainability.

SOGEESS TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

Undergraduate Programmes
- MChem (Hons) Analytical Chemistry
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry
- BSc (Hons) Environmental Geoscience
- BSc (Hons) Geology
- MGeol (Hons) Geology
- BSc (Hons) Geology with Ocean Science
- BSc (Hons) Physical Geography and Geology
- BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Sustainability
- BSc (Hons) Environmental Science
- BA (Hons) Geography
- BSc (Hons) Geography
- BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations
- BSc (Hons) Geography with Ocean Science

Access Courses
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Foundation Year
- BSc (Hons) Geology with Foundation Year
- BSc (Hons) Environmental Science with Foundation Year

Postgraduate Programmes
- MSc Environmental Geochemistry
- MSc Environmental Consultancy
- MSc Environmental and Engineering Geology
- MRes Sustainable Environmental Management
- MSc Sustainable Environmental Management
- MSc Human Geography Research
- MSc Planning
The University has an ongoing commitment to produce environmentally friendly publications. As we use FSC paper all of our printed content can be recycled.