



SCIENTIFIC
EXPLORATION
SOCIETY

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORER

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



Expeditions, news and events

DISCOVER

Pioneers with Purpose

RESEARCH

Socials@Gaucho

CONSERVE

Fearghal O'Nuallain
Rio Desaguadero - photo by www.studiocanoa.com
Guest Speaker at SES Socials@Gaucho in January 2018

Welcome

The Scientific Exploration Society (SES) is a UK based charity (No 267410) that was founded in 1969 by Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE. The SES leads, funds and supports scientific discovery, research and conservation in remote parts of the world offering knowledge, education and community aid. Whilst few areas of the world remain undiscovered, there is still much to learn and to be done in promoting sustainable economies, saving endangered species and offering community welfare in less developed countries.

Contents

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|---|
| 2 | Diary 2018 | 19 | Socials@Gaucho 2018 |
| 4 | Message from the Chairman | 21 | Members' News |
| 5 | SES Expeditions | 24 | Members' Top Tips |
| 7 | SES Endorsed Expedition | 27 | Fundraising and Alumni Events |
| 8 | Explorer Awards 2017 | 28 | Obituaries |
| 10 | 2017 'Pioneers with Purpose' Winners | 30 | Medicine Chest |
| 12 | Explorer Awards 2018 | 31 | Membership, Benefits, Gift Aid and Legacies |
| 13 | Explorer Award Winners' News | 32 | Accounts |
| 14 | Expedition News | 33 | Charity Information |
| 18 | Lectures 2017 | | |

“It is better to go skiing and think of God, than go to church and think of sport.”

Fridtjof Nansen



SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Tuesday 30th January (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Fearghal O'Nuallain – The Water Diaries – exploring the world's most interesting river by foot	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Tuesday 13th February (6pm)	John Blashford-Snell – Exploration in Latin America	Canning House, 14-15 Belgrave Square, Belgravia, London SW1X 8PS
Tuesday 27th February (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Angus Wingfield – Life and Death in KwaZulu Natal	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Wednesday 21st March (6pm AGM, 6.30 for 7pm Emily Penn)	SES Annual General Meeting followed by a talk from Emily Penn – Oceans	Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN
Tuesday 27th March (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Grand Slam Explorer Newall Hunter – The Science of Successful Expeditions	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Sunday 22nd April	Virgin Money London Marathon 2018	London
Tuesday 24th April (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho SES Trustee Peter Kohler – Robots for Conservation	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Tuesday 22nd May (6.30pm)	SES Explorer Awards 2018 (Tickets £20, £15 SES Members and £10 Concessions – purchased via EVENTBRITE)	Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Imperial College, Kensington, London SW7 2AZ
Wednesday 23rd May	Operation Drake Reunion (see www.ses-explore.org and Eventbrite)	London
Tuesday 29th May (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho(City) Sam McConnell – Discovering the Red Land	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Tuesday 26th June (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Sacha Dench – The Flight of the Swans	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL

Diary 2018

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Tuesday 31st July (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Guest Speaker TBC	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Wednesday 19th September	SES Fundraiser with Guest Speaker Levison Wood (see www.ses-explore.org for more details)	Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Tuesday 25th September (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho SES Trustee and SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2015 James Borrell – Conservation successes from the Skeleton Coast to the Serengeti	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Tuesday 2nd October	Blue Nile 50th Anniversary a reunion to celebrate the expedition that founded the Scientific Exploration Society	Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Tuesday 30th October (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho Vanessa O'Brien – K2 – The Final Conquest	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL
Tuesday 27th November (6pm)	SES Socials@Gaucho SES Inspirational Explorer Award 2017 Martin Holland - The Sandukui Pinnacle	Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL

*“To explore is to broaden
the horizons of one’s mind
beyond expectation.”*

Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE

Ryan Burke
Ethiopian Highlands
SES Explorer 2014



Message from the Chairman

I was delighted to take over as Chairman of the Scientific Exploration Society (SES) in March 2017 from Andrew Mitchell. It is an honour to continue his excellent work.

My aim during my term is to inject the Membership with new blood to further secure the excellent reputation, initiatives and financial viability of the Society in the years to come. I am also looking to improve how the Society communicates with its Members and Friends, both via printed material and electronically. If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch.

As you browse through this newly designed publication, you will see that we have great plans for the Society in 2018. The SES welcomes new Members, so please do recommend the SES to your family and friends and encourage them to become Members and take up the opportunity to:

- participate in a number of remote scientific expeditions;
- attend the ever-expanding Explorer Awards event;
- join a community of like-minded individuals at monthly Explorer talks;
- reunite with old friends at alumni events; and
- support the Society at some amazing fundraising events, including the inaugural 2018 Fundraiser with Levison Wood and 2019 50th Anniversary commemoration with Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

The Society is run by a dedicated team of part-time staff and volunteers, but we could do so much more with a little extra financial support. If you know of anyone, or can recommend anyone, that we might approach (organisations or individuals), please do get in touch.

I look forward to meeting you at an event soon.

Neil Laughton
Chairman

SES Expeditions

The Scientific Exploration Society was founded in 1969 by Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE and colleagues following the successful first navigation of the Ethiopian Blue Nile, in order to initiate a worldwide programme of scientific expeditions for the exploration of remote regions of the earth; focusing on scientific research, conservation, education and community aid projects, particularly in under-resourced environments. The Society is one of the longest running exploration organisations in the world, with an unrivalled record of initiating over 150 expeditions since it began, achieving many 'world firsts' in exploration, pioneering and testing specialist equipment in the field and developing leadership skills.

SES Championed Expeditions

In 2017, the Society sought to recognise and support high quality, innovative and pioneering scientific exploration by developing a means of giving 'non-financial support' to those leading expeditions, which match the aims and objectives of the SES. This activity is called Championing and Aims and Objectives of an Expedition (SES Championed Expeditions).

The benefits of being a SES Championed Expedition include:

- a link to one of the oldest exploration organisations in the world;
- mentoring and support from a network of experienced explorers;
- opportunity to raise expedition profiles by giving talks to SES Members and Friends;
- features in the Scientific Explorer Annual Review (annual magazine for SES Members);
- promotion in the SES e-Newsletter and on the SES website and social media pages; and
- one year's free SES Membership to a network of like-minded individuals.

The Society approved two expeditions this year to be SES Championed Expeditions:

- Peter Kohler - The Plastic Tide; and
- Colonel John Blashford-Snell - Kenya Quest 2018.

SES Endorsed Expeditions

Under the direction of the Society's new Chairman, Neil Laughton, and his wish to return to the Society's roots and reinforce the reason for its creation, 2018 will see the reintroduction of SES Expeditions. These Expeditions will be called SES Endorsed Expeditions and, like Championed Expeditions, will match the aims and objectives of the SES and receive the same benefits. They will be run by professional third-party expedition companies and will give the Society's Members the opportunity to take part in an expedition that they would otherwise not be able to do.

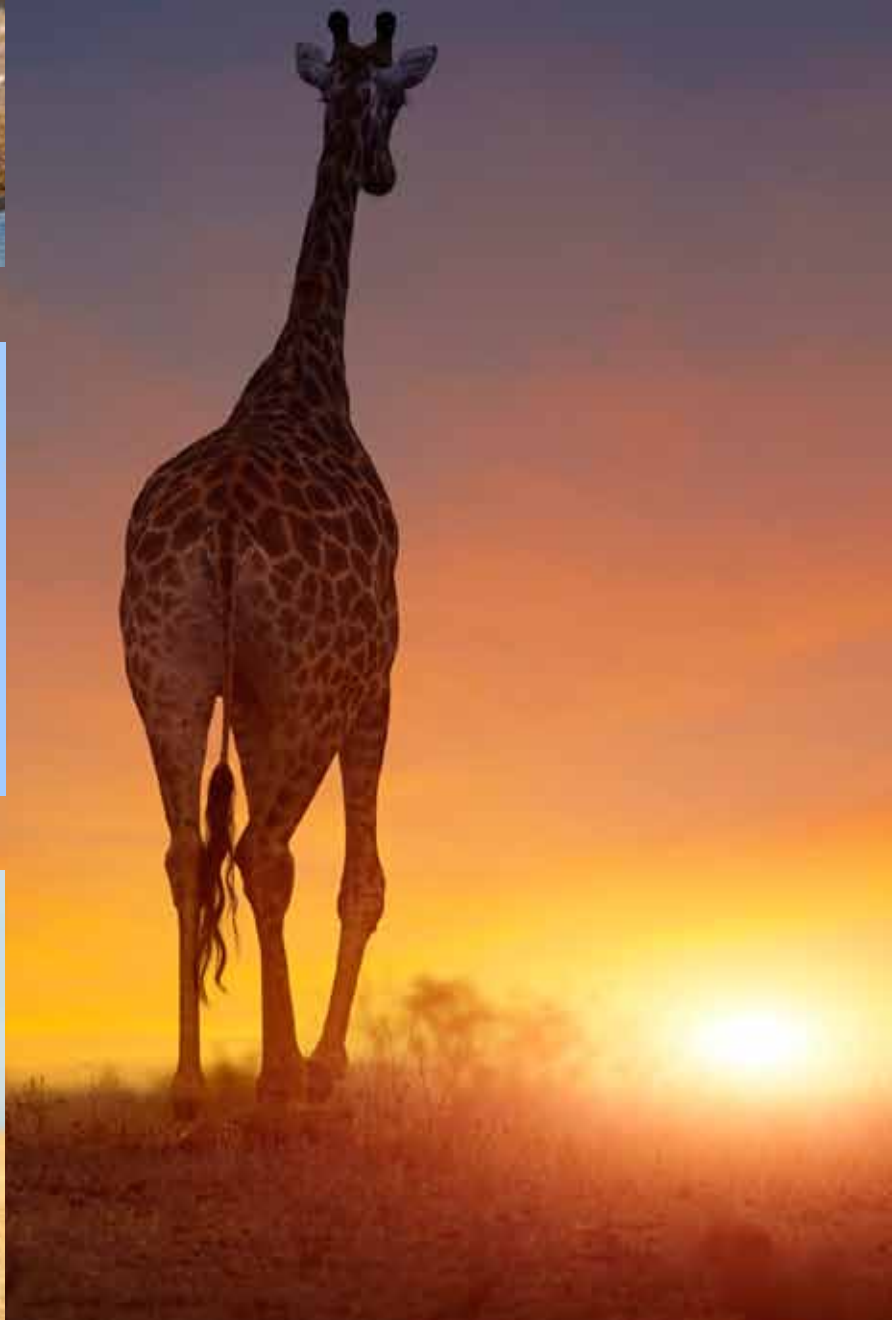
SES Members participate in SES Endorsed Expeditions at their own risk, and will not hold the SES, its trustees, employees, volunteers, partners or agents liable (whether in contract or in tort or in negligence or for breach of statutory duty or otherwise) for any loss, damage, personal injury, delay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

The first SES Endorsed Expedition is the **South African Giraffe Monitoring and Research Expedition 2018** (see page 7 for full details of the expedition, its aims and objectives and how to participate). It will be run by SES Member and Expedition Specialist Angus Wingfield – Africa Wild Trails Founder and Director (www.africawildtrails.com), Expedition Trainer and Chief Expedition Leader for African Wild Trails Limited.



SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2017
Christopher Poonian, Sinai (Egypt)

DISCOVER RESEARCH CONSERVE



SES Member Angus Wingfield
www.africawildtrails.com and Guest Speaker at
SES Socials@Gaucho in February 2018
Giraffe, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

SES Endorsed Expedition

South African Giraffe Monitoring and Research Expedition 2018

- WHERE:** KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa
WHEN: Friday 1st June to Saturday 16th June 2018
WHAT: Field-based research and monitoring of the South African Giraffe
WHO: Facilitated by SES Member and Africa Wild Trails Director and Expedition Leader, Angus Wingfield and Africa Wild Trails in country expert, Dr Peter Calverly
COST: £1,800 + flights

This scientific expedition focuses on gathering information on the movement patterns, habitat use and foraging behaviour of the South African Giraffe in the remote Tugela River Valley in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Participants will operate out of a rustic tented base camp and will be required to follow and observe herds of Giraffe on foot, collecting relevant data and samples in the field and collating their findings in our field laboratory. Information gathered from the expedition will be used to aid in the conservation of Giraffe in the immediate area and will be shared with the broader scientific community.

Rationale

In 1996, x20 Giraffe were reintroduced into a 100,000ha game preserve in central KwaZulu-Natal. Since then the protected biosphere area available to Giraffe has shrunk to 10,000ha while the Giraffe numbers have swollen to an estimated 150 individuals. There is concern that future increases in Giraffe numbers may have a negative impact on other plant and animal species in the area through direct and indirect competition and over-browsing. Furthermore, as intraspecific competition between Giraffe increases, individuals may be forced outside of the protected area and into unprotected areas where they may fall victim to poaching. The isolated nature of the study site, the rugged terrain and lack of road infrastructure calls for an outdoor field-based approach to research. It has therefore been recommended that a scientific expedition be launched aimed at gathering the information needed to make informed decisions with regards to the future conservation and management of this Giraffe population.

Aims and Objectives

- Create an identikit for Giraffe in the area for our own use and for local rangers.
- Follow movement patterns and habitat use directly on foot and remotely using modern tracking techniques such as VHF and GPS telemetry.
- Observe the dietary preferences of Giraffe, how this changes between seasons and possible competition for food with other species.
- Basic population dynamics: estimate population size, demographics and growth rates.

Methodology and Study Site

Only 30% of the study site is accessible by road and even then 4x4 vehicles are necessary. Most of the data collection will be done on foot and operating out of remote base camps. Participants will be led in the field by a Field Biologist who will oversee data collection. Data and samples will be collected according to accepted scientific methodology and sent off to laboratories for analysis where necessary. Zingela Safaris borders the Tugela River in central KwaZulu-Natal and forms the hub of the research project. From here, we will follow Giraffe herds as they navigate from one protected area to the next.

There are 20 places available on this expedition. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Angus Wingfield at angus@afriawildtrails.com.

Special Note: SES Members participate in this expedition at their own risk, and will not hold the 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. The SES endorses the aims and objectives of this expedition only.



SES Explorer Award Winners 2017 with their Leatherman Multi-tools (photographer Mark Nortje)

Explorer Awards 2017

Pioneers with Purpose

The SES welcomed over 200 guests at the SES Explorer Awards 2017, which was kindly hosted by the Royal College of Surgeons and was an unmissable celebration of Exploration and Leadership.

The evening began with a *'Taste of Expedition'* reception where guests enjoyed a glass of wine whilst meeting explorers, and seeing equipment and images from the field. Andrew Mitchell, former Chairman of the SES and founder of the SES Explorer Awards, opened the official proceedings with a welcome speech in which he talked of how the urgency to explore has never been greater, and the importance of identifying a common denominator across all winners of a driving passion to make a difference and leave a legacy from their expeditions.

The seven SES Explorer Award winners were presented with their Awards by Professor Derek Alderson, Vice-President of the RCS, Andrew Mitchell, Dr John Davies, Rosie Stancer, Neville Shulman CBE and Paul Sandford. We were honoured that six of the seven winners (see pages 16 and 17 for full details on the winners) were able to receive their Awards in person (Anirban, Pramod and Alex travelling from India and USA), and impressed the audience with their eloquent acceptance speeches.

Last year's Award winners, Dr Stephen Spencer and Aida Cuni-Sanchez, talked and showed stunning footage from their films. Guest of Honour and the Society's new Chairman, Neil Laughton, talked of the importance of the SES today and his plans for the future of the SES.

Sean Hotung concluded the evening with the presentation of the Hotung Medal – an Award created by long-

time supporter of the Society and Sean's father, H.E. Ambassador Eric Hotung – to Rosie Stancer in recognition of her outstanding results in the field of exploration. Rosie and the seven Award winners were also presented with Leatherman SideKick multi-tools, kindly donated by Leatherman.

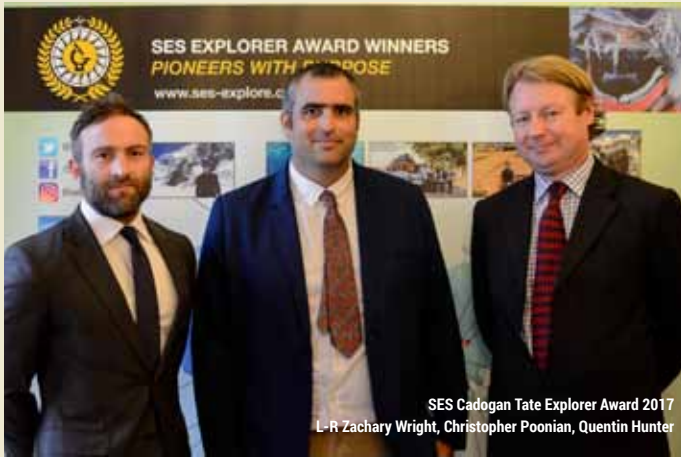
The SES is indebted to the supporters it partners with to develop these Awards, and who share its vision to support and celebrate the 'Pioneers with Purpose' in whose capable hands the future of scientific exploration lies. Our sincerest thanks go to the many people whose hard work made the evening possible: Martyn Coomer, Professor Alderson and all the team at the RCS, Award Supporters, The Family & Friends of Elodie Sandford, Neville Shulman CBE, Sir Charles Blois Bt, Viscount Gough, the Rivers Foundation, Cadogan Tate, the individuals and organisations contributing to the SES Inspirational Explorer Award; to Leatherman who kindly presented multi-tools to the winners; to Jacqui Sinnatt of The Brand Scout, Sarah-Jane Lewis, photography Mark Nortje, Newall Hunter and Diane Allen and to those who kindly donated raffle prizes and all who came and supported the evening. A special mention to John Blashford-Snell, Andrew Mitchell, Diane Allen, Barry Moss, James Borrell and Edward Cooper who gave so much of their time to scrutinise the applications and making the difficult decision in selecting the winners from an outstanding field of applications.

The 2017 SES Explorer Awards Winners

SES Cadogan Tate Explorer Award 2017	Christopher Poonian
SES Gough Explorer Award 2017	Dr Pramod Patil
SES Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award 2017	Molly Thompson
SES Inspirational Explorer Award 2017	Martin Holland
SES Rivers Foundation Award for Health & Humanities 2017	James Unwin
SES Elodie Sandford Explorer Award 2017	Alexsander Braczkowski
SES Neville Shulman Film Award 2017	Anirban Dutta Gupta

Explorer Awards 2017

A selection of photos from the SES Explorer Awards ceremony in May 2017 at the Royal College of Surgeons (photographer Mark Nortje)



SES Cadogan Tate Explorer Award 2017
L-R Zachary Wright, Christopher Poonian, Quentin Hunter



SES Gough Explorer Award 2017
L-R Martyn Coomer, Dr Pramod Patil, Viscount Gough, Professor Derek Alderson



SES Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award 2017
L-R Sir Charles Blois, Molly Thompson, Rosie Stancer, Jesse Dufton



SES Inspirational Explorer Award 2017
L-R Martin Holland, Neil Laughton



SES Rivers Foundation Award for Health & Humanities 2017
L-R Daniella Greenspan (for Jamie Unwin), Susan Rivers, Alan Rivers, Keith Constable, Tina Bolton



SES Elodie Sandford Explorer Award 2017
L-R Cameron Sandford, Paul Sandford, Aleksander Braczkowski, Isabella Alexander, Alexander Sandford



SES Neville Shulman Film Award 2017
L-R Neville Shulman, Aida Cumi Sanchez, Anirban Dutta



SES Hotung Medal 2017
L-R Neil Laughton, Rosie Stancer, Sean Hotung, Andrew Mitchell

PIONEERS WITH PURPOSE

The Winners

Cadogan Tate

Everything, handled with care

SES Cadogan Tate Explorer Award 2017

CHRISTOPHER POONIAN

The Bedouin Coral Reef Fisheries Expedition, South Sinia

An Award of £2,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2017' kindly sponsored by Cadogan Tate

Christopher Poonian (<http://ecology.nottingham.ac.uk/poonian.html>) is a freelance marine environmental consultant, based at the University of Nottingham. He combined his fascination with the Bedouin Communities of South Sinai, his love of diving, and his interest in traditional marine resources in an expedition to the Sinai Peninsula in July 2017. The strong local collaborations Christopher established during visits to the region enabled him a unique insight into the traditional and established protection practices of the intensely private communities, which he hopes to process into longer term government marine protection plans. He also sought to improve and enhance relationships between these communities and the diving and tourist organisations within the region.



