

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORER

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019



SCIENTIFIC
EXPLORATION
SOCIETY

Expeditions, News and Events

DISCOVER

Pioneers with Purpose

RESEARCH

Explorer Talks

CONSERVE

Welcome

Scientific Exploration Society (SES) is a UK-based charity (No 267410) that was founded in 1969 by Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE and it is one of the longest running exploration organisations in the world.

SES leads, funds and supports scientific discovery, research and conservation in remote and developing parts of the world offering knowledge, education and community aid. Our focus today is on supporting young explorers through our Explorer Awards programme, building a community of like-minded individuals through the Society's membership, organising regular Explorer Talks and Charity Events for members and friends to enjoy and providing opportunities to go on scientific expeditions.

The Society has an excellent Honorary Advisory Board, which includes Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Rosie Stancer, Pen Hadow, Ben Fogle, Bear Grylls, Mark Beaumont, Tim Peake and Levison Wood. Without its support, and that of our Trustees, part-time staff and volunteers, SES would struggle to do all that it does. Thank you to everyone involved.

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“Exploration is about discovery; discovery of the world around us and beyond. But as well as that, it is about the discovery of what drives you. What motivates you to push the boundaries of human knowledge, and the boundaries of human endurance.”

Louis Rudd MBE (2019 SES Explorer of the Year)



SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Thursday 23rd January 2020	Honorary Advisory Board Reception kindly hosted by SES Trustee Peter Felix CBE and June Felix	London
Tuesday 28th January 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Adrian Hayes – <i>One Man's Climb on K2</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Tuesday 25th February 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Sacha Dench – <i>The Human Swan</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Wednesday 18th March 2020 (6pm AGM, 6.30pm for 7pm talk)	Annual General Meeting followed by a talk from George Bullard – <i>Rewilding Humans</i>	Park Tower Hotel (SES Boardroom) Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN
Tuesday 28th April 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Mike Laird – <i>Lake Baikal Expedition</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Sunday 26th April 2020	Virgin Money London Marathon 2020	London
Thursday 14th May 2020 (6.30pm)	Charity Evening John Blashford-Snell's Mongolian Khan Khentii Expedition 2020 – <i>Community Project</i> (Tickets £50 – via EVENTBRITE soon)	London
Wednesday 20th May 2020 (6pm)	Explorer Awards Presentation Evening (Tickets £20, £15 SES members and £10 Concessions – via EVENTBRITE soon)	The Law Society 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL
Tuesday 23rd June 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Eilidh Munro and team mate Bethan John (2018 Neville Shulman Explorer) – <i>Voices on the Road</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Wednesday 23rd September 2020	SES Charity Event and Raffle Speaker TBC	Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

Tickets
to ALL
SES events
are on
EVENTBRITE

Diary 2020

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Tuesday 29th September 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Jenny Wordsworth – <i>Embracing Failure</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Tuesday 27th October 2020 (6.30pm drinks for 7pm talk)	Explorer Talk Joshua Powell (2019 SES Explorer) – <i>Rangers Without Borders</i>	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Thursday 21st January 2021	Honorary Advisory Board Reception kindly hosted by SES Trustee Peter Felix CBE and June Felix	London



GEORGE BULLARD – ‘REWILDING HUMANS’

7pm on Wednesday 18th March, Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

George is a world record-breaking explorer, endurance athlete, speaker, brand ambassador for Bullard's Gin and partner at IGO Adventures. He is also a member of the Society's Honorary Advisory Board. Book your tickets now on Eventbrite (FREE to SES members and £10 General Admission) to hear George talk about 'Rewilding Humans'!

“An explorer’s hunger for adventure is never fully satisfied. We all have the opportunity to be curious and to push our own exploration boundaries. We just have to dare, dream, discover.”

Dee Caffari MBE (2019 SES Pioneer with Purpose)



Message from the Chairman

This has been a very positive year for SES. We have seen modest growth in unrestricted income for a second year in a row that has allowed us to fully fund our operations without utilising the Reserves.

I am also pleased to report that membership has tripled over the last two years, due mainly to our jam-packed schedule of engaging events and an easier way of signing-up for membership online.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of The Conquest of the Blue Nile – the expedition that launched our charity. This was followed by another celebration – the 50th anniversary of SES, with a fabulous dinner at Queen's Club and an excellent talk from SES Honorary Advisory Board member, Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE. The SES Explorer Talk programme, a relaxed monthly gathering at the Coopers Arms, Chelsea with guest speakers, has really taken off with almost every talk selling out.

None of this would happen without the continued hard work and support of the staff at Expedition Base, ably led by our CEO Henrietta Thorpe, SES Council members and all our Honorary Advisory Board members.

I would also like to thank our generous sponsors, major donors and keynote speakers. So, a special mention to RSK, Medelinked, Christopher Wright, Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE, Ollie Phillips, Louis Rudd MBE and Dee Caffari MBE.

In 2020, we plan to build on the progress made this year. We look forward to establishing new relationships with corporate partners and growing our existing ones. This will ensure that SES will thrive for another 50 years and continue to support and enable the next generation of scientific explorers with their important projects.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Neil Laughton
Chairman of Trustees
neil@laughton.co

Judith Heath's *bequest to SES*

Judith Heath Bequest

The Society has been incredibly fortunate this year to receive an extremely generous bequest from Judith Heath, who was a longstanding supporter and member of SES. Judith was a keen botanist and went on many expeditions with John Blashford-Snell. She was passionate that all the findings from SES expeditions (that are stored at Expedition Base) should be archived and preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

In honour of her memory, a special committee has been created to manage the bequest monies in a way that Judith would approve. A Judith Heath Explorer Award for Botany and Research will also be created. We are extremely grateful to Judith for remembering SES in her Will.

This kind of financial support enables the Society to continue its work of leading, funding and supporting scientific discovery, research and conservation in remote parts of the world offering knowledge, education and community aid.

To Pluck an Orchid

(Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

In 1993 I took a small party to carry-out a reconnaissance expedition in Arunachal Pradesh, in NE India. Supported by SES, our aim was to study the traditional medicine, botany, wildlife and culture of this rarely visited area, with a view to future scientific expeditions. In fact, no such groups were believed to have visited since 1947.



Judith Heath, a keen amateur botanist had an important job to do in collecting orchids and plant specimens. However, on marching into the dense rainforest near the Burma border, we soon encountered hordes of small worm-like leeches that attacked us. Although we wore anti-leech gaiters, soaked in an ammonia solution (that left us smelling like a public urinal) the little devils quickly found a way of crawling up our legs. Then silently, they sank their teeth into our limbs and began to suck our blood. The beasts pumped in some form of anaesthetic so one felt nothing until they had swollen-up like fat garden slugs. Pulling them off was hazardous in case their heads became detached and remained to infect one's flesh. It was

best to touch them with a lighted cigarette to persuade them to release their grip.

"If you want me to collect specimens from the trees I'm not going on foot" stated Judith, who although a most robust woman, was tired of removing these unpleasant creatures from her body. *"I'll see if I can hire an elephant for you"* I replied and approached the headman of a nearby village. *"Oh yes"* he said, *"I can provide you with an elephant, but you will have to take it's baby too!"*



My Lord, that's the last thing we want, I thought, as it will run off and get lost in the Jungle and we'll be held-up trying to find it. However, the headman insisted that mother would not go without her baby and what was more, he'd charge me for one and a half elephants per day! Reluctantly I agreed, but then the artful fellow said *"But you must also take the baby's aunt!"*. This really was too much but he insisted mother and baby would not go without auntie.

"Your floral collection is getting rather expensive" I told Judith, but she was as stubborn as the mother elephant and would not enter the forest, teeming with loathsome leeches. So we set off, with Judith on the Jumbo plucking the botanical specimens.

As I'd envisaged, the baby disappeared and whilst auntie was sent to find it, our botanical collecting party came to a halt. This happened several times and we were much delayed. By the time we set out to march home, a river that had been a trickle when we crossed it on the way out, was now swollen by a rainstorm in the mountains. I could see the baby would never get across and its mother would not leave it. However, I need not have worried. The little fellow took hold of his mother's tail with his trunk and she towed him over. Arriving back at our camp, the baby was eager to get home and finding our Indian contractor's car blocking the path, squealed in rage and charged it, making a deep dent in the wing.

Thus, Judith Heath's botanical study cost me two and a half elephants and an expensive repair to a car!

SES Expeditions

SES Championed Expeditions 2019

Stephen Spencer: Madagascar Medical Expedition (MadEx) 2019

2016 Rivers Foundation Explorer Stephen is founder and director of Madagascar Medical Expeditions (MadEx), an organisation that works in the remote rainforest of Madagascar to tackle neglected tropical diseases such as schistosomiasis (more commonly known as bilharzia). The aim of MadEx is to control schistosomiasis infection in populations living in Marolambo by doing the following:

- Research the burden of schistosomiasis in Marolambo.
- Provision and development of health education to schools.
- Provide annual treatment for both schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis.

In addition to annual morbidity assessments and prevention and treatment interventions, the MadEx team enhance understanding of schistosomiasis in the region by adding a new focus for each year. For previous years, these have been as follows:

- 2016: Handheld ultrasound assessment of schistosomiasis-related morbidity.
- 2017: Implementation of a novel education programme.
- 2018: Investigation of the snails involved in the parasite's life-cycle.



