



The  
Geological  
Society

# Annual Review

2025



# Chief Executive's report

As you will see in the President's Report, 2025 saw the formal launch of our major campaign to celebrate geoscience and inspire the next generation of geoscientists. The Society supports educators and students from primary through to degree level and then through continued professional development and Chartership. It provides opportunities to participate in research, writing, reviewing and editing, conference convening and speaking, governance, planning and organising. We connect scientists with colleagues across related disciplines and with decision makers shaping national and international policy.

Our scientific output continues to grow, with another growth year for conferences and for the Lyell Collection, and we saw an upturn in purchases of Geological Society books following the introduction of a new, more user-friendly online bookshop. Library visits increased, as did online use of the Society's collections. Geoscientist magazine continues to be cherished by members who receive it in print, and its online views have more than doubled over the past three years. In 2025 it received further recognition, picking up two national awards.

As well as opening our doors to thousands of members of the public, families and school pupils during Science Week, the Open House festival, and other initiatives, we hosted free-of-charge public lectures during the year on topics such as the Scottish Garvellach Islands, the energy transition, and scientific illustration.

Our progress to become a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible organisation and to promote these values within our community was demonstrated by our improved performance in the Science Council Diversity and Inclusion Progression Framework benchmarking exercise.

The Society engaged with Westminster and the devolved assemblies to promote evidence-based policy making, informed by science. We supported DEFRA's Circular Economy Taskforce and participated in the newly launched Future of the Subsurface Community of Interest, a network of decision makers from across government.

We undertook a review of the Chartership process to reduce complexity for applicants and streamline processes. This led to revised Supporter criteria, and improved guidance and information, easing the administrative burden and improving clarity.

2025 represented our first year as owners of our London premises at Burlington House. This has been our home for 150 years and it was custom built for our requirements, housing among other things a lecture theatre and two libraries, and welcoming thousands of people each year. We have now completed half of the purchase payment, with the remainder to be distributed over a number of years. As well as enabling us to continue hosting our own conferences and events and providing work space and library facilities for our members, security of tenure allowed us to set a new record for venue hire income.

We also successfully concluded the process of modernising our governing documents. Our Royal Charter and Byelaws, which provide rules and a framework by which the Society operates, have been reviewed and improved through extensive consultation with members and stakeholders.

2025 marked our third consecutive year of growth in membership, driven by new member acquisition and further improvement in member retention. We are a voluntary organisation and members are our lifeblood. Thank you to those who have given so much to the Society and the community over the past year, and for your continued generosity, expertise, and energy.

**Simon Thompson**  
Chief Executive



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# Message from the President

For some time, the main focus of the Geological Society's public engagement activity has been on young people. It is essential for society and our planet that we continue to inspire new generations to study and participate in geoscience, that educational institutions are supported and strengthened, that geoscience is inclusive and welcoming, and that we continue to build a culture of excellence and vitality.

In September 2025, this crystallised into a major campaign, with the launch of This is Geoscience, a public awareness campaign celebrating geoscience and inspiring future geoscientists. It refreshes the narrative around geoscience and highlights the opportunities available to those who might pursue a geoscience career. It is deliberately unbranded, and we encourage campaign partners, which include some of the most prominent geoscience organisations in the UK and around the world, to share our campaign materials and develop aligned campaigns in different regions and sectors.

Research commissioned by the Society in 2025 shows that graduates in geoscience subjects are in high demand and are well rewarded. The median salary for geoscience graduates is 32% higher than for other graduates. Geoscience is an attractive career whose importance will continue to grow. The percentage of the UK population studying geoscience has risen over the past three decades and we believe it will need to rise further to meet the need for research and expertise. It is essential to the future and wellbeing of life on our planet. The supply of safe water, protection from hazards, supply of secure and sustainable energy, and development of the infrastructure society needs to thrive, all depend on the study of geoscience. At a more local level, communities rely on geoscientists for expertise in land use, environmental protection, safety, and much else.

Forward thinking educational establishments are embracing and investing in geoscience. It is highly interdisciplinary, linking with engineering, chemistry, physics, biology, computing, environmental science, anthropology, business, and history, and enabling students to acquire transferable skills such as data analysis, problem-solving, fieldwork, and systems thinking, that are highly valued by employers.