SES Gough Explorer Award 2017

DR PRAMOD PATIL

Clinic on a Camel Expedition, Thar Desert, Rajasthan

An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Gough Explorer 2017' kindly sponsored by Viscount Gough

Dr Pramod Patil (www.facebook.com/gibpramod) is a qualified medical doctor, who in 2014 left medicine to set up a Whitley Fund for Nature supported project to establish a community conservation plan for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan. During that expedition, he recognised how the Government funded 'settled' medical provision was failing to reach the nomadic pastoralists in the region. In a return to medically motivated expedition, he seeks to understand the community's health culture, travelling by camel through unexplored landscapes, cultures and people, comparing traditional aspects of health and diseases associated with nomadic lifestyle with a modern doctor's perspective. Due to a combination of circumstances, Pramod's expedition has been put on hold.



Rivers Foundation

SES Rivers Foundation Award for Health and Humanities

James Unwin

'Stand up for Nature' Project Kenya

An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Rivers Foundation Explorer 2017'

James Unwin (www.standupfornature.org) is a 21 year-old zoologist and cameraman who recently graduated from Exeter and together with partner Hannah Pollock, headed to Kenya in Autumn 2017. They sought out the inspirational Kenyans, who against all odds and in the face of adversity, civil unrest and poverty, have made it their mission to help conserve Kenya's wildlife. They captured these remarkable stories in a series of short films, which they showed on the bicycle powered cinemas they have constructed to proudly share these critical and inspiring messages across Kenya.



SES Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award 2017
MOLLY THOMPSON
The British Greenland Stauning Alps Expedition

An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Sir Charles Blois Explorer 2017' kindly sponsored by Sir Charles Blois Bt.

Molly Thompson (www.greenland2017.com) proudly led the British Greenland Stauning Alps Expedition in April 2017. Measurements were taken from the Roslin Glacier which can be compared to estimates from satellite data, and against similar historic measurements taken in the 1970s. The unsupported team navigated the glacier system, often via unexplored valleys and unclimbed peaks to complete this valuable climate change research, and returned inspired by the adventure and keen to process the data to see quantifiable results soon.



SES Inspirational Explorer Award 2017
MARTIN HOLLAND
The Sanduki Pinnacle Expedition, Borneo

An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Inspirational Explorer 2017'

Martin Holland (www.martin-holland.com) is an explorer, conservationist, communicator and founder of the Heart of Borneo Project, Beyond Exploration and Expedition Base Camp. During the aerial reconnaissance for his very first expedition, he spotted the iconic Sandukui Pinnacle rising from the forest. To reach, climb, and study the biodiversity surrounding this striking feature is the inspiration behind his 2018 expedition, where he will lead a local team of climbers and scientists, all the while documenting their journey and raising awareness and empathy for the forests of Borneo and their plight.



SES Elodie Sandford Explorer Award 2017
ALEKSANDER BRACZKOWSKI
The status and conflict of large carnivores in Uganda

An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive Title 'SES Elodie Sandford Explorer 2017' established and generously supported by the friends and family of Elodie Sandford

Aleksander Braczkowski (www.alexanderbraczkowski.com) is a big cat biologist and accomplished photographer and film maker, originally from South Africa. He has an MSc in Zoology from Oxford, and is currently a doctoral researcher based at the University of Queensland. His expedition to the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda will see Alex combine his camera work with technology to carry out a first accurate estimate of numbers of big cats, and establishing a carnivore – farmer risk map to deliver to local authorities. Local students will be trained in the techniques, and Alex seeks to inspire the youth within Uganda through locally led initiatives.



SES Neville Shulman Film Award 2017
ANIRBAN DUTTA GUPTA
Jarawa and Honey – The Andaman Islands, India

An Award of £7,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Neville Shulman Explorer 2017' kindly sponsored by Neville Shulman

Anirban Dutta Gupta (www.anirban.co) is a naturalist and film maker from Mumbai, who has for the last decade built strong collaboration with the Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research Institute in Port Blair, allowing him unrivalled insight into the cultures and ways of several indigenous communities within the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He will venture deep into the jungle to observe, document and archive the complex and fascinating honey collecting process as part of capturing the traditional knowledge, culture and social systems for the communities themselves, researchers and policy makers.



Explorer Award Winners

Explorer Awards 2018

The SES is delighted to announce that the SES Explorer Awards 2018 evening will be held on Tuesday 22nd May in Sir Alexander Fleming Building at Imperial College, London. Please put this date firmly in your diary and join us to see the 2018 SES Explorers receive their Awards, and to see films and presentations from the outstanding 'Pioneers with Purpose' we have been proud to support throughout the year.



 **SCIENTIFIC
EXPLORATION
SOCIETY**

SES EXPLORER AWARDS 2018
Pioneers with Purpose
Tuesday, 22nd May 2018

A celebration of Exploration, Innovation and Leadership

Date: Tuesday, 22nd May 2018
Time: 6.30 for 6.45pm Presentations,
followed by Drinks Reception
Venue: Sir Alexander Fleming Building,
Imperial College - City and Guilds Building,
Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ
Tickets: £20 (£15 SES Members, £10 concessions)

BUY TICKETS SES Eventbrite Event www.ses-explore.org

**DISCOVER
RESEARCH
CONSERVE**

Kindly supported by Neville Shulman CBE, Rivers Foundation, Friends & Family of Elodie Sandford,
Sir Charles Blois Bt, Viscount Gough, The O'Hea Family Trust,
The Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust, Avocet Insurance Consultants, the Trustees of the SES

AWARD SPONSORSHIP

Would you consider supporting a 'Pioneer with Purpose' through the SES Explorer Awards?

There is a great opportunity for individuals and organisations alike to encourage, recognise and reward the next generation of outstanding leaders in the world of scientific exploration and sustainability. By supporting a bespoke Award or series of Awards, or contributing to a collective Award, you can support a rising star through their daring journey, scientific research and watch them go on to achieve great objectives, whilst carrying their supporters' name with pride. Please do contact sally@ses-explore.org to learn more about the unique opportunity the SES offers.

Explorer Award Winners – News

SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2015 and SES Trustee James Borrell has been travelling across Southern Africa discovering inspirational conservation success stories. He'll be telling us all about his travels at the September 2018 SES Socials@Gaucho. Meanwhile, the film from his 2015 expedition to Madagascar has launched and can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/241003655>.



SES Inspirational Explorer 2017 Martin Holland is safely home following a treacherous recce by bicycle, along often broken logging roads, to the Sandukui Pinnacle in Kalimantan, Borneo. He returns in January to lead an all Indonesian ascent of the pinnacle, and biodiversity study of the historic rainforests of the region.

SES Rivers Foundation Explorer 2017 Jamie Unwin and partner Hannah Pollock have been in Nairobi making final preparations for their expedition to seek out the inspirational local Kenyans who help protect their wildlife. Their remarkable stories will be captured in a series of short films, which will be shown within the rural communities – using a bicycle-powered cinema where there is no electricity.

SES Neville Shulman Film Award 2015 Giulia Grimaldi has achieved some inspiring developments directly resulting from her Commander Islands (Russia) Expedition. She was approached by Olesya Ilina, a Russian expedition leader who had heard about her research into microplastics, and invited to join him on an expedition to analyse the health of Lake Baikal – supposedly the cleanest lake in the world.



Giulia's role as lead diver was to collect samples and analyze the microplastics. Limited time in the country and restrictions on sending samples out of the country for analysis led to Giulia returning to her current home in Oslo and teaching Dr Ilina and her team to test the samples by skype! A year later, Dr Ilina has established her own lab at the University of Moscow to monitor microplastics pollution! Meanwhile in Norway, Giulia has set up a collaboration within the diving community across the country to monitor sea sediments for microplastics, and set out a programme to create a base line for environmental quality by 2018. Looking back, she is thrilled at what she has managed to achieve over the last two years, and firmly believes that none of this would have been possible without the support of Neville Shulman and the SES! You can see the film from the 2015 Expedition at <https://vimeo.com/155805100>.

SES Elodie Sandford Explorer 2017 Alex Braczkowski is in Uganda on his expedition to study and photograph the tree-climbing lions within the Queen Elizabeth National Park. His expertise with drones, camera traps and the high specification equipment he has with him, are already producing stunning results.



INSPIRE
PIONEER
EXPLORE

Expedition News

Colonel John Blashford-Snell - Colombia Amazonas Expedition

The Expedition involved community aid and wildlife conservation work at the Southern tip of Colombia, where the bustling river port of Leticia lies on the Northern bank of the great Amazon River at the junction of Brazil and Peru. No vehicle roads link the rest of the country with this frontier town of some 40,000 people and all access is by air or river.

The Ticuna villages enjoy some government support, but lack many basic essentials, such as clean drinking water and medical aid. JBS met Senor Rusbel Torres (President of the Ticoya, the Association of Indian Communities) in 2016 and he welcomed the idea of an expedition and the provision of dental treatment, reading glasses and school books, as well as giving advice on water filtration and solar power and wildlife studies. But, the most pressing need was for an Ambulance Boat to carry urgent cases to the hospitals in Puerto Narino and Leticia and this was an important aim of the expedition.



Colombian economist, Yolima Cipagauta (or Yoli, as she is known by the SES), the Society's Latin American representative and naturalist Sergio Leon of the Eco-Destinos Company spent a year working with Rusbel Torres to organise the expedition. They were greatly assisted by Medical Mission International (MMI), a Canadian based medical charity that provides spiritual and compassionate healthcare worldwide.

In May 2017, the expedition team of 17 volunteers, led by John Blashford-Snell and including doctors, dentists, an economist, a builder, a professor of environmental management, an agriculturist and others with special experience and skills went to Colombia Amazonas and catalogued the wildlife, gave aid to the indigenous people and delivered the 8m Ambulance Boat, fitted with a 40HP outboard, which has already proved real value to the Ticuna.

