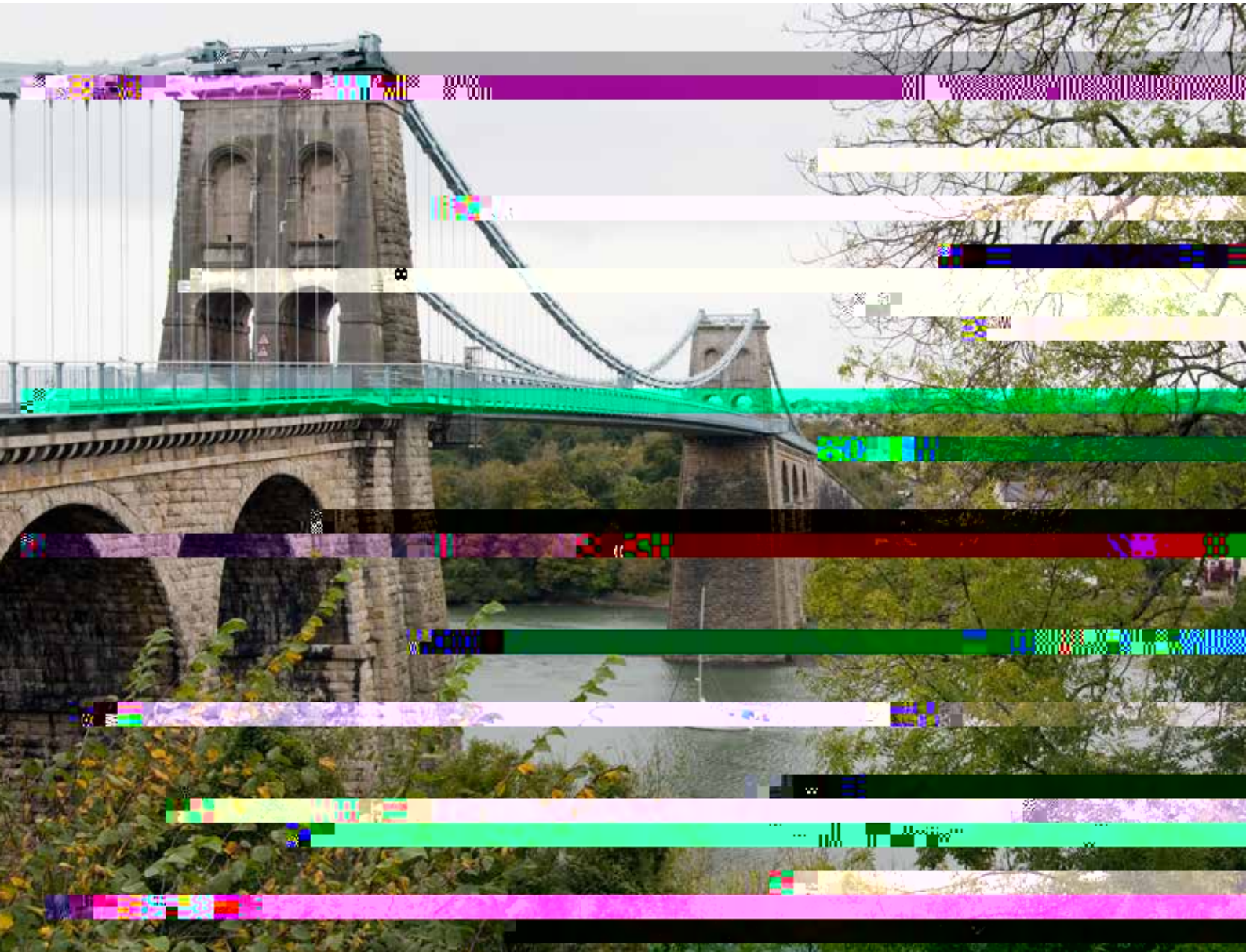


# THE BRIDGE

LINKING  
PAST AND PRESENT  
WITH THE FUTURE



August 2016



The School of Ocean Sciences Association (SOSA) was founded in 1994 by Sinclair Buchan and George Floodgate. Its aim is to foster close links with all those who have passed through the SOS in Menai Bridge over the years. For further information:  
[www.bangor.ac.uk/oceansciences/alumni](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/oceansciences/alumni)  
[www.facebook.com/sosbangor](http://www.facebook.com/sosbangor)