Danielle Jackson: South African Conservation Expedition 2019

Danielle and Jake Dove, having worked as a wildlife veterinarian and ecologist respectively on a number of private game reserves in the Eastern Cape of South Africa for over half a decade, have seen how empowering local communities is the key to conserving the natural heritage of South Africa as much as carrying-out high-profile conservation efforts. The aim of the South African Conservation Expedition was to take a group of Glasgow-based University students, set to be the next leaders in their respective professions, to the Eastern Cape of South Africa. By exposing them to the incredible wildlife, as well as the real-life challenges faced by the conservationists in situ, Danielle and Jake hoped to inspire them to take-up the mantle of conservation whilst having a tangible and



lasting effect on the local communities the Expedition Team will work with. The Expedition included:

- Sponsoring of an endangered species veterinary procedure to replace the telemetry tracking collars on a pride of lions in the area.
- Carrying-out research into the health of estuarine habitats monitoring for the effects of climate change on the biodiversity of the ecosystem.
- Working with ecology and anti-poaching units to understand the challenges faced by conservationists, especially relating to the rhino crisis.
- Sponsoring of projects within a local Xhosa school to improve sanitary and communal areas for the children, decreasing the risk of sickness (due to poor hygiene) leading to missed time at school.
- Sponsoring of recycling bins for the local schools and townships in order to improve the aesthetics of the areas and to raise environmental awareness within wider communities.
- Providing a structured programme with roles and responsibilities for the students enabling them to demonstrate and develop leadership and team-working skills, which will count towards the qualifications they are already undertaking in other areas of their studies.
- Inspiring the students and creating future ambassadors for conservation.

SES Endorsed Expeditions 2019

Andrew Harper: A Series of 13 Surveys (Simpson Desert, Australia) 2019

Andrew's 13 surveys – Songlines & Shared Journeys – Knowledge Mapping the Simpson Desert documented the flora and fauna, indigenous occupation and invasive species across the southern, central and eastern Simpson Desert (Australia).

The principal scientific aims were to conduct fauna and flora surveys using systematic and standardised census methodology across the more remote and isolated parts of the Simpson Desert using traditionally outfitted pack camels. Of primary interest were those areas acting as dry-period refugia, especially those linked to



cultural significance (e.g. waterholes, native wells or mikiri). Historically, these areas are known to provide important habitats for native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, which are able to maintain populations during otherwise unfavourable conditions. Surveys within these areas provide an inventory of species, insights into their significance, as well as the distribution and extent of key threatening processes. The information can be used in adaptive management strategies for those relating to fire regimes, feral animals, weeds and climate change.

Update from Andrew Harper – November 2019

The major archaeological survey on a site that was discovered last year was brought forward and extended: there was a system of native wells – or mikiri – in the Simpson Desert that allowed people to live and trade right across the desert. 12 of these mikiri have been identified and visited since European exploration of the area from 1884. Last year, the team discovered two more that not only were unknown to archaeologists, but had also vanished from the local Wangkangurru-Yarluyandi history as well. These finds are extremely important. Since the story from the ABC (<https://ab.co/36Il061>) went to air, preliminary carbon dating of shell fragments indicate that the site is at least 600 years old.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE: Bolivia Quest 2020

The Bolivian Amazonas area is one of the least known areas of this challenging country. The Beni river flows down from the towering Andes in to the rain forest pampa, swamps and lakes of North Eastern Bolivia, before meandering on to join the Amazon in Brazil. In the past 20 years, John has carried out a number of expeditions to the remote parts of this area and has been able to help a number of poor communities.

Now John has been asked to assist the village of Tres Hermanos on the Beni river. There are 17 families here with around 94 people who urgently need their primary school refurbished and a clean water supply put into operation. Contractors started to install a water supply system and a 30ft tower was built and a pump installed, but before the system was complete, funds ran out. Now the tower needs a 5,000 litre water tank.



The villagers have no funds but are prepared to work on the project with some expert guidance. John plans to repair and refurbish the school, deliver reading glasses for those in need and books for the school. He also aims to install a water storage tank. The cost is estimated at \$9,400 with material being brought in by large canoes. In addition, John's team should include a doctor and a dentist to aid the local people.

At the same time, John plans to carry out a reconnaissance of some interesting little-known archaeological sites and study the wildlife in the region with a view to launching a larger scale expedition for the benefit of the area in the future. Of particular interest are the reports of a large, aggressive aquatic creature, possibly a type of caimen (alligator) that the expedition will investigate.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE: Mongolian Khan Khentii Expedition 2020

East of Ulaanbaatar, the Hentii mountain range rises out of a vast protected area covering 1.2 million hectares covering the transition zone between the taiga and mountain forest steppe. Much of this remote wilderness is uninhabited and accessible only on foot or horse. Over 1,000 plant species and 50 mammals, including endangered moose, musk deer, brown bear, wolf, lynx, badger, fox, wolverine, marmot, weasel, sable, roe deer and maral can be found here. Bird lovers will be able to see up to 250 types of birds, including hooper swans, spoonbills, egrets and raptors. However, the Hentii has an ancient history of human population as this is an ideal country for herding and hunting, with plenty of grass in the summer and shelter for animals in the winter. The forests provided the nomads with wild meat, fruit, furs and timber. Minerals including gold, tungsten, asbestos, uranium, iron, copper, manganese and tin as well as coal and fluoride are other natural resources here.



The expedition will carry-out community-aid projects, giving dental and medical help to the local people and performing archaeological, biological and zoological tasks with Mongolian scientists. The scientific studies will be organised with the support of the National University by Professor Terbish, who has accompanied our expeditions since 1992.

For further details on both Bolivia Quest 2020 (March 2020) and Mongolian Khan Kentii Expedition 2020 (June/ July 2020 – team members must be able to ride a horse!), please contact John Blashford-Snell (01747 854456 and jbs@ses-explore.org).

IMPORTANT NOTE: SES members and all other participants in the SES Endorsed Expeditions take part at their own risk, and will not hold SES, its trustees, employees, volunteers, partners or agents liable (whether in contract or in tort or in negligence or for breach of statutory duty or otherwise) for any loss, damage, personal injury, delay or expense suffered or incurred on any such expedition. SES endorses the aims and objectives of these expeditions only.

Explorer Awards 2019



The 2019 SES Explorer Awards Presentation Evening was held on Wednesday 22nd May at The Law Society, London after a tea for the Award Winners and their Supporters.

The SES Explorer Awards Presentation Evening keeps going from strength to strength, with this year's event exceeding all expectations. We were thrilled to see The Law Society – a stunning venue – full to the brim with SES members and friends ready to witness six Explorer Award winners and three Honorary Award winners receive their awards and talk about their expeditions.



We welcomed back 2018 Neville Shulman Explorer Eilidh Munro to premiere the film she made with her team mate Bethan John about her expedition, giving her a platform from which to share her expedition's progress and success.

SES Explorer of the Year Honorary Award winner Louis Rudd MBE (the first person to traverse Antarctica twice on foot!) delivered a most inspirational keynote speech about his Antarctic expeditions and, in particular, the 'Spirit of Endurance' expedition – his 56-day, 920-mile

solo unsupported crossing of the Antarctic land mass, becoming the first Briton and second in the world to complete this journey. SES Honorary Awards recognise and celebrate those individuals who have achieved great things, and whose passion, determination and grit are an inspiration to us all and Louis certainly fits the bill!

It was particularly exciting for us this year to have selected Andrew Mitchell as the winner of the SES Lifetime Achievement Honorary Award – Andrew is not only former Chairman of SES but he also created the SES Explorer Awards in 2014 and has been pivotal in their ongoing development. Ocean advocate Dee Caffari MBE was winner of the SES Pioneer with Purpose Honorary Award and, as she was unable to be with us on the night, recorded a lovely acceptance speech mentioning how much she was looking forward to meeting SES members and friends at the Society's annual charity event – an evening with Dee Caffari at the Royal Geographical Society on Wednesday 18th September 2019.

The Explorer Awards would not be possible without the support of its Award Sponsors, the SES Awards Committee, Headline Sponsor RSK and supporting sponsors Shackleton and Leatherman (for providing wonderful scarves and multi-tools for the award winners' gift bags), event photographer Frances Eyre, event videographer Ty Redif, our volunteers – last year's award winners Eleanor Drinkwater, Liv Grant, Eilidh Munro and Bethan John and all those who travelled far and wide to participate in this special event. Thank you to everyone involved.



SHACKLETON

SES Explorer Award Winners 2019

Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure

Ram Alluri

Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research

Scott Pallett

Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities

Charlotte Austwick

Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography

Catherine Kim

SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing

Joshua Powell

Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking

Reza Pakravan

'Pioneers with Purpose'

A selection of photos from the
SES Explorer Awards Presentation Evening
at The Law Society (London)
Photos: Frances Eyre (www.franceseyre.com)



2019 Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities
L-R Alan Rivers, Charlotte Austwick



2019 Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking
L-R Neville Shulman CBE, Fearghal O'Nuallain standing in for Reza Pakravan



2019 SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing
L-R Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE, Joshua Powell, Andrew Mitchell



2019 Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research
L-R Viscount Gough, Scott Pallett



2019 SES Lifetime Achievement
L-R Andrew Mitchell, Neil Laughton



2019 SES Explorer of the Year
L-R Neil Laughton, Louis Rudd MBE



SES Explorer Awards Presentation Evening Headline Sponsor - RSK Group
L-R Sue Sljivik, Nigel Board



SES Team Members
L-R Nikki Skinner (SES Explorer Awards Manager), Henrietta Thorpe (SES CEO)

SES Explorer Awards

The 2019 Winners

Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure

RAM ALLURI

The Arunachal Story

An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title '2019 Sir Charles Blois Explorer' kindly supported by Sir Charles Blois Bt

Ram Alluri is a wildlife filmmaker from India. In 2018, he set out to develop and introduce virtual reality (VR) as a tool for nature education for the indigenous youth in the dense but increasingly threatened forests of the Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh. During the course of the 15 months he spent on the project, he developed an appreciation for VR and its potential for shaping conservation filmmaking in the country. Ram will return to Arunachal Pradesh this year and team up with local filmmakers, Chandan, Paro, and Shaleena, along with Dr. Velho, a field biologist, to begin a challenging and ambitious expedition into a biologically and culturally diverse land that traverses two biodiversity hotspots in search of stories with the aim of assisting conservation efforts. The expedition film will follow the team as they create a database of innovative VR experiences that tell undocumented stories of Arunachal's rich biodiversity and indigenous narratives, in the hope of inspiring conservation action from people responsible for the protection of this region.



Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research

SCOTT PALLETT

Rangers First

An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title '2019 Gough Explorer' kindly supported by Viscount Gough

Scott Pallett is a doctor who has spent the last few years delivering medicine to remote areas of conflict. Having developed a focused interest in the clinical and socio-economic impact of neglected tropical diseases through an undergraduate degree at King's College, he went on to acquire a medical degree from Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Over the last few years, Scott has gained unique experience in tropical and jungle medicine whilst leading small teams in South East Asia and throughout East Africa. The project team is passionate about wildlife conservation and social justice, aiming to improve Park Ranger's abilities by helping them tackle trauma and local endemic disease. Scott will be leading fellow team-mates Stephanie Wong, Dr Edward Rogers and Dr Kim Findlay-Cooper to assist counter-poaching efforts in Zambia. The project will see the delivery of the first of many bespoke combat medical response train-the-trainer courses for wildlife rangers facing an increasingly dangerous task, alongside improvement in local community medical capability through the implementation of rapid diagnostics.



Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities

CHARLOTTE AUSTWICK

Voices of the Maya

An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title '2019 Rivers Foundation Explorer' kindly supported by the Rivers Foundation

Charlotte Austwick is an archaeologist and anthropologist from South Wales. She has a BA in Classical Archaeology & Drama and a Masters in Social & Visual Anthropology from the University of Kent. Charlotte has a wide array of expertise and has recently graduated as a Screen Skill's Film Camera Trainee. Whilst working for her Master's Degree she lived and filmed with a Mopan and Qeqchi Maya community in order to research 'What meaning the archaeological sites of Belize hold for the Maya people of today'. Her results identified key issues relating to a decline of their heritage. Now she is returning, with team-mate Xilona Blanco to share her findings and work with the community in resolving some of these



issues. Charlotte believes in strong community engagement and this interdisciplinary project will bring together all ages of the community, to record Maya history, life and culture in their native language. Their intention is to leave a lasting legacy for future generations by creating a series of reading books in Maya. Charlotte will also work with the community to learn more about previously 'undiscovered' archaeological sites.

Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography

CATHERINE KIM

Tara Bandu in Timor-Leste

An Award of £6,800 and the exclusive title '2019 Elodie Sandford Explorer' established and kindly supported by the friends and family of Elodie Sandford

Catherine Kim hails from the US state of Virginia. She is currently finishing her PhD in Coral Reef Ecology at the University of Queensland Australia. It was whilst carrying out fieldwork in Timor-Leste that she encountered Tara Bandu – an indigenous customary law of resource management. In recent years, Tara Bandu has been applied to marine resources such as coral reefs to create locally managed marine areas, which also serve as ecotourism zones generating income for the community. As an XL Catlin Oceans Scholar for her PhD, Catherine was a member of the field team that collected kilometres of coral reef imagery for outreach and scientific analysis in five countries: Timor-Leste, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Maldives, and Taiwan. Her PhD research in Timor-Leste involved collecting and analysing over 20,000 coral reef images, investigating coral reef crypto-faunal diversity, and conducting coral reef health surveys around the capital of Dili before and after the 2016 – 2017 global bleaching event. Catherine plans to utilise 360-degree imagery of coral reef and other marine environments in Timor-Leste and share them with local communities who rely on these resources and are working to protect them.



SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing

JOSHUA POWELL

Endangered Alaskan Small Mammals

An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title '2019 SES Explorer' kindly supported by the Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust, O'Hea Family Trust, Avocet Insurance Consultants, Pam Coleridge and the Trustees of SES

Joshua Powell is a Conservation Biologist and National Geographic Explorer, and an International Fellow of The Explorers Club. Josh is the expedition leader for the Pribilof Islands Small Mammal Expedition to the Pribilof Islands, in the Bering Sea, which aims to study – and inspire interest in – lesser known endangered species. As a Conservation Biologist, Josh leads 'Rangers Without Borders', a multidisciplinary research program on the work of wildlife rangers, including ranger livelihoods, ranger skills and anti-poaching capability, and opportunities for trans-boundary cooperation. Josh holds a Masters' degree from the University of Pennsylvania, as a Thouron Scholar, and has just received a place to study for a doctorate at the University of Oxford, in the UK. Josh also currently serves as a Policy Advisor on environmental policy and was a 2017 Churchill Fellow to the South Pacific and South Atlantic on island conservation policy and practice. Josh is one of the faces of WWF's #WWFVoices campaign on global biodiversity.



Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking

REZA PAKRAVAN

The Great Green Wall

An Award of £7,000 and the exclusive title '2019 Neville Shulman Film Explorer' kindly supported by Neville Shulman CBE

Reza Pakravan is an explorer and filmmaker from London, who has dedicated the last few years of his career to documenting the impact of environmental issues on indigenous people. While filming the tribes of Lake Chad last year, Reza came across the reality of the life-and-death consequences that climate change has wrought upon the Sahelian region in the south of the Sahara, where desertification has contributed to the greatest internal migration ever witnessed on this planet. But he found hope there too. The people of the Sahel have come together to grow an 8,000km Great Green Wall made-up of thousands of trees to stop desertification and to bring life back to the Sahel. Reza is returning to the Sahel to document how this pan-African ambition is improving Africa's degraded landscapes, providing food security, jobs and a reason to stay for the millions who live along its path. By involving organisations including the UN, Kew Gardens and governmental agencies in various countries, Reza is aiming to increase our understanding of the most neglected region on earth, and to document the battle of man against our most urgent threat: climate change.



News *from our Explorer Award Winners*

2018 Neville Shulman Explorer – Eilidh Munro

In 2018, Eilidh's team received the Neville Shulman Award for Expedition Filmmaking for their expedition to the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. The expedition took them to the heart of the Peruvian rainforest where they lived with, and interviewed the community about the road which is being built between two protected areas of the rainforest and four indigenous territories. After raising the necessary funds for post-production through a crowdfunding campaign and match funding from the IUCN NL, they are thrilled to have finished the 25-minute documentary, *Voices on the Road*, and are currently submitting it to a range of international film festivals. Thus far, it has been accepted to Kendal Mountain Festival, UK, and Woodpecker International Film Festival, New Delhi.



As well as features in publications such as *Mongabay*, *The Ecologist*, *Intrepid Magazine*, the RSGS *Geographer Magazine* and the *Sunday Post*, they have also given talks for the RSGS Inspiring People tour and in schools. Eilidh's team are hugely grateful to Neville Shulman and SES for their support.

2018 SES Explorer – Eleanor Drinkwater

The *Cash of the Titans* expedition was successfully completed in January 2019. It aimed to collect the first behavioural data on the Titan beetle (*Titanus giganteus*). Weathering the rainy conditions of the rainforests of French Guiana, the team successfully managed to track down the elusive titan beetle and tested their custom-built beetle tags in the field.



In total, seven different titans were caught, tagged and released. Through a combination of these capture and

release experiments, as well as observations of these animals in captivity, the team were able to gain novel insights into their activity patterns and habitat use, which could be a valuable foundation for future research into the behaviour of this species. These findings have now been submitted as a research paper.

As well as analysing the data from the trip, the team have been working hard to share the expedition's findings and raise awareness about the international trade in invertebrates, including Titan beetles. Experiences have been shared by speaking at events like the Yorkshire Pint of Science, the University of York expedition tutorial series, as well as school visits.

A short film about the expedition called 'Expedition Titan' has been published and widely shared and it follows the team's escapades and adventures while searching for these brilliant beetles (see <https://bit.ly/2W8acJi>). The film was screened at the RGS EXPLORE event and has been entered into numerous film festivals with the hope that it will be screened at events around the world to bring more attention to the trade in invertebrates.

2018 Sir Charles Blois Explorer – Glaucia Del Rio

The Emilie Snethlage Expedition started when Jessie Salter, Anna Hiller, Gigi Lima, Marky Mutchler and Donna Schmitt joined Glaucia, Bruna Costa and Bianca Matinata in the little town of Carauari, on the Right Bank of the Middle Juruá River. All these biologists were also accompanied by Angela Prochilo, the biologist and photographer, responsible for documenting the expedition.

In Carauari, with supplies and food for a 30-day boat journey, the team headed-up river in the direction of the little community of Chibauá. The area is occupied by traditional communities that represent a mixture of local native Brazilians, and people from Northeast Brazil. They came to the area in search of Latex but when the rubber trees were transferred to Asia, where they would grow faster and stronger, most of the workers moved away, leaving a pristine forest behind.

The Juruá River is surrounded by luxurious forest, with lower parts being under water during the rainy season. The team had the ambitious plan of working on seven different areas on both banks of the Juruá River. At each locality, the team spent two or three days tracking birds, recording their calls, taking pictures, and capturing them in mist nets. They were surrounded by a wide variety of macaws, parrots, parakeets, woodpeckers, herons, nightjars, toucans, barbets and tanagers ... and many river dolphins, gigantic caimans, and bald uakaris (big red-faced monkeys with blond hair)! Working 16 hours a day, around 400 species of birds were found between Carauari and the community of Chibauá.



The expedition was extremely prolific, but difficulties were faced. The Juruá River is challenging to navigate. In the dry season (from May to October) the waters are pretty shallow, and the river meanders excessively, taking longer to cover. The waters were so shallow that, at some point, the boat touched the river bottom, and started to tilt. Clouds of mosquitoes surrounded the team all the time, and the weather was hot and humid, bringing terrifying thunderstorms that would play with the boat's balance.

The team also had the chance to spread the word about environmental conservation, and the importance of the forest and its resources. In four of the communities where they worked (Gume do Facão, Chué, Chibauá and Ouro Preto), the team took the local children for bird walks around the forest. Discussions about the impacts of hunting, or having animals in cages were had and it was incredible how eager they were for new information. The team learnt that the local children had their own names for the most common birds, and knew many details about their behaviour.

The expedition generated new knowledge about the Juruá bird fauna. The crew was extremely passionate about birds, and that passion resulted in an amazing collection of data that will serve scientists of many generations.