The expedition is enormously grateful to Clinique La Prairie, the famous clinic at Montreux (Switzerland) for providing the funds for the 8m Ambulance Boat. Thanks also go to Zenith Watches and kind friends who helped to fund the community aid for the Ticuna. A 30m river boat

with a 70HP outboard was also chartered to carry the team and equipment and Rusbel Torres helped by providing a 10m craft as a stores boat for the boxes of medical equipment and two collapsible dental chairs loaned by MMI. The expedition found Dr Adriaan Van De Wart's drone and Professor Alastair Driver's four Camera Traps were especially useful.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell - Mongolian Expedition 2016 Report and CD

SES Member Ros Bowles has produced an outstanding report on the 2016 Mongolian Expedition. It has 189 pages of scientific reports and photos of this highly memorable expedition, written by the team and Mongolian scientists. It is a valuable document for anyone interested in Mongolia. Dave Smith (Hon Logistics Officer at Expedition Base) is making CDs of this report. These are being sent to expedition members, but if others would like a CD and a copy of the expedition film, they are available at £17 (which includes postage and packing) from Gail Lloyd, Expedition Base, Motcombe, Dorset, SP7 9PB (gail@ses-explore.org). Payment can be made by debit/credit card or by cheque.

SES Trustee Peter Kohler - The Plastic Tide Expedition (SES Championed Expedition)

The photo below was taken on the first day on 1st April 2017 at Ringstead Beach, Dorset and was the first of The Plastic Tide's 30-beach UK-wide beach clean, which resulted in 4,200 miles travelled, 30 beaches cleaned with the help of over 80 volunteers, and 12,000 drone survey images and finally a total of 1 tonne of litter removed from UK beaches.

The Plastic Tide's online tagging effort attracted over one million tags from over 4,500 volunteers in three months. A huge online survey has been conducted of over 700 people in a scientific survey of the impacts on wellbeing beach litter has with Dr. Kayleigh Wyles from the University of Surrey. The computer program can now spot 25% of plastics contained in an image of the beach completely on its own without any human help – a very promising step for it learning to tell the difference between plastic litter and non-litter items! Peter Kohler is now looking for funding to get PhD students involved over three years to



Colonel John Blashford-Snell is organising an expedition to Mongolia Baatar in July 2018. Full details of this expedition and its aims are available on www.ses-explore.org. The Team will be up to 21-strong and will include doctors, a dentist, engineers, biologists and those interested in giving aid to communities. Everyone MUST be able to ride! If you are interested in joining the Team, please email John Blashford-Snell (jbs@ses-explore.org).

bring the accuracy up to 80% and to train the algorithm to be able to predict plastic washing up on beaches with science expert's help.

Molly Thompson - The British Stauning Alps Expedition

In April 2017, Molly Thompson (SES Sir Charles Blois Explorer 2017) led a five-man team into unexplored areas of the remote Stauning Alps region in Central-Eastern Greenland. Being self-sufficient throughout, and carrying all kit, food, shelter, scientific instrumentation and travelling by ski pulling heavy pulks, the expedition posed a huge physical challenge in an extremely remote environment.



The objectives were threefold:

- (1) **Explore** – to venture into unexplored areas and claim several first ascents on new peaks.
- (2) **Research** – to repeat measurements taken during the 1970s and to install a network of ablation stakes in the Roslin Glacier to observe the impacts of climate change.
- (3) **Inspire** – despite the difficulties some of us must face, great adventures can be undertaken, showing disability has no barriers – team member Jesse Dufton being partially sighted.

Whilst the Greenland Ice Sheet is a major contributor to sea level rise and therefore attracts a significant amount of funding for vital, major research projects, smaller peripheral ice caps and mountain glaciers around the coastline of Greenland are often overlooked. Molly discovered that only three data sets have been collected from different areas of the Stauning Alps within the past 60 years. Current records are, therefore, incredibly sparse, but while the area is largely unvisited by scientists, there are an increasing number of mountaineering expeditions targeting unclimbed peaks in the area. The expedition therefore offered an ideal location to initiate a monitoring program collecting simple but vital measurements, which can be continued by future mountaineering expeditions. Using data from 1970s expeditions to the region, the team installed a network of ablation stakes – using a labour-intensive hand drill rather than transporting a power version with power generating equipment – and covering the length of the glacier from the snout, at 200m above sea level, up to the edge of the accumulation

area, at 1,700m above sea level. The stakes were placed at elevation intervals of approximately 200m, with additional stakes placed in a transect across the glacier in the approximate location of those measured during the 1970s. Snow cleared to access the glacier was sampled



for density and temperature profiles, providing insights in to the accumulation rates in the upper part of the glacier as well as valuable data to validate snow and precipitation models of the area. Stake locations have been shared with the World Glacier Monitoring Service and future measurements can be added to their records once they have been collected. When sufficient data has been collated, results from this long term observational record will be published, and made freely available through open access.

It wasn't all about scientific research, the team of keen mountaineers identified and summited virgin peaks, cols and glaciers, testing their skills through difficult terrain as they crossed pristine remote environments where temperatures dropped to -28, heavy snowfall and arctic storms buried their camps.

They returned safely in early May, with their scientific and adventurous aims and objectives completed, and with a huge sense of achievement and pride. Molly has interest from three teams planning trips to the Stauning Alps in 2018, who have offered to take measurements from the stakes to ensure that the legacy of the expedition is consolidated.

Chris Poonian - The Bedouin Coral Reef Fisheries Expedition

SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2017 Chris spent the summer of 2017 exploring the coastline of South Sinai, living and working with remote Bedouin tribes to learn about their traditional fisheries and the impacts of these fisheries on internationally-important coral reefs in the area. Eight sites along the coastline were selected as survey points, each subject to different levels of fishing pressure due to ease of accessibility. Preliminary analysis of data shows that there is a gradient of environmental degradation, with reefs showing more signs of negative ecological impacts closer to the major Bedouin settlement of Dahab. However, further analysis is required to separate out the

causes of these impacts to evaluate the contribution of fishing impacts; because tourism impacts such as pollution and coral breakage by divers will also likely be higher on more accessible reefs. During fishing trips with the Bedu, Christopher noted that they had a high level of respect for the coral reef ecosystem, always releasing undersized and low-value fish and avoiding damage to coral as far as possible.



He learnt from conversations with tribal elders, that traditional fishing practices in South Sinai have been affected by a variety of changes over the years. Firstly, the tumultuous political history of the past has contributed to a thorough distrust of authority among the Bedu, who only have real loyalty to their own tribal governance system. This has affected the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), since the Bedu do not respect the state, and are thus suspicious of and unwilling to comply with fishing restrictions. The combination of a poorly funded environmental sector and this lack of compliance has resulted in most of the MPAs in South Sinai becoming ineffective 'paper parks'. Secondly, the rise of tourism has greatly affected fishing activities, as fishing has changed from a purely subsistence activity, to one with commercial value, supplying local hotels and restaurants. The lack of engagement between the Bedu and other sectors of the tourism industry, which prefer to employ Egyptians from Upper Egypt, has resulted in very high fishing pressure particularly on valuable species such as lobsters.

One Bedouin elder interviewed noted that before the advent of tourism, you used to be able to 'see the lobsters on the reef from top of the mountains'. Nowadays, lobsters are few and far between. Other species have shown similar declines; many Bedouin fishermen that



Christopher spoke to noted that nowadays, you 'cannot even catch your lunch' whereas, a few years ago, it was easy to catch 50 – 60 kg of fish in a single trip. Fishing clearly is an important cultural and economic activity for the Mzeina Bedu, and thus any attempts to manage coral reef fisheries in the area must take these needs carefully into account in order to be successful. The current political climate in Egypt is not conducive to effective marine resource management, and the immense

distrust of authority was clear amongst the Bedu, with many individuals unwilling to even speak to Christopher about fisheries management. However, Bedouin fishermen clearly had a strong sense of pride in their lifestyle and respect for the sustainability of the reef ecosystem. He believes that working with the Bedu at the tribal level and involving them more fully in non-destructive tourism activities such as diving and desert guiding are key to sustainable management of reef systems in the region.

Once the hours of underwater video data has been analysed, Christopher hopes to submit two papers early next year, one on the spawning aggregation that he recorded and another on either fisheries or giant clam collection. He is in contact with the American University in Cairo Press about publishing a short book about Bedouin traditional fishing, and is in discussions about presenting his research at the International Marine Conservation Congress in Malaysia next June, dependent on travel funding.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell - Kenya Quest Expedition 2018

John Blashford-Snell's Kenya Quest Expedition 2018 involves community aid and wildlife conservation work on the slopes of Mount Kenya (5199m). This internationally significant protected zone is a World Heritage Site with a wide variety of wildlife.



Working with the Mount Kenya Trust, the expedition is building a new classroom for a primary school, giving medical and dental aid and carrying out patrols to aid the protection of the fauna and flora, especially the elephants. Movement is by horse (for those who can ride) or on foot.

The second part of the expedition will be in Laikipia County North of Nanyuki assisting with the study of the numerous wildlife and aiding the local population and the various conservation projects. The team will be accommodated in tents at the El Karama Eco-Lodge, moving by foot and in vehicles.

The area is on the equator and it should be dry in January with daily temperatures around 77 degrees Fahrenheit, but cooler in the evenings, especially on the slopes of Mount Kenya. The Expedition Team of 18-20 (including doctors, dentists, nurses, biologists, builders and those who love Africa) meet in Nairobi on 14 January 2018 and the expedition ends there on 30 January.

Special Note: SES Members participate in this expedition at their own risk, and will not hold the 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. The SES endorses the aims and objectives of this expedition only.

Roshan Kumar Thakur - SES Inspirational Explorer 2016 - Elephant conservation in Nepal

Roshan led an expedition in his native Nepal in October 2016, during which he sought to identify elephant corridor routes between the two main populations (Central and Eastern) out of four populations of elephant in Nepal.