**If this newsletter is sent to a wrong address or e-mail, please notify us as soon as possible by going to:**

**[www.sos.bangor.ac.uk/oceansciences/alumni](http://www.sos.bangor.ac.uk/oceansciences/alumni)**

**or contacting**

**[b.w.perkins@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:b.w.perkins@bangor.ac.uk)**

## **President/Head of SOS**

Chris Richardson  
[c.a.richardson@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.richardson@bangor.ac.uk)

## **Chairman**

Mick Cook  
[mick@mickcook.com](mailto:mick@mickcook.com)

## **Associate/Founder**

Sinclair Buchan  
[sindairbuchan@gmail.com](mailto:sindairbuchan@gmail.com)

## **Secretary**

Paul Butler  
[p.g.butler@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.butler@bangor.ac.uk)

## **Treasurer**

David Assinder  
[d.assinder@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:d.assinder@bangor.ac.uk)

## **Alumn**

## **Chairman**

News from the Alumni

# Road to Icthyol atry

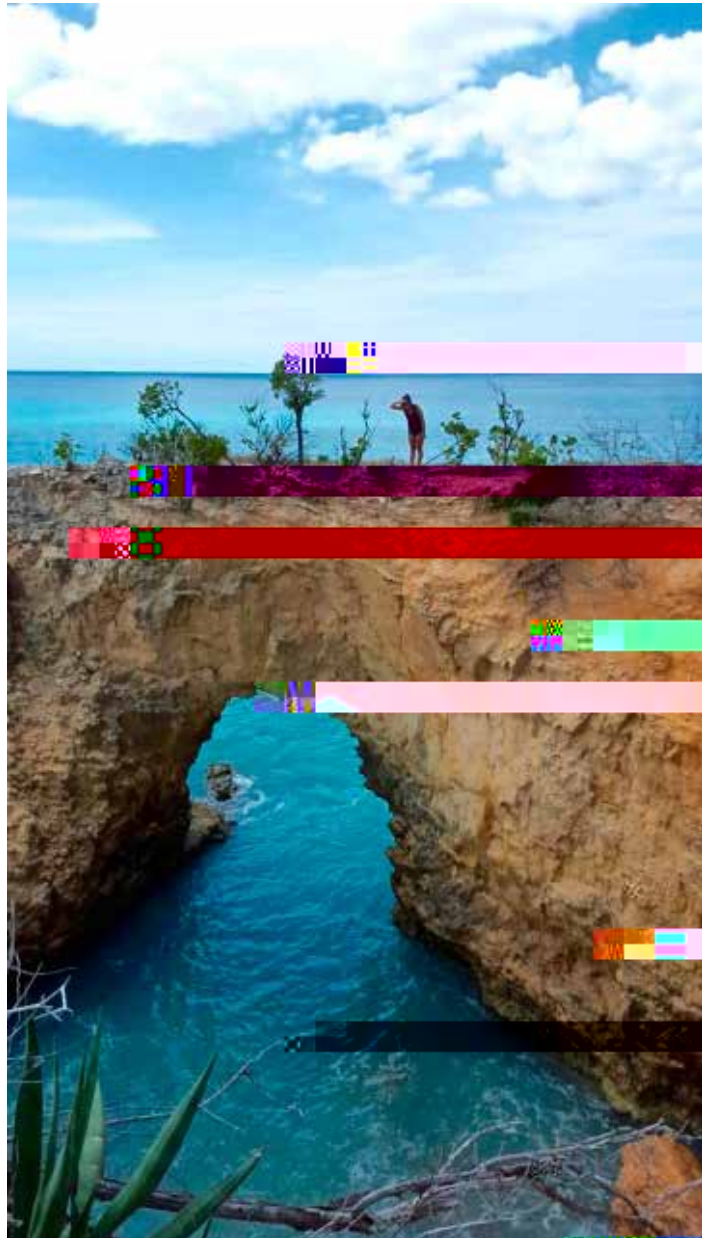
## From Welsh dancing to Caribbean snails

After a great time being an alumnus of SOS, experiencing some great Welsh weather, dancing and language, it was time for me to leave for a new adventure. This new adventure was in the Caribbean: Anguilla, British West Indies!

