



SCIENTIFIC  
EXPLORATION  
SOCIETY

# SCIENTIFIC EXPLORER

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



eXpedition

Expeditions, news and events

**DISCOVER**

Pioneers with Purpose

**RESEARCH**

Explorer Talks

**CONSERVE**

Hotung Award for Women's Exploration  
2018, Emily Penn, eXpedition (North  
Pacific leg 1, Hawaii to Vancouver)  
Photo by Larkrise Pictures

# Welcome

Scientific Exploration Society (SES) is a UK based charity (No 267410) that was founded in 1969 by Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE. 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.

Our focus today is on supporting young explorers through our Explorer Awards programme, building a community of like-minded individuals through the Society's membership, offering regular explorer talks and providing opportunities to go on expeditions.

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

*“Some have physical courage but lack the moral type, however I have not met any morally courageous people who lack the physical sort. Explorers need both types.”*

Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE

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# SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION SOCIETY

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Thursday 24th January	<b>Honorary Advisory Board Reception</b> kindly hosted by SES Trustee Peter Felix CBE and Mrs June Felix	London
Tuesday 29th January (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Charlie Walker – Following The Line: an 8-month Eurasian triathlon	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Tuesday 26th February (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Steve Jones – Adventures in Antarctica	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Tuesday 12th March	<b>Dinner with Sir Ranulph Fiennes BT</b> (Tickets £75 - email The Queen's Club at <a href="mailto:socialevents@queensclub.co.uk">socialevents@queensclub.co.uk</a> )	The Queen's Club Palliser Rd, Hammersmith, London W14 9EQ
Wednesday 20th March (6pm AGM, 6.30pm for 7pm talk)	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed by a talk from Ollie Phillips	Park Tower Hotel (SES Boardroom) Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN
Tuesday 30th April (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> James Glancy CGC – Adventure Activism	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Sunday 28th April	<b>Virgin Money London Marathon 2019</b>	London
Wednesday 22nd May (6.30pm)	<b>Explorer Awards 2019</b> (Tickets £20, £15 SES members and £10 Concessions – purchased via EVENTBRITE)	The Law Society 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL
Tuesday 25th June (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Rivers Foundation Explorer 2016 Stephen Spencer	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Wednesday 18th September	<b>SES Charity Event</b> An evening with Dee Caffari (Tickets on EVENTBRITE soon)	Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Tuesday 24th September (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Lucy Shepherd – Never losing 'botheredness'	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB

*Tickets  
to all  
SES events  
on  
EVENTBRITE  
soon*

# Diary 2019

DATE & TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Tuesday 29th October (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Tim Taylor – The ‘How’ of Expedition Photography	Coopers Arms 87 Flood Street, Chelsea, London SW3 5TB
Tuesday 26th November (6pm drinks for 7pm talk)	<b>Explorer Talk</b> Guest Speaker TBC	Venue TBC



## A message from Medelinked, supporter of SES Explorer Talks 2019

We are delighted to be able to support SES, enabling explorers to help advance welfare and education around the world and to preserve the environment and endangered species through scientific discovery.

Medelinked provides explorers with a way to carry their essential health records, activated by a QR code, wherever their adventures take them. We're here to give travellers peace of mind, to follow their dreams, knowing that they can access their full health records, geolocate a doctor and set up a live video GP consultation, 24/7, anywhere in the world.

[www.medelinked.com/sos](http://www.medelinked.com/sos)



*“Exploration is about documenting a moment in time. As long as time continues, exploration will always be relevant.”*

Levison Wood

Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research 2018  
Merlin Hetherington, The Arclight Africa Cycle Expedition (Africa)

## Message from the Chairman



SES Chairman Neil Laughton visiting Bamyan Province, Afghanistan (September 2018)

*My first full year as Chairman of SES has been exciting, challenging and I hope successful!*

We have modernised the look and feel of the Society with new branding, website, film, promotional materials and events. New members have joined us and they have been able to sign-up and pay online, we are GDPR compliant and, most importantly, we have seen growth in unrestricted income that has allowed us to fully fund our operations without utilising our reserves for the first time in five years.

The occasional members' gatherings have been replaced by an active calendar of SES events including regular Explorer Talks, the annual SES Charity evening with an Explorer Talk, Explorers Dinner, Alumni celebratory events and our flagship 'Pioneers with Purpose' - SES Explorer Awards.

I would like to thank those who gave inspiring talks for SES in 2018 including Levison Wood, who spoke brilliantly to a packed auditorium at the Royal Geographical Society. The 2019 line-up looks really exciting and includes our Honorary Vice President Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The Society's Honorary Advisory Board has been strengthened with new members including Dr Mary Jean Reimer and Mark Beaumont, the latter who kindly recorded an encouraging message while filming in Dubai to young explorers about applying for SES Explorer Awards.

May I extend huge thanks to all those who have given up their time to serve on Council and to Henrietta Thorpe and her amazing Expedition Base team for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Thanks to all of you too, for your support throughout the year. And an extra pat on the back to those members who have been leading important and pioneering scientific exploration projects around the world, including Peter Kohler, Angus Wingfield and Emily Penn.

Fundraising remains a significant challenge for us and we need to find more corporate charity partners. If you can recommend a contact we can approach with our partnership proposal, please do get in touch with me.

I wish you all an adventurous 2019.

**Neil Laughton**  
Chairman of Trustees  
neil@laughton.co

# SES Championed Expeditions

**SES 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 is able to provide 'non-financial' support to high quality, innovative and pioneering scientific expeditions, which match the aims and objectives of the SES, through its Championed Expeditions activity. Benefits 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 (this annual publication for SES members)
- promotion in SES's e-Newsletter and on the website and social media pages
- one year's free SES membership to a network of like-minded individuals.

## **SES Championed Expeditions**

**Colonel John Blashford-Snell's Bardia Quest 2019** – an expedition to continue the research done by SES since 1991 into the wild elephants, tiger and rhino of Bardia.



**James Dyer's Into the depths of the Amazon 2018** – a citizen science directed exploration of a remote part of the Peruvian Amazon.



**Colonel John Blashford-Snell's Kenya Quest 2018** – an expedition to carry out community aid projects, including the building of a new classroom to a school and conduct fauna and flora studies, working with the Mt Kenya Trust and other ecological bodies.



**Peter Kohler's The Plastic Tide 2017** – an expedition to carry out scientific detecting, measuring and monitoring of litter in the UK using a drone.



**DISCOVER  
RESEARCH  
CONSERVE**



SES member and SES Endorsed Expedition Leader  
Angus Wingfield ([www.africawildtrails.com](http://www.africawildtrails.com))  
KwaZulu-Natal Province (South Africa)



# SES Endorsed Expedition

**SES Endorsed Expeditions match the aims and objectives of SES and receive the same benefits to SES Championed Expeditions. They are run by professional third-party expedition companies and give SES members the opportunity to take part in an expedition that they would otherwise not be able to do.**

**EXPEDITION:** South African Giraffe Monitoring and Research Expedition 2018 - Reconnaissance Overview  
**WHERE:** Tugela River Biosphere, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa  
**WHEN:** 5th August 2018 (7 nights)  
**WHO:** Facilitated by SES member and Africa Wild Trails Director/ Expedition Leader, Angus Wingfield  
**TEAM:** Neil Laughton (SES CEO), John Richards (SES member), Dr Peter Calverly (Ecologist and in-country Giraffe expert), Exeter University Zoology undergraduates  
**COST:** Self-funded by each team member

## Objective

To determine the viability of a South African Giraffe research expedition for SES members in 2019.

## Rationale

The South African Giraffe is a vulnerable species due to habitat loss, poaching and hunting. The Tugela river biosphere herds require a full census and specific data collection to discover key information for the conservation of the species in this location. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed the South African Giraffe as Vulnerable following a population decline of 36-40% over the last three decades.

## Key Focus

Due to habitat loss, the 100,000 hectare biosphere reserve encompassing 26 conservation areas has been reduced to just three areas totalling 10,000 hectares. It was within these 10,000 hectares that our reconnaissance took place with the aim of identifying a base camp, potential expedition camp sites, hiking many game trails in the area, conducting a risk assessment and developing a risk management document, engaging with local experts and using local knowledge to assist our logistical planning.

## Related Objectives

*Observation points* - Excellent OPs are critical for this specific research area due to the lack of vehicular access and due to the tough terrain of the dry valley bush veldt and dry water courses which are predominant. Our prearranged plans to conduct our reconnaissance alongside a small group of students from Exeter University worked very well indeed. Each morning the SES recce team would deploy into the bush from base camp or overnight camp locations, and establish positions on high ground. The SES team would locate the Giraffe herds and use two-way radio communications to enable the team of university students on the low ground to move directly to the target Giraffe herd on foot. Several OP locations were identified and we noted that this was a highly successful method of going about this research.

*Camping sites* - Key camp sites for the expedition were recce'd and found to be very suitable. There was a plethora of fire wood in the immediate areas, sites for erecting tents or to just sleep under the stars in a sleeping bag as we did.

*Water supply* - Despite being located near to the Tugela river, water resupply became an issue as we moved into more remote areas and higher ground, so a plan is in place for water drops near to key locations. We did note small sources of water at a seasonal waterfall and other locations. Local knowledge tells us that these do not run dry, even in the dry season or in recent long periods of drought in the region. Water from these sources will be purified.