The Society has developed an extensive programme of support for pupils and teachers of geology and other subjects where geoscience is featured. We distribute tens of thousands of curriculum-linked resources to teachers and students, and in 2025 we have been taking the message directly to teachers in person, advocating for geoscience and supporting teachers at events such as the Association for Science Education Annual Conference and the Geographical Association Geography Teacher Educators Conference. We have also collaborated with Teach First to provide online introductions to our lesson plans.



The Society was delighted to be able to host young people and families during the year and provide a destination for school visits and, of course, the annual Schools Geology Challenge.

The many new initiatives during the year included the Space for All initiative in partnership with the UK Space Agency, which generously provided funding. It included educational resources across all key stages, schools workshops, family fun days, and Space Week, held at our Burlington House premises, combining schools workshops, family engagement, and a public lecture. We hosted primary school children as part of the Great Shout Out for Science, and we took part in the Magical Midlands Girlguiding event in July, engaging more than 300 young people aged 4–18 and discussing minerals, smartphones, solar panels and sustainability.

We have been heartened by the level of alignment and support within the scientific community and in overlapping disciplines such as geography, chemistry, and physics. Our shared values include concern for our planet and those who live here. People and organisations are helping by sharing data and career profiles, sharing materials across their networks, and supporting our work through donations. We expect the coming years to see renewed optimism for geoscience and for the role it will play in building a safe, sustainable and prosperous world.

**Professor Jon Gluyas**  
President

“ The Society has developed an extensive programme of support for pupils and teachers.

# Message from the Treasurer

Income for the year was £6.08m (2024: £5.54m). This was the Society's highest income on record and represented a 10% year-on-year increase, greatly assisted by receipt of a generous legacy.

Membership and Publishing account for 80% of the Society's income. Membership increased slightly to 12,023 in 2025 (2024: 12,017), with income growing to £2.46m (2024: £2.31m).

Publishing income was down on the previous year at £2.29m (2024: £2.43m) due to the impact of lower royalty income and fewer one-off archive sales. Physical book sales were lower in the first part of the year during the development of the new online bookshop, with revenue recovering following its launch. Lyell Collection subscription revenue performance was strong.

Income from donations and legacies was boosted by the generous gift received from the estate of John Middleton, a former Fellow of the Society. Income from events, venue hire and training courses grew by 16% to £0.53m (2024: £0.46m) and this continues to be a focus for future income growth. Investment income decreased to £0.17m (2024: £0.27m) primarily due to draw downs from the investment portfolio to fund the Burlington House purchase, together with lower dividend yields and interest rates.

Expenditure for the year was £5.96m (2024: £5.89m) which was lower than budgeted and an increase of 1% on the previous year. When including the unrealised gain in investments in the year of £0.51m (2024: £0.50m), the Society ended 2025 with a net surplus of £0.62m (2024: £0.15m).

Following a review of the Society's restricted and endowment funds, the Society has taken steps to apply under-used funds more effectively in the last two years. This approach allowed for an allocation of expenditure from restricted and endowment funds of £0.68m (2024: £0.67m), thereby preserving unrestricted reserves.

The Society's investment portfolio was closely monitored throughout the year, with a target average annual return over 5 years of CPI+3.5%. Market conditions resulted in strong capital gains of 12.6%, which partly offset the withdrawal of £1.38m for a second Burlington House lease payment, giving an overall reduction in the portfolio's value at end year of £0.91m to £5.32m. Investment income was in line with expectations, supporting operational activities.

The Society maintains a prudent approach to reserves, ensuring financial flexibility while fulfilling its strategic priorities. At the end of 2025, free reserves were £3.2m (2024: £3.3m). This is above the minimum free reserves target of £1.9m and will enable the Society to make a third payment towards Burlington House of £0.41m in 2026, as well as to fund investment in its strategic priorities and upgrades to Burlington House infrastructure, commencing in 2026. These are solid financial foundations providing confidence in the Society to fulfil its charitable objectives in the long term.

