
Intro to Gather.town

Hydro-JULES Summer School 2021

Dr Toby Marthews



Thank you

- First of all, a huge **thank you** for applying to and joining the Hydro-JULES Summer School 2021. **Welcome!**
- This is a new Summer School being presented on a range of novel online multimedia platforms, including new material from current research projects ongoing at UKCEH. Please be patient with us if something doesn't work.

Spread over the week we have:

- **Keynote Talks**
- **Three Virtual Field Trips**
- **Several Parallel Training Sessions** for using JULES, Datalabs and the new Hydro-JULES Modelling Framework
- **A Poster Session** and
- **A Grand Tour of the Hydro-JULES project**

We hope very much that you will both enjoy it and benefit from it.

I would also like to send a large **thank you** to all Hydro-JULES scientists for contributing content to the Summer School: putting together presentations and videos has been a lot of work over the last few weeks and is very much appreciated..



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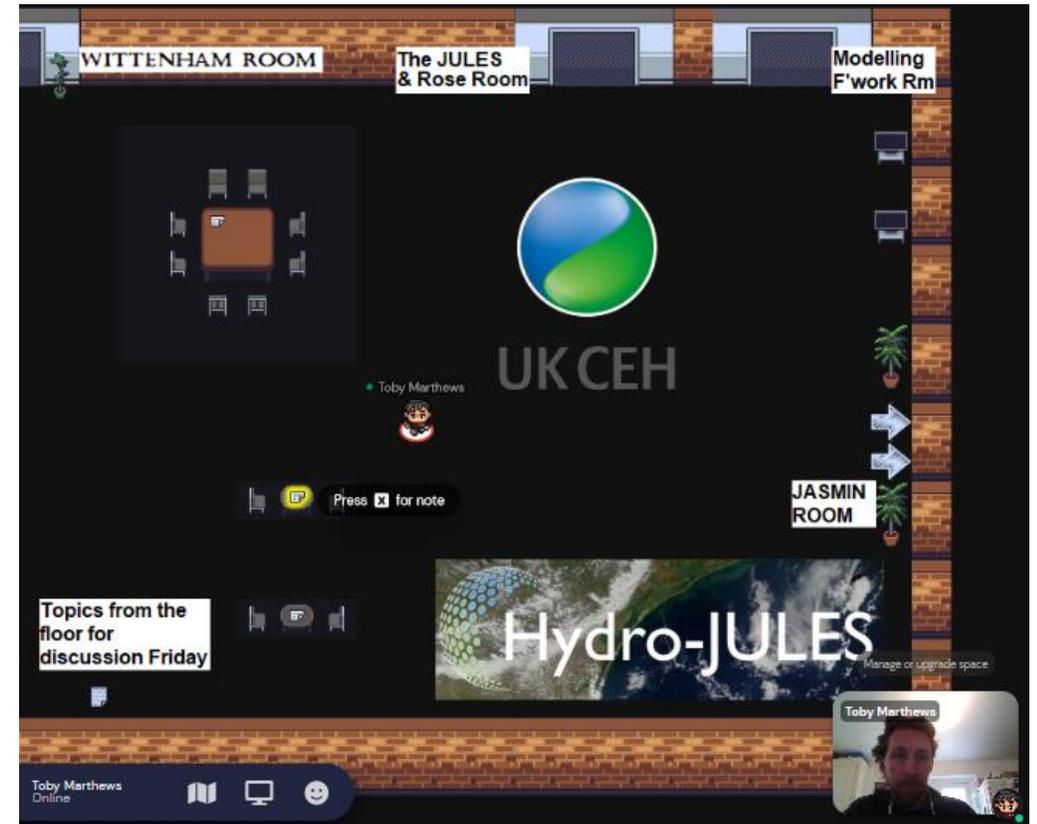
- Gather.town is a platform that simulates a conference-like environment online. It's been described as "like Zoom but better".
- There are lots of fairly extensive blogs online about Gather.town. Please see my page at <https://www.tobymarthews.com/gather.html> for the minimum information you need to be able to use it.
- Please note that **I (Toby) am the main point of contact for any technical issues.** Please do feel free to either **message me** or **locate me** (within Gather.town) or **email me** tobmar@ceh.ac.uk (outside Gather.town) at any point during the week if you have video/audio or any other problems.
- As with all new platforms, Gather takes a little while to get used to. Here are some basic tips ...



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As you will have worked out by now:

- On laptops, **press x to interact with objects** (pamphlets on tables, TV screens, etc.)
- If you go **within a few steps** of another person, a group call will start automatically (unless you are in Ghost Mode - press “g” - or in a private space)
- **Screen sharing** is possible: see <https://support.gather.town/help/screensharing>
- Use the **Locate facility** to find someone else in the space by clicking on their name on the left
- **More information** on <https://www.tobymarthews.com/gather.html> .