*CASEVAC* - Casualty evacuation points have been noted in the area of operation. Communications at the base camp are very good and include a land line, VOIP phone and two-way radios. Cell phone signal was also achievable in certain high ground locations.

## Conclusion

An expedition in the area is viable, unquestionably important for the conservation of the species and suitable for experienced and less experienced SES members of all ages.

Please do keep an eye on SES's website for details of when this expedition will take place and be available for SES members to participate.

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



Explorer Award Winners 2018  
with their Leatherman Multi-tools  
Photos: Matthew Ferguson (FG Studios)

# Explorer Awards 2018

## Pioneers with Purpose & Scientific Trailblazers

**SES Explorer Awards 2018 was held on Tuesday 22nd May at Imperial College, (London) after a tea at the Royal Geographical Society for the Award Winners and their Supporters.**

Emily Penn (recipient of the Hotung Award for Women’s Exploration 2018) asked the audience “*What is your super-power?*” All nine of the Award recipients demonstrated their ‘super power’ in different ways, but the common denominator was their quite inspirational passion and commitment to their chosen area of interest.

SES Chairman Neil Laughton began the evening by introducing the brilliant new SES film, kindly supported by Sean Hotung and his wife Dr Mary Jean Reimer, with a call to arms featuring Neil, SES Founder and Honorary President John Blashford-Snell, and many supporters and friends all conveying the essential role the Society has today in encouraging scientific exploration. Andrew Mitchell (former SES Chairman and creator of the Explorer Awards) remarked that this year the female Award recipients out-weighted the male recipients, a reversal to last years’ winners.

It was a pleasure to welcome Anirban Dutta Gupta, winner of the Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2017 from India to show his beautiful film capturing the traditional honey collecting by the Jarawa people on the Andaman Islands.

John Blashford-Snell presented the Hotung Award 2018 to Emily Penn in recognition of her outstanding contribution to scientific exploration. Emily and colleagues have campaigned tirelessly against plastic pollution in

our oceans for over 10 years, and in the last six months her efforts have at last been rewarded as the issue has garnered the wide-reaching interest it deserves.

Vanessa O’Brien, received the inaugural SES Explorer Award following her ascent of K2 last July. SES Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mark Beaumont, in recognition of his making the impossible ‘possible’ and cycling the world in an incredible 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes. Mark explained how he set out to form a mental, physical and logistical plan to circumnavigate the globe in 80 days. “*What is your 80 days?*” Mark’s philosophy is to have the confidence to know your capability, think big, set your plan and deliver. No margin for error, just an inspirational dogged determination to succeed.

It was an outstanding evening with extraordinary people demonstrating their ‘super power’. Andrew Mitchell invited all fortunate enough to be there to stay with the SES Awards journey, and with the passion and brilliance of the evening’s winners, share his belief that with ‘*Pioneers with Purpose*’ such as those we heard on the night, we can see the world back into equilibrium.

A warm thank you to all the Award Supporters, Assessors, Applicants, Winners, the Team at SES Expedition Base and to Leatherman and Texenergy for their generous gifts to the winners and for the raffle prizes.

### SES Explorer Award Winners 2018

Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure	Glauca Del Rio
Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities	Olivia Grant
Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking	Eilidh Munro
Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography	Eleanor Flatt
Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research	Merlin Hetherington
SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing	Eleanor Drinkwater

# Explorer Awards 2018

A selection of photos from the  
SES Explorer Awards ceremony in May 2018  
at Imperial College (London)  
Photos: Matthew Ferguson (FG Studios)



Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities 2018  
L-R Annika Schlemm, Olivia Grant, Alan Rivers, Susan Rivers



Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2018  
L-R Bethan John, Neville Shulman, Eilidh Munro



SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing 2018  
L-R Jane Corbisiero, Eleanor Drinkwater, Neil Laughton, Barry Moss, Chris Guggiari-Peel, Andrew Mitchell, Wendy Bentall, Diane Allen



Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research 2018  
L-R Merlin Hetherington, Mark Beaumont, Alex McMaster



Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography 2018  
L-R Alexander Sandford, Isabella Alexander, Paul Sandford, Mr and Mrs Flatt (on behalf of Eleanor Flatt)



SES Explorer Awards Committee  
L-R Edward Cooper, Diane Allen, Barry Moss, Sally Reid, Andrew Mitchell, James Borrell



SES Honorary Award Winners 2018  
L-R Mark Beaumont (SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018), Vanessa O'Brien (SES Explorer Award 2018), Neil Laughton



SES Honorary Award Winner 2018  
L-R John Blashford-Snell, Emily Penn (Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018)

# SES Explorer Awards

## The 2018 Winners

### **Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research**

#### **MERLIN HETHERINGTON** **The Arclight Africa Cycle**

*An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title 'Gough Explorer 2018' kindly supported by Viscount Gough*

Merlin Hetherington is a 24 year old medical student at the University of St Andrews where he is completing a BSc before continuing his medical training at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. His interest in global health development was strengthened whilst volunteering in health centres throughout South America, where as a keen mountaineer and lover of the wild, the outdoors and a physical challenge, he spent several months collecting data in high-altitude environments in the Andes. Pursuing these interests further, with a particular emphasis on eye-care, Merlin has been evaluating simulation eyes to complement medical education in low resource countries. In an ambitious combination of medicine and adventure, Merlin and fellow student Alex McMaster, will embark on a 10,000km journey through Africa on a tandem bike to bring 'Arclight', a revolutionary diagnostic device, into the hands of medical students and healthcare workers. The device has been described as a "game-changer" in the prevention of blindness and they hope to provide the next generation of doctors with the tools needed to help combat eye and ear disease.



### **Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities**

#### **OLIVIA GRANT** **The Tale of the Last Lorikeet**

*An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title 'Rivers Foundation Explorer 2018' kindly supported by the Rivers Foundation*

Liv Grant is a 22 year old biologist and writer from Edinburgh who has recently finished her bachelor's degree at the University of Oxford. Liv is passionate about conservation and education, and has experience in journalism, scientific research at the University of Cambridge, and documentary filmmaking at the BBC. For her undergraduate dissertation, Liv studied birds in Tahiti, French Polynesia, where she witnessed the effects of habitat destruction and invasive species upon endemic island bird species. This inspired her expedition to the Marquesas Islands, a remote archipelago in French Polynesia, to study the last remaining populations of two critically endangered bird species. A critical aspect of this expedition is collaboration with local people to develop a long-term conservation plan. Liv will also work with the islanders to learn about how their indigenous knowledge of nature is expressed in their language and art, and about the value of cultural engagement with wildlife to successful conservation.



### **SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing**

#### **ELEANOR DRINKWATER** **Cash of the Titans**

*An Award of £4,000 and the exclusive title 'SES Inspirational Explorer 2018' kindly supported by the Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust, O'Hea Family Trust, Avocet Insurance Consultants and the Trustees of SES*

Eleanor Drinkwater is a 25 year old biologist originally from the Isle of Man. She has a MRes from UCL and is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of York on the individual and collective personality in ants. Since leading her first expedition in 2013, to study impacts of farming on butterfly biodiversity in the Amazon, she has worked on multiple projects from katydid behaviour in Australia, to dung beetle biodiversity in Honduras. In her expedition to French Guiana, she is teaming up with drone pilot and filmmaker Chris Guggiari-Peel and ecologist Laura Kor to investigate the elusive titan beetle. Although little is known about this species, it is highly valued by collectors and thought may advantage communities through ecotourism.



The team plans to collect data on this and the ecology of these insects, which they hope will raise awareness about the benefits and risks of invertebrate ecotourism.

### **Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure**

#### **GLAUCIA DEL RIO**

#### **The Emilie Snethlage Expedition**

*An Award of £5,000 and the exclusive title 'Sir Charles Blois Explorer 2018' kindly supported by Sir Charles Blois Bt*

Glaucia Del Rio is a 29 year old biologist originally from São Paulo, Brazil. Her passion for birds started in 2008, during her first expedition to the Amazon Forest. Since then, Glaucia has been working to document and describe Brazilian avifauna before the advances of dams, pastures and cities threaten the existence of species still little studied by scientists and the general public. Leading a crew of eight women in an expedition to a remote area in the Amazon Forest, Glaucia wants to pay tribute to the explorer, Emilie Snethlage – the first woman to lead a scientific institution in South America. The expedition will centre on one of the least explored areas of the Amazon Forest, the Juruá river – the only river not explored by Snethlage. Glaucia seeks to honour Snethlage's achievements today by giving her Brazilian team of young women the opportunity to unravel the secrets of the Amazon Forest.



### **Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography**

#### **ELEANOR FLATT**

#### **Exploration Sira**

*An Award of £6,500 and the exclusive Title 'Elodie Sandford Explorer 2018' established and kindly supported by the friends and family of Elodie Sandford*

Eleanor Flatt is a 25 year old wildlife biologist with a BSc in wildlife conservation from Nottingham Trent University. Originally from Peterborough, she is currently working in the tropical rainforests of Costa Rica studying endangered spider monkeys. Eleanor likes to combine her research of biodiversity with culture of the communities surrounding the area, communicating the struggles they both face and how they are connected. Alongside Peruvian biologist Ruthmey Pillco Huarcaya, Eleanor will lead the Exploration Sira team to the mountainous rugged terrain of El Sira Communal Reserve in Peru. The expedition will aim to 'unveil indigenous stories and recover forgotten species'; furthering the limited knowledge of the hyper-diverse mammal community, the critically endangered Sira Curassow, the endangered climbing toad (Rhinella Nesiotes) and with the hope to rediscover the lost Sira Harlequin frog (not seen since 1970). This expedition will reveal untold stories of the people living in and around the Sira and use photography to highlight their lives and cultures.