Looking ahead, the Society remains focused on financial sustainability and strategic investment. Council has approved a five-year financial plan to prioritise income growth, with costs to grow at a slower pace than income in order to generate operational surpluses that can fund investment in strategic priorities whilst preserving a sustainable level of reserves.

In summary, 2025 has been a year of solid performance and the Society is well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



**Dr Keith Myers**  
Treasurer



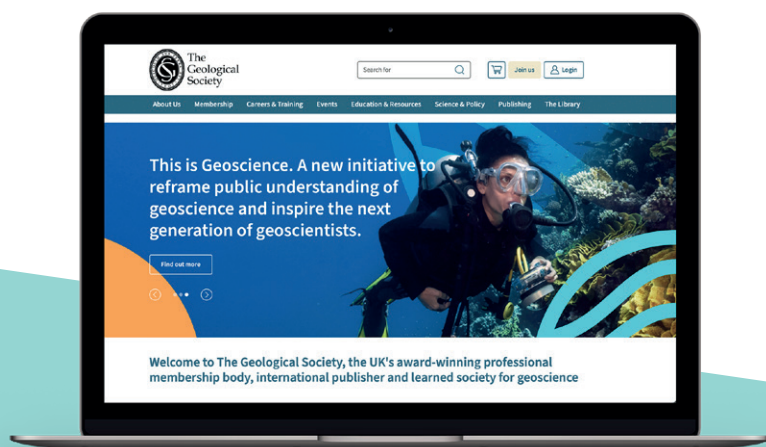
“ Looking ahead, the Society remains focused on financial sustainability and strategic investment.

# Stronger foundations

In 2025 we completed major projects to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the Society, to better equip it to serve its members and increase its impact.

Having acquired our headquarters at the end of 2024, bringing an end to several years of escalating rent and uncertainty, this was our first full year of ownership and we are now planning improvements to make the property more accessible, energy efficient, and fit for purpose. We hosted more than two hundred events during 2025 and welcomed thousands of people. We also achieved a record level of income from venue hire, helping to fund the Society's activities.

It was also a milestone for our digital transformation. Much of the service we provide to members and the public is now online, and 2025 was the year we launched our new website, integrally attached to the new membership database and Customer Relationship Management system to make it easier than ever to interact with the Society and find the information you need.



The Society completed its major constitutional review. After extensive consultation, members voted overwhelmingly to adopt revised constitutional documents – our Royal Charter and Byelaws – to simplify and improve the rules by which the organisation is governed. These were submitted to the Privy Council in the autumn for final approval by the King in 2026.

# Bigger impact

The Society's purposes can be paraphrased as advancing and improving knowledge, promoting education and awareness, and promoting professional excellence and ethical standards in geoscience.

2025 was a year in which we improved our impact by increasing the reach of our scientific content, both to professionals and members of the public, and providing a platform for work of exceptional quality.

## Membership and Chartership

Membership numbers grew for the third year in a row, reaching 12,023, with an improvement in retention as well as the acquisition of new members. The number of Chartered Geologists also grew, to 2,868.



## Publishing

A record number of publications and articles, nearly 1.3 million, were downloaded from the Lyell Collection – a 24% increase on the previous year. The Lyell Collection comprises our peer-reviewed journals, special publications, and books.

The Society is a community-led publisher with global reach. We published 530 articles in 2025 from researchers across 76 countries.

Content in the first GeoHorizons volume was published in time for the American Geophysical Union (AGU) annual conference in December. GeoHorizons is a new open science book series owned jointly by the AGU and the Geological Society. The series focuses on solution-based science that addresses challenges facing humanity and the environment, especially those related to climate change and sustainable development.

A cross-departmental team reviewed growing research integrity risks in the publishing process and investigated tools and techniques to help support and maintain our high standards of integrity.

In addition, considerable technical work was conducted to make sure our content, processes and platform align with the introduction of the European Accessibility Act in June 2025.

## Geoscientist magazine

Geoscientist magazine continued to be enjoyed in print by members, and online views rose by a further 18% after sustained growth in previous years.