2019 Elodie Sanford Explorer – Catherine Kim

The objective of the Timor-Leste was to delve into Tara Bandu as a means of marine conservation. Tara Bandu is customary law that is used to manage natural resources and has been recently implemented to create community marine protected areas (MPAs) of coastal environments. These MPAs are zones where no fishing is allowed and tourists pay a small 'reef tax' of a few dollars to snorkel or dive recreationally. Coastal communities in Timor-Leste are reliant on subsistence fishing and fish is the main source of protein. As such, marine conservation in Timor-Leste is tied to the large societal issues of food security and unemployment.



Catherine re-surveyed the four coral reef sites she surveyed for her PhD research to assess whether they were being impacted by the construction of new coastal

roads for a port being developed. One of these sites (Rural-N) was the site that inspired her application for the Elodie Sanford Explorer Award as it became a Tara Bandu marine protected area just before her fieldwork in 2017. Live hard coral cover was as high as it had been during the previous two surveys at both 5m and 10m. However, two of the other sites which were not protected areas, showed signs of declining coral cover. The final site showed mixed results with roadworks impacting the inner reef most, with impact levels decreasing away from the shore.

Catherine presented her thesis research and preliminary findings to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the National University of Timor-Leste, to UmaAmerika and a meeting of the SCUBA diving operators and Conservation International. Underwater photography played a key role in her research. The capacity of the Timorese to research and monitor their coral reefs is currently very limited and the government was very grateful to have this data and photographs collected. She was also able to use land-based photography to document and share stories of local village life in these areas and collect 360-degree underwater imagery and video which she hopes to use to create a 'virtual diving' experience to share with local communities.

2019 Rivers Foundation Explorer – Charlotte Austwick

In January 2020, Charlotte and her newly recruited team-mate Xilona Blanco will be returning to the jungles of Central America to live with and film this Qetchi and Mopan Maya community in order to create educational resources about their archaeology and culture in their native language. Global pressures are forcing the extinction of these national languages and this expedition will help to preserve and protect their heritage. They will also be delivering oral hygiene workshops to the local community and dispensing biodegradable wooden toothbrushes.



Raising awareness of the expedition has been an enjoyable experience; besides promoting the expedition at local events, Charlotte has been interviewed by BBC Radio Wales and is using her experience in education to work with local schools to encourage young people to become pioneers with a purpose.

Charlotte has also been learning how to read ancient Mopan Maya and Maya Hieroglyphs in preparation for the expedition. It has been something of a challenge studying such a complex language five thousand and fifty-one miles away from its speakers, using the only one known dictionary. She is confident that her efforts have paid-off and is looking forward to putting her knowledge into practice. Sign-up to Charlotte's monthly newsletter at www.charlotteaustwick.com.

2019 SES Explorer – Joshua Powell

Joshua is preparing for his expedition to Alaska's Pribilof Islands in Spring 2020, which will study the endangered Pribilof Island shrew (*Sorex pribilofensis*), with Peter Coals (University of Oxford – Wildlife Conservation Research Unit) and Trevor Wallace (The Explorers Club – Vice-President of Research and Education). This summer Josh completed two island-based expeditions, which provided excellent training for the Pribilof Islands Small Mammal Expedition: one in the North Atlantic with WWF's #WWFVoices campaign, which gave him the opportunity to practice creating informative and engaging media content from an expedition for large audiences (the expedition reaching over 50,000 people), and the other to the interior of Jamaica to study another rare, endemic species – this time a little-known genus of snail.



In the little time that has not been occupied with planning conservation expeditions to islands, Josh has started a PhD at UCL through the London NERC DTP, a joint programme with a number of London-based research institutes, including the Natural History Museum and ZSL. He has just got back from the Vatican, where he was invited to speak about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their link to conservation through SDG – 13 Climate Action, SDG 14 – Life Below Water, and, most closely related to his expedition to Alaska, SDG 15 – Life on Land.

2019 Sir Charles Blois Explorer – Ram Alluri

As the first subject for The Arunachal Story, Pema Mosobi, a reformed hunter from the Sherdukpen tribe, was chosen to take the team on a walk inside Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, from Chaku, the place where the last battle of the India-China war was fought in 1962, to Bongpu, the only camp for tourists inside Eaglenest. It had been a quarter of a century since he or his people used this forgotten trail, so the team were surprised to see that a large portion of the path was discernible, and not completely taken-over by the undergrowth. Pema reasoned that this was because gaur (Indian bison) and elephants use this path regularly, even if people don't.

The route snaked through a broad-leaved temperate forest, where tall oak and maple trees dwarfed the team. In addition to being a favoured hunting ground, this trail was used by the Serdukpens for their annual winter migration called 'Besmeh' from their home in mountainous Rupa, Arunachal Pradesh to the plains of Assam, where they exchanged goods (salt, rice and spices) with the Bodo people, and stayed on until the summer months. This tradition has all but disappeared, and the few people who now make this journey to Assam, do so by road.

This had been an important landscape for Pema, the Sherdukpen and Bodo communities, a story which Dr Nandini Velho, who has been associated with Pema for many years now, has written about in her book 'The

Eaglenest Memory Project'. These collaborations make Pema's story ideal to film in 360.



An unusual but significant aspect of this walk was the interaction between Pema, a notoriously famous hunter in his heyday, and Millo Tasser, the forest officer in charge of protecting these forests from hunters like Pema. At one point, Pema confessed to having hunted many gaur and black bear in this area on the behest of some of the more powerful people in his community, adding that today, his head feels heavy with regret when he goes to bed at night. Tasser's response was short "*your regret*".

This trip set the tone for the rest of the expedition, where our team continues the journey with Pema, and will meet a diverse set of people from various indigenous communities with stories to tell about their corner of the wildest state in India.

2019 Neville Shulman Explorer – Reza Pakravan

Reza and his team started their expedition in Dakar, Senegal in April and finished successfully at the end of July in Somaliland on the shore of the Red Sea, having travelled the 5,000-mile width of the continent.

Throughout the expedition, they documented the impacts of climate change and the ensuing desertification in eight countries across the Sahelian belt; impacts such as mass migration, poverty, war and terrorism. These countries are on the front-line of climate change and temperatures are rising more there than anywhere else on earth.

To understand the region and the various causes of migration, the team had to look closer at the ethno-cultural elements as well as the environmental elements. They documented the illegal migrants' ghettos in Agadez and interviewed those people who had found themselves there.

In Mali and Chad, they discovered that severe desertification had caused mass migration for pastoralist tribes in search of new pastures, which had led to conflict between them and the tribes whose lands they had entered. Fuelling these conflicts, terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida, Boko Haram and ISIS have been taking advantage of the situation to recruit people.



The team travelled as the locals do: by any means possible – on overloaded trucks, animal carts and camels, to name but a few. Most of the countries they travelled through were war-torn, and manoeuvring through them and avoiding war zones became a logistical nightmare.



Among the challenges there were reasons for hope. The Great Green Wall (GGW) is set to be an 8,000km wall composed of thousands of trees stretching across Africa to help stop desertification and bring life back to the Sahel. It is already 15% underway. Once complete, the GGW will be the largest living structure on the planet, three times the size of the Great Barrier Reef. If the Sahelian countries and its people come together and get behind the GGW, it will raise hopes for solving many problems in the region. There are tangible economic benefits to it, including selling carbon offset to developed nations and subsequently creating a whole new green industry in Africa. The team visited various GGW sites in many remote locations, documenting their progress and the ways in which the GGW has benefitted the respective communities.

The team is looking forward to sharing the results in a short film of the expedition.

2019 Gough Explorer – Scott Pallett

Scott led the WildCross counter-poaching expedition, with team-mates Stephanie Wong and Dr Charles Handford, to Zambia. The Kafue National Park forms a valuable part of the world's largest protected ecological network in the Kavango-Zambezi-Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) and helps to maintain valuable migration corridors. The Park houses several important research activities and the wildlife is under constant threat from both snaring and large criminal poaching networks, with the elephant population now at less than 10% its original numbers. Over the last few months, the Park has lost rangers; to gun-shot wounds, injuries sustained from big animals, and regular high-impact road traffic accidents.

Scott's team undertook training of select DNPW Ranger Police Officers in emergency medical response to large trauma as well as increase the local capacity for tackling neglected tropical diseases. The training was carried out



in the National Ranger Training School. Thanks to the support of Lord Gough, the team were able to provide key equipment to set-up a first responder network across six sites throughout the Park, as well as draw the course into the training programme for all future officers. The ranger teams expressed their heartfelt thanks for the training, which enables them to be ever more effective in the field.

With the WHO addition of snakebite to the neglected tropical disease portfolio, and Kafue home to two of the world's deadliest snake species in the Black Mamba and Puff Adder, as well as the Black Necked Spitting Cobra, the team conducted specific teaching and upgrade of local provisions to treat snake envenoming. The outcome data from the course is currently being analysed but suggests a potential intervention for widespread take-up of skills throughout sub-Saharan Africa that could improve snakebite management in the absence of anti-venom suitable for pre-hospital use.



Scott remains in communication with the ranger teams and plans to return next year to test run a fixed-wing drone anti-poaching programme as well as observe the trainers as they run their trauma response teaching to new recruits.

SPONSORSHIP

SES Partnership Opportunities

SES Partner – £10,000 per annum
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Explorer Talks

(3 levels of sponsorship)

Headline Sponsor – £5,000
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Contributing Sponsor – £1,500

Please contact SES's CEO Henrietta Thorpe on henrietta@ses-explore.org to learn more about the unique opportunities SES offers.



