

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2002

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1. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING RURAL CONFERENCES & EVENTS

| Date | Event | Contact |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 20 November, 2002 | RGS-IBG Mountain Research Group with Environment and Society Forum, Kensington Gore, London 'Sustainable Futures for the British Uplands' | Helen Saunders (RGS-IBG London) |
| 20-21 November, 2002 | RGRG Postgraduate Conference, Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University 'Vital Ruralities' | Mark Riley riley@geography.nottingham.ac.uk & Miriam Renner M.E.Renner@ncl.ac.uk |
| 19 February, 2003 | RESSG seminar: 'Youthful Ruralities', University of Wales Swansea | Keith Halfacree k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk |
| 4-8 March, 2003 | AAG Conference in New Orleans Rural Session: 'Countysides of the Future' | Rob Fish Fish@nottingham.ac.uk Keith Halfacree k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk |
| 4-8 March, 2003 | AAG Conference in New Orleans Rural Session: 'Community, Collaboration and the Environment: assessing the new spaces and scales of environmental decision-making' | Susanne.Seymour@nottingham.ac.uk Randy Wilson rwilson@gettysburg.edu |
| 21 May, 2003 | RESSG workshop: 'Young Rural Researchers' Meeting' University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham. | Henry Buller hbuller@glos.ac.uk |
| 23-27 June, 2003 | International Rural Network Conference and Exchange of Experience, The Arkleton centre and UHI Millennium Institute, Inverness 'Taking Charge: Rural Community Empowerment in Rural Development, Rural Health and Rural Education' | takingcharge@abdn.ac.uk |
| 14-19 July, 2003 | RGRG Fifth British-American-Canadian Rural Conference, University of Exeter and University of Plymouth 'Contrasting Ruralities: Changing Rural Economies, Societies and Landscapes' http://www.geog.plym.ac.uk/ruralgeography/ | Stephen Essex sessex@plymouth.ac.uk Richard Yarwood ryarwood@plymouth.ac.uk Andrew Gilg a.w.gilg@exeter.ac.uk |
| 3-5 September, 2003 | RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London 'Geography Serving Society and Environment' | Charles Watkins charles.watkins@nottingham.ac.uk |
| 16 - 18 September, 2003 | RESSG annual conference: 'Cultural Turns, Rural Turns: critical (re)appraisals', University of Newcastle. | Katy Bennett: katy.bennett@ncl.ac.uk |
| 15-20 August, 2004 | RGS-IBG Annual conference held in conjunction with the World International Geographic Union (IGU) conference, Glasgow | charles.watkins@nottingham.ac.uk Susanne.Seymour@nottingham.ac.uk |
| 2005 | RGRG British-Spanish Rural Conference, UK venue | |

2. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The RGRG, like many other research groups, is making increasing use of electronic means of communication.

Update your email address!

Email is increasingly used to distribute the bi-annual Newsletter and urgent items of news throughout the year. Although email addresses are now available for about half of RGRG members, several appear to be out-of-date. If you have changed your email over the past few months or have recently gone 'on-line', please send your new address to Dr Stephen Essex, Department of Geography, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AA email: sessex@plymouth.ac.uk

The **RGRG Website** (<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/rgsg>) has been up and running for a few years. If you have any items that you wish to have posted on the RGRG website, please contact Dr Martin Phillips (University of Leicester) preferably by email: mpp2@le.ac.uk.

3. VACANCIES ON THE RGRG COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FROM AUGUST, 2003

A number of RGRG Committee positions will be open for election in August, 2003. These are the established positions of **Chair, Website Officer and two postgraduate representatives**. Anyone interested in any of these posts can contact the Secretary (a.hughes@kingston.ac.uk) for further details. If you wish to stand for election you should inform the Secretary **before the start of the AGM at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London (3-5 September, 2003)**. Your nomination should be proposed and seconded by members of the RGRG.