Geoscientist magazine also won two trophies at the national awards for membership organisations, Memcom, winning Highly Commended awards for Best Publication and for Best Magazine (<20k circulation).



The judges said

Geoscientist has been transformed into a modern, engaging publication reflecting the evolving role of geoscience in tackling global challenges... combines authoritative science with accessibility through striking visuals, podcasts, and videos. By showcasing diverse voices ... it reaches both experts and the wider public.



## Library services

Our online and physical library collections are a major benefit for members, providing ready access to a vast amount of information. Our historical archive and library materials also help connect past discoveries with contemporary science, providing a valuable resource for researchers and aiding interpretation for both professionals and non-specialists.

There were nearly 60,000 full text downloads from our online library. In-person library visits grew by 11% and the use of our online archive collections grew by 27%.

Our work continued to digitally preserve our valuable collections so they can be accessed more widely and easily. This included preservation of historic geological maps and survey materials.

## Conferences and events

The Society has organised and hosted scientific meetings since its foundation more than two hundred years ago. 2025 was a bumper year for events, including conferences such as Digital Geoscience, The 12th Annual Geothermal Symposium, Future Geohazards, and Climate Off the Rails - a UK-wide event series combining public engagement, dialogue, and scientific exchange. Thanks to a generous donation by the late Edna Fookes, the Society's events team along with the Engineering Group were also able to host a conference in honour of her late husband, Peter Fookes, FGS, which was a warm and moving tribute to an important member of our scientific community as well as being packed with valuable scientific and engineering content.

Our programme of training courses continued to excel, with most courses delivered online, combining ease of access with direct interaction between attendees and course leaders.

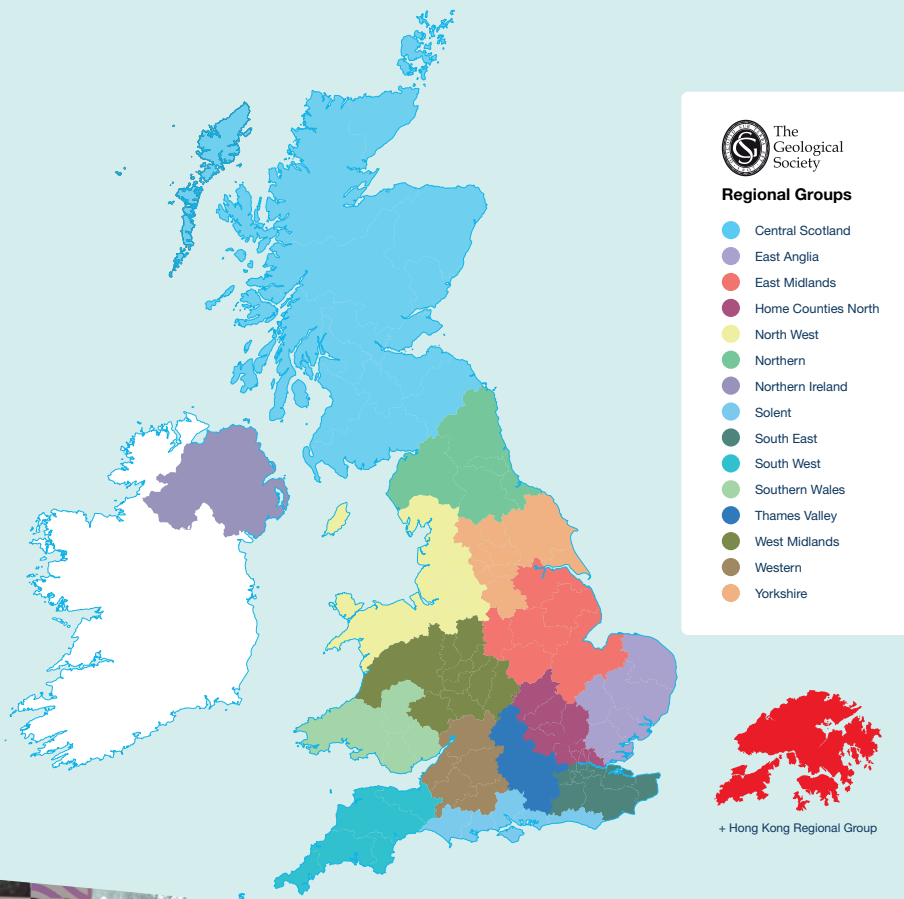


## Groups

The Society's thriving specialist groups and regional groups are each led and managed by volunteers who are members of the Society.