PRIVATE SPACES: These are an important part of Gather.town. When you are in a private space, you can see and hear everyone else in that space (like on a Zoom call / Skype / Teams) but you can't see or hear anyone outside it. Look for the different coloured carpets in each room to identify the private spaces.

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In the Foyer of the online space, there are Feedback forms for you to fill in (towards the end of the week).

In the same room, there is also an editable document to allow you to suggest topics for discussion at the open session on Friday.

Please do make full use of these.

By the way, please be patient on Gather.town: if you leave to have a quick coffee / another break then your avatar remains in place just doing nothing. Therefore, if you try to chat with someone standing alone in a room and they don't reply, it's likely they are not 'there'!



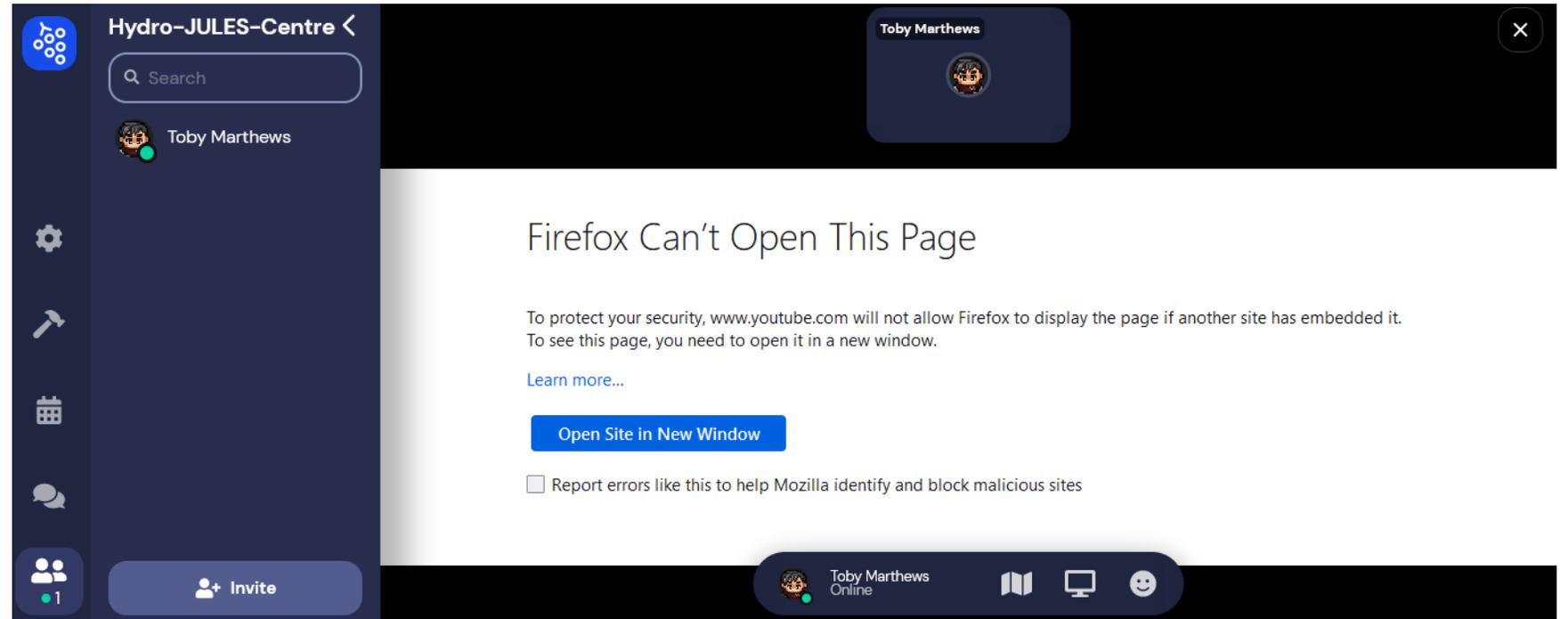
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VIDEO OBJECTS:

- Many objects around the online space contain videos (usually TV objects).



- If you open a video but see a warning like this one (“Can’t Open This Page”) then don’t panic: just click the blue button and the website will open.
- (This is a security issue, not an error: URLs that are embeddable within an iframe will not bring up this page).



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As you will know from the schedule, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-10am there will be **Keynote Talks**.

Please note that these will be happening **on Zoom**, not Gather.town.