My name is Larissa Ayumi Kuramae Izioka from the Netherlands, and I am a student of Coastal and Marine Management, specialising in marine biology. Crazy about tropical marine ecosystems, and of course the sun, I got an internship position with my previous supervisors Erik Boman and Martijn de Graaf from the Institute of Marine Resources and Ecological Studies.

I have been in the Caribbean for almost 6 months undertaking research on the “*Population status and reproductive biology of the queen conch (Lobatus gigas) in the waters of Anguilla*”. The queen conch is a large marine gastropod (snail) found in shallow waters on seagrass (*Thalassia*) beds. They have shell length of up to 30 cm and they do not occur in waters deeper than 25 m due to light limitation. Their distribution ranges from the Gulf of Mexico up to Bermuda and down to Brazil.

In the wider Caribbean, the queen conch has a nutritional and traditional value. They have been fished for decades because they reside in easily accessible waters and, after all, they are not the fastest animals. They move



# The Spy who stays out in the cold



Sea Ice of De Kastris - Eastern Siberia

Colin is a geo-survey specialist,  
providing con

a al



basis. She could be right...

Cable lay vessel 'Giulio Verne' - Western Link HVDC Power Cable

I must away - as the small

# A letter to Professor James Scourse



James,  
How are you? I graduated from Ocean sciences in 2008—you supervised my Msc project on Heinrich events



## Bridges of the World

College Station, Texas, doesn't really have any bridges as it is set in flat country north of Houston. So, here's a picture of a much better bridge, from Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, where I am presently completing a 6-month sabbatical while writing a book on upwelling systems and working on the upwelling system of the local coast. This bridge crosses a deep gorge in the middle of the Flinders campus and there is occasionally water underneath it when the rain decides to come.

Since visiting Bangor last summer for the open day for the new building (which I hope is proving as successful as was anticipated), I have not met any more alumni other than Peter Liss, who passed through Texas A&M en route to the AGU meeting in San Francisco last December.

Other than this, I am still a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Oceanography, working on the chemical oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico, though contemplating reducing my hours in a year or so. I recently led a consortium of about 20 researchers from all over the U.S., plus one from Cardiff, that has just completed a multi-million dollar project

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News from the Alumni

# **SOSA Membership Survey**

# SOSA Membership Survey

## Digital vs Paper Copies of The Bridge

Members will be aware that in these austere times, we struggle to raise funding to support the printing and circulation of paper copies of The Bridge. Each edition costs ~£4,000 to print and post to members. As a result, Question 9 asked "If you currently receive a paper copy of The Bridge, would you prefer to continue to receive paper copies rather than electronic copies in the future?". Less than 20% of respondents answered Yes to this question. I believe that this will radically change our approach to The Bridge in the future.

## Payment for Paper Copies of The Bridge

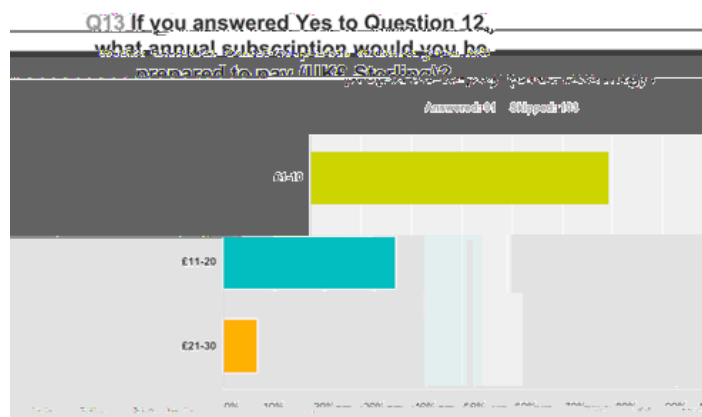
Following on from Question 9, the next question asked "If you answered Yes to Question 9, would you be prepared to pay for a paper copy of The Bridge through an annual subscription for membership of SOSA?" Interestingly, only ~30% of respondents that wished to continue to receive paper copies of The Bridge were prepared to pay for this through an annual subscription for SOSA membership.