Roshan and his team, comprising a conservation expert, botanist, herpetologist, ornithologist, mammal expert and volunteers, spent a gruelling 40 days traveling over 400km along the route of an identified elephant corridor between Central and Eastern Nepal.

The plan was two-fold: to carry out a series of surveys along the route, where little or no record of biodiversity had previously been carried out, and also to study elephant movement patterns, to include an interview / educational programme on movement behaviour patterns.

The reception in the 50 villages was not always welcoming, and in some cases even aggressive. Villagers who had first-hand experience of crop damage or even lost family members during Human Elephant conflicts were hostile towards the concept of elephant protection and indeed conservation in general. However, during the expedition, the team were able to speak to over 8,000 people about elephant movement patterns, and also explain government bylaws and compensation schemes in place for when incidents occur. They collected over 2,000 names

on a petition, which will be presented to authorities (with accompanying research data) as part of efforts to protect the corridors.

Elephant conservation in Nepal is far behind practices in India and Africa; Roshan's research to date has shown that the mammals natural passage between established colonies – along the movement corridors, is hindered by a number of factors but predominantly by human population growth and an associated loss of natural habitat. His ongoing research from the expedition seeks to discover whether elephants from each of the established colonies have exclusive genetic material, or whether elephants are still able to travel from colony to colony to mate and therefore prevent inbreeding. Roshan has also spent some time recently in Kenya working on a project to use honey-bees as an eco-deterrent to crop-raiding elephants, and is establishing an elephant conservation research station, from where he hopes to recruit and train young conservationists to share his passion for elephant conservation.

On a wider level, the other surveys on the expedition were very successful. A healthy population of birds and snakes were discovered, and whilst evidence of mammals was overall limited, the team were excited to discover footprints from the Striped Hyena, an endangered species in Nepal.



Lectures 2017

Pen Hadow

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

Honorary Vice-President Pen Hadow was the guest speaker following the SES AGM. Introduced by Andrew Mitchell (former Chairman of the SES) as a leading example of a 'Pioneer with Purpose', Pen is still the only person to have reached the North Pole solo and self-supported from Canada. His subsequent leadership of the pioneering international exploration programme, Catlin Arctic Survey (2007-2013), resulted in global awards for environmental protection, communications, technology and sponsorship. Epitomizing the 'Pioneers with Purpose' the SES celebrates, Pen told how his early quest for Arctic adventure inspired a lifelong and deeper passion for the region, and the motivation to highlight the urgent need for scientific exploration and marine protection of the North Pole region's international waters.



Colonel John Blashford-Snell

Sunday 23rd April 2017

Motcombe Village Hall

Honorary President John Blashford-Snell hosted a Ploughman's Lunch followed by a fantastic illustrated talk covering the Society's 48-year history of the pioneering expedition, including exploration firsts, flying cars and other transport firsts - the first canopy walkways and even hauling a grand piano from London to Guyana.



Alistair Carr

Monday 18th September 2017

Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

Alistair gave an impressive account of an intrepid adventure in the Sahel where he narrowly missed guerrillas and landmines and gave a fascinating insight into the politics in the Manga, a wild and remote region of Africa. His account of the people he encountered was while traveling through this little-known area, often the first white man in pockets of Africa to have escaped colonialism with no trace of westernisation.



Dr Dirk Gorissen

Monday 20th November 2017

Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

Dirk gave a lecture on technological developments in conservation and environmental issues and drew on a couple of case studies from his experience working with drones, landmines, marine litter, rural water supply in Tanzania, and orangutans in Borneo.



To read full reviews of SES Lectures and Talks held throughout the year, please visit the SES website (www.ses-explore.org).

Socials@Gaucho 2018

As part of a programme of new initiatives to engage SES Members and Friends and build a community of people interested in adventure, scientific research and conservation, the SES is excited to announce the launch of a monthly series of social evenings starting in 2018. Held on the last Tuesday of each month (except August and December), these events will be held at the Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL and offer guests ample time to relax, chat and network as well as enjoy an Explorer Talk.

The SES is grateful to International Removal and Storage experts, Cadogan Tate, for their generous sponsorship of these events.

The series starts on Tuesday 30th January with a talk from Fearghal O’Nuallain – geography teacher during term time – explorer during the holidays, whose philosophy is that ‘the world teaches more than books’, and uses the knowledge and experience from his expeditions to create unique education programmes for his pupils.

SES Member Angus Wingfield will talk about ‘Life and death in KwaZulu Natal’ in February. SES Member, Grand Slam Explorer and drone pilot Newall Hunter will be speaking in March on ‘The Science of Successful Expeditions’. We hope you will join us!

The list of events booked at the time of printing are detailed within the 2018 DIARY on page 2 but please do keep a close eye on our website (www.ses-explore.org) and social media pages ([SESexplore](#) and [@SES_explore](#)) for announcements of other speakers organised for the rest of the year.

We have also been delighted to promote relevant talks taking place at the Royal Geographical Society with a special ticket price agreed for SES Members. These talks have included Monty Halls, Mike Stroud, Sacha Dench and Joanna Lumley - **Annual Transglobe Expedition Trust** on Thursday 16th November 2017 and **Oman’s Whales, Dolphins and Turtles** on Wednesday 18th October 2017.

SES SOCIALS @ GAUCHO CITY
Fearghal O’Nuallain
The Water Diaries -
Adventures with Water

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY
DISCOVER • RESEARCH • OBSERVE

Tuesday, 30th January 2018
Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL. Drinks from 1800, Talk 1900, Dinner /drinks 1945.
FREE ADMISSION - reserve your place at www.ses-explore.org/news EVENT#FEEL [Fearghal O’Nuallain]

Kindly Supported by Cadogan Tate

SES SOCIALS @ GAUCHO CITY

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY
DISCOVER • RESEARCH • OBSERVE

Angus Wingfield
Life and death in KwaZulu Natal

Tuesday, 27th February 2018
Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL.
Drinks from 1800, Talk 1900,
Discounted Dinner /drinks 1945
FREE ADMISSION
Reserve your place at <http://www.ses-explore.org/news>

Kindly supported by Cadogan Tate

SES SOCIALS @ GAUCHO CITY

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY
DISCOVER • RESEARCH • OBSERVE

Grand Slam Explorer
Newall Hunter
The Science of Successful Expeditions

Tuesday, 27th March 2018
Gaucho (City), 1 Bell Inn Yard, London EC3V OBL.
Drinks from 1800, Talk 1900, Dinner /drinks 1945.
FREE ADMISSION - reserve your place at
www.ses-explore.org/news EVENT#STRAT [Newall Hunter]

Kindly supported by Cadogan Tate



Photograph of Emily Penn taken by Emmanuel Lubezki

Emily Penn - Guest Speaker at 2018 AGM on 21st March 2018

Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

Emily is an architect turned ocean advocate and skipper. After rounding the globe on a record-breaking bio-fuelled boat, she spent 8 years at sea, exploring and discovering oceanic gyres - huge areas of plastic accumulation. Emily co-founded Pangaea Explorations, an organisation dedicated to marine education, conservation and exploration via a 72ft sailing vessel. Emily will share her insights from high seas to low lying islands, connecting her experiences to the challenges facing today’s society. She will delve into the issue of ocean plastic pollution; from rigorous scientific analysis to developing solutions involving large-scale community involvement.



SES Trustee Diane Allen with SES Member Newall Hunter Gobi Desert, Mongolia 2017



SES former Chairman Andrew Mitchell (middle) receiving his present (cartoon by JBS) from Neil Laughton and Sally Reid (photographer Mark Nortje)

Members' News

This publication is produced annually and it contains short summaries of some of the news received from Members throughout the year. If you have news you would like to share, please do email admin@ses-explore.org. The SES also produces regular e-newsletters. If you are not already on the mailing list to receive these, please do email admin@ses-explore.org.

London Marathon

We would like to thank our Virgin Money London Marathon 2017 runners, Poppy Thompson, Richard O'Brien, Jennifer George and Sebastian Yeates, who joined thousands of runners and spectators on the streets of London on Sunday 23rd April 2017 and ran the 26.2 miles (42.2km). We are extremely grateful to them for taking on and successfully completing this formidable challenge in order to raise funds for the SES. A total of £2,905.64 was raised, out of which £523 will be donated to the Mount Kenya Trust.

We are now putting together our team for the 2018 London Marathon, which will take place on Sunday 22nd April. If you would like to take part or if you know of a keen runner who might be interested and if you are happy to raise funds for the SES, we still have a few places available. For more details, please contact Jenny Rose (admin@ses-explore.org).

Zaire River Expedition reunion at Expedition Base

Four SES Members who were on the epic Zaire River Expedition 1974-75 met at Expedition Base on Saturday 30th September 2017, when the leading American river runner, Marc Smith was visiting England.

JBS Kenya 2018 Expedition

JBS recently held a briefing weekend in Dorset ahead of his Kenya Quest Expedition in January 2018. The photo shows the Team, L-R, Anne De'ath, Sally Langlois, Dave Smith (as the local!), Ros Wardall, Helen Swallow and Roberto Lora.



An update from Guyana

The story of the Society's association with the Wai Wai tribe in Guyana goes back many years. During Operation

Raleigh, Major General Joseph Singh, Commander of the Guyana Defence Force, did much to help organise the expeditions there. Later he became the SES Country Representative and asked John Blashford-Snell if a medical/dental expedition could be sent to assist the remote Wai Wai tribe on Guyana's southern borders. This was done and a request was subsequently received from the people's priest to take them a grand piano to encourage their musically skilled young people to remain in the tribal area and not emigrate to the capital where, with no particular skills, they would be unemployed.



The piano was delivered by an SES expedition led by JBS and was supported by the Daily Mail and the BBC. The publicity that followed the TV film around the world helped to convince the US Charity Conservation International to make a large grant of funds to enable the Wai Wai territory to become a protected area and the people trained as rangers to guard it. In 2010, the SES sent in another expedition to assist the Wai Wai and a team, led by civil engineer Julian Butter, surveyed a tractor trail through dense forest to facilitate the travel of the Wai Wai children to secondary school over 100km away. All this



has led to the newly announced Government recognition of the status of the Wai Wai territory. The Wai Wai request for their Titled Land of nearly 600,000 ha (which they manage as a Community-Owned Conservation Area) to be included in the National Protected Areas System, has been agreed by the Government of Guyana. A formal agreement between the Protected Areas Commission and the Wai Wai Community was signed on Friday 7th July 2017 at Gunns Strip.