### **Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking**

#### **EILIDH MUNRO**

#### **Voices on an Amazon Road**

*An Award which Neville generously increased to £10,000 for 2018 and the exclusive title 'Neville Shulman Film Explorer 2018' kindly supported by Neville Shulman CBE*

Eilidh Munro is a 28 year old filmmaker from Scotland. She has spent the last year filming and photographing in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru, where she captured rare spider monkey feeding behaviour and a species new to science. Whilst there, alongside expedition teammate Bethan John, she also co-founded and ran the Crees Foundation's first Multimedia Internship from its remote research base in Manu. Eilidh is dedicated and passionate about telling conservation stories, and is returning to Manu with teammates, Jenni and Bethan, for an ambitious filming expedition to create a documentary about a road being illegally built through the rainforest. By interviewing local communities and stakeholders and using drones to reveal the road's scale and status, the film will further our understanding of the threats and opportunities facing Manu and the potential consequences on its natural and cultural heritage.



# Pioneers with Purpose

# Explorer Award Winners – News

## **Elodie Sandford Explorer 2017 Alex Braczkowski**

has been following and filming tree climbing lions in the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda since October 2017, and anybody who follows him on Instagram is sure to have been wowed by the stunning images he has been posting.



His carnivore work in Queen Elizabeth National Park has finally come to an end (at least for the near foreseeable future) and he is firmly into the write-up and delivery of his scientific and photographic results from the expedition. Ten months in the field and he leaves Uganda with a heavy heart but some optimism for the future. He drove over 8,000km with his team during the 93-day lion survey this year and detected 30 individual lions. This resulted in a population density estimate of 96 individuals in an area of about 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The lion densities in the park are worrying and are about 1/8 of what they are in the Masai Mara in Kenya. Lions are also moving further in search of prey. His work in Uganda also covered examining hyena and leopard population densities and examining conflict between people and carnivores. He and his team finally collected data from a reserve not far from Queen (Lake Mburo National Park) where over 1,000 conflict events have happened in just under ten years. His scientific analysis will predict where these conflicts are happening and why. It will also shed important information on how to make compensation schemes more efficient in terms of their economic sustainability.

Alex used his time in the field (kindly supported by the Sandford family) to also get incredible high definition imagery and stills of lions in trees. The outputs of these have been made available to the SES and also air in National Geographic's Big Cat Week (2nd December).

Follow Alex's posts from the field @alexbraczkowski and [www.alexanderbraczkowski.com](http://www.alexanderbraczkowski.com) and hear his plans by watching <https://experiment.com/projects/assessing-the-conservation-status-of-african-lions-leopards-and-hyenas-in-uganda>.

**Neville Shulman Explorer 2018 Eilidh Munro** and her team met in October in the jungle town of Villa Salvacion in Peru's remote south-eastern Amazon. There was a

sleepy Sunday feeling to the place; teenagers played football in the plaza each evening as their grandparents sat watching from outside their small wooden houses, which double as tiendas selling a meagre supply of vegetables. Macaws squawked overhead as the tropical heat of the day sank into night, revealing a jewelled starscape. With its friendly atmosphere and religious fervour, it's hard to believe that Salvacion is one of the centres of illegal activities in the region – from logging to drugs and human trafficking.

Salvacion is one of the many communities that is sandwiched between two protected areas – the Amaraakaeri Communal Reserve and Manu National Park, the world's top biodiversity hotspot. The fight to protect the rainforest and end human rights abuse has a long history in this remote region of the Amazon; from the enslavement of indigenous peoples during the Rubber Boom of the 19th Century, to the modern-day slavery seen in illegal gold mining that is poisoning the rivers with toxic mercury.



Further destruction is now spreading, as a road is being illegally built between the two protected areas, opening them up to destruction and threatening the survival of uncontacted indigenous peoples living in isolation. Far from being united against the road, communities are in conflict. In fact, the native community of Diamante have taken to clearing the rainforest and building the road with their own hands. What would drive them to destroy the diverse natural and cultural heritage of their paradise home?

For the Yine people of Diamante, the road symbolises hope for a better future; education for their children, medical centres for their sick and elderly, secure jobs and a better income to provide for their families. For other communities, the road brings with it environmental destruction and a rise in dangerous, illegal activities that will line the pockets of colonisers and politicians at the expense of native people. They believe that the perceived benefits of the road will never materialise and that the Yine people are being used as pawns in a political game of greed. The expedition team – filmmaker Eilidh, journalist Bethan John, and biologist Jennifer Serrano Rojas – spent a month travelling along the Alto Madre de Dios river

and visiting native communities to give a voice to their stories of conflict, destruction and hope. By documenting these personal testimonies, they aim to better understand how communities are finding solutions to balance their social, environmental and economic needs. What is their vision of a better future and what role do we have, as an international community, to help save one of the most biodiverse places on Earth? You can follow Eilidh on [www.voicesontheroadfilm.com](http://www.voicesontheroadfilm.com).

**SES Explorer 2018 Eleanor Drinkwater** and team members Laura Kor and Chris Guggiari-Peel are making final preparations for their departure to French Guiana in December, to track the secretive titan beetle *Titanus Giganteus*. This expedition aims to raise awareness of and gain insights into the international trade of invertebrates. International wildlife trade is gaining increasing conservation, political and media attention. However, while many invertebrate species are traded internationally, research on the impacts of this subset of wildlife trade continue to be overlooked. This investigation focuses on the titan beetle, using it as a case study species to find out more about the ecological and social impacts of the invertebrate trade; could it be detrimental for wildlife, or should the trade be supported as a sustainable method of income provision and ecotourism to communities within the beetle's home range? Despite being the largest bodied beetle in the world, with specimens sold for hundreds of dollars at auction, like many of the traded species, very little is currently known about the biology of the titan beetle, making it hard to answer this question.

There are several main aims to this project:

- (1) Investigate the international trade in invertebrates: sustainable ecotourism solution, or threat of extinction?
- (2) Collect field data on the biology and trade of the titan beetle *Titanus Giganteus* as a case study of a high value species traded internationally.
- (3) Use the expedition and research findings to highlight the risks and benefits of invertebrate trade and raise awareness on the subject.

Filming and awareness raising is well underway; interviews have been undertaken with experts on the wildlife trade and entomologists giving their insights into the trade. Closer to home, the team has been working with the local Beaver group (5-7 year-olds) running 'Bug Week' with a 'build-your-own-insect' workshop and insect hunting in the local park. The Beavers have given the team lots of food for thought with great questions like "What is the scariest invertebrate?" and "What's it like living in a jungle?".



Preparation for data collection is ongoing, with tiny tracking tags currently being made to attach to the beetles to track their movements in the rainforest. Surveys for invertebrate collectors have been developed and will soon be sent to UK-based collectors to find out more about the

motivations and potential economic implications of the trade.

The team is looking forward to sharing the findings of the expedition when they get back and will be adding updates on their website <https://expeditiontitan.wixsite.com/titans>.

**Rivers Foundation Explorer 2018 Olivia Grant** led an expedition to the remote South Pacific island of Ua Huka, located in the Marquesas archipelago of French Polynesia. Ua Huka is the only inhabited island in the Marquesas archipelago that is free of the black rat, an invasive species that has spread across Polynesia to devastating effect upon the native bird species. This has left Ua Huka as the last remaining refuge for two critically endangered bird species, the Iphis Monarch and one of the world's rarest parrots, the Ultramarine Lorikeet.



The expedition team set out to assess the populations of these two species, a task that is of utmost importance for future conservation efforts. The expedition undertook the first population survey of the monarch in 20 years, the most comprehensive survey of the lorikeet population, and the first study of these birds in the uninhabited north of the island. The uninhabited area of the island is separated from the rest by a sharp ridge, characteristic of volcanic Pacific islands, and so the team had to reach it by boat. This was slightly trickier than anticipated, and it became too dangerous to bring the boat close enough to shore to hop onto land. So the team had to jump into the sea and swim to shore. The sighting of a shark the day before made everyone kick that bit harder! To conduct this study, the team used two different observational sampling techniques (point counts and line transects) and surveyed the birds in all of the different habitat types of the island. The Iphis Monarch is a small, somewhat dowdy brown and black flycatcher. However, these birds are strongly territorial and delightfully inquisitive, and so were easy to spot as they would hop down to get a closer look at the sweaty scientists as they hiked through the forest. The Ultramarine Lorikeets were more difficult to observe because although they sport striking iridescent blue plumage and have a screeching call, they spend much of their time in the upper reaches of canopy.

Data gathered in the field is being processed, but from a preliminary assessment it appears that both species have fairly large populations on the island. However, Liv believes that these birds have an uncertain future. There appeared to be a high density of cats on the island, most likely supported by the large brown noddy colony that nests in the island. Perhaps even more worryingly, the team's excursion to the uninhabited region of the island revealed that feral goats had destroyed much of the vegetation and the coast of the island appeared to be undergoing erosion. The Marquesan Islanders were very welcoming and generous towards the expedition team,



and they worked together to share knowledge about the birds and to identify the threats they face. The islanders worked with the team to make a documentary about how the tenuous survival of their culture is intertwined with the protection their island's wildlife. Highlights included the team learning the traditional Haka Manu or "bird dance", watching the champion men's outrigger canoe team race around the island, spending a night on a seabird colony island with an egg collector, and being shown an ancient abandoned village. Liv is keeping in touch with the islanders and plans to return to Ua Huka to implement a long-term conservation plan for their very special birds.