2018 Sir Charles Blois Explorer Glauca Del Rio
(The Emilie Snethlage Expedition, Amazon)



Adventurer, Writer & Speaker Charlie Walker
(summit of Mt Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea)



Honorary Award Winners 2019

2019 SES Pioneer with Purpose **DEE CAFFARI MBE**

Dee Caffari MBE has sailed around the world six times. She is the first woman to have sailed single-handed and non-stop around the world in both directions and the only woman to have sailed non-stop around the world a total of three times. Dee led *'Turn the Tide on Plastic'* – the first mixed gender youth team to compete in the Ocean Race (formerly Volvo Ocean Race) 2017/18 with a strong sustainability message. The issue of single use plastic in our oceans gained huge momentum and has inspired many people to 'take action' in their day-to-day lives. Dee continues to be an advocate for ocean health and to highlight the vital importance of reducing our dependence on plastics. Outside of sailing, Dee continues to showcase her talents as a presenter and on the motivational speaker circuit. Dee also spends time supporting her chosen charities and is Chair of the World Sailing Trust, a new global charity that will promote the health of oceans and grow participation of the sport to protect its future.



2019 SES Explorer of the Year **LOUIS RUDD MBE**

Captain Louis Rudd MBE served for 34 years in the military – he joined at the age of 16 and rose through the ranks to Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) before commissioning as an Officer. Louis' first trip to Antarctica was in 2011/12 on the Scott/Amundsen Centenary Race Expedition. His team skied 800 miles over 67 days unsupported from the Bay of Whales, up the Axel Heiberg Glacier to the South Pole, following the original route of the Norwegian Roald Amundsen. In 2016/17 he led a team of five Army Reservists on a 67-day, 1,100-mile traverse of Antarctica. The SPEAR17 Expedition started at Hercules Inlet, skied 700 miles unsupported to the South Pole, collected a re-supply and then crossed the Titan Dome and descended the Shackleton Glacier before arriving on the Ross Ice Shelf. The expedition won multiple awards and in 2018 Louis was awarded an MBE for his leadership on the journey. In May 2018 Louis guided a team of five civilian friends on a 570km west to east traverse of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Despite challenging weather, the team completed the crossing in 27 days. In 2018/19 he undertook the *'Spirit of Endurance'* expedition, a 56-day, 920-mile solo unsupported crossing of the Antarctic land mass, becoming the first Briton and second in the world to complete this journey. He is the first person to traverse Antarctica twice on foot.



Photo: Andrew Mitchell by Matthew Ferguson (FG Studios)

2019 SES Lifetime Achievement **ANDREW MITCHELL**

Andrew Mitchell's association with SES started as a young Bristol University science graduate. First assignment: setting-up projects for Operation Drake, a global two-year expedition. First stop: Panama where Andrew devised an elevated system of aerial walkways – to this day regarded as an unrivalled method to study the rainforest canopy. A conservative estimate is that Andrew has given 45 years of advice to SES alongside which he managed to fit in a remarkable *'other career'*. He co-founded the Earthwatch Institute managing 130 field research projects in 30 countries as Vice President of Programme Development and International Relations, before founding Global Canopy, a ground-breaking non-profit, environmental think-tank based in Oxford striving to influence and enable transformative change towards a global deforestation-free economy. In 2009, HRH The Prince of Wales asked for Andrew's help and, working closely together for years, they initiated The Prince's Rainforests Project. Andrew is also an advisor to the United Nations on climate change and the inclusion of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in the UN climate regime. Andrew bases himself at Green Templeton College, Oxford where he is an Emeritus Rufford Fellow in Environmental Understanding.



Explorer Talks 2019

We are so grateful to all our speakers this year who have given up their time to provide us with a full and varied programme of excellent and topical talks. A special thank you also to Medelinked for their generous sponsorship of this year's talks and to the Coopers Arms, Chelsea for providing a fun venue for these gatherings. Our 2020 programme (see page 2) is equally exciting and tickets to all of our events are on Eventbrite.

Charlie Walker: 8-month Eurasian Triathlon (January)

Charlie kick-started the Explorer Talks at the Coopers Arms, Chelsea – the new venue for these gatherings – with a highly amusing account of his 8-month Eurasian triathlon, which had an excellent balance of geographical and political insight set alongside the trials of adventure.



Steve Jones: Antarctic Adventures (February)

Steve gave a riveting talk that covered so many facets of Antarctica from the age of historic exploration to modern day scientific research. His stories of disaster management were gripping and he closed with “Go find your South Pole!”



SES 50th Anniversary Celebration: Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE (March)

Ran gave a gripping and extremely funny talk about his expeditions and world-record challenges after a delicious

dinner kindly hosted by The Queen's Club to celebrate the 50th anniversary of SES. Each guest table was hosted by an SES Explorer including Vanessa O'Brien, George Bullard, Charlie Walker, Sadie Whitelocks, Lucy Shepherd, Neil Laughton (SES Chairman) and SES Founder and Honorary President Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE.



Ollie Phillips: Managing through tough times of change (March)

After the Society's Annual General Meeting, Ollie – a former England Rugby 7s captain, Guinness World Record holder, motivational speaker, expedition leader and now a businessman in one of the world's largest professional service networks – gave a truly brilliant talk about uncertainty and dealing with the unexpected.



James Glancy CGC: Adventure Activism (April)

James gave a fantastic insight into life on the edge ... from serving in the elite British Royal Marines and

Special Boat Service to his life as a wildlife conservationist, presenting on Discovery Channel. He highlighted how difficult it is to find a role in civilian life after serving in the forces and how he has managed to use his military skills to the benefit of wildlife conservation.



Dr Stephen Spencer: Tackling Tropical Diseases (June)

We were thrilled that Stephen Spencer, SES 2016 Rivers Foundation Explorer, was able to fly back especially from his 2019 MADEX Expedition to give a talk about neglected diseases in remote parts of the world and the issues and challenges he faces in the field.



SES Annual Charity Event at the Royal Geographical Society: An evening with Dee Caffari MBE (September)

We were extremely grateful to ocean advocate Dee who flew in from speaking at the OceanObs'19 conference in Hawaii specially to give us a truly inspirational talk at our annual charity event at the Royal Geographical Society. Dee, SES 2019 Pioneer with Purpose, started off by saying that *"if it was easy, everyone would be doing it!"* She talked about her journey from secondary school PE teacher to world-record setting professional yachtswoman ... and much more besides. After leading *'Turn the Tide on Plastic'* – the first mixed gender youth team to compete in the Volvo Ocean Race 2017/18, she described how she has gone on to use this global platform to raise awareness of the single use plastic issue in our oceans.



Lucy Shepherd: Never Losing 'Botheredness' (September)

SES Co-opted Council member and adventurer Lucy gave a brilliant talk about Never Losing 'Botheredness'. She shared how she has managed to hold onto her creativity and not lose 'botheredness' ... by doing what she enjoyed doing most when she was a child! Climbing trees and ropes and filming ... and she has successfully managed to build these hobbies into both her work and home life.



Tim Taylor: A Photographer's Perspective (October)

Award-winning fine art photographer and adventurer Tim (www.timtaylorphotography.com) brought our 2019 programme to a wonderful close with a fascinating talk about his life's passions, which take him from snow-pelted tents in the high Himalaya to the art institutions of the world's capital cities.



EXPLORE Weekend at the Royal Geographical Society (November)

We were thrilled to take a stand at EXPLORE – the RGS-IBG's annual expedition and field research weekend, which is the largest gathering of its kind. It provided an opportunity for us to showcase our offerings to people involved in all aspects of expeditions, field research and travel with purpose. To top it all, THREE of our Explorer Award winners – Reza Pakravan, Eilidh Munro and Eleanor Drinkwater – showed their expedition films at this prestigious event!





2019 Neville Shulman Explorer
Reza Pakravan (The Great Green Wall)



2019 Gough Explorer Scott Pallett
(Rangers First, Zambia)

News *from our Members*

This publication is produced annually and it contains summaries of some of the news received from members throughout the year. If you have news you would like to share, email admin@ses-explore.org.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell awarded CBE

Congratulations to the Society's Founder and Honorary President (and who also helped set-up development charity Operation Raleigh) John Blashford-Snell, who was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours list for his efforts towards scientific research abroad and to young people in the UK. John said "A lot of my work is part of a very big team and although they put my name with the gong, it recognises the amazing work all of the team does together."



Captain Jim Masters MBE retires

For over 50 years Jim has been a voluntary worker for SES and, for a time, was Warden of Expedition Base and also the Honorary Treasurer. At the age of 91, he has decided to retire and move to Cumbria to live near his daughter. He has done a huge amount to help SES and raised considerable sums of money including Viscount Gough's grant for the Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research, as well as raising all the funds for the treatment of Ronald in the Brazilian jungle. For the last 10 years, he has looked after SES archives. We wish Jim a well-deserved retirement and thank him for his incredible support, which spans the life of SES.



Professor Mark O'Shea

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that enthusiastic and long-standing SES member Mark O'Shea

became Professor Mark O'Shea at the University of Wolverhampton. Mark is a leading herpetologist who was on Operation Raleigh and has been on several SES expeditions. He also had a long-running TV show and still lectures on reptiles all over the world. He has lectured to the Society in the past and he once brought a live cobra into Expedition Base! Massive congratulations on a wonderful and well-deserved achievement.

Kenya Quest 2018 Expedition Reunion

John Blashford-Snell's 2018 Kenya Quest expedition members met at Expedition Base for a reunion and the premiere of the excellent expedition film shot by Charlotte Austwick (2019 Rivers Foundation Explorer), Yolima Cipagauta and Janet Wood. Charlotte put it all together and Alan Campbell produced the final version with a commentary by John Blashford-Snell.



Honorary Advisory Board Reception

SES Trustee and Chair of the Honorary Advisory Board Peter Felix CBE and his wife June Felix kindly hosted a reception in January for the Honorary Advisory Board. Guests enjoyed delicious canapes and drinks and the evening gave the Society's Chairman Neil Laughton the opportunity to update everyone on SES's progress and its activities for the coming year.



Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo: The view from the edge of Space

The latest test flight by SES member Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic successfully rocketed to the edge of space and back. The firm's SpaceShipTwo passenger rocket ship made a successful test flight, 82.7km above the Earth's surface.