## Reunion Events

Question 11 asked members to express their level of interest in SOSA reunion events on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being very interested. Only ~35% of respondents indicated that they were interested or very interested in reunion events and the weighted average response was 3.1.

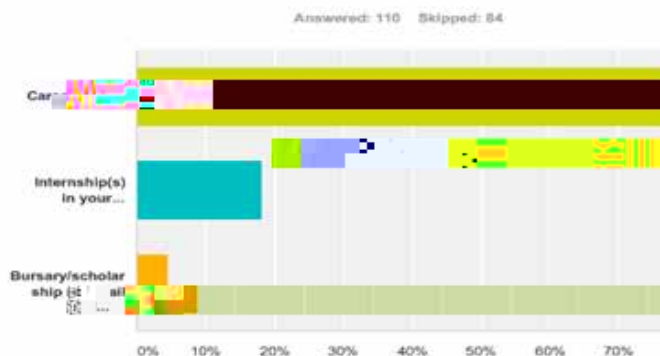
## SOSA Membership Subscription

Question 12 asked members if they were prepared to subscribe for SOSA membership. Currently, SOSA is run on a voluntary basis with occasional but dwindling financial support from the University/School and an increasing reliance on sponsorship from industry; particularly for printing and posting The Bridge. Responses to this question were split nearly 50/50 with "No" having a slim majority. Following on from this, we asked that "If you responded Yes to Question 12, what annual subscription would you be prepared to pay (UK Sterling)?". The question offered three price bands and the results are shown below. The vast majority of those prepared to pay would wish to pay £20 or less per year.



## Support for SOS Students

Finally, we asked about members' preparedness to support current SOS students and the results are illustrated below. Almost 80% of respondents were prepared to provide career's advice and ~20% said that they could possibly offer internships to students. Less than 5% were prepared to offer financial support through bursaries/scholarships.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all who responded to our survey. This has produced some very interesting results and we intend discussing these and how they can be used to shape the future of SOSA at our next committee meeting. I will keep you informed on progress. **Mick Cook – Chairman, School of Ocean Sciences Alumni Association**







News from the SOS

# **Celebrating the student-led teaching awards**

## Miscellanea

### Take me back to New Orleans

This year the world's leading Ocean Sciences academic conference, AGU Ocean Science, took place in the Crescent City, New Orleans.

Many Bangor academics at ended the conference with Dr Simon Neill helping to lead a conference session on Marine Renewables and Dr Yeung-Djern Lenn on mixing processes in polar seas. Amongst the other Bangor delegates, MOcean student Stacey Carless presented her work on the impact of sea level rise on t des.

Life-long jazz player, Prof Tom Rippeth, also made the most of the conference locat on sit ng in with local jazz groups. He also found t me to catch up with Anglesey born James Evans, one t me clarinet player with the SOS linked jazzband, Dixie Dilemma, which also included Prof James Scourse (on double bass) and then MSc and PhD Physical Oceanography students Dr Tim O'Hare (now at Plymouth University) and Prof Jonathan Sharples (now at Liverpool University). James Evans is now a professional jazz musician in New Orleans.

*Prof. Tom Rippeth playing the Askew Street Blues at BB King's Blues Club.*



*UK Marine Renewables Experts meet ng earlier this year in the new Marine Centre Wales building.*

### Polar Visitor

SOS was pleased to welcome world leading polar Physical Oceanographer Professor Mary-Louise Timmerman of Yale University, USA, as this year's



# Miscellanea

**Come on, come on, do the loco-MOcean with me!**



*The first students graduating on the new MOcean 4 year Master's degree: Eric Fitton, Zoe Roseby, Kate Scarf and Bonita Barrett-Crosdill.*

The first students on the newly revamped MOcean 4-year undergraduate degree course graduated in July 2015. Of the 5 students graduating, 3 immediately secured funded PhD studentships at top UK Ocean, Atmospheric and Geoscience departments, whilst a fourth opted for the world of working, getting a job with CEFAS.