**Gough Explorer 2018 Merlin Hetherington** and his team mate Alex McMaster sat at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile in a small boat, where these two mighty rivers join to form the life-giving artery that courses its way northwards to the Mediterranean, noted that it had been their guide for the past 2,000km from Cairo. Their two-stroke engine strained against the strong flow, the sun setting over buildings and suspension bridges of Sudan's capital as they relaxed content, for now, not to be under the locomotion of our own four legs.



Hours earlier they were at the Faculty of Optometry and Visual Sciences (FOVS), Sudan's major institution for eye health education and provision. FOVS is the only institution in the Middle East and Africa that provides such comprehensive programmes, as such attracting students from far afield as well as locally. They introduced the Arlight (an innovative device for looking into the eye and spotting early signs of blindness) to the educators and leaders of eye care in Sudan. It was exciting to see their enthusiasm towards applying the device to outreach programmes and education, the Dean even exclaimed he could "use it on the bus" when he returns home to his village at weekends. They had the privilege of training 65 students with the Arlight device. The affordability and ease of use makes the Arlight an unprecedented tool and supplies the workforce workforce with a sorely needed piece of equipment.

Now surrounded by the bountiful water of the two Niles, the dry thirst inspiring heat and sand of the Sahara feels like a far-flung concept yet actually lies just kilometres from the reaches of the city. This desert has, at times,

been their home for days at a time. They have been crossing the desert, resting at occasional truck stops and camping under cloudless starry skies. With the wind not often in their favour, it was a battle in the first stages of their journey towards Cape Town. The road travels often between the nourished banks of the river and the sandy desert, taking them between what are humankind's most widely used resources. After water, sand is the most used resource in the world and, although it wouldn't seem so out here, its availability is actually under threat! They definitely know which one they would rather get in their eyes! Their days of sand may now be numbered as the Blue Nile takes them on into the Ethiopian Highlands and up to the soaring summits of the Simien mountains. Their next Arlight distribution takes place in the isolated town of Gondar, follow their progress on the map at [www.arlight-tandemafrika.com](http://www.arlight-tandemafrika.com).

**Elodie Sandford Explorer 2018 Eleanor Flatt** led the Exploration Sira team in May and September to heights it had never reached before: the highest peak of Cerros del Sira, Peru. They sought to unveil indigenous stories and recover forgotten species in this remote mountain range. The team left the final town of Puerto Inca in a 4x4 truck where they travelled to the end of the road. From there, it was a nine-hour hike to the community Nueva Austria that lies on the edge of the mountain range. The team then trekked for two days to reach their base camp: Campamento Peligroso (1,600m).



Several biodiversity monitoring methods were positioned (camera, butterfly and dung beetle traps) every 100m across an altitudinal gradient from 1,100m to the top at 2,200m and revealed the Sira Curassow at a new high altitude. Bird surveys at dawn and dusk unveiled a healthy and diverse population.

The local communities welcomed Exploration Sira, and what the team learnt from them was invaluable. The knowledge and connection these people have with Sira is heart-warming. But the struggles they currently face with logging and agricultural companies entering their territories hosts a problem for Sira, not only for its wildlife but for their way of life. Projects like Exploration Sira, which set out to investigate and understand these struggles to bring about change, are vital for Sira's survival. On the return of the final expedition the team met with SERNANP (National service of natural protected areas) in Pucallpa, presenting their work; results, achievements and future aspirations. This meeting sparked a very exciting collaboration, as the team's work impressed and inspired SERNANP to not only help the team continue it, but grow it; combining it with SERNANPs plans, covering more mountains and working with more communities.

**Sir Charles Blois Explorer 2018 Glauca Del Rio** and eight women biologists, in September 2019, will explore one of the most inhospitable and isolated areas in the



Amazon Forest, the region around the middle course of the Juruá River. The main goal is to document and study the bird diversity around the Juruá river, a frontier for biological knowledge. At the same time, the team want to pay a tribute to Emilie Snethlage, the first woman to describe the Amazon Forest Avian diversity. Preparing such an ambitious trip is not an easy task. For example, in São Paulo, southern Brazil, professor Luís Fábio Silveira, has been helping the team to apply for permits from Brazilian government to perform research in the Amazon Forest. Hopefully we will get response back from Brazilian institutions in the next couple months.



In Louisiana, where Glaucia is a PhD student, she is helping her friends and fellow students, Anna Hiller (pictured above, 4th from left) and Jessie Salter, to get their research visas to be able to join the expedition. The local collaborator in the Amazon Forest, Andressa Scabin has been working by the side of local communities from Carauari to Eirunepé to get all kinds of logistic data, especially regarding the boat the team is going to rent to be the mobile camp and laboratory. Finally, Nikki Skinner from SES, provides logistic support and broadcasts our advances to an international audience!

# AWARD SPONSORSHIP

**Would you consider supporting a Scientific Trailblazer or Pioneer with Purpose through the Explorer Awards?**

**There are great opportunities 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, series of Awards, or contributing to a collective Award, you can support a rising star in their daring journey to achieve great and inspirational objectives, whilst carrying their supporter's name with pride. SES is seeking Award sponsorship of £5,000, £10,000 and £20,000 or contributions of a minimum of £500 towards SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing. Core funding opportunities are also available. Please do contact [nikki@ses-explore.org](mailto:nikki@ses-explore.org) to learn more about the unique opportunity SES offers.**



**SCIENTIFIC  
EXPLORATION  
SOCIETY**

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## SES EXPLORER AWARDS 2019

*'Pioneers with Purpose' & 'Scientific Trailblazers'*

**A celebration of Exploration, Innovation and Leadership**

**Date:** Wednesday 22nd May 2019

**Time:** 6pm Drinks Reception

7pm Presentations

8.30pm Depart

**Venue:** The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

**Tickets:** £20 (£15 SES members, £10 concessions - available on EVENTBRITE)

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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, Pam Coleridge and the Trustees of SES.*



Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities 2018  
Olivia Grant and her French Polynesia Team



Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography 2017  
Alex Braczkowski, tree climbing lions - Jacob looking up (Uganda)



# Honorary Award Winners 2018

## Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018

### EMILY PENN

*Kindly donated by the family of the late H. E. Ambassador Eric Hotung CBE*

Emily Penn is an architect turned ocean advocate and skipper. After rounding the globe on a record-breaking bio-fuelled boat, she spent eight 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's commitment to understand and inspire local and large-scale community involvement in tackling the issue of ocean plastic pollution is tireless, and it is for that reason that she was selected to receive the prestigious Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018 for her outstanding contribution to scientific exploration.



## SES Explorer Award 2018

### VANESSA O'BRIEN

Dual national Vanessa O'Brien became the first British-American woman to successfully conquer K2, the world's second highest mountain, after a gruelling 16-hour summit push where she encountered deep snow, howling winds and temperatures down to -40 degrees centigrade. This was Vanessa's third consecutive year attempting K2, and her team's dedication and persistence paid-off as they became the only team to summit in 2017, following two years of no summits on K2. At the summit, Vanessa proudly displayed British, American and Pakistani flags – representing her homes and her host country – as well as that of UN Women. In recognition of her outstanding grit, determination and ultimately successful expedition, Vanessa was selected to receive SES Explorer Award 2018.



## SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018

### MARK BEAUMONT

Mark Beaumont cycled into Paris having circumnavigated the globe. He completed the epic Artemis World Cycle in 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes, breaking the world record by a staggering 44 days. It was through his vision, ambition, physical and psychological endurance abilities and the clockwork precision of his logistical planning, that he was able to complete this outstanding achievement. It is for the sheer enormity of the challenge, for making the impossible 'possible' and for the style and determination shown by him and his support team that the SES was delighted to present Mark with SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018.



Photos: TOP to BOTTOM Emily Penn at the helm (Eleanor Church Larkrise Pictures), Vanessa O'Brien at the summit of K2 and Mark Beaumont on day 79 at the Arc de Triomphe (Johnny Swane Poel)

# DISCOVER RESEARCH CONSERVE

# SES Explorer Talks 2018

2018 saw the launch of a rich and regular programme of Explorer Talks to give members and friends the opportunity to listen to a talk and enjoy an evening with like-minded individuals who are interested in adventure, scientific research and conservation. These talks were kindly sponsored by International Removal and Storage experts, Cadogan Tate and gifts for the speakers were generously provided by Texenergy.

## **Fearghal O’Nuallain - The Water Diaries (January)**

Teacher Fearghal took us through three of his journeys and shined a light on many different issues. He shared moments of fear, beauty and discoveries. On his expeditions he looks at how water shapes the landscape, influences civilisations and how it sculpts geopolitics. As a teacher, he believes that the classroom can be anywhere, it is not one place – the world is his classroom.



## **Angus Wingfield - Life and Death and KwaZulu Natal (February)**

Africa Wild Trails Director Angus talked on KwaZulu Natal’s history, its people and conservation challenges. He also shared his own ethos and involvement in the region during the last 15 years, covering an overview of the San Bushman and the Nguni migration, the rise of the Zulu people, the decimation of animal populations during the 1800s, the creation of the first conservation areas (which were in KwaZulu Natal in 1895), and which were set up specifically to provide a safe haven for the White Rhino.