The final steps are the formal approval of the President of Guyana – which is assured, and the Gazetting of the Wai Wai Titled Land as a Protected Area.

Speaking of this fantastic achievement, Major General Joseph Singh said *“The support of JBS and several SES Expeditions to the Wai Wai at Akotopono and Masakenari Villages over the past two decades, contributed immensely to the transitioning of the Wai Wai to modernity, while they retain the strengths of their language, culture and traditions”*.

Driven to Extremes – Smart 5 Peak (Mac Mackenney, Founder and Director of Driven to Extremes)

With just 11 minutes to spare, the Driven to Extremes team successfully completed the gruelling 5 Peaks Challenge in under 48 hours - 18,000’ of climbing, 1,000 miles driving, 47 miles trekking and conquering the 5 highest mountains in the UK and Ireland.



It was probably the toughest thing Mac Mackenney has done since leaving the military and due to sponsor filming and photography requirements, it meant that the team had to summit Ben Nevis in under 2:30 hrs to complete the challenge in the required time. Most climbers allow 4 to 5 hours to do the same, and all of this after the team had been on the go continuously for 70 hours since leaving the Sandown Mercedes dealership in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Serving Royal Marine, Corporal Daz Davis, had undertaken 6 operational tours and lost some good mates, so for him, suffering from PTSD felt like a weakness and that he didn’t deserve to still wear the coveted Green Beret. Undertaking the gruelling 5 Peaks Challenge though, which was both physically and mentally demanding, has given him renewed confidence and self-pride – he still has what it takes to be part of one of the toughest fighting units in the world. The opportunity to challenge himself again and share the experience with a close-knit team, provided him with all of the positive elements that military life has to offer. Undertaking the 5 Peaks in a ‘smart fortwo’ city car, that can’t fail to put a smile on your face, was an added bonus in aiding his recovery process!

Now that Daz and the 7 other veterans Driven to Extremes has helped so far have been on one of the vehicle adventures, the next stage is for them to act as Support

Crew on following trips, before ultimately leading them. Each stage should help them rekindle the professional leadership skills that they have inside and provide them with renewed confidence.

A message of thanks from Mac Mackenney: *“On behalf of all the veterans, I’d like to thank you for your continued support of Driven to Extremes, which is very much appreciated. If there is anything that you’d like to do to further your support for veterans suffering from PTSD, I would be very keen to hear from you.”*

JBS flies a Tiger Moth

The Team at SES Expedition Base recently treated John Blashford-Snell, to an unusual birthday present...a flight in a lovely Tiger Moth! This historic bi-plane was piloted by SES Member, Annabelle Burroughs, who regularly flies Tiger Moths from Henstridge airfield. John was thrilled as he was allowed to fly this legendary aircraft for a few minutes! Speaking of the present, John said *“It is a marvellous experience, which I strongly recommended.”*



John Hare awarded OBE

We are delighted that SES Member John Hare was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours Diplomatic and Overseas List in June for his work on the conservation of the Wild Camel in China and Mongolia.

A British explorer, author, and conservationist, John’s interest in wildlife conservation began when he served in the north of colonial Nigeria, first as an army officer assigned to the Royal West African Frontier Force and later in the Colonial Service. He joined a Russian scientific team to research the status of the wild camel in Mongolia – the 8th most endangered large mammal in the world. He was the first foreigner in over 45 years to receive permission to enter the Chinese salt water desert site where 43 nuclear tests had taken place. The wild camels that survived these tests are also able to tolerate salt water with a higher salt content than sea water.

John, with Kathryn Rae, founded the Wild Camel Protection Foundation and established the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve in Xinjiang, protecting not only the wild Bactrian camel but many endangered



fauna and flora. John undertook the 1,500-mile journey across the Sahara Desert from Lake Chad to Tripoli, which lasted three-and-a-half months, to raise awareness for the wild camel, and made the first recorded complete circumambulation by camel of Lake Turkana (Rudolph), in Kenya. At the northern tip of the lake this involved swimming 22 camels across the fast-flowing River Omo in Ethiopia.

In 2004 the WCPF established the Hunter Hall Captive Wild Camel Breeding Centre in Mongolia with twelve wild camels. After five years of genetic tests, it was established that the wild camel was a new and separate species of camel and was no longer to be known as the wild Bactrian camel.

Nikki Dunnington-Jefferson – The Socotra Archipelago: Yemen’s Treasure Islands

What do Frank Gardner, camels, dragon’s blood trees, SES member Philip Beale and I have in common? Socotra. In 2006 Frank Gardner spoke at the Royal Geographical Society about his pre-injury travels. His most intriguing destination was Socotra, and I had to go. So in November 2013, with Philip at the helm, our group of seven flew to tiny Hadiboh airport on the main island of the archipelago. Socotra was mesmerising. The island is made up of three distinct geographical platforms: narrow coastal plains, karst limestone plateaux and the Hagher Mountains. The only way truly to experience the mountains is to trek and camp. Accompanied by a local guide, four camels, cameleers and a cook, off we set.

Of an estimated 800 species of plant recorded on the islands, 308 are endemic; birdlife includes 11 endemic species. The biggest concentration of Socotra’s flagship species, the dragon’s blood tree, is found on a plateau in the Firmihin Conservation Area.



If mountains are its heart, Socotra’s seas are surely its spirit. On a boat trip from Qalansiyah on the north-west coast to Shuab, we were accompanied by cormorants, garrulous gulls and dolphins. Socotra also has an extensive cave system, and we explored Deiqab and Hoq.

At present it is not possible to visit Socotra due to the troubled situation on mainland Yemen.

Honorary Advisory Board (HAB) Lunch

Board Member Neville Shulman CBE gave a most enjoyable and constructive lunch for Members of the HAB at the Connaught Hotel (London) on Wednesday 22nd November. The following Members attended: Dame Dr. Claire Bertschinger, Rosie Stancer, Jane Davis, HSH Duke Leopold d’Arenberg, Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, Neil Laughton, George Bullard, Peter Felix CBE, Robin Edwards, Pen Hadow, Craig Cohon and Neville Shulman. Ways in which the Society might be helped were discussed and there were some very useful suggestions. The SES is especially grateful to Neville for his generous hospitality and support.



Stephen Spencer,
SES Rivers Foundation Explorer 2016
(Madagascar)

Members' Top Tips

TOP TIP:

Talk to as many people as possible about your expedition; work your network to leverage your planning, execution and post-expedition outputs. Some people might tell you that it cannot be done, but stick with it as it's always worth it once you are in the field.

DAVID LEWIS – Awarded the first 'pilot' SES Explorer Award

David Lewis, who led the OUEC Danakil Expedition in 2011 for which he was awarded the first 'pilot' SES Explorer Award, is currently based in Brunei as a platoon commander in The Royal Gurkha Rifles. Team mate Anthon Jackson lives in Denmark where he completed an MA in Arab and Islamic Studies and undertook his thesis research during an extensive trip to Cairo. David continues to travel widely and inspire others through his work for Rough Guide, with particular focus on Indonesia and Italy.

OLIVIA TAYLOR – SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2014 and Leader of the Cambridge Zanskar Expedition

Olivia progressed to a Masters' degree at the University of Sussex in Environment, Development and Policy. She remains at the University working on a climate change policy in Kenya, and also as a project manager for a UK Aid / UK research council-funded programme there. Her expedition has certainly led to related pursuits, and the project management skills have come in handy! She recently published a film from the expedition, which can be seen at <https://youtu.be/Kvg3Xmqf3QM>.



TOP TIPS:

I wish I'd taken a polaroid camera as this would have enabled us to have left some photos with our village hosts – posting anything back to the region is a nightmare.

JOHN MITCHELL – Winner of the SES Rivers Foundation Award for Health & Humanities 2015

John Mitchell and his team mates have recently completed a comprehensive report from their expedition to Guyana. John has taken part in the 'Remote and Rural' programme based at Inverness hospital, using his medical expertise in Skye, Stornoway, Orkney and Shetland. Towards the end of 2017, he will fly to Australia to do an elective on shark attacks with the Sydney Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.

TOP TIPS:

Facebook is your friend! Facebook, facetime and skype became John's best friend when establishing in-country collaboration and academic supervising.

You have to persist! John encountered some of the most complicated ethical approval barriers, combined with firing of key ministers, in country coups, government shut down and snap elections during his critical planning stage – excellent collaboration aided his harassing the right people, and all his efforts and patience paid off.



DR AIDA CUNI SANCHEZ – Neville Shulman Film Award 2016



Aida is now at Colorado State University, in the US. She got a prestigious Global Marie Curie Fellowship (EU-funded) for young researchers to continue studying African montane forests. She will soon go to Kahuzi-Bienga in eastern DRC to study how the different communities (including semi-nomadic Bakaa or Pygmies) use and value the montane forests, and how these forests are growing/receding due to observed changes in climate. She will then go to Mt Oku and Mt Mbam in south-eastern Cameroon, to do the same. The film she made on her research in northern Kenya, named Cloud Shepherds (as she interviewed the shepherds who take care of the montane or cloud forests there) helped her raise awareness about these remote communities and the environmental changes they face.

TOP TIP:

If you plan an expedition to a remote location, have plan A, B, C and Z, and be flexible! Challenges are many, but the more you plan (at least in your head), the easier it is to find a solution!

ANDREW WHITWORTH – SES Cadogan Tate Explorer 2016

Andrew is pictured with his 1991 Suzuki Samurai, his mode of transport in the Osa Peninsula where he is working with NGO Osa Conservation as Director of Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation, helping to protect and re-wild the incredibly biodiverse Peninsula (www.osaconservation.org).



TOP TIP:

It is the enthusiasm of an individual for an idea that hooks the interest of a supporter, even if the project might not be the greatest idea - passion tops all!