Mongolian Bataar 2018 Expedition Reunion

Members of John Blashford-Snell's 2018 Mongolian Baatar expedition gathered at Motcombe in February for the 'premiere' of the expedition film, which has also been sent to everyone who participated in this expedition.



Team SES in the London Marathon

A massive thank you to Team SES – Alice Lane, Stephanie Edmunds, Fran Scott, Toosie Falconer Hall and Bradley Heydrenrych – for supporting SES in such a challenging way and running the London Marathon to raise funds for the Society. Everyone completed the gruelling race raising nearly £6,000!



SES Inaugural Quiz

In April, the Team at Expedition Base put on a Quiz Night at the Memorial Hall in Motcombe, which included a Ploughman's Supper, with bar and raffle. SES's Finance Manager Gail Lloyd set the Quiz, and the questions covered various categories – geography was based loosely on the countries that the Society has visited and the answers for animals were all species that had been encountered on SES expeditions. Also included was a category on artefacts that those taking part needed to guess what they were. Some of the items were SES Team's personal bits and pieces, but some were also from Colonel John Blashford-Snell's stores. The item that caused the most hilarity (and the most ludicrous answers!), was actually a presentation gift to John from Papua New Guinea. It looks like a drinking horn on a piece of string – but is actually a penis sheath!

John spoke at the end of the evening, thanking everyone for their support and participation and he also told a very amusing story about how he came to be presented with

it ... it's probably best that we leave this to the reader's imagination!

Monies raised went to SES and huge thanks, in particular, to Dave Smith (SES Honorary Logistics Officer) and also to the SES Team at Expedition Base – Gail Lloyd, Vicky Hankinson (and husband Piers), Val Smith, Jenny Rose (and husband Jon), Sheila, Anne, Ros and, of course, John and Judith Blashford-Snell. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's SES Quiz Night!

Operation Drake Members

Operation Drake members will be sorry to read of the death of Lesley Reiter, one of the original owners of the Brigantine 'Eye of the Wind', the flagship of the operation. It was Lesley's hard work and determination that rescued the ship and had her restored to become the beautiful vessel she is today. We heard this news from Tiger Timms who is still sailing the high seas.

SES Member Discounts – Cotswold Outdoors

Cotswold Outdoors (in-store) – if you have already signed up to Explore More in-store, OR shopped online you do not need to re-register. If you have registered previously, to claim the discount in-store, supporters must agree to sign-up to Explore More individually and show some form of proof that they are affiliated to SES.

Cotswold Outdoors (online) – the special SES discount will be applied at the basket stage by entering the current code you have been given. By using this code customers will be automatically enrolled in the Explore More scheme.

Operation New World

Operation New World was an educational charity offering zero cost, training programmes for those, aged 20-25, who were struggling to find employment. The courses were developed over 25 years to help participants achieve effective job searching, applications, interview skills, confidence, motivation and application of existing skills to the work environment. This incredible charity, which helped so many, has recently closed and the Trustees generously donated the remaining balance to SES.

SES and John Blashford-Snell's Expeditions – Video Films

There are video films of most of SES and JBS expeditions that have taken place since 1990. The videos of two recent expeditions – 2018 Mongolian Baatar and 2019 Nepal Bardia Quest – are on DVDs and held at Expedition Base. They have been produced by Alan Campbell and run for approximately 50–60 minutes. Copies for private viewing are available from Expedition Base, Motcombe, Dorset SP7 9PB at £10 per DVD + £3 p&p (UK). Orders can be sent by email to Jenny at jbs@ses-explore.org. Payment to SES can be by credit card (other than American Express) or by cheque.

New Honorary Advisory Board Member – Major Timothy Peake CMG

Late in the year we were thrilled to announce that Major Timothy Peake CMG had joined the Society's Honorary Advisory Board. Tim is a British Army Air Corps officer, European Space Agency astronaut and a former International Space Station crew member. He is a brilliant addition to the Board and we are extremely grateful for his support.

Flying SES's Flag



2019 Neville Shulman Explorer
Reza Pakravan (The Great Green Wall)



2019 Gough Explorer
Merlin Hetherington and team-mate Alex McMaster (Arclight Tandem Africa)



2019 Gough Explorer
Scott Pallett (Rangers First)



2019 Elodie Sandford Explorer
Catherine Kim (Tara Bandu in Timor-Leste)



2018 Elodie Sandford Explorer
Eleanor Platt (Exploration Sira)



2018 Neville Shulman Explorer
Eilidh Munro and team-mate Bethan John (Voices on the Road)



2018 SES Inspirational Explorer
Eleanor Drinkwater (Cash of the Titans)



2018 Sir Charles Blois Explorer
Glauca Del Rio (The Emilie Snethlage Expedition)

Top Tips *from our Explorer Award Winners*



CATHERINE KIM – 2019 ELODIE SANDFORD EXPLORER

Learn some basic phrases in the local language where you are travelling. People appreciate the effort even if it's just "Good morning", "Thank you" and "Please".

CHARLOTTE AUSTWICK – 2019 RIVERS FOUNDATION EXPLORER

Do not leave your socks, upright on the washing line, otherwise fire ants will fall in and bite your toes, when you put your socks back on! Learn a key phrase in another language – politeness can get you a long way!



RAM ALLURI – 2019 SIR CHARLES BLOIS EXPLORER

Understand that there will always be setbacks; while working with people that are different from yourself, while executing a task you thought you were well prepared for, or while dealing with an unexpected situation. But as the leader of the expedition, learn to take them in your stride, and move on very quickly. For the sake of your team-mates and the expedition, remain calm in the face of the storm.



REZA PAKRAVAN – 2019 NEVILLE SHULMAN EXPLORER

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of having a local guide. They translate, they are your eyes and ears on the ground, they open doors which otherwise remain closed to you. Also, it's very important that you respect your local partner's protocols. They have been there a lot longer than you and understand the social dynamics. Effectively, they are providing you with their resources and access to stories, so make sure you do not make their life complicated.

SCOTT PALLETT – 2019 GOUGH EXPLORER

Do the simple things well! Being a particular fan of jungle expeditions, I am normally quite happy with having to be wet most of the day, but I have to pay particular attention to my feet. It is so easy for feet to fall apart and so difficult to get them back to normal when you are in boots every day. Check them for blisters and soft spots twice a day, powder them morning and night and pack plenty of foot powder, zinc oxide tape and antifungal creams. With dry feet, any challenge seems that much simpler!



JOSHUA POWELL – 2019 SES EXPLORER

Keep at it! So many obstacles will be thrown your way, however ALWAYS think about the broader impact of your expedition: aim to reduce any negative impacts associated with the expedition and try to maximise the expedition's positive contribution for the species or community you aim to benefit. Remember to be critically realistic about what benefit your expedition might bring for its target audience or species; for example, many expeditions aim to 'inspire' specific groups in society, without critically analysing whether they themselves are well-placed to reach, represent or provide meaningful benefit for their intended audience.

Bringing together the best possible team for your expedition is crucial to its success. Combining the experience and required skills necessary is vitally important, but character and enthusiasm are also key elements that will ensure a successful and enjoyable expedition.

When you get home from your expedition, enthusiasm may dip among team members. However, this 'post-expedition' phase of any fieldwork is often the most crucial for generating your outputs – whether that is scientific analysis of results, or the production of expedition media. As the expedition leader, in your initial planning for the expedition, think of creative ways to maintain motivation among your team when you return home and make sure all team members know what is expected of them in this less glamorous, but vitally important, stage of the project.



2018 Neville Shulman Explorer
Eilidh Munro (Voices on the Road, Manu Amazon)



2019 Sir Charles Blois Explorer
Ram Alluri at the field station (The Arunachal Story)

Obituaries

GENERAL SIR JOHN WILSEY GCB, CBE

(Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

As a leading member of the Blue Nile Expedition of 1968 John Wilsey, then a Captain in the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, solved one of the first major problems facing the team.

In spite of the fact that Emperor Haile Selassie was our patron, the over-zealous customs at Addis Ababa airport held up our vital components because they insisted that the number of sheets of loo paper (known as Army Form blank) were counted. With great patience John



convinced the officials that there were 28,855 and gained the release of this essential commodity in time for them to be parachuted to our boat party on the river. Later, when navigating and surveying the remote and unexplored Northern Gorge, the river party was held hostage for a while by local people in an effort to persuade the Emperor to cancel a proposed form of tax. Escaping from these people, we were attacked twice by well-armed bandits (or maybe reluctant taxpayers). Most of the rations were lost in the fight and not having come on the expedition to wage war, our ammunition was limited. The fierce Nile crocodiles were also a menace, our boats were damaged and only one motor was working properly. To reach safety 100 miles downstream, passing potentially hostile villages, was somewhat daunting. However, at our base camp John launched our last remaining alloy assault craft and with two Royal Engineers and an Ethiopian Naval Officer, set out to come to our aid. The assault boat, even with a 40HP outboard, barely had the power to climb-up the rapids to reach us. One engine burned out and another, parachuted in from the Army Beaver, landed in the river. However, with considerable skill, John and his team nursed the remaining motor to enable them to close the gap and reach us. He then took our craft in tow and brought the battered

flotilla to safety. It was a remarkable achievement. John's keen taste for adventure was later demonstrated whilst running the Sandhurst Flying Club when he took part in the Daily Mail Air Race piloting a Piper Aztec monoplane across the Atlantic and winning one of the prizes. He also took a keen interest in the welfare of young people and urged the Government to set-up a form of compulsory citizen service.

In 1969 John became a founder member of SES and over the years did much to help the Society. At the same time, his Army career prospered. He served in the Cyprus campaign against the EOKA terrorists and went on to command his regiment in Northern Ireland. Later, as General Officer Commanding the province, his patience, humour and diplomatic skill was a great asset in smoothing out the conflict. Later, he distinguished himself as the de facto joint force commander during the violent internecine fighting in the Balkans. His final assignment in the Army was as Commander in Chief of UK Land Forces.