The present membership of the RGRG Committee is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Chair | Prof Charles Watkins, University of Nottingham. (2003). |
| Secretary | Dr Annie Hughes, Kingston University. (2005). |
| Treasurer | Dr Richard Yarwood, University of Plymouth. (2004). |
| Ordinary Members | |
| Membership and Prizes Officer | Dr Carol Morris, University of Gloucs. (2005). |
| Newsletter Editor | Dr Stephen Essex, University of Plymouth. (2005). |
| Website Officer | Dr Martin Phillips, University of Leicester. (2003). Dr Keith Halfacree, University of Wales, Swansea. (2004). Dr Darren Smith, University of Brighton. (2005). Dr Nigel Walford, Kingston University. (2004). |
| Postgraduate Members | |
| | Miriam Renner, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. (2003). Mark Riley, University of Nottingham. (2003). |

4. RGRG MASTERS DISSERTATION PRIZE, 2002

The deadline for the submission of Masters dissertations for the RGRG Masters Dissertation Prize is **31st January, 2003**. The prize is available to students who have completed a taught Masters degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to Rural Geography. The relevant examination board for the degree may nominate one candidate each year and should arrange for one copy of the dissertation to be sent to Dr Carol Morris, Countryside and Community Research Unit, University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 4AZ (Tel: +44 (0)1242 543281; email: cmorris@chelt.ac.uk) by 31st January, 2003, together with full contact details of the nominee and the nominating institution. Submitted dissertations will be considered by a panel of assessors comprising members of the RGRG committee. The winner of the prize and the institution will be notified by the end of April, 2003 when submitted dissertations will be returned. **The award has been increased to £100.**

5. NEW RESEARCH CENTRE: NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES (Details submitted by Dr Aileen Stockdale, Department of Land Economy, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3UF).

I am writing to inform you of an exciting new development being undertaken by the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (Skye), part of UHI Millennium Institute, and the University of Aberdeen. I am a member of the Centre's Advisory Group. Ionad Nàiseanta na h-Imrich (National Centre for Migration Studies) will be officially launched in April 2003.

The Centre, while very much in its infancy, seeks to –

'facilitate international class research, teaching and publications for the study of migration relating to the people of Scotland'. (INI Mission Statement).

The intention is to undertake interdisciplinary academic research in the field of migration studies through its own activities and collaborative projects with other researchers and institutions. In the future, we envisage introducing a programme of visiting academics, including sabbatical opportunities for researchers to work at the Centre.

The Centre is currently undertaking a research project to examine the effects of immigration on the Gaelic language in bilingual primary schools in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Other national and international projects are planned. A PhD studentship has been advertised, and a web site is also in preparation.

I am bringing this development to your attention for several reasons: first, as a researcher of population, social and cultural studies and/or rural areas, the Centre may well provide an opportunity for collaborative research with yourself. Second, you may be interested in participating in a programme of visiting academics. Third, you may simply wish to know more about our plans and likely activities.

If you are interested in the development of the Centre and would like to be kept informed of its activities, I ask that you send an e-mail to INI at the following address-

ini@smo.uhi.ac.uk

The intention is to build up an email database of researchers/ institutions interested in developing links with the Centre or wishing to be kept informed of its development.

I look forward to hearing of your interest.

Dr Aileen Stockdale, Department of Land Economy, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3UF.

6. RECENT CONFERENCE REPORTS

6.1 Fourth British-French Symposium on Rural Geography: Innovations in Rural Areas, University College Worcester, UK, 14 – 17 May, 2002.

The Fourth Anglo-French Symposium on Rural Geography convened at Worcester to discuss 'Innovations in Rural Areas'. As well as a broad range of interesting papers, a number of field visits and cultural events helped to make the entente more cordiale between the rural geographers of France and Britain.

The first session focused on 'Natural Spaces'. Charles Watkins (Nottingham) outlined the how cultures of nature developed in the post-war period, with reference to formal and amateur studies of botany in Herefordshire. This was followed by Olivier Rialland

(Nantes) examined tourist development of stately parks and gardens in the Pays de la Loire, noting similarities and linkages with those in Britain. By contrast, Keith Halfacree (Swansea) examined more radical expressions of rural nature and their significance for local back-to-the-land initiatives in urban and rural spaces.