## **Newall Hunter - The Science of Successful Expeditions (March)**

Grand Slam Explorer Newall was the 13th person in the world (second Brit and first Scot) to complete the

full Explorers’ Grand Slam. Focusing on the purpose of expeditions, Newall reiterated that the main point is to thoroughly enjoy the experience, including the challenges - and being a dyslexic engineer, the challenge to him lies principally in ensuring that the calculations, the equipment selection, the detailed logistics and efforts to pre-empt the most likely hazards before setting off, are covered in miniscule detail before departure.



## **Peter Kohler - Robots for Exploration (April)**

SES Trustee Peter talked about how his expedition - The Plastic Tide - featured technology, cutting-edge artificial intelligence, citizen science and ocean science and how these ever-evolving developments can be used to push back the frontiers of our understanding of the plastic pollution problem. Peter also looked at how similar holistic approaches to overfishing have provided global innovations and what future role exploration may play in these approaches to the major environmental challenges facing humankind.



## **Sam McConnell - Discovering the Red Land (May)**

SES member Sam told of his journey through the Eastern Desert, a hotspot for illicit mining activity, outlining the considerable logistical and administrative challenges

involved and also the permissions needed from senior government officials and numerous Bedouin Sheikhs. The crossing was all about providing an opportunity not only to discover new places, but also to encounter new people and cultures as well. Ancient clues left behind by some of the oldest civilisations in history were discovered and the sight of Roman military forts, now long abandoned, left the expedition speechless.



**Vanessa O'Brien - K2 – The Final Conquest (October)**

SES Explorer Award 2018, SES member and dual national Vanessa took us through what she discovered about climbing K2 and the people of Pakistan, the research that showed glacier contamination, and the conservation she led at the Gilkey-Puchoz Memorial.

**James Borrell - Conservation Successes in Africa (September)**

SES Trustee and Cadogan Tate Explorer 2015 James, swiftly off the back of a successful expedition to Madagascar, spent the first half of 2017 travelling 32,000km across nine African countries in search of conservation success stories. His unfaltering optimism for conservation is inspiring. His stories were not only fascinating and amusing but also extremely thought-provoking. James's closing words were *"This generation is the one that can decide what happens to the natural world - we can make a difference."*



**Emily Penn - Ocean Advocate (SES AGM - March 2018)**

What Emily Penn, the Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018, doesn't know about plastic can fit on a postage stamp. Her knowledge of making plastic, types of plastic, recycling plastic, chemicals in plastic, effects on land, effects in the water, effects on marine and wildlife, effects on the food chain; which countries offend, which countries advance in tackling the issues...is encyclopaedic. Her tireless work to enlighten people and organisations to the problems and issues is remarkable. SES members and friends were enthralled by her talk and delivery and her message will stay with us for a very long time.

**OLLIE PHILLIPS - 2019 AGM Guest Speaker on 20th March 2019**  
**Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN**



Ollie, former captain of the England Rugby 7s team, lives an extraordinary life. Following an illustrious career in professional rugby, he is now a highly successful businessman in one of the world's largest professional service networks, PWC. A Guinness World Record holder, motivational speaker and expedition leader to name a few, he is proof that anything is possible. However it was in 2013, whilst preparing for the Rugby World Cup 7s in Moscow, that Ollie suffered a severe calf injury that brought his victorious rugby career to an end.

With no intention of sitting back, Ollie threw himself in to a mammoth challenge, the 'Clipper Round the World Yacht Race' after being persuaded by legendary sailor Sir Robin Knox-Johnston. A newcomer to sailing, Ollie's determination and team spirit saw him and his Great Britain team mates come 2nd overall in this gruelling race. Ollie then headed to the North Pole for the 'Arctic Rugby Challenge' where his previous leadership and teamwork skills came into play. He completed a 100 mile trek across the Arctic in -40 degrees centigrade temperatures to the Magnetic North Pole, where he hosted the 'Most Northerly Rugby Match', breaking the Guinness World Record and raising £350,000 in aid of Wooden Spoon.



SES Elodie Sandford Explorer Award 2017 Aleksander Braczkowski, tree climbing lions (Uganda)



SES Chairman Neil Laughton with Mark Beaumont, winner of SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018  
Photo by Matthew Ferguson (FG Studios)

# 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](mailto:admin@ses-explore.org). SES also produces regular e-newsletters. If you are not already on the mailing list, please do email [admin@ses-explore.org](mailto:admin@ses-explore.org).**

## **SES Trustee Diane Allen awarded OBE**

Congratulations to one of our trustees, a serving military reservist who was awarded an OBE in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list, for services to the Ministry of Defence. Lieutenant-Colonel Diane Allen led a five year programme, to optimise the use of reservists in specialist projects.



## **HRH The Prince of Wales and Young People (by Colonel John Blashford-Snell)**

In 1975 HRH heard that two young Jersey men had won places on a SES expedition to the Zaire (Congo) River and returned to inspire others with the spirit of worthwhile adventure. *"If you can do this for two, why not for 200"* he suggested to the Society. Seeking to encourage the young with challenges of war in peace, the Prince hoped to create young leaders who could be a positive influence in the world. It was his foresight and enthusiasm that launched Operation Drake commemorating the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation.

As Patron, he raised considerable funds and inspired 400 young of many nations to take part in beneficial tasks



overseas. Following its success, he encouraged a much larger repetition and Operation Raleigh (now Raleigh International) started in 1984.

The 40,000 who have taken part include the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a nurse who inspired Bob Geldof to create Band Aid, another who became Britain's ambassador in Beijing, Tim Peake, the astronaut and many who have aided developing communities and protected the environment and wildlife.

It was the Prince's initiative that led to these operations becoming a catalyst to promote numerous inspirational activities and the spirit of adventure.

## **The story of RONALDA**

During SES Kota Mama III expedition in 2001, the Mother-ship of the expedition was accompanying the reed-built trimaran and the traditional balsa raft on the 4,000km voyage from the Andes to the Atlantic. One evening, the ship diverted to a remote lake known to have a population of huge caiman that were to be studied.

Stopping at a small village, the team were confronted by people seeking medical aid. One mother came forward with a five year old daughter named RONALDA with a serious facial disfigurement and asked if we could make her child look like her.

Dr Sam Allen, the senior doctor (see **Medicine Chest** on page 30), reckoned that if the girl could be taken to an appropriate hospital, her cleft palate and hare lip could be put right. Whilst no firm promise was made, the team offered to try to help. On return to England, Jim Masters set out to raise funds for the American charity 'Smile Train' to organise an operation at a specialist hospital in Sao Paulo in Brazil and raised some \$4,000. Richard Drax, who had been on the expedition, was asked on behalf of TV South if the BBC would agree to him returning to Brazil to find the little girl and take her over 1,000km across Brazil for the operation.

The BBC agreed and Richard set out to find her. He reached the village in the midst of a terrible storm and persuaded RONALDA's mother to come with him to the hospital. Travelling by canoe and local bus, they reached Sao Paulo for operations on RONALDA's face. She went home, totally changed in appearance.



A short BBC film resulted and this enabled SES to raise around £20,000 to treat facially disfigured children. Another child in Brazil was helped later on. The Society was keen to help Ronalda to be educated but lost contact with her family. Yolima Cipagauta (SES's Representative in Latin America) never gave up and then Marcelo Mendez, a Brazilian Marine Officer who had been with the expedition, was promoted and sent as a Colonel to Manaus on the Amazon. Yoli asked Marcelo to help and he sent out a Naval Officer to seek Ronalda.

Thanks to Marcelo's help, SES was able to find Ronalda near the village of Humaita. She has married and has a three year old daughter, sadly born with the same disfigurement, but happily, this was corrected at a local hospital. On 10th November, Ronalda gave birth to twins three months early. They had to be raised in an incubator but talking to Ronalda on the phone, Yoli learned that very sadly both little girls have died.

Meanwhile, SES has been informing Kota Mama III expedition members, including Richard Drax, now MP for South Dorset. Yoli is keeping in touch with Ronalda and we have started a small fund to help her. The first £100 has already been raised, and SES, out of Marathon monies raised, has donated £500. Ronalda is extremely grateful for SES's support.

### **Dr Danielle Jackson's inspiration after JBS Kenya Quest 2018 Expedition**

Dr Danielle Jackson, having just returned from working as a wildlife vet in South Africa, was lucky enough to be at an audience with John Blashford-Snell in Dorset in late 2017. After his talk to the Bridport Sea Cadets, he mentioned he was looking for intrepid explorers for his latest adventure to Kenya where they would be monitoring elephant



movement in the recently developed elephant corridor at Mount Kenya National Park. And, most importantly, they would be working closely with Mount Kenya Trust's Horse Patrol Team, who conduct anti-poaching and ecological efforts from the saddle.

Having worked for the last three years researching and

planning her very own mounted unit, Danielle could not think of anything she would love more than to meet another team doing the same. During her time in Kenya under John's wonderful leadership (and that of his 2IC Sqn Ldr Jack Holt), she was lucky enough to spend quality time with MKT's Horse Patrol Team. She had the chance to spend some time around the fire with the rangers to learn some invaluable lessons to take back to her own team.