John was known for his good humour, humane leadership and the calm way he went about his work. He retired to East Knoyle, Wiltshire from where he wrote books, skied, sailed and bred alpacas whilst supporting SES whenever possible. In September he passed away after a lengthy illness borne bravely for many years. Our most sincere sympathy goes to his widow Lizzie and their children.

JOHN EDWARDS

(Memories by John Blashford-Snell)

In 1975, the late Jim Edwards asked me if I could bring a white-water raft that we had pioneered on the Blue Nile and Congo rivers, to Nepal. The idea was to see if the Trisuli River from near Kathmandu to Chitwan National Park could be navigated and used to bring visitors to his



famous Tiger Tops Lodge. I asked for helpers to crew this 15ft Avon boat from the UK. John Edwards, Jim's brother, brought along two fearless Sherpas and an American friend, Vince Martinelli and this formed the crew. Not knowing the river, we experienced several capsizes. At one point, the two Sherpas left us. John chased after them to try to get them to stay with us. However, neither could swim and turning to John, they said, *"Everest any time, but this is madness!"*. So that left Vince and John to continue with me. At one especially nasty rapid, I was hurled out of the boat and only saved by John catching my leg and pulling me out of the icy water! I owe him a lot for this! Coming ashore on Christmas Eve, with only a packet of biscuits and a half bottle of Kukri rum between us, we were in no mood to celebrate! However, John called out in Nepali to some men high up on the sides of the gorge. To our surprise, a few hours later they turned up in our camp bearing pots of hot food. *"They are shepherds"*, said John, *"so it seemed an appropriate time to ask them for help!"*

In 1990, it was John who told me of a giant mammoth-like creature living in the Bardia reserve. *"Rubbish"*, I replied. *"Mammoths no longer exist."* *"But there is some huge animal there"* insisted John and he persuaded me to investigate. This started the quest that found the largest elephant ever seen in Asia. Raja Gaj, measuring 11 foot 3 inches at the shoulder was enormous but although not a mammoth, proved to be a most unusual elephant that drew many visitors to Bardia. All thanks to John Edwards!

I once spent a delightful afternoon on the Karnali River with John, fishing for mahseer. I managed to land a small one but with great skill, John brought in a real whopper! Indeed, he was one of the most outstanding mahseer fishermen on the sub-continent – and good company to be with. Scientific Exploration Society is deeply grateful to John for all he did to help us organise a number of most successful expeditions in India.

MAJOR JOHN ALEXANDER CUTHILL

(Tribute by Dr John Davies)

John was one of the founder members of SES and a great supporter of all the Society's exploits. He was born in Falmouth, Cornwall and spent much of his childhood playing on the beautiful beaches of North Cornwall



especially Porth beach, where he learned to sail and row. Educated in Newquay, Cornwall and later boarding at Queen's College, Taunton School, John earned a place at Reading University. He was a keen sportsman and played rugby at a high level for Queen's College, Redruth, Reading University and Newton Abbot and for the army. He was a strong swimmer winning many medals in competition and he was also a keen rower, both rowing and coxing for Newquay pilot gig club, where he was later elected President, a position he held for 25 years raising great sums of money for charitable projects and the upgrading of the club's facilities. John hosted a visit to the rowing club by Prince Phillip in 2011, where he was able to show how the club had progressed supporting young and older people to take-up the sport. He was one of the last people to be called for National Service, although he did support the war effort in Cornwall as a boy by picking potatoes at his friend's farm.

During his army career, John was originally based at Pirbright and went on to the West Country Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury. Moving to Middle Wallop with the army air corps, he learned to fly helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. John also had postings to Cyprus and Germany. On leaving the army after 16 years, he took up a post of 'head of sciences' at Redruth Grammar School, Cornwall. He represented the army in the 'Whitbread round the world' yacht race in Chay Blithe's boat 'British Steel' when he found himself battling a severe storm in the Southern Ocean narrowly escaping serious injury. He continued to sail a yacht he co-owned until 2017. It was while he was in the army that John met John Blashford-Snell, which gave him the opportunity to take part in many expeditions in Ethiopia, including an expedition to the Dahlak islands in the Red Sea to study the cause of the blindness which was endemic in the area. This was a SES venture and yielded data which saved the eyesight of many. A book describing the expedition, 'The Trochus Shed' makes a good read.

John was an avid supporter of SES and was instrumental in the setting up of Operations Drake and Raleigh, running the selection process for ventures in Cornwall. He was diagnosed with a rare form of leukaemia in 1989 but new therapies enabled him to live a full life. He raised a great deal of money for the Cornwall Leukaemia trust and was one of the trustees. John leaves a widow Jenny, a son Jamie and a daughter Lisa and four granddaughters. Our thoughts are with them at this time.

DR KEN REED

(Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

It was with great sadness that we learned that the Society's Geological Advisor, Dr Ken Reed had passed away. Members of the 1995 Nepal expedition will remember Ken happily digging around on the banks of the sandy Ghandaki seeking fossil evidence of giant elephants and finding some extraordinary geological specimens. In 2004, he joined SES's Kota Mama expedition that descended the little known and virtually unexplored rapid-strewn Rio Grande Gorges in Southern Bolivia. Ken's patient search helped to reveal evidence of oil being located in this area which was of real importance to Bolivia. Ken had become involved with the Society thanks to his energetic, light-



hearted wife Loline who had supported us by arranging lectures about our expeditions to the Women's Overseas Club that she chaired.

Born at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia in 1937, Ken had studied geology at the University of Melbourne and went on to take up a PhD scholarship in New York state. Whilst sailing from Australia to New York, he met Loline who was a member of the Philippine National Dance Company and they married in 1967. Thereafter, they lived and worked with oil companies in Africa and America, Asia and Europe. In the North Sea, Ken's work led to the discovery of several important oil fields. Although living in England when Ken retired, they maintained Loline's links with the Philippines and assisted SES and Just a Drop, in projects there. I will always remember Loline's good humour and Ken's quiet, patient expertise that made him a valuable and charming expedition member. Sadly, they have both now departed and will be missed by many friends. We extend our sincere condolences to his daughter Diana and the family.

CHRISTOPHER SAINSBURY

(Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

Many who knew Chris through his work with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, with the Fort George Volunteers and later through Scientific



Exploration Society's Operations Drake and Raleigh will be very sad that this extremely talented and innovative photographer has passed away. He was a tireless worker with an infectious sense of humour, who loved helping others whenever possible. Many of the best photos in SES archives were taken by Chris and he also shot some very useful 16mm film on both Operations Drake and Raleigh. His excellent photos did much to publicise the expeditions and the sponsors. Always at the centre of any party, Chris did much to liven the spirits of all around him. I don't doubt the angels will be having many a good laugh with him now.

There were many present at Chris's funeral, including myself and Judith, Andrew Mitchell, Lucy Thompson, Ruth Mindel, Ben Cartwright and Trevor Moss as was Howie Nisenbaum, who made the trip from Canada. Robbie Williamson, Sacha Campbell (Jersey), Linda Batt-Rawden and Stevie Ballentine (Scotland) were also in attendance representing Operation Drake ex-young explorers. A service also took place on board the square rigger Southern Swan in Sydney harbour for both Chris Sainsbury and Lesley Reiter. Lesley was part owner, nurse and purser aboard 'Eye of the Wind'. Chris and Lesley were close friends on the expedition.

MIKE HAY

(Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

Mike was a member of the splendid Survival Anglia TV production team that produced the film of the epic Blue Nile expedition (the expedition that founded SES) and later made films of SES expeditions in Darien, the Congo and on Operation Drake.



It was a great pleasure to work with Survival Anglia and Mike became our main contact and became a member of the Society. He was extremely helpful to SES and was never too busy to give us advice on all matters relating to TV filming, especially in connection with wildlife conservation. Indeed, Mike will be greatly missed by many in the wildlife filming world who knew him as a patient, friendly and kind man ever ready to help others and to carry the flag for conservation. Our sincere condolences go to his widow, Beryl and family.



Medicine Chest *Snakebite*

Snakebite

It was shortly after sunrise that I spotted something odd reflected in my shaving mirror. I was in the Congo (then Zaïre) on my medical student elective. Still bleary-eyed, I tried to focus on this short twig-like structure poking out from under the bath-rug. It was motionless, but not quite. I hit it with the nearest object to hand, which was a shoe. The next morning I saw another. Was I imagining things? Later that morning we sent in the house-boy who discovered a nest of vipers under the bath. I had wandered each day from my bedroom, crossing the lawn to Garenganze Hospital. Outside my bedroom, disguised under a blanket of fallen leaves, a chicken was being digested by a Gaboon viper (*Bitis gabonica*). How many times I had stepped unknowingly across the path of this squat and beautiful patterned monster whose local name translates as ‘tomorrow is too late’?



Coral Snake (Red Touch Yellow – Kills a Fellow, Red Touch Black – Venom Lack, Yellow Touches Red – Soon You'll Be Dead, Red Touches Black – Friend of Jack)

Snakebite Awareness

Snakebite is now recognised as a neglected tropical disease by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It causes approx. 138,000 deaths per year and at least 400,000 injuries. The tragedy is that the majority of victims are able workers or boys that put their hands down holes to catch mice! Consequently, snakebite often results in injury to the principle breadwinner. Following the launch of snakebite awareness day on 19th September 2019, the WHO hopes to halve the incidence of deaths from snakebite over the next decade.

Snakebite Envenomation

Snakebites are almost always unexpected and are a cause for much excitement... and fear. Of the 2,700 species of known snakes, only about 10% are venomous. Bites occur when the snake is threatened or startled. Venom is released in only about half of bites; the rest are known as ‘dry bites’. Oozing of blood from a pair of points on the flesh indicates snakebite envenomation. Snake venom comprises a cocktail of toxins and enzymes. Depending

on the species, the venom will cause painful destruction of muscles (*myotoxin*), tissues (*cytotoxin*), blood clotting system (*haematotoxin*) or block the nerves (*neurotoxin*).