The second half of the afternoon examined 'Regional Development and Innovation'. Jean-Paul Diry (Blaise Pascal) critically examined the diffusion of innovation by migrants to the Massif Central. Stephen Essex (Plymouth) also examined the development of innovation, this time in the development of sustainable tourism businesses in Cornwall. Finally, Ian Thompson (Glasgow) argued that new rural life-worlds based on pluri-activity and an enhanced sense of place are currently emerging in the Haute Maurienne as a result of innovative development practices.

An evening excursion to the Tiltridge Vineyard provided an introduction to the production and consumption of English wine. Sales in the gift shop were healthy, suggesting that this rural innovation will find favour both sides of the Channel.

The second day of papers took an agricultural theme, with the first two discussing agricultural advisory agencies. Emmanuelle Bouzille (Nantes) examined the role of the Réseau Agricolaire Durable in agricultural innovation and Christine Margetic (Artois) examined collaboration between farmers in Kent and Nord-Pas-de-Calais as part of the INTERREG project. The following three papers discussed farm diversification in Manche and Dorset (Annabelle Boulay, Kingston), Ile de France (Monique Poulot, Paris X) and South East England (Nigel Walford, Kingston). All three raised critical questions about the nature and future of diversification and highlighted interesting comparisons and similarities between French and English agriculture.

The diversification theme continued after lunch with a paper by Alison McCleery (Napier) who examined on and off farm diversification in Calvados in relation to broader changes in the local economy, including a rise in 'war tourism' to the D-day landing sites. Viticulture formed the basis of papers by Laurance Fabbri (Universite Paul Valery) and Tamsin Cooper (UCL), and Eric Rouvellac (Limoges). Fabbri and Cooper explored the opportunities and limitations of territorial, as opposed to sectoral, rural development near Beziers, while Rouvellac discussed the challenges facing vine growing in the Southern Pyreneans district and the use of innovative practices to promote quality wines.

Attention switched from drink to food in the final session. Larent Rieutort (Blaise Pascal) noted how the development of high-standard food-processing industries, together with regional heritage and 'know how' had helped to stem rural decline in Cevennes. Brian Ilbery (Coventry) outlined how product-labelling schemes could offer one solution to some of the current concerns in the British food industry. He used examples of product labelling from Europe and North America to identify examples of best practice that could be used to develop similar schemes in Britain. Guy Robinson (Kingston) critically examined the notion of the alternative food economy, questioning whether new associations between products and places really represented an alternative to the mainstream food chain.

The fieldtrip on Thursday took full advantage of glorious weather to showcase the Midland's countryside. Nick Evans (Worcester) led a morning visit to the Vale of Evesham where he expanded on changing horticultural practices in the region. This included a visit to a local grower to examine his vegetable and salad based products and to hear about the increasing financial difficulties he faced. After a brief visit to a National Trust property for refreshment, it was on to Bourton-on-the-Water for lunch and a browse of its tourist shops. In the afternoon, Robert Gant (Kingston) led the party to a number of picturesque Cotswold villages where he revealed the many social and economic problems they were facing. The afternoon also included visits to various sites of interest, including the Cotswold Heritage Centre, churches and Broadway Tower. The evening was rounded off with an excellent meal in the 'The French House', a French theme-pub in a Worcestershire village!



(Left) Nick Evans in the Vale of Evesham with simultaneous translation by Ian Thompson. (Right) Robert Gant in the North Cotswolds with simultaneous translation by Annabelle Boulay.

As the weather broke, it was back to the seminar room for a morning of papers on social themes. The first three focused on English market towns, reflecting current policy interest in these places. Irene Evison (Rural Resources) described her consultancy work in Shropshire market towns and reflected on the value of the current Market Towns Initiative. Susannah Ford (Plymouth) critically discussed an on-going evaluation of the Market Towns Initiative and outlined her conceptual framework for examining the role of social and institutional linkages on the economies of market towns and their hinterlands. Finally, David Storey (Worcester) outlined some of ethical and practical difficulties associated with consultancy work in market towns and evaluated the significance of LEADER in their social and economic development.