There are 15 Professional & Scientific Interest Groups and 16 regional groups, based in the UK and Hong Kong.

Approximately 150 events were organised by groups during 2025, including ~100 across different regions of the UK outside London, 30 in London, and 17 in Hong Kong. Many of these were hybrid so that participants could take part either in person or online, and three were online only.



## Accreditation

In 2025, 34 UK higher education institutions offered geoscience programmes at undergraduate degree level, including one geoscience degree apprenticeship. Over 80% of these are accredited by the Geological Society. The scheme ensures that programmes are evaluated to align with the skills and knowledge required for a career in the geosciences. It provides assurance to prospective students that a department's teaching is high quality and has been approved by an independent body of academics and industrial partners. There are currently 205 accredited degree programmes in the UK, including 199 undergraduate and 6 masters, and a further 13 accredited programmes globally (12 undergraduate and 1 masters).

During 2025, the following programmes were newly accredited:

- **University of Durham** – BSc Geology with Placement (new programme), BSc Environmental Geosciences with Placement (new programme), BSc Geophysics with Placement (new programme)
- **Camborne School of Mines** – University of Exeter, MSc Exploration and Mining Geology (merger of two previously accredited programmes)
- **Newcastle University** – MSc Geotechnical and Geological Engineering (merger of two previously accredited programmes)

## Policy

The Society helps ensure that public policy is informed by geoscience, and helps emphasise the importance of geoscience to society, the government, the media and other scientific communities, as well as the public. We engage with parliament, government, industry and academia to fulfil this purpose, responding to parliamentary inquiries, government consultations, and representing the geological community.

In 2025, we supported DEFRA's Circular Economy Taskforce by providing scientific briefings on minerals and mining, and, along with the British Geological Survey, we launched the new Future of the Subsurface Community of Interest, a network of decision makers from government departments, local authorities, regulators and others in the public sector involved in subsurface policy and planning.



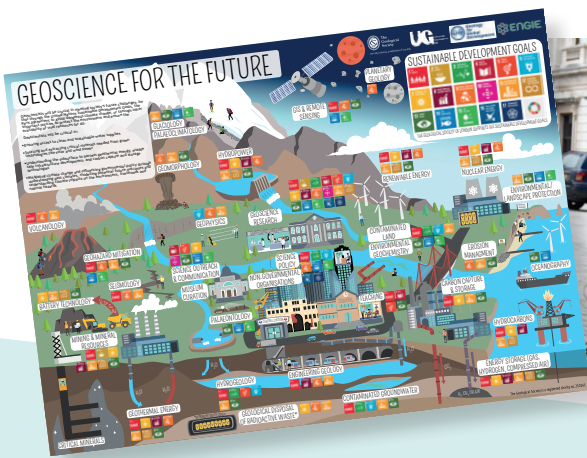
## Public engagement

Our popular Public Lecture programme attracted 3,653 registrations across 10 talks, a record-breaking programme with double the number of attendees of our previous record year in 2019. We are grateful to KSAT, who sponsored our public lecture program throughout 2025.

Much of our public activity is focused on educating and inspiring young people. In 2025 this included the provision of tens of thousands of educational resources distributed to teachers and pupils either directly or online, including posters, factsheets, lesson plans, activities and assessments on subjects such as groundwater, dinosaurs, fossils, volcanoes, the carbon cycle, meteorites, and minerals in a smartphone. Our Geoscience for the Future poster, describing how geoscientists will be crucial in achieving the UN sustainable development goals including climate change, the environment, and critical resources including water, is now available in 28 languages.



Through activities such as our Open House, Space Week, Schools Geology Challenge, school visits and other events we provided interactive activities, workshops, and family learning activities to educate and inspire. Our Careers Day helped people transitioning from education to employment and provided an opportunity for employers to engage with prospective recruits.