The new route to a Masters degree was created in response



# I'd like to get you on a fast boat to China

School of Ocean Sciences has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. The aim of the MoU is to establish and develop a strategic collaborative relationship in order to promote academic and cultural exchange between the two institutions.



# Bangor research projects among top 20 contributing towards development

## Kenya



A researcher at SOS is also a key member of a research partnership, which is protecting local livelihoods in coastal parts of Kenya, by supporting mangrove forest conservation and restoration in the region. Poor communities rely heavily on the natural resources that the mangroves provide.

Dr Martin Skov of is one of three key academics in the UK whose collective research has helped local communities initiate the world's first carbon trading project with a marine ecosystem: the mangroves.

The community project ([www.eafpes.org](http://www.eafpes.org)) brings \$18,000 annually to people of Gazi Bay by trading certificates of the CO<sub>2</sub> that is captured by the mangroves, which are protected by them. The profits fund job generation and community projects, such as building new school wings and water supplies. The project is now fully community run, and includes a variety of supporting activities.

## Chagos Archipelago

### The World's Largest Marine Reserve: Policy, Protection, Conservation and Outreach

Lead: Professor John Turner with Prof Charles Sheppard OBE, Emeritus Professor, University of Warwick and Dr Heather Koldewey, Zoological Society of London

Administration UK Government (The Government of BIOT based in London) and the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT)

The UK is responsible for the fifth largest area of ocean of any nation and has a duty to protect it. UK Overseas Territories contain 94% of the UK's biodiversity, and the Foreign Office is called upon to select and declare fully protected zones. The World's largest Marine Reserve of 640,000km<sup>2</sup> (equal to the area of France) currently surrounds the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, a wilderness uninhabited for ~60 years and containing significant populations of 76 IUCN Red List species, including

## In Memoriam

### **Dr Tony Jones, MBE, 1938-2016**

Tony Jones, who died on the 6th of May taught geology and marine geology to students at Menai Bridge for 5 decades, from the 1960's to the 2000's. In the larger university context, he was warden - later senior warden, at the halls of residence on the Friddoedd site in Bangor. In the national and international context, he was an advisor on search and rescue techniques, whose opinions and advice were sought worldwide. He was awarded the MBE and appeared on the TV programme "This is Your Life" because of his outstanding contribution in this field.

Tony was a larger-than-life character in the department. He loved to take students out of the classroom on fieldwork to show them the geology of the mountains he knew so well. He was quick to use new technology when it became available, but could also go back to basics when necessary as evidenced in his second year "Surveying Course" where methods taught ranged from long established "plane tabling" to the more sophisticated satellite positioning system. On one occasion, when a student used the incorrect protocol on a walkie-talkie, Tony's voice could be heard shouting across the mountainside: "it's either 'over' or 'out', not both!". The radio wasn't necessary to get that message across