Henri Desbois (Paris X) started the final session by discussing urban growth in Japan and the increasing demands placed on agricultural land for building. This is leading to intricate schemes of property management and opportunities, which are rarely seized, for farmers to develop new sales opportunities for their produce. Richard Yarwood (Plymouth) discussed policing innovations, arguing that relatively high levels of satisfaction with policing in the countryside reflected and affected recent innovations in rural community policing. Robert Gant (Kingston) rounded the conference off with a well-illustrated presentation that examined the operation of Shopmobility Schemes from a rural perspective.

Innovation and quality were the subjects of many papers, yet these terms could be applied equally to their content and delivery. Post-graduate students from Britain and France also made an excellent contribution to the symposium. It was also pleasing to note just how well the papers in the themed sessions complemented each other, reflecting the joint empirical and theoretical ground shared by rural geographers in France and Britain. The mix of formal and informal events helped to develop and extend the warm relations and friendships fostered in previous symposia.

Thanks go to Nick Evans, Nigel Walford and Jean Diry for convening the conference and to University College Worcester for hosting it so well. All delegates were extremely grateful to Ian Thompson, Annabelle Boulay, Henry Buller, Steve Phillipson and others for their sterling translation work before and during the conference.

Dr Richard Yarwood, Department of Geography, University of Plymouth



The delegates of the Franco-British Rural Geography Conference, 14-17 May, 2002.

6.2 First meeting of Anglo-German Rural Geographers: The Countryside in the 21st Century: Anglo-German Perspectives, University of Bayreuth, 3 – 7 September, 2002.

The aim of this conference was to bring rural geographers together from both Britain and Germany to discuss problems and policies facing rural areas in the two countries, and to share research and ideas. It was held in Thurnau Castle in Thurnau, a village about ten miles north of Bayreuth in northern Bavaria.

The conference comprised two days of paper sessions and two fieldtrips. The papers divided broadly into those focusing on rural problems and policies, and those focusing on agriculture, the environment and the food chain. Doris Schmied opened the session with a paper contrasting the development of rural geography in Germany and Britain. She contrasted the strength of rural geography in Britain with the 'underdevelopment' of rural geography in Germany, and argued that these differences could be explained both by differing cultural perceptions of rural areas, but also by differences in how geography is structured. For instance, there is no academic forum specifically for rural geographers in Germany, and no academic journal focused on rural geography. Despite this 'underdevelopment' of rural geography in Germany, the paper sessions revealed that German geographers are working on a wide variety of rural issues, many of which are also the focus of parallel research in Britain.

Six papers focused on rural and regional development in Germany. Gerhard Henkel presented an overview of changes in German villages from 1950 – 2002. Ulrika Grabski-Kieron analysed some of the challenges involved in achieving integrated rural development in Germany through the formal planning framework and through more informal forms of governance. Jörg Maier talked about the concept of the 'learning region' and whether this model can be applied to stimulate economic development in lagging regions like Bavaria. Professor Helmut Schrader discussed the concept of 'social capital' and how it can be measured in the context of regional governance. Nathalie Franzen gave her paper on local rural development and public participation through the 'Dorfentwicklung' (village development) scheme. Finally, Olivia Wilson presented an English perspective on the land use planning system with an analysis of New Labour's policies on the provision of new housing in rural areas.

Four papers focused on more specific rural problems. Karl Martin Born gave a paper on the restructuring of property rights in agriculture in the New Bundesländer, with a case study of a village in eastern Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Stefanie Arens talked

about the opportunities and constraints for converting disused agricultural buildings in different parts of Germany. Nick Gallent's presentation focused on the question of second homes in Wales and whether policies to constrain the further expansion of second home ownership are needed. Finally, John Farrington gave a paper which provided a philosophical perspective on the role of accessibility planning and policies in tackling social exclusion in Scotland.