In partnership with the UK Space Agency, we led a new education project focused on using planetary geoscience and space exploration to encourage the next generation of scientists. It delivered teaching resources for all key stages, teacher engagement, and a programme of events.

This included the delivery of resources for Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5 school pupils, teacher showcases, four schools workshops, two family fun days, a "Meteorites: rocks from space" exhibition, and a ten-day long "Space Week" multi-format programme for schools, families and the public, as well as a public lecture hosted at our London HQ.



In addition to delivering events and experiences, this project created lasting resources including curriculum-aligned materials, and loanable handling boxes for schools, full of space rocks.

The project focused on the application of geology and geophysics to investigate rocky planets, moons and asteroids in the Solar System. We used the exciting context of space to inspire and draw thousands of people into the wonderful world of planetary geoscience, aiming to widen participation and inspire interest in geoscience.

# This is Geoscience

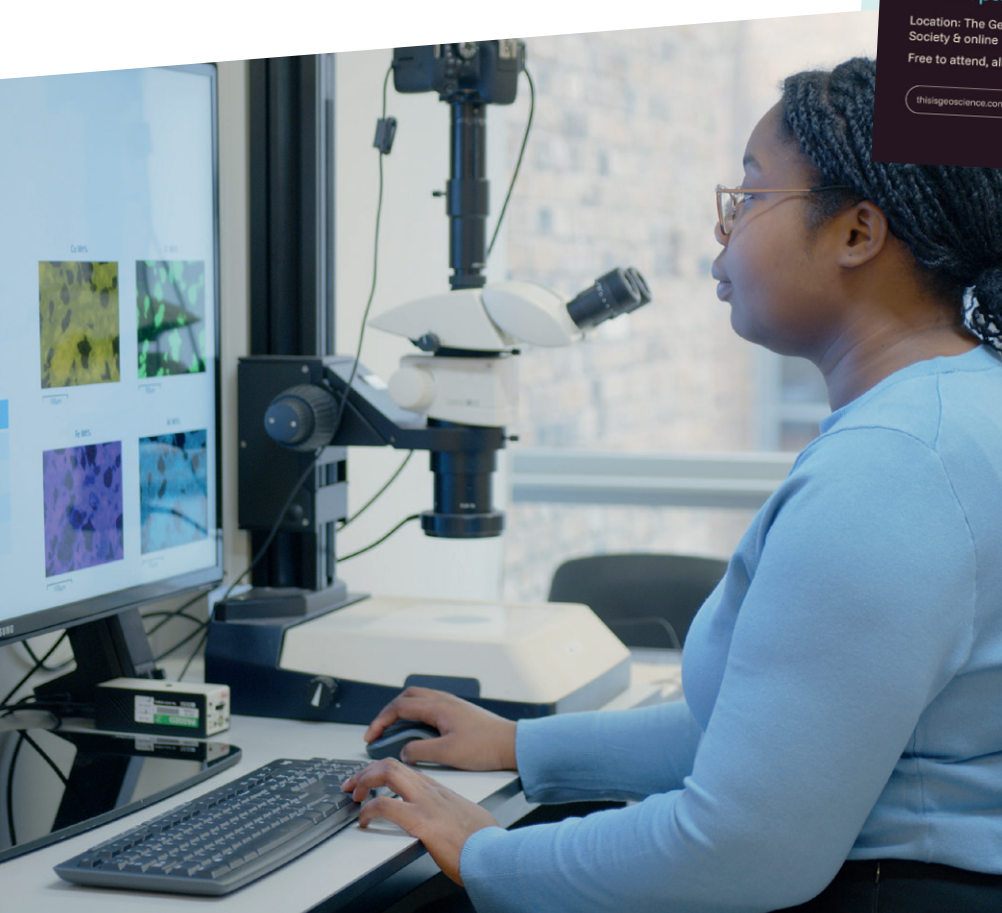
Building on the Society's education and engagement work, September 2025 marked the launch of This is Geoscience – a public awareness campaign to celebrate geoscience and to inspire and inform future geoscientists.