Sitting in Port Elizabeth International Airport, she had only a few hours earlier handed over control of the Eastern Cape's first ever equine anti-poaching unit to the reserve where she ran a 12-month pilot project, hopefully the first of many. Joining SES's expedition in January, stoking the fire for her love of the African continent, Danielle said *"This undoubtedly inspired me to continue on what has been a challenging journey in an attempt to add another layer of protection to our dwindling wildlife populations. The more I see of this incredible place, the more I realise it must be conserved for the generations to come."*

### **Honorary Advisory Board (HAB)**

We have welcomed four new people to SES's Honorary Advisory Board this year - James Balfour, Mark Beaumont, Konstantin Sidorov and Christopher Wright and the Society would like to thank these new members, as well as the existing HAB, for all their help and support.

### **London Marathon**

We would like to thank our London Marathon 2018 runners Sophie Sennett, Hannah Walton, Katherina Telford, Anne Lotter and the Let's Do This Team, who joined thousands of runners 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 £4,002 was raised, out of which £500 will be donated to the family of Ronalda (see earlier news story), a total of £2,502 will be donated to SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Trailblazing over the next two years and £250 will be donated to help rebuild a school in Bardia, Nepal - a project of John Blashford-Snell.



We already have four places confirmed for our 2019 Marathon runners - Stephanie Edmunds, Alice Lane, Bradley Heydrenrych and Toosie Falconer Hall, which will take place on Sunday 28th April. We have one place still to fill - please email [admin@ses-explore.org](mailto:admin@ses-explore.org) if you are interested in running for SES. Toosie Falconer Hall said on winning her place within the SES Team *"I am excited and nervous to be running the London Marathon for SES. This is my first distance longer than a half marathon; I did Ride London last year and can't wait to undertake another epic challenge for an amazing charity. I am a doctor and am currently in Gabon until Christmas, working with a team instructing in counter-poaching for the park rangers in the jungle here. This is a slightly unusual setting in which to start my training, but a few more times up and down this hill should help a bit!"*



### Close encounters with Wild Animals

An illustrated talk by John Blashford-Snell was held in Motcombe Memorial Hall on Sunday 17th December 2017. It was a VERY interesting and humorous afternoon for kids from 7 to 97! Each table was asked to represent one of the animals that featured in the talk, with appropriate hisses, roars and chatters! It was like a pantomime with education! It was a huge amount of fun for the grandparents and the parents, and the youngsters were enthralled. John invited anyone to talk to him afterwards, if they would like to - he was almost mobbed! The kids rushed up as though he was the Pied Piper of Hamelin!

Those attending also enjoyed an afternoon tea in a picnic box decorated with cartoon animals or undersea creatures. Some of the youngsters dressed up as explorers or endangered animals, or took part in the painting and drawing competitions. An enjoyable and informative afternoon was had by all.

### SES Jersey

SES's sister charity, the Jersey Scientific Exploration Society, held its AGM on 11th October. A full house in St Lawrence Parish Hall enjoyed presentations by David and Sally Langlois, Roberto Lora and Susan Cohan on the 2018 Kenya Quest and by John Blashford-Snell and Sally Dalman on the Mongolian Baatar expedition. Jersey continues to produce many expedition members and several will accompany John to Nepal in March 2019.

## Flying the SES Flag



Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography 2017  
Elesander Brackzkowski



Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2017  
Anirban Dutta Gupta



Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities 2017  
James Unwin with Hannah Pollock



SES Founder and Honorary President  
Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE  
(Mongolia Bataar Expedition 2018)

# Top Tips from our Award Winners



**ANIRBAN DUTTA GUPTA – Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2017**

## TOP TIPS:

Especially when capturing human-interest stories, I prefer being an observer of the larger picture while documenting the smaller stories. And I never try and influence the narrative. Be sensitive and respectful of the community and individual. Do your research, always smile and carry loads of water.

**ELEANOR DRINKWATER – SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing 2018**

## TOP TIP:

Find inspiring people to work with. There is nothing better than working with brilliant enthusiastic teammates. Expedition work, planning and fundraising can be challenging, so having the support of teammates, with great senses of humour, is key.



**EILIDH MUNRO – Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2018**

## TOP TIPS:

**Tip 1:** Share your idea with passion and enthusiasm – this is the way to find dedicated teammates and inspire sponsors.

**Tip 2:** Have faith that you can do it, while also recognising any gaps in your knowledge; always ask for expert advice, especially from people working in the expedition country, and develop a genuine partnership with them.



**VANESSA O'BRIEN – SES Explorer 2018**

## TOP TIP:

Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate! That's fantastic for the daytime, by the time dinner rolls around ... well, all that filtration is starting to work its magic. The problem is now you're probably comfy, socks off, shoes off, and lights off in your sleeping bag but now is not the time... worry no more. Nalgene has a 96 oz Cantene that not only rolls up but weighs not a thing. You are guaranteed never to fill this miraculous invention in a single night and it will do you well in a snowstorm too.





**OLIVIA GRANT – Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities 2018**

**TOP TIP:**

Invest in a satellite phone, and check that it has good coverage for the region you are travelling in. Communication is everything in an emergency, and suddenly you will be very grateful for it when you realise that you are stuck on a barren rock in the middle of the Pacific with only some seabirds for company and your boat ride hasn't turned up... Most importantly, the way to guarantee you (and your teammates!) have a good time is to bring an enthusiastic and accepting attitude – nothing will go perfectly to plan, and if you're game, that makes it all a great adventure!

**ELEANOR FLATT – Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography 2018**

**TOP TIP:**

Don't think too hard and enjoy the moment ... even when it is going wrong, that's the nature of the exploration game. Flavoured vitamin tablets for water are your friend, making the yellowest and strangest tasting water enjoyable. Jungle hammocks are another friend that you should take along with you on a remote expedition, they are very comfortable, almost like a hotel, but, travel size for your convenience.



**JOHN MITCHELL – Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities 2015**

**TOP TIPS:**

**Tip 1: Keep at it!** So many obstacles will be thrown your way, however you have to be determined, patient and tenacious. If people won't get back to you, keep emailing and keep calling. Particularly if working with developing countries, instant email response just isn't a thing.

**Tip 2: Work with host institutions.** By doing research in another country you are using their potential research resources. Get host students involved and by doing so both parties will learn a huge amount.



SES member and SES Endorsed Expedition Angus Wingfield ([www.africawildtrails.com](http://www.africawildtrails.com))  
Giraffe, KwaZulu-Natal Province (South Africa)





Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research 2018  
Merlin Hetherington, Arclight Africa Expedition (Africa)



Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018  
Emily Penn and team, eXXpedition (Pacific Ocean)

# Charity and Alumni Events 2018

## Exploration in Latin America - Canning House (February)

John Blashford-Snell hosted an event to commemorate the 26 expeditions that SES has supported in Latin America, since the epic British Trans-American Expeditions of 1971-72, which made the first vehicle crossing of the complete Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia. Guests enjoyed a champagne reception followed by an exciting illustrated presentation by John and Yolima Cipagauta, SES representative in Latin America. His Excellency Nestor Osorio, the Colombian Ambassador was the Guest of Honour (pictured below with John Blashford-Snell). Funds raised from the auction went to SES and to aid the Ticuna Indians in Colombian Amazonas.



## Operation Drake 40th Anniversary Reunion Celebration - HMS President (May)

Alumni were welcomed aboard the *Eye of the Wind* at HMS President to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Operation Drake, which was kindly organised by SES Trustee Trevor Moss (also Operation Drake Explorer Phase 8a).



Trevor said of the reunion *"In addition to the jollities of a reunion, I wanted to enable the Operation Drake Alumni to re-connect. Of the 414 successful candidates selected from 58,000 applicants who applied to join Operation Drake as Young Explorers, we were all fortunate to become a cadre of a privileged few to take part in the expedition. Operation Drake sent many of us off on a course that formulated our future careers and changed many of our lives for ever."*

## An evening with Levison Wood (September)

SES Honorary Advisory Board member Levison Wood (pictured below with Neil Laughton) kindly and generously gave his time to help raise funds for the Society and share his stories with SES members and friends at the Royal Geographical Society. It was such an enjoyable evening - Lev delivered a beautifully constructed talk to a packed theatre with engaging and inspiring stories that included many funny moments, anecdotes and personal insights. Massive thanks to Lev and also to Chapel Down for generously providing the wine for the pre-talk drinks.



## Blue Nile 50th Anniversary Celebration - Royal Geographical Society (October)

This celebratory event of the 50th anniversary of the first descent of the greater part of the Ethiopian Blue Nile was attended by 550 guests including 20 former members of what Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE, using the Amharic name for the river in deference to Ethiopia, had called the Great Abbaï Expedition. The celebration was graced by the presence of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (pictured below flanked by John and Neil Laughton). The Duke is an old friend of SES. John gave a full account of the expedition with his usual aplomb. There were brief contributions from Roger Chapman and Dick Snailham on, respectively, an incident with a crocodile and the story of the big white topee. As well as the excellent slides, there were clips from Survival, Anglia TV's "The Last Great First". The proceeds from the raffle were shared between SES and CURE, an Ethiopian children's charity.