Four papers considered the growing significance of local food products and alternative food networks. Franz Brunner discussed the growth of sustainable forms of food supply in Austria, such as farmers' markets and food trade networks. Carol Morris analysed the potential of market oriented initiatives (MOIs) such as quality food labels as a way to promote environmentally-friendly farming. Ulrich Ermann analysed the concept of local food products, and questioned the extent to which they are a sustainable form of rural development. Richard Yarwood talked about the geographies of rare livestock breeds in Britain, and the problems of linking specific breeds to geographical areas.

Five papers focused on farming and environmental protection. Charles Watkins discussed the need for a strategic approach to restoring semi-natural chalk grasslands in the South Downs, and argued for the inclusion of recreation value as a factor when prioritising areas. Mark Riley analysed the development of policies to protect hay meadows in the Peak District, and questioned whether hay meadows are sufficiently protected under the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) scheme. Konstantinos Baginetas argued for the need for the development of soil quality indicators to help farmers to farm more sustainably. Susanne Seymour talked about the problems of using a community-based approach to environmental protection with an example of farmer participation in a Landcare pilot project in Wiltshire. Axel Dosch also analysed the constraints of using a participatory approach to encourage farmers to adopt environmentally-friendly farming methods based on a project in North East Germany.

Three papers took a more macro/conceptual approach to the analysis of agriculture. Johanne Allinson gave a paper comparing the institutional responses of the British and German governments to the Foot and Mouth and BSE crises. A key difference is that in Germany there is still greater public support for farmers, and the new emphasis on organic farming in Germany reflects that support, but also reflects a high level of concern amongst consumers with food quality. Geoff Wilson discussed the concept of 'post-productivist' agriculture, and questioned whether a concept developed in the UK context could be applied in other European countries. Clive Potter discussed the related concept of a 'multifunctional' countryside and whether this has led to a new policy discourse at EU level.

Finally, two papers focused on farmer decision-making. Rob Burton presented a paper analysing the impact of major changes in the economic environment of farming on farmer decision-making in Scotland, using a social network approach. Carmen Retter also focused on farmer decision-making in Germany with a study into how social networks affect individual land use decisions.

The fieldtrips complemented the issues discussed in the paper sessions. The first fieldtrip was to Upper Franconia in the vicinity of Bayreuth. The main theme of the day was landscape planning to create and enhance wildlife habitats and biotope networks. We heard how the regional nature conservation authorities are working with farmers to achieve a more integrated approach to agriculture and conservation. We also visited some villages that have been 'renewed' through the village renewal programme, and heard about an innovative approach to sustainable settlement planning known as 'eco-accounting'. As well as seeing these successful schemes, we also heard about some of the problems and uncertainties facing the area. For instance, many farmers do not have a successor to take over their farm so there is a question mark over future of farming in the area. The whole area has lost the government subsidies it used to get for being a 'border region' with the GDR and Czechoslovakia and has consequently experienced a loss of jobs.

The second fieldtrip was to southern Thüringia (one of the new Bundesländer). We visited two contrasting livestock farms. One was a former collective farm, now a limited company, specialising in intensive beef and pig production, employing about 30 people. This farm has established a direct marketing business, and now sells about 70% of its meat within the local area direct to consumers. The other farm was an organic livestock family farm. At 280 hectares it is large for an organic farm, and has experienced problems marketing its produce as a result, although some is also marketed direct to consumers.

In addition to these activities, we had a full social programme that included some excellent meals out in local restaurants (a good opportunity to sample local food and drink products) and an official reception by the regional government of Oberfranken. The conference was supported by a grant from the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, and we were pleased that a representative, Ray Cunningham, could also participate in the conference.

Many common themes came out of the conference that could be developed into joint research projects in the future. In particular, interest was expressed on both sides in integrated regional development, local participation in village planning, the conversion of old farm buildings, local food products, alternative food networks and agricultural structural change. In the meantime, we plan to publish the proceedings of the conference, and hope that Britain can host a return visit in the not too distant future.