## There's gold in them thar waves!

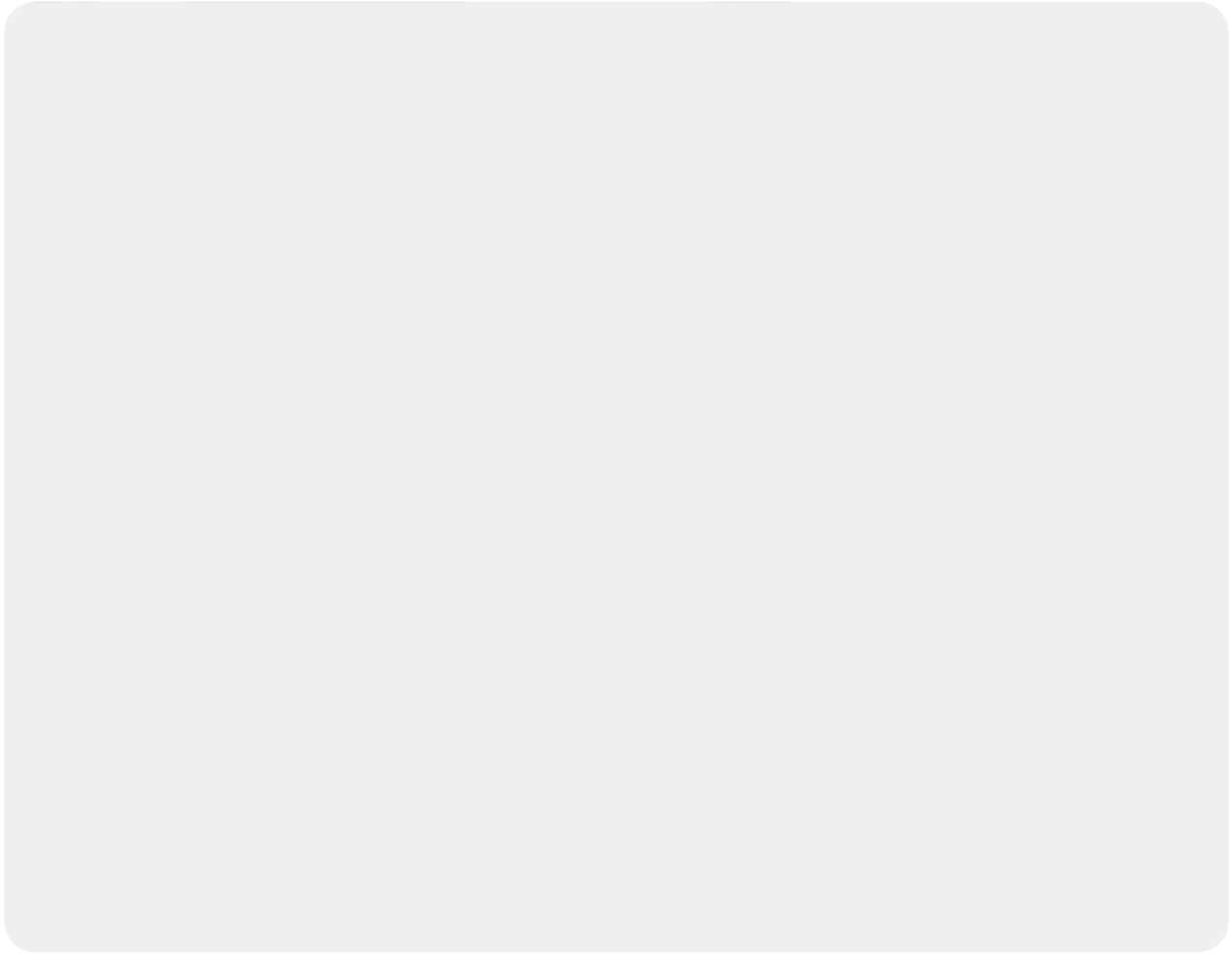
Suzie Jackson, alumnus and a lecturer in sediment dynamics in the SOS, was part of the GB women's white water rafting team that won the European Championship at Tacen, Slovenia.

Between the 19th and 21st May 2016 the GB women's rafting team battled to maintain their title as European Champions after their success in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2015.

The competition consisted of four races: a time trial sprint race; head-to-head racing; a slalom race; and! nd



# Remembering Professor Denzil Taylor-Smith



Denzil was born in November 1926 into a close-knit South Walian coal mining community. His early upbringing and experiences fostered an active interest





The sharp-eyed among you may have spotted something strange going on around the UK coastline recently. There have been sporadic sightings of groups of quadrat-wielding, wellie-wearing members of the public out on the rocky shore. The sight of these enthusiastic, intertidal surveyors could become a common occurrence over the next two and a half years. Why? Because the Capturing our Coast project has officially launched!

People with a passion for the UK's coastline are being invited to help make history by being part of one