# Obituaries



## **Pam Coleridge** (Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

After exciting wartime service in the Royal Navy, Pam's father, George, became a district officer and later a commissioner in Tanganyika and it was in Arusha, under the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro, that Pam was born and, with her sister Susan, spent her early life. This was the land across which Stanley and Livingstone had marched 80 years before and was still a wild territory in 1947. Pam's life started with an adventure. Due to the difficulty of travelling, her mother, Audrey had gone to the local hospital a month ahead of the birth and had to remain there a month afterwards. On their way home, mother and daughter were nearly killed by a giant tree almost falling onto their car. Perhaps this was a prelude to her exciting life to come.

Without doubt Pam was an unusual child, some would say naughty! When Audrey wished to introduce her daughters at rather formal Colonial tea parties, Pam, then aged 7, would enter walking on her hands waving her legs in the air. She drove her parents demented and hoping to instil some discipline, George packed her off to the Royal Naval School at Haslemere at the age of 11 years. However here Pam displayed more spirit and her love of practical jokes to the full. Like all well run naval establishments its days were governed by a bell. Thus Pam and a friend removed the dreaded bell and hid it in a nearby wood, throwing the school routine into chaos. Later she decided to add a little colour to school life so popped cubes of blue dye into the water tanks, resulting in pupils and laundry emerging a shade of ultramarine. Recently a school friend, Pammie wrote of her: *"Pam, Heather and I were always in trouble. I say trouble because it was a stuffy school of the old era, where anyone with personality plus was squashed and sat upon. But irrepressible Pam was always laughing and*

*giggling, her eyes alight, her smile wide. Never bad-naughty, always amusing, always looking for the 'fun side of life in a harmless way'. We broke bounds together, took risks together and did an awful lot of laughing. She was inspiring then, elegant and always looking for the best in life. I was too. So, taking risks, being good-natured naughty was absolutely our stock in trade. If I were to say one word, it would be – she was irrepressible. She made my school days sparkle".*

On three occasions Pam was expelled but George pleaded with the Headmistress and, staying on, very fortunately she was inspired by the biology teacher, thus sparking her interest in nursing. So Pam started training at St Mary's Hospital in London where she taxed the patience of the matron. Whenever she had a few days leave, she and a friend would hitchhike as far as possible and on one trip, reached Morocco only returning to the hospital with minutes to spare. Nevertheless, she qualified as a nurse practitioner and also trained in dentistry.

By now George was Head of Chancery at the British Embassy in Kinshasa and joining her parents, Pam found her nursing skills were appreciated. Working with President Mobutu's doctor, Bill Close whose daughter, Glenn became a famous actress, Pam was appointed as the President's personal nurse. She so impressed the dictator that she became the only one allowed to address him by first name "Albere". But once again to George's dismay, Pam was leading a wild social life and her parents were eager to get her away from Kinshasa.

In 1972 the Scientific Exploration Society, with the backing of the Army, was planning a mammoth expedition to navigate the 2,700 miles of the Congo River whilst carrying out scientific and medical studies, especially an investigation into the dreaded river blindness disease. A team of over 170 servicemen, scientists and doctors was to undertake the task in specially constructed inflatable rafts and jet boats. George met me in England to discuss the plans, bringing Audrey and Pam with him. Whilst alone he said, *"I hear your assistant is retiring"*. *"Yes,"* I replied. *"She's getting married"*. *"Could you use one who speaks Swahili, Lingala and French and is on good terms with President Mobutu?"*, he enquired. *"Indeed"* I said. So it was that Pam became my PA and a nurse on the expedition.

When diplomatic clearance for the expedition became a problem, we despatched Pam to see her friend, the President and with her usual charm, she persuaded him to become our patron and provide the necessary permissions as long as we did not photograph Zairois ladies with bare feet! She also managed to get the use of his Air Zaire DC10 to fly us from England. Pam's dental skills were invaluable, as she extracted a stubborn tooth from a Sapper by standing above him in a bikini and pulling upwards whilst his friends pushed him downwards. On another day, suffering from a malarial rigor whilst making a speech,

my legs began to shake. Pam, who was sitting nearby whispered “*Keep still. I’m going to inject you*”. And thrust a hypodermic through my trousers into my thigh.

Pam also loved animals. On the river she adopted a bush baby named Tiddly Push. Being nocturnal creatures, they are not good pets, for they sleep during the day and at night it would try to get into one’s sleeping bag and do something unspeakable. To keep Tiddly Push out of harm’s way, Pam kept him inside her shirt. A local chief was demanding payment for crossing his territory so speaking in Lingala, Pam sought to convince him we were under the President’s patronage. Suddenly the chief’s eyes bulged as Pam’s shirt began to dance up and down and the goggle-eyed Tiddly Push emerged. The chief fled!

She enjoyed giving the impression of being a frivolous blonde, when in fact she was highly intelligent and bright. Amongst our Zaire Army escort was an Intelligence Officer who knew that Bill Coleridge had earlier been with the Swedish UN detachment in Zaire at a time when European mercenaries were operating in the country. He suspected Bill was involved in some plot and was endeavouring to get him evicted from Zaire. Not revealing that she understood their language, Pam discovered this but because the Intelligence Officer would never leave us alone, she could not brief me. “Put on your bathing trunks and come into the shower with me” she wrote on a note. Somewhat surprised I did so and with the water noisily cascading over us, we devised plan to prevent Bill’s expulsion. She had met Bill on the expedition. He was taking convalescent leave having contracted amoebic hepatitis and thought Africa was the place to recover and get fit again. He was a Forward Support Team leader for the expedition and first met Pam at Lake Delacommune, where he fell for her in her yellow bikini and the ability to water ski amongst the crocodiles!

By the end of the expedition, Pam was suffering from recurrent fever, never the less she continued nursing the growing number of sick in our boat teams with great compassion and good humour. She tactfully handled our final reception with the President and got him to provide his DC10 to fly us home at no cost, before at a point of collapse, she was rushed to St. Pancras Hospital in London. Thankfully she recovered and married Bill who shared her love of adventure and they set off for Saudi Arabia. Here, unusual as ever, Pam gave birth to Vanessa in a partly built, roofless hospital in the desert. Vanessa arrived beneath the stars with the excited Dutch doctor proclaiming “*Congratulations, you have a son*”. Possibly due to the language barrier! Outside a crowd of construction workers cheered and presented Pam with gifts to celebrate the first birth in their new hospital. Kate arrived later in more comfort at a fine military hospital, thanks to the risky business of providing the local deputy governor with some highly illegal homebrewed wine. Indeed, Pam and Bill’s wines were legendary. On one occasion they heard the sound of corks popping and rushed into the store room to find the wine had over fermented and become champagne. So, they called all their pals and had a party. More successful brews were carried into the desert for picnics by pouring it into the windscreen washer bottles of the car.

Pam’s family and friends have told me numerous hilariously funny stories and it has not been easy to find any serious tales to illustrate her achievements and compassion. She was always laughing and full of joie de vivre, always elegant and bright but ever aware

of the needs of those around her. In Ottery St Mary her unpretentious open door policy brought people together and she became a pillar of the community, a staunch supporter of the Devon Red Cross and raising funds for many other good causes. Pam hosted amazing weekends at The Chanters House for Bill’s and her many friends and godchildren, with water skiing, riding, quad bike racing, and numerous activities loved by all. Her hospitality, combined with her nursing skills, led many to regard Pam as a mother figure. She continued to go on expeditions, voyaging on reed boats down rivers in South America and riding the infamous Mandalay Express train to seek voles in Burma. Wherever one found Pam, there was gaiety.

She was always eager to help the coming generation of explorers and her support for Oliver Steeds has led to the discovery of a major new ecosystem and habitat deep in the Atlantic Ocean. Nevertheless her family was always her calling and with Susan, she did much to care for her parents at the end of their lives. Her unstinting help for Bill, especially in the last 20 years of his failing eyesight has been remarkable. Without doubt Pam was truly instrumental in holding together the Coleridge family, uniting all Bill’s and her children and relatives. She loved them all and also the eight grandchildren they have. A light may have gone out of our lives, but we shall not forget this dynamic, selfless lady with a magnetic personality who never grew old. We are all privileged to have shared her life.



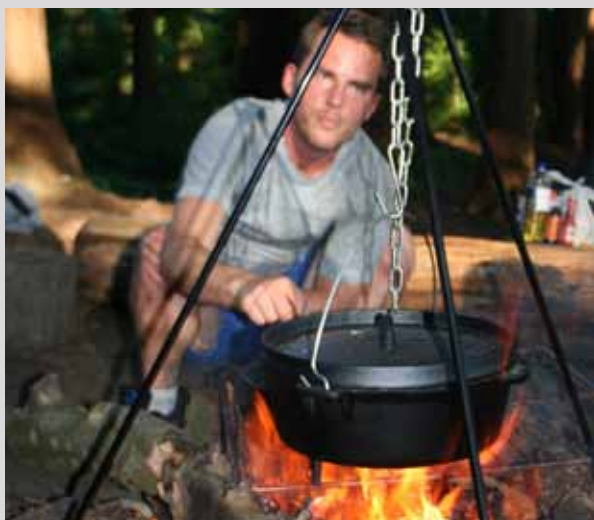
### **TREVOR BAYLIS CBE** (Tribute by John Blashford-Snell)

Members who met the inventor Trevor Baylis when he lectured to the Society will be sad to learn of this extraordinarily talented man’s death. Best known for his invention of the clockwork radio, Trevor was driven on by the desire to help to educate poor people in Africa. Indeed, the production of millions of these devices did much to keep the less privileged, who lacked electricity and who could not afford batteries, to operate normal radios. However, he also invented many other items to help disabled people and even undertook a 100m trek across Namibia to raise funds for a landmine charity. Trevor will be remembered for his campaign to advise on how inventors could protect their intellectual property and for his strong social conscience. We are proud to have had such an outstanding character as a member of the Society.