Doris Schmied (University of Bayreuth) and Olivia Wilson (De Montfort University)

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

7.1 RGS-IBG Mountain Research Group with Environment and Society Forum: Sustainable Futures for the British Uplands, 1 Kensington Gore, London, Wednesday 20 November, 2002, 10.00am-4.30pm

Following the recent Foot and Mouth epidemic, and debates over legislation relating to access, the need for 'joined-up action' in the British uplands is becoming increasingly evident. This is further emphasised by recent reports and policy statements that focus on the future of farming in the context of the rural economy, prospects for the natural heritage of the uplands, and forestry issues. While such documents increasingly call for integrated, or multi-functional, approaches to the use of the British uplands – and such approaches are being called for by local communities, diverse user groups and academics – movement in this direction remains slow. Similarly, since devolution has led to significant separation of responsibilities and networks across the internal borders of the UK, processes and policies in different parts of the UK have become somewhat disconnected, notwithstanding the role of European Commission policies as a major influence on all parts of the British uplands. This conference will renew and strengthen networks by revealing common challenges and sharing experiences. Presentations, using examples from a range of upland uses, will emphasise linkages between sectors and set the immediate priorities within three key themes of economy, environment and people.

Cost: £85 (Academics £47, Postgraduates or retired £25, Student £10)

Convenor: Dr Martin Price, Chair of RGS-IBG Mountain Research Group

Registration: Helen saunders, RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR (Tel: 020 7591 3007; Fax: 020 7591 3059).

Details on web: <http://www.rgs.org/pdf/uplands.pdf>

7.2 Rural Geography Research Group Postgraduate Conference: *Vital Ruralities*, Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University, 20th – 21st November 2002

Papers are invited from postgraduate students with a research focus, theoretical or methodological concerns that they think should be of interest to Rural Geographers. In addition to paper sessions, there will be workshops and the opportunity for poster presentations. Postgraduates just starting, or at any stage of their research are welcome. The aim of the event is to provide a forum for discussion, skills sharing, and raise the level of communication between postgraduates researching rural issues. We would also greatly welcome any staff/researchers who would be willing to participate in workshop sessions and share their experience.

Further details and application forms are available from the organisers:

Mark Riley – riley@geography.nottingham.ac.uk

Miriam Renner – M.E.Renner@ncl.ac.uk

7.3 International Rural Network Conference and Exchange of Experience: *Taking Charge: Rural Community Empowerment in Rural Development, Rural Health and Rural Education*, Inverness, Scottish Highlands, UK, 23-27 June 2003.

This Conference and exchange of experience is organised by the Arkleton Centre for Rural Development Research at the University of Aberdeen and the UHI Millennium Institute based in Inverness, on behalf of the International Rural Network.

Building on previous events in Queensland, Australia and Vancouver Island, Canada the 5-day Conference aims to bring together practitioners from rural communities with rural policy makers and scholars. The emphasis of the event is on sharing practical experiences and highlighting the way in which communities have exerted power over education, health, welfare, environment, quality of life, governance, and economic development to provide positive outcomes for the people living in them. In keeping with the aims of the Conference, the agenda is being developed from the bottom up. Suggestions for workshops and presentations are being sought from participants and these can be forwarded to the co-ordinators via the Conference website, details of which are provided below.

The Conference will be based in Inverness in the Scottish Highlands, an area which experiences various challenges due to its rural and peripheral nature. It is however extremely fortunate to have a number of long established support organisations and there will be an opportunity to visit a broad range of local community based initiatives as part of the Conference.

If you would like to Register to attend the Conference or have suggestions for workshop topics please go to the website at <http://workforce.cup.edu/wyman> Alternatively, you can send an email to takingcharge@abdn.ac.uk or send a fax to Rhys Evans at +44 (0) 1224 273902.

7.4 RGS-IBG Rural Geography Research Group (with the American Association of Geographers and the Canadian Association of Geographers) Fifth British-American-Canadian Conference on Rural Geography: *Contrasting Ruralities: Changing Rural Economies, Societies and Landscapes*, University of Exeter and University of Plymouth, 14-19 July, 2003.

The conference is the fifth in a highly successful series of British-American-Canadian Rural Geography symposia. The continuation of these meetings reflects and affects the development of international research ideas and synergies between geographers

in these three countries. The conference will be held on the campuses of both the University of Exeter and the University of Plymouth between Monday, 14th July, 2003 and Saturday, 19th July, 2003.