The campaign refreshes the narrative around geoscience, highlighting its value to society and showcasing the opportunities a geoscience career offers. It aligns with the work of partner organisations such as University Geoscience UK, the Earth Science Teachers Association, and the geoscience education community more broadly.

The new campaign website [www.thisisgeoscience.com](http://www.thisisgeoscience.com) contains practical careers information, salary data, profiles summarising the careers of real-life geoscience professionals, and video interviews. This is supplemented by promotional materials for use by everyone across the geosciences. The campaign is inclusive, aiming to shift outdated stereotypes of geoscience and welcome a new generation into the community.

A key element of the campaign is to supplement platforms that young people, parents, teachers and careers advisors already engage with; especially online careers advice resources with specific geoscience examples. We have partnered with the UK's most popular careers information service, which serves 60% of all UK state schools, with over 1.9 million students active on the platform.

This is Geoscience is a resource for the whole geoscience community. The campaign will run over several years and evolve as we gain further insight, evaluate more data, and as it is adopted and shaped by the people who will contribute to its growth and success.



“ Geoscience, what a great subject! If I had known what it was when I was at school, I might have been a geoscientist myself!

**Prof Dame Angela McLean,**  
UK Government Chief Scientist

# The Year in Numbers

**12,023**  
members




**2,868**  
Chartered Geologists



**530**  
research articles published



**1.28 million**  
Lyell Collection downloads



**200+**  
scientific events




**3,653**  
public lecture registrations across **10** talks


Authors from  
**76**  
countries



**60,000**  
online library full-text downloads



Education resources in  
**28**  
languages



**150 years**  
at Burlington House



## 2025: A Year of Growth and Impact

**27%**  
growth in online archive usage

**24%**  
increase in Lyell Collection downloads

**18%**  
growth in Geoscientist online views

**16%**  
growth in events, venue hire & training income

**11%**  
increase in in-person library visits

**Double**  
previous record attendance for public lectures

**3rd**  
consecutive year of membership growth

# Get Involved

There are many ways you can get involved with the Geological Society, including becoming a chartership assessor or chartership mentor, an editor, reviewer or author, a training course or conference convenor or speaker, contributing to our policy work by providing a policy response, joining the management committee of a Specialist Group or Regional Group, or joining one of the Society's governance committees or its Council. You can also support our work financially through a donation or legacy. These are just a few examples so please consult our website, [www.geolsoc.org.uk](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk) for more information.

# Thank you to our supporters

We are deeply grateful to our Fellows and supporters whose generosity enables our charitable work. Your support helps us advance education, outreach, conservation and other vital activities that serve both the geoscience community and the wider public.

Alongside the organisations listed below, we warmly acknowledge the many individuals who have chosen to support the Society with personal donations. Every contribution strengthens our work and extends our impact.

His Majesty's Government: Department for Business and Trade	Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851	The Royal Society
Jacobs	Structural Soils	UK Research & Innovation (Science & Technology Facilities Council)
KSAT - Kongsberg Satellite Services	The de Laszlo Foundation	TGS
North Sea Transition Authority	The Dolan Charitable Trust	UK Space Agency
Royal Astronomical Society	The Geological Society of America	University of Plymouth

## Corporate Partner Members

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	TotalEnergies		Ikon Science
			Wood Mackenzie



The  
Geological  
Society

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact the Society, please visit [geolsoc.org.uk/contact-us](http://geolsoc.org.uk/contact-us) for departmental contact details and information on how to reach the relevant team. Alternatively you can call us on **+44 (0)20 7434 9944** between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

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[geolsoc.org.uk](http://geolsoc.org.uk)

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## Gifts in Wills

Legacy gifts play an important role in supporting the Society's long-term ambitions. We are honoured by the trust placed in us by those who choose to remember the Society in their will, and we pay tribute to the individuals whose legacies have already helped shape our work. We also appreciate gifts made in celebration or in memory, which provide a meaningful way to mark and honour individuals while supporting the Society's future.

If you would like to find out more about supporting the Society, including leaving a gift in your will, please contact us at:

**[development@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:development@geolsoc.org.uk)**

or call **+44 (0) 20 7432 0947**