TUESDAY 13 th July		
0900-0930	Controls of evaporation from above and below the surface	Eleanor Blyth, Ross Morrison & Hollie Cooper (UK CEH)
0930-1000	The importance of observations in understanding past, present and future hydrological variability	Jamie Hannaford (UK CEH)
WEDNESDAY 14 th July		
0900-0930	Modelling groundwater at the British mainland scale - so far so good? A summary of the current progress and the challenges to come	Andrew Hughes (BGS)
0930-1000	Groundwater interactions with the land surface fluxes. Introduction of a Dynamic GWater Scheme into the JULES LSM	Alberto Martínez-de la Torre (UK CEH)
THURSDAY 15 th July		
0900-09.15	Combining JULES with observations to improve soil moisture estimates	Liz Cooper (UK CEH)
0915-0930	Soil moisture monitoring from space	Maliko Tanguy (UK CEH)
0930-0945	Data Assimilation for Hydrological Forecasting	Michael Eastman (UK CEH)
0945-1000	Improving Winter Streamflow Forecasts with the North Atlantic Oscillation Index	Katie Facer-Childs (UK CEH)

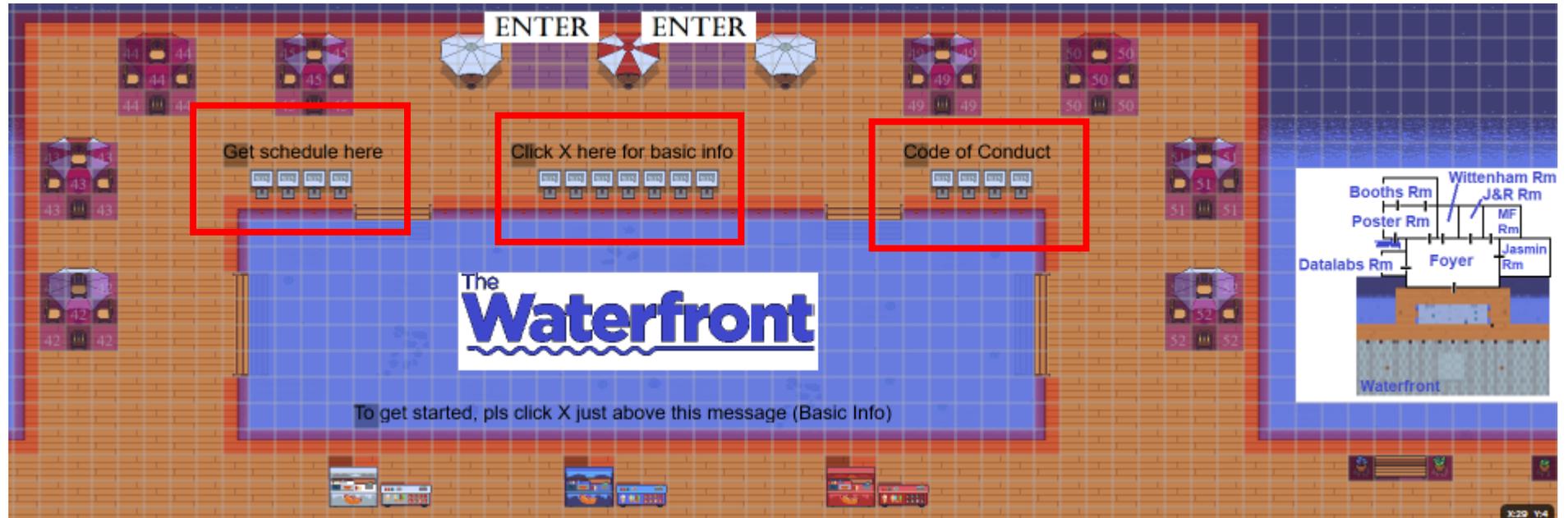
Please note that **you must register** for the three Keynote Sessions above before Tuesday on <https://hydro-jules.org/hydro-jules-summer-school-2021>.

n.b. The Q&A sessions *after* these talks will be taking place back on Gather.town (Wittenham Room), not on Zoom.

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When you first enter the online space, you will appear in **The Waterfront**. Please note the documents uploaded here:

- The **Schedule**
- **Basic info**
- The **Code of Conduct**



The online space is open 24/7 and the organisers do not need to be online to have it work: you have all been given access for this week and please feel free to use it informally between you all (e.g. for your own meetings outside the scheduled events).

A final comment: in designing this online space, we have tried to take into account the fact that being online for extended periods of time is tiring. It's difficult to reduce this in a week-long school that is entirely online, but we have tried to design the space in a light-hearted way. This is why the online rooms are deliberately 'interesting', with things to discover here and there. There is even a Moonpool Room for you to find, which serves no purpose other than for online rest and relaxation (!).

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