Anthony Willoughby - Feast in Western Mongolia



SES Inspirational Explorer 2015 Unmesh Katwate,
The Nicobar Archipelago (India)



SES Trustee and Cadogan Tate Explorer Award Winner 2015
James Borrell with a Flap Necked Chameleon
on the road to Mana Pools, N Zimbabwe

Fundraising and Alumni Events

Exploration in Latin America – Tuesday 13th February 2018

The SES is holding a reception and presentation at Canning House to celebrate the many expeditions carried out in Latin America under the banner of the Society, since the epic first crossing on the Darien Gap in 1972, to the recent successful expedition in Colombia's Amazonas region. The event will be introduced by His Excellency Néstor Osorio, the Colombian Ambassador and an illustrated presentation will be given by John Blashford-Snell, founder and President of the SES and Senorita Yolima Cipaguata, the Society's representative in Latin America. An auction in aid of the Society's work and to help the Ticuna people of Colombia Amazonas will be held and there will be drinks and canapes.



TIME: 6pm
VENUE: Canning House, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS
TICKETS: £50 (www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Operation Drake 40th Anniversary Reunion – Wednesday 23rd May 2018

SES Trustee Trevor Moss has been busy contacting former Operation Drake venturers to gather for a reunion to mark the 40th Anniversary of the expedition. He has arranged for the *Eye of the Wind*, the brigantine which sailed around the world, to be moored at the jetty for HMS President (London) from Tuesday 22nd May to Thursday 24th May 2018. Day sailings will be available for Operation Drake alumni, family and friends, as well as a reunion celebration to be held in HMS President's Ward Room on Wednesday 23rd May. Full details have been sent to all those who have registered interest. But, if you are, or know of former venturers who have not yet registered, please email admin@ses-explore.org and we will send the information to you.



VENUE: HMS President's Ward Room, 72 St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1UQ
TICKETS: Available via www.eventbrite.co.uk

SES Fundraiser with Levison Wood – Wednesday 19th September 2018

SES Honorary Advisory Board Member, Levison Wood, will be the Guest Speaker at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

VENUE: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
TICKETS: Available via www.eventbrite.co.uk soon



Blue Nile 50th Anniversary Reunion – Tuesday 2nd October 2018

It is planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the descent and exploration of the Blue Nile with a special celebratory event. This epic expedition led to the founding of the Scientific Exploration Society. There will be a powerpoint presentation by Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE and expedition members, which will be open to the public. A number of VIPs will be invited. The Daily Telegraph is helping to promote the event. Tickets will be available in 2018. However, you may like to note this in your 2018 diary.



SES Fundraiser with Sir Ranulph Fiennes – Saturday 2nd March 2019

SES Honorary Advisory Board Member, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, will be the Guest Speaker at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, which will also be a celebration of the SES's 50th Anniversary.

VENUE: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
TICKETS: Available via www.eventbrite.co.uk soon



Please keep an eye on the SES website and social media pages for more details about these events. If you were on an expedition and you would be willing to organise a reunion to help raise funds for the SES, please do get in touch by emailing admin@ses-explore.org – the SES will support you.

Obituaries

The Ambassador Eric Hotung CBE

Ambassador Eric Hotung, the successful international businessman, was the scion of an illustrious Anglo-Chinese family that has lived in Hong Kong since 1842. A British citizen born in Hong Kong in 1926, he was the grandson of Sir Robert Hotung (1862-1956), a philanthropist and influential figure in China, Hong Kong and overseas Chinese communities. His friends included two historic Chinese leaders: Dr Sun Yat-Sen, Father of modern China, and K'ang Yu-wei, the respected philosopher and reformer. Sir Robert was also the prime mover behind three Round Table conferences to bring peace among China's feuding warlords.



Ambassador Hotung's Father, Edward Hotung (1902-1957) was a prominent banker, philanthropist and founder of the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange in Hong Kong. Eric Hotung's achievements in charitable, commercial and diplomatic undertakings were extensive and he won the respect and friendship of leaders in China and the United States, where he had worked for the benefit of Hong Kong.

As founder and chairman of the Hotung Institute for International Studies, with offices in Hong Kong, New York and Washington, he strove to improve Sino-US relations for Hong Kong.

In 1986, Eric Hotung sponsored a Financial Symposium in New York with Shang Ming of the Bank of China and the People's Bank of China, represented by Madame Chen Mu Hua, Chairman of the Bank and formerly Minister of Foreign Trade.

In October 1987, at the invitation of the US Senate, the Hotung Institute sponsored a meeting in the Senate, entitled 'The China Trade Caucus' – 'US China Relations in the Decade Ahead and its influence on Hong Kong and Shanghai'.

In 1988, Eric Hotung sponsored an important symposium in Washington to discuss US trade policies towards Hong Kong and China. It was attended by US senators and Chinese officials. It contributed later to the US Senate's passage of a major reform to a trade law to reduce protectionist conditions. This benefitted Hong Kong. In a letter to the then British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Senator Chic Hecht of Nevada praised Eric Hotung for organising the symposium, which he said significantly influenced the Senate's decision.

Then in 1989, Eric Hotung sponsored a reception in New York with the US China Relations Committee, where he served as the only non-American, marking the 10th Anniversary of resumption of US/China relations.

In June 1990, the Hotung Institute co-sponsored a conference at the US State Department with the US Business Council 'Reassessing US China Ties: Economic Policy and the Role of Business'. This was especially beneficial to Hong Kong's business. The conference was attended by business representatives of the US members of US Congress and government officials, Hong Kong businessmen, academia and the press.

In 1991, at the request of the Chinese, Mr. Hotung established the new headquarters of the Hotung Institute in Beijing, using it as a centre for free exchange of dialogue between the Chinese and outside nations. Later, he championed human rights guarantees for the people of Hong Kong, in preparation for the Colony's reversion to Chinese rule in 1997.

Most of Eric Hotung's successful undertakings were achieved quietly and without publicity. They included an historic visit to China by Jaime Cardinal Sin, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila; the release to the United States of Catholic Bishop Ignatius Kung, who spent decades in prison and under house arrest in China; the release to the United States of China's famous dissident and astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, who lived in the US Embassy in Beijing for almost a year following the military suppression of a pro-democracy movement in Tianamen Square, and the easing of house arrest restrictions on former Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang.



Ambassador Eric Hotung presenting former SES CEO, Lucy Thompson, with the Hotung Medal

Throughout his life, this generous, kind-hearted gentleman made valuable contributions to numerous charitable causes. He helped the wounded British servicemen and bereaved families of the 1982 Falkland War, and built six flats for widows of the Military Knights of Windsor. In Hong Kong, Eric Hotung assisted the Art Centre to commemorate the visit by the Prince of Wales and set up a programme to promote low cost housing that benefitted 20,000 members of 2,000 families. In Britain his handsome donations to the Army Benevolent Fund and the Normandy Veterans' Association were greatly appreciated.

In Austria the rescue of 22 Jewish Czech children through the order of St John Ambulance was largely due to his support.

In 2000 he was made an Ambassador at Large of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in recognition of his providing an Australian vessel to transport 12,000 refugees from West to East Timor and also donating a free clinic.

Eric Hotung had been awarded a number of decorations including the Grand Cross with Star of Leichonstein and the Abellero du la Ordenne Isabella Catikuca of Spain. He is also the first person of Chinese ancestry to have been created a Knight of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta, holder of the Grand Cross with Star Pro Merito Melitense.

In 2001 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

Many organisations were proud to have him as an honorary member including Britains 22nd SAS Regiment. He was also a Vice President of Operation Raleigh under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, and a Vice President of the Scientific Exploration Society.

In 1994 he endowed a gold medal to be presented by the SES to outstanding women explorers and chose to present one to his dear wife Patricia, who sadly died in 2017. In 2004, through the SES, he sent a cargo aircraft from Britain to provide much needed supplies for the victims of the tsunami that struck Indonesia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In recognition of Eric Hotung's enormous help, the SES named an island in the Ethiopian Blue Nile after him during the 2005 expedition. The Hotung family continues its support for the Society, for which we are extremely grateful.

Global philanthropist, Ambassador Eric Hotung CBE leaves a family of four sons and three daughters to whom we extend our sincere condolences. Their Father was a great man who it was a privilege to know. He will be deeply missed by his many friends and numerous under privileged people he did his utmost to help.

Patricia Hotung

We were sad to learn that Ambassador Eric Hotung's delightful wife Patricia passed away earlier this year. Patricia often accompanied the Ambassador to SES events and was always interested in the Society's work. Our sincere sympathy goes to the Hotung family.

Michael Colborne LVO

In 1976 HRH The Prince of Wales suggested that the SES set up an ambitious Operation to give over 400 young people aged 17 to 25 a real challenge on a global expedition. As it fell on the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's famous circumnavigation, this mammoth project was titled Operation Drake. It proved to be an enormous success and led on to an even larger undertaking, Operation Raleigh that continues today as Raleigh International.

As the Patron, the Prince took a lively interest in both ventures and raised considerable funds to support them. The Operations HQ maintained a close liaison with HRH



working through his private secretary, Sir David Checketts and the Prince's secretary, Michael Colborne. Their advice and guidance proved of the greatest value and did much to ensure the success of the ventures.

Michael Colborne had known the Prince in the Royal Navy when they served together on HMS Norfolk and subsequently, at the suggestion of Lord Mountbatten, had joined HRH's staff at Buckingham Palace. Michael was descended from a line of senior Naval Surgeons and maintained much interest in maritime affairs and indeed in the training of young people. He was especially eager to help the young explorers and venturers who took part in the operations run by the SES. Michael was one of those great people who, no matter how busy, would always find time to help you. We have lost a fine member of SES and an outstanding man, who will be greatly missed by many. It was of real pleasure for him and his wife Shirley to receive a visit by the Prince of Wales at their home shortly before Michael died.

Our sincere sympathy and condolences go to Shirley and their son Stewart.

David Shepherd CBE

Without doubt the world has lost one of its greatest champions of wildlife conservation with the sad departure of the eminent artist David Shepherd, whose paintings also included works on steam trains, aircraft, and military subjects. He did much to assist SES projects and took a lively interest in the Society's activities, encouraging us to do our best to protect endangered species.