Treatment

Panic increases the heart rate and dissemination of the venom toxins so the first thing to advise a patient bitten by a snake is to stay calm. Treatment of snakebite:

- First Aid.
- Don't cut, suck, apply ice, shocks or tourniquet.
- Wash away venom.
- Remove rings – massive swelling can be expected.
- Splint and immobilize limb.
- Compression bandage towards the heart.
- Give snakebite antivenom.

Anti-venom

There is no vaccine but specific or pooled anti-venom can save lives by neutralizing the toxins. Anti-venom is usually derived from horse or sheep serum (blood minus the cells) produced by the animal after snake envenomation. More recently, camels have been used to develop anti-venom as they have been shown to produce smaller antibody molecules that are just as effective but less likely to cause serum sickness and anaphylaxis. The dose required for a child is the same as for an adult since it relates to the amount of venom injected by the bite.

Venomous and Poisonous Animal Guide

Catching a snake for identification purposes can be risk as even a decapitated snake can retain its bite reflex for several hours. If no expert is available, the Venomous and Poisonous Animal Guide provides free access on snake identification and is available at: www.vapaguide.info. The following advice is offered for avoiding snakebite:

- Keep campsites tidy.
- Wear stout boots.
- Never put your hand down a hole.
- Avoid peeing in the bush at night.
- Step over logs rather than straddle.
- Beware at river banks.
- Beware decapitated snake can still snap.

Modern Medicines derived from Snake Venoms

The utility of snake toxin in modern medicine came about in 1977 when the first block-buster angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE-inhibitor) inhibitor, captopril, was licenced for the treatment of heart failure and hypertension. The active compound originates from the Brazilian viper (*Bothrops jararaca*). Another widely used medicinal compound derived from venom is the anti-platelet drug, tirofiban (1999), which has its origin in the saw-scaled viper (*Echis carinatus*). A powerful painkiller based on the compound mambalgins found in Black mamba venom (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) is being developed for use as a non-addictive alternative to morphine.

JOIN-UP ONLINE



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SES Membership

Why you should join SES

- Join a community of like-minded people interested in conserving the world we live in.
- Take-up opportunities to go on exciting scientific expeditions.
- Enjoy regular social evenings with drinks and Explorer Talks (London).
- Attend the annual 'Pioneers with Purpose' Explorer Awards Presentation Evening (London).
- Keep up-to-date with the latest exploration and scientific news and views through SES's social media channels.
- Support a charity doing extraordinary work around the world.

SES Memberships

FULL membership (Individual)	Annual Subscription £65
FULL membership (Joint)	Annual Subscription £110
Overseas membership	Annual Subscription £35
Under 25s membership	Annual Subscription £35

All membership fees, except the Under 25s membership, are subject to a £15 Joining fee.

Membership Benefits

- FREE admission to a full and varied programme of Explorer Talks (£10 to non-members).
- Access to detailed expedition and scientific reports via the website's secure members' area.
- **Ability to manage** your contact details and mailing preferences also via the website's secure members' area.
- Scientific Explorer Annual Review (this members' annual publication).
- 10% discount with Nathan Beard 'Wild Ventures' when arranging a bespoke venture.
- 15% discount on purchases from Cotswold Outdoor.
- 20% discount on online purchases from Power Traveller.
- SES books, DVDs, videos and merchandise at discount prices.

SES Memberships - Annual Subscriptions

SES membership annual subscriptions help to pay for the part-time staff who manage every aspect of SES's activity. This includes producing the Scientific Explorer Annual Review and regular newsletters, updating and maintaining SES's website and social media pages, the Explorer Awards programme and Presentation Evening, the scientific expeditions we make available for participation and a full and varied schedule of Explorer Talks and Charity Events we organise for SES members and friends to enjoy.

Legacies/Bequests and Donations

Leaving a legacy/bequeathing a donation in your Will is a simple, tax efficient method of ensuring your support of SES will continue into the future. For more information, please contact Gail Lloyd (gail@ses-explore.org).

Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows SES to reclaim the tax already paid on subscriptions and/or donations, and will increase the value of gifts at no extra cost. Persons paying subscriptions and making donations need to be currently resident in the UK and be a UK taxpayer. Persons also need to pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax for each tax year at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities to which that person donates will reclaim on gifts for that tax year. It is currently 25p for every £1 donated. Other taxes, such as VAT and council tax, do not qualify. In order to claim Gift Aid, SES periodically needs forms completed to ensure that donations/subscriptions still comply.

Keep Us Informed

If there is any chance that the details we have for you may not be correct or complete, you can register online to update your details. If you prefer, you can email admin@ses-explore.org giving your full name, address, email and landline and mobile telephone numbers and we will update your details for you. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member, please do encourage them to join-up online at www.ses-explore.org.

SES Annual Accounts and Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Agenda

SES 2019 Accounts have been subject to an independent review and have been emailed to members for information along with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Agenda.

Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30th June 2019

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	284,526	36,177	320,703	74,158
Charitable Activities				
Charitable Activities	11,460	-	11,460	10,024
Other trading activities	44,263	-	44,263	28,349
Investment income	329	-	329	249
Total	340,578	36,177	376,755	112,780
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	30,634	900	31,534	32,120
Charitable activities				
Charitable Activities	56,302	34,885	91,187	78,472
Total	86,936	35,785	122,721	110,592
NET INCOME	253,642	392	254,034	2,188
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	41,909	15,334	57,243	55,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	295,551	15,726	311,277	57,243

Balance Sheet at 30th June 2019

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments	100	-	100	100
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	250,998	-	250,998	1,354
Cash at bank	71,410	15,726	87,136	81,728
	322,408	15,726	338,134	83,082
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(26,957)	-	(26,957)	(25,939)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	295,451	15,726	311,177	57,143
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	295,551	15,726	311,277	57,243
NET ASSETS	295,551	15,726	311,277	57,243
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			295,551	41,909
Restricted funds			15,726	15,334
TOTAL FUNDS			311,277	57,243

Please see the full accounts emailed to Members for Notes details.

Charity Information

Honorary President

Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE, DSc (Hon), D Eng (hc), FRSGS

Chairman

Neil Laughton

CEO

Henrietta Thorpe

Honorary Treasurer

David Zeitlin

Honorary Solicitors

Richard When MA, Jenny Wordsworth

Council Members

Neil Laughton (*Chair*), David Zeitlin, Diane Allen OBE, James Borrell, Peter Felix CBE, Barbara Jeffrey, Peter Kohler FRGS, Trevor Moss, Briony Turner

Co-opted Council Members

Jane Davis FRGS, Professor Alastair Driver, Dr Alexander Finnen, Lucy Shepherd, James Balfour, Jenny Wordsworth

Honorary Vice Presidents

Phyllis Angliss, Wendy Bentall FLS, John Davies, Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bt OBE, Pen Hadow, Neil Laughton, Ruth Mindel, Andrew Mitchell, Richard Snailham MA, FRGS, Rosie Stancer, Lucy Thompson

Honorary Advisory Board

HSH Duke Leopold d'Arenberg, Dame Dr Claire Bertschinger, James Balfour, Mark Beaumont, Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE, George Bullard, Simon Chinn, Craig Cohon, Jane Davis FRGS, Robin Edwards, Peter Felix CBE (*Chair*), Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE, Ben Fogle, Bear Grylls, Pen Hadow, Sean Hotung, Neil Laughton, Simon Murray CBE, Major Timothy Peake CMG, Dr Mary Jean Reimer, Neville Shulman CBE, Konstantin Sidorov, Rosie Stancer, Prof Mike Stroud OBE, Levison Wood, Christopher Wright

SES co-operates with SES Jersey.

SES Expedition Base

The following part-time staff work out of Expedition Base:

CEO Henrietta Thorpe (henrietta@ses-explore.org)

SES Explorer Awards & Events Nikki Skinner (nikki@ses-explore.org)

SES Membership & Finance Manager Gail Lloyd (gail@ses-explore.org)

SES Executive Secretary Victoria Hankinson (admin@ses-explore.org)

Film Trusts Ros Wardall

Honorary Logistics Officer Dave Smith (dave@ses-explore.org)

Honorary Archivist Ros Wardall

Governance & Policy Committee

Neil Laughton (*Chair*), David Zeitlin, Briony Turner, Henrietta Thorpe

Finance & Fundraising Committee

Peter Felix CBE (*Chair*), Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE, Neil Laughton, David Zeitlin, Barbara Jeffrey, Jane Davis FRGS, Gail Lloyd

Explorer Awards Committee

Diane Allen OBE (*Chair*), James Borrell, Ed Cooper, Barry Moss, Lucy Shepherd, Nikki Skinner

Events Committee

Neil Laughton (*Chair*), John Blashford-Snell, David Zeitlin, Barbara Jeffrey, Trevor Moss, Jane Davis FRGS, Nikki Skinner, Henrietta Thorpe

Expeditions & Science Committee

Henrietta Thorpe (*Chair*), Diane Allen OBE, Trevor Moss, Briony Turner

Learning & Development Committee

Briony Turner (*Chair*), James Borrell, Peter Kohler, Gail Lloyd

Overseas Representatives

Econ Yolima Cipagauta (Latin America), Major General Joe Singh MSS, MSc (Guyana), Professor Terbish (Mongolia), Captain John Hinchliffe (Myanmar), Ato Solomon Behre (Ethiopia), Jill Weir (Canada)

Voluntary Advisors

Anthony Belchambers, Julia Thorold

Registered Office and Charity Number

Mullins Mead, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9DS
Charity Number 267410

Bankers

Natwest Bank plc, The Commons, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JY

Independent Examiner

John Thackar FCA DChA, Chariot House Limited, Chartered Accountants, 44 Grand Parade, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9QA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Scientific Exploration Society Annual General Meeting

will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 18th March 2020
in the SES Boardroom at the Park Tower Hotel, 101 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
6. Election of Council Members
7. Re-election of Auditors
8. Any Other Business

Registered Office: Mullins Mead, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9DS

January 2020

By order of the Council



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