# Medicine Chest

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

Expeditions take people out of their comfort zone into remote and hostile environments. Participation is increasingly sought by individuals and corporations wishing to push the boundaries of the human experience. The medical challenges to ensure safe return require skills, knowledge and resourcefulness beyond the usual medical curriculum. Standards in providing medical care in expedition environments must evolve as developments take place in technologies (drones, GPS, weather forecasting and technical gear) and capabilities (older, younger and variously challenged). Professional indemnity requires that practitioners maintain their clinical knowledge and skills if providing medical support. The International Diploma in Expedition and Wilderness Medicine has been designed to provide a framework for in-depth study and research to further the knowledge and skills of expedition doctors working in extreme environments.



The course is hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and directed by Dr Jon Dallimore and James Moore, co-authors of the Oxford Handbook of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine (Johnson et al, 2015) who have recruited a stellar faculty of lecturers to deliver the taught modules. The knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of all the instructors are palpable and infectious!

The course is divided into eight modules that can be completed over one or two years. An introductory week takes place at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and comprises lectures, hand-on dental workshop and practical demonstrations. Participants are expected to complete online modules which are assessed through assignments. Assignments include essays (up to 3,000 words), forest navigation challenge and expedition log-book, literature searches or research proposal. Instruction on how to complete these is provided during the course and there are useful reading lists. The course material is stimulating as it is useful. It requires in-depth study to diploma standard equivalent to 120

credits. The academic component is rigorous and should not be taken lightly. Essays should demonstrate critical appraisal, analytical skills and assimilation of data to synthesise cogent arguments to a standard acceptable for publication at MSc level. Sharing of knowledge and skills from other course participants adds to the learning experience and camaraderie. Participants are encouraged to play a proactive role and can expect hands-on practice in navigation skills, GPS, rope-work, group management, clinical scenarios, fast water river crossing and rescue, use of crampons and ice-axe, portable and fixed hyperbaric chambers.



The diploma has been designed to prepare healthcare professionals leading or participating in expeditions in extreme or challenging environments. To this end several of the modules take place on location in the Scottish Highlands (winter navigation, avalanche), Devon (tropical medicine lectures, cave and maritime) and Morocco (altitude and desert). The course fee (£6,000) includes full board and accommodation for all the residential modules. Travel is not included. Competition for places is expected to be competitive from both the UK and overseas. A letter of support from a referee is recommended and applications are vetted. Completion of the course will prepare the successful candidate to further their career in expedition and wilderness medicine and provide them with an internationally recognised accreditation within this evolving speciality.

## References

Johnson C, Anderson S, Dallimore J, Imray C, Winsor S, Moore J, Warrell D. 2015. Oxford Handbook of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine. 2nd Ed. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

## Medicine Modules

1. Introduction, Infectious Diseases and Global Health - RCPS Glasgow
2. Research Methods - online
3. Navigation - online
4. Tropical and Maritime - Devon
5. Expedition Emporiatrics (Travel medicine) - online
6. Cold and Mountainous Environments - Glenmore
7. Thermal Injuries - online
8. High Altitude and Desert Environments - Morocco



# JOIN-UP ONLINE



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## Membership

### Why you should join SES

- Join a community of explorers, scientists and adventurers.
- Take-up opportunities to go on an exciting scientific expedition.
- Enjoy regular social evenings with drinks and Explorer Talks (London).
- Attend the annual 'Pioneers with Purpose' Explorer Awards (London).
- Enjoy great discounts from leading outdoor equipment suppliers.
- Keep up to date with the latest exploration and scientific news and views through 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 charity events.
- Access to detailed expedition and scientific reports via the SES website secure members' area.
- Ability to manage your contact details and mailing preferences online via the secure members' area.
- Scientific Explorer Annual Review (this much-loved members' annual publication).
- 10% discount with Nathan Beard 'Wild Ventures' when arranging a bespoke venture.
- 15% discount on purchases from Cotswold Outdoor.
- 20% discount on online purchases from Power Traveller.
- SES books, DVDs, videos and merchandise at discount prices.

### Membership Categories and Rates

FULL membership (Individual)	Annual Subscription £55
FULL membership (Joint)	Annual Subscription £100
Overseas membership	Annual Subscription £35
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 SES will continue into the future. For more information, please contact Gail Lloyd ([gail@ses-explore.org](mailto:gail@ses-explore.org)).

### Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows SES to reclaim the tax already paid on subscriptions and/or donations, and will increase the value of gifts at no extra cost. Persons paying subscriptions and making donations need to be currently resident in the UK and be a UK taxpayer. Persons also need to pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax for each tax year at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities to which that person donates will reclaim on gifts for that tax year. It is currently 25p for every £1 donated. Other taxes, such as VAT and council tax, do not qualify. In order to claim Gift Aid, SES periodically 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, you can register online to update your details. Or, if you prefer, you can email [admin@ses-explore.org](mailto:admin@ses-explore.org) giving your full name, address, email address, and landline and mobile telephone numbers and we will update your details for you.

Thank you for supporting SES. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member, please do encourage them to join-up online at [www.ses-explore.org](http://www.ses-explore.org).

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

**SES 2018 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 2018

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2018 Total funds £	2017 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>				
Donations and legacies	37,434	36,724	74,158	45,182
Charitable Activities	10,024	-	10,024	10,347
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Other trading activities	28,349	-	28,349	16,178
Investment income	249	-	249	459
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,056</b>	<b>36,724</b>	<b>112,780</b>	<b>72,166</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
Raising funds	26,370	5,750	32,120	10,650
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Charitable Activities	48,847	60,625	78,472	89,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,217</b>	<b>36,375</b>	<b>110,592</b>	<b>100,405</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>(28,239)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>40,070</b>	<b>14,985</b>	<b>55,055</b>	<b>83,294</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>41,909</b>	<b>15,334</b>	<b>57,243</b>	<b>55,055</b>
<b>CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>				
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.				

## Balance Sheet at 30th June 2018

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2018 Total funds £	2017 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Investments	100	-	100	100
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	1,154	-	1,154	1,136
Cash at bank	66,394	15,334	81,728	101,468
	67,748	15,334	83,082	102,604
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	(25,939)	-	(25,939)	(47,649)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>41,909</b>	<b>15,334</b>	<b>57,243</b>	<b>55,055</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>41,909</b>	<b>14,985</b>	<b>55,055</b>	<b>83,294</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>41,909</b>	<b>15,334</b>	<b>57,243</b>	<b>55,055</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			41,909	40,070
Restricted funds			15,334	14,985
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>57,243</b>	<b>55,055</b>

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

# Charity Information

## Honorary President

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

## Chairman

Neil Laughton

## Honorary Treasurer

David Zeitlin

## Honorary Solicitors

Richard When MA and Richard Gerrard

## Council Members

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

## Co-opted Council Members

Jane Davis FRGS, Richard Gerrard, Peter Kohler FRGS, Prof Alastair Driver, Dr Alexander Finnen

## 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 OBE (Chair), HSH Duke Leopold d'Arenberg, Dame Dr Claire Bertschinger, James Balfour, Mark Beaumont, 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, Konstantin Sidorov, Rosie Stancer, Prof Mike Stroud OBE, Levison Wood, Christopher Wright

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 Nikki Skinner (nikki@ses-explore.org)  
SES Membership & Finance Manager Gail Lloyd (gail@ses-explore.org)  
SES Executive Secretary Victoria Hankinson (admin@ses-explore.org)  
SES Corporate Sponsorship Ben Holden (ben@ses-explore.org)  
Film Trusts Ros Wardall

Honorary Logistics Officer Dave Smith (dave@ses-explore.org)  
Honorary Archivist Captain Jim Masters MBE

## Governance & Policy Committee

Neil Laughton, David Zeitlin, Briony Turner, Henrietta Thorpe

## Finance & Fundraising Committee

Peter Felix CBE (Chair), John Blashford-Snell OBE, Neil Laughton, David Zeitlin, Barbara Jeffrey, Jane Davis, Ben Holden, Gail Lloyd

## Explorer Awards Committee

Andrew Mitchell, Diane Allen OBE, James Borrell, Ed Cooper, Barry Moss, Nikki Skinner

## Events Committee

John Blashford-Snell OBE, Neil Laughton, David Zeitlin, Barbara Jeffrey, Trevor Moss, Jane Davis, Nikki Skinner, Henrietta Thorpe

## Expeditions & Science Committee

Diane Allen OBE, Richard Gerrard, Trevor Moss, Briony Turner, Henrietta Thorpe

## Learning & Development Committee

James Borrell, Peter Kohler, Briony Turner, Gail Lloyd

## 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

Anthony Belchambers, Julia Thorold

## Registered Office and Charity Number

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

## Bankers

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

## Independent Examiner

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

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

### Scientific Exploration Society Annual General Meeting

will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 20th March 2019

in the SES Boardroom at the Park Tower Hotel, 101 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN.

## AGENDA

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

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

January 2019

By order of the Council



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REGISTERED OFFICE: MULLINS MEAD, DONHEAD ST MARY, SHAFTESBURY, DORSET SP7 9DS.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell OBE,  
SES Founder and Honorary President