The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, greatly helped with the proceeds of his fine paintings and lectures, has done outstanding conservation work throughout the world and continues to do so. Talking of his painting on various subjects David said "*You can always build another steam loco, but you can't build another tiger.*"

Our sincere condolences go to his widow Avril and his four daughters, who are carrying on the efforts of this legendary man.

Maldwin Drummond OBE DL

Many members will recall the kind help and encouragement Maldwin gave to the SES during Operation Drake and Raleigh. Sadly, he passed away in February. Maldwin was a great enthusiast and an innovator who played a leading role in the conservation of historic ships and did much to encourage sailing by young people. He also fought hard to protect the Hampshire environment and the New Forest. He will be sadly missed by the sailing community and many others. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gilly and his family.



Medicine Chest

SES Member Dr Sam Allen
BSc(Hons) MBChB DTMH FRCP FFTM-RCPS(Glas)
Expedition Doctor

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by spiral-shaped bacteria of the *Borrelia* spp. family that are transmitted by infected ticks. Disease is associated with woodland and wilderness activities in habitats frequented by mammalian hosts, most notably deer, sheep, badgers, foxes, hares, voles, hedgehogs, squirrels or wild fowl.

Tick Life-cycle

In the UK, disease is primarily transmitted by the sheep tick, *Ixodid ricinus*. The hard-bodied tick life-cycle from egg to adult is two or three years. A single blood meal is taken at each stage – larva, nymph or adult. Feeding takes several days after which the tick falls off to moult into the next stage or overwinter in the leaf litter.

Disease Transmission

Disease can be transmitted at any stage but most (90%) transmission occurs at the nymphal stage as they are less



likely to be detected due to their miniscule size (1.3-1.5 mm). Ticks will quest for a warm-blooded host to feed upon in late spring and early summer giving a peak of human illness during the summer months. Approximately 2-6% of ticks carry borrelial organisms. Ticks must be attached for at least 36 hours for the Lyme disease bacterium to be transmitted. Deer act as amplification hosts for ticks allowing the adult female to oviposit

thousands of eggs but deer do not in themselves transmit Lyme borrelia. It is thought that the deer population in the UK has doubled since 1999, thus setting up ripe conditions for transmission of Lyme and related tick-borne diseases.



Clinical Features

Following an incubation period of 3-30 days after tick bite, a slowly expanding erythematous skin lesion, known as erythema chronicum migrans (ECM), develops at the site of the bite. This (stage 1) lesion typically has a red centre giving a 'bull's eye' appearance and is the classic sign of Lyme disease. If untreated, early disseminated infection (stage 2) may develop. Neurological manifestations include cranial nerve palsies (Bannwarth's syndrome) and myocarditis. Late (stage 3) infection is characterized by chronic arthralgia or skin atrophy (acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans).

Post treatment Lyme disease syndrome (PTLDS) is purported to result in chronic fatigue, memory loss and brain fog – symptoms that are common in the general population. This may reflect anchoring bias, linking non-specific symptoms to an antecedent tick bite.

For more information on avoiding bugs and germs outdoors and to see a video of how to remove a tick using tick tweezers, visit www.nhsinform.scot/bugs-and-germs or www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resourcedocument.aspx?id=5983.

Natural History of Lyme Borreliosis

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Up to 6 Months	Between 6-12 Months	After 1 Year	
Tick bite	Bacteria transmit from tick to human						Blood tests for Lyme disease is rarely positive in the early stages of infection (normally only returns sero-positive results 6 weeks after infection)		
Safely remove tick (tick falls off when fed at day 3-6)									
EARLY PRESENTATION						LATE PRESENTATION (if untreated)		PERSISTENT PRESENTATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythema chronicum migrans (bulls-eye rash) Flu-like symptoms (50%) Neurological complications (Bannwarth's syndrome) 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthralgia (25%) Neurological complications (15%) Cardiologic complications (1%) Cutaneous complications (Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post infection fatigue syndrome Symptoms may persist even after antibiotic treatment 	



SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY

Membership

Why you should join the SES

- Join a community of explorers, scientists and adventurers.
- Take up opportunities to go on an exciting SES scientific expedition.
- Enjoy regular social evenings with drinks, dinners and Explorer talks.
- Attend the annual 'Pioneers with Purpose' Explorer Awards in London.
- Enjoy great discounts from leading outdoor equipment suppliers.
- Keep up to date with the latest exploration and scientific news and views through the SES media channels.
- Support a charity doing extraordinary work around the world.

Membership Benefits

By becoming a Member of the SES, you benefit from:

- Advance notice of forthcoming expeditions, socials and events.
- Access to detailed expedition and scientific reports.
- SES Annual Review (the much-loved SES Members' annual publication).
- Expert help and advice with travel plans.
- 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.

Membership Categories and Rates

FULL Membership (Individual)	Annual Subscription £55
FULL Membership (Joint)	Annual Subscription £100
Corporate Membership	Annual Subscription £500
Under 25s Membership	Annual Subscription £25

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

Legacies and Donations

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

Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows the 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, the SES periodically need 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, we would be grateful if you could get in touch giving your full name, address, email address, and landline and mobile telephone numbers. Please email admin@ses-explore.org, otherwise post to Expedition Base.

Thank you for supporting the Scientific Exploration Society. If you would like to discuss further opportunities to support the SES, please do get in touch. If you know of anyone who might be interested in what the SES has to offer, please do encourage them to become a Member - you can download the Application Form from our website www.ses-explore.org.

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

**The SES 2017 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 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		15,652	29,620	45,182	58,073
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		10,347	-	10,347	9,370
Other trading activities	2	15,814	364	16,178	9,997
Investment income	3	459	-	459	764
Total		42,182	29,984	72,166	78,204
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		10,650	-	10,650	5,269
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		54,781	34,974	89,755	54,603
Total		65,431	34,974	100,405	59,872
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(23,249)	(4,990)	(28,239)	18,332
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		63,319	19,975	83,294	64,962
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		40,070	14,985	55,055	83,294
CONTINUING OPERATIONS					
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.					

Balance Sheet at 30th June 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	8	100	-	100	100
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,136	-	1,136	9,154
Cash at bank		86,483	14,985	101,468	87,004
		87,619	14,985	102,604	96,158
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(47,649)	-	(47,649)	(12,964)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		39,970	14,985	54,955	83,194
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		40,070	14,985	55,055	83,294
NET ASSETS		40,070	14,985	55,055	83,294
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds				40,070	63,319
Restricted funds				14,985	19,975
TOTAL FUNDS				55,055	83,294

Please see the full accounts emailed to Members in November 2017 for Notes details.

Charity Information

Honorary President

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

Chairman

Neil Laughton

Honorary Treasurer

Steve Peckham ACA

Honorary Solicitors

Richard Wheen MA and Richard Gerrard MA, LLB

Council Members

Neil Laughton (Chair), Diane Allen, James Borrell, Peter Felix CBE, Barbara Jeffrey, Peter Kohler FRGS, Trevor Moss ACII, Steve Peckham, Briony Turner

Co-opted Council Members

Jane Davis FRGS, Richard Gerrard MA, LLB, Michael Baggs

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

John Blashford-Snell (Chair), HSH Duke Leopold d'Arenberg, Dame Dr Claire Bertschinger, George Bullard, Simon Chinn, Craig Cohon, Jane Davis, Robin Edwards, Peter Felix CBE, Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE, Ben Fogle, Bear Grylls, Pen Hadow, Sean Hotung, Neil Laughton, Simon Murray CBE, Dr Mary Jean Reimer, Neville Shulman CBE, Rosie Stancer, Prof Mike Stroud OBE, Levison Wood

The SES co-operates with SES Jersey.

SES at Expedition Base

The following part-time staff work out of Expedition Base:
CEO Henrietta Thorpe (henrietta@ses-explore.org)
SES Explorer Awards & Events Sally Reid (sally@ses-explore.org)

SES Membership & Finance Manager Gail Lloyd (gail@ses-explore.org)
SES Executive Secretary (admin@ses-explore.org)
Development Committee Assistance Laura Miles (laura@ses-explore.org)
Film Trusts Ros Wardall
Honorary Logistics Officer Dave Smith (dave@ses-explore.org)
Honorary Archivist Captain Jim Masters MBE

Explorer Awards Committee

Andrew Mitchell, Diane Allen, John Blashford-Snell, James Borrell, Ed Cooper, Barry Moss, Sally Reid

Development Committee

Peter Felix CBE (Chair), Laura Miles, John Blashford-Snell, Diane Allen, Ferzine Esmail, Barbara Jeffrey, Neil Laughton, Trevor Moss, Steve Peckham, Sally Reid

Expeditions Committee

Diane Allen, Richard Gerrard, Trevor Moss, Henrietta Thorpe

Overseas Representatives

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

Voluntary Advisors

Jacqui Sinnatt, Anthony Belchambers, Julia Thorrold

Registered Office and Charity Number

Wedgewood, Dartnell Avenue, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6PJ, 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

that the Scientific Exploration Society's
Annual General Meeting
will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 21st March 2018
in the Conference Room 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: Wedgewood, Dartnell Avenue, West Byfleet,
Surrey KT14 6PJ

January 2018

By order of the Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SES is most grateful to the
following who have so kindly
contributed to this publication
(past and present):

**Sarah Lawton, Lucy Thompson,
Anne Gilby, Andrew Mitchell
(Cleft Stick), John Davis,
Ruth Cartwright, Barry Moss,
Dr Sam Allen (Medicine Chest),
Richard Snailham (Book Reviews),
Richard Wheen (A Bridge Too Far),
Nicky Dunnington-Jefferson.**



**SCIENTIFIC
EXPLORATION
SOCIETY**

DISCOVER • RESEARCH • CONSERVE

EXPEDITION BASE, MOTCOMBE, SHAFTESBURY, DORSET SP7 9PB
01747 853353 SES@SES-EXPLORE.ORG WWW.SES-EXPLORE.ORG
FACEBOOK SESexplore TWITTER @SES_explore INSTAGRAM sesexplore

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY (NO 267410),
INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (NO 1145214).
REGISTERED OFFICE: WEDGEWOOD, DARTNELL AVENUE, WEST BYFLEET, SURREY KT14 6PJ.