

Chairman's review of SDGA activities 2010-11

We have had a busy year, with more sixth form lectures than before. There has been a healthy range of activities for other age groups as well.

We opened the year on 6th October 2010 at Churston Ferrers GS with two lectures. 'Population & Resources: achieving the right balance?' was given by Dr Richard Yarwood, University of Plymouth. This was followed by Professor Chris Caseldine, of the University of Exeter talking about 'Ejyafjallajokull eruption 2010 - past, present and future?' Attendance was good, about 100. Both talks were of a high standard, and enthused students about the potential of Geography.

At Torquay Boys' GS on 16th March 2011 there were two more lectures. 'Global Change: Local Action. Climate change and the UK', was by Dr Ralph Fyfe, University of Plymouth, and Tars Sandhu spoke on 'India in the 21st century'. About 60 people attended. This gave many students the opportunity to think about the implications of global shifts in Geography.

There was an excellent turnout at Torquay Girls' GS for the WORLDWISE QUIZ on 17th November 2010. Several schools provided more than one team, which encouraged more competition. Winners this year were Torquay Boys GS team A. Several schools fielded younger teams, so we are hopeful that they will return next year.

As I have decided to finish my career as a school teacher, it is time for me to stand down as Chair. It has been most rewarding to see young people grow in their love for Geography and eagerness to improve our world in some way or other. The SDGA has forged a link between schools and had a positive impact on our teaching and learning in South Devon schools. I am proud to have been part of this movement. I am always grateful for the work of Teresa Davison and David Lewis for arranging these talks, and the many other activities that have made us one of the most active GA branches in the country. My thanks also go to Plymouth University for their support in many ways, including the hosting of our website.