Places are likely to be limited to about 15 from each country and an early expression of interest is therefore recommended. All conference delegates are invited to present a paper (20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions). A book of papers from the conference is planned with Ashgate. Please submit a 500 word abstract to Stephen Essex (sessex@plymouth.ac.uk) by 18th November, 2002. Please state whether you would wish your paper to be considered for publication in a proposed book from the conference.

The six-day conference fee is £390, to include bed and breakfast accommodation in halls of residence (en-suite facilities) at the University of Exeter (14-15 July, 2003) and the University of Plymouth (16-18 July, 2003), refreshments and lunches for the four days, evening meals on two days, and two-day field visits.

Further information will be displayed on the conference web-site: <http://www.geog.plymouth.ac.uk/ruralgeography/>

Please note that attendance by postgraduates at this conference is encouraged. The RGS and RGRG have some funds to support UK postgraduates at this conference. Please ask for further details when submitting abstract.

Stephen Essex, Richard Yarwood, Andrew Gilg, Jo Little and Michael Winter.

7.5 Future Rural Economy and Society Study Group Events

19th Feb 2003

RESSG seminar: 'Youthful Ruralities' at the University of Wales Swansea.
Further details from Keith Halfacree (k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk)

21st May 2003

RESSG workshop: 'Young Rural Researchers' Meeting' at University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham.
Further details from Henry Buller: hbuller@glos.ac.uk

16th to 18th September 2003

RESSG annual conference: 'Cultural Turns, Rural Turns: critical (re)appraisals' at University of Newcastle.
Further details from Katy Bennett: katy.bennett@ncl.ac.uk

8. New publications

MOSELEY, M. (2003) *Rural Development: Principles and Practice*, Sage, London. Cased: 0-7619-4766-3 £60.00, Paper: 0-7619-4767-1 £19.99.
January 2003 240 pages

Advocating the fundamental need for an innovative and holistic approach to rural development, *Rural Development: Principles and Practice* demonstrates and explains, whilst seeking to improve, the mechanisms for planning, managing and financing rural development at the local level.

This book is structured in terms of the key concepts of this field: sustainability, innovation, adding value, entrepreneurship, community, social inclusion, accessibility, partnership, community involvement, diagnosis, strategic planning, implementation

and evaluation. Each is then placed into a practical context by two illustrative case studies related to development in rural Europe, the initiatives of which the author was either personally involved in or had personal knowledge.

The first director of ACRE (the national voluntary organisation committed to promoting the vitality of England's villages and small towns and to improving the quality of life of their disadvantaged residents), Malcolm Moseley is a researcher, teacher and consultant in the European Union's 'LEADER Rural Development Programme' and the Countryside and Community Research Unit of the University of Gloucester. The author draws from this wealth of personal experience with the aim of providing activists, practitioners and specialists, as well as students, a concise and operational text which links the theory and practice of undertaking locally focused rural development. As such, **Rural Development: Principles and Practice** is essential reading for all interested or actively involved in local rural development issues.

Contents

Rural Development: Making it Local \ PRINCIPLES \ Sustainability: Respecting the Long Term \ Innovation: Breaking the Mould \ Adding Value: Building on What's There \ Entrepreneurship: Backing the Risk-Taker \ Community: Fostering a Sense of Belonging \ Social Inclusion: Bringing on Board \ Accessibility: Bringing Within Reach \ with Trevor Cherrett Partnership: Working in Harness \ Community Involvement: Embracing the People \ PRACTICE \ Diagnosis: Researching the Baseline \ Strategic Planning: Orchestrating Action \ Implementation: Making Things Happen \ Evaluation: Assessing Achievement \ Conclusion: More Research Needed.

9. Items for Spring 2003 Newsletter

Articles, letters and comments and other items for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter should be sent to: Stephen Essex, RGRG Newsletter Editor, Department of Geography, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, PL4 8AA by 30th March 2003; Tel. +44 (0)1752 233080; Fax: +44 (0)1752 233054; e-mail: s.essex@plymouth.ac.uk.