


IMPACT REPORT

2017-2018

FIND YOUR FIRE





**“It has taught me
how to be the best
version of myself.”**

WHO WE ARE

British Exploring Society is a world class youth development charity with a unique heritage, founded on the belief that challenging experiences can change lives, empowering and equipping young people with the courage, skills, resilience and determination to make the most of their future.

We prepare and take young people on expeditions to remote locations where they face challenges, gain skills and learn about themselves - as well as acquiring knowledge relevant to their lives and to the fragile environments that they explore.

The results are transformative – not just in terms of practical skills and resilience, but in a new-found confidence and self-belief which they carry forward to their future life.

More than this, through their adventure together, our young people forge friendships for life and become part of a unique supportive and continuing community of Young Explorers with shared experiences, values and perspectives on the world.

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WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO - OUR EXPLORERS EXPLAIN

Hamshikaa, Gus, Timba, Amina and Will were recognised by their Leaders on expedition for their contribution as great communicators, and have agreed to continue to work with British Exploring Society for the next 12 months to share their experiences and to encourage others to challenge themselves outdoors. They also have a title; Duke's Explorers, named in honour of our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke Of York, KG, who met them recently to talk about their experiences.

Amina Smith-Gul, Amazon

"I was part of the Peruvian Amazon Expedition in 2018. It was one of the most transformational experiences of my life, and came at a time when I needed it most.

The last few years have been very difficult. I was a carer for my Grandmother who I lost through Parkinson's Disease, my Aunt died in a house fire started by her husband, and my friend was killed through a knife attack in the space of about 18 months. It was too much for me to process and I found myself homeless moving around on friends' sofas and from hostel to hostel. Life seemed very unfair, with so much pain and hurt in it.

An opportunity arose to be part of British Exploring Society through a youth club I attended. I jumped at the chance, as I felt trapped and needed to get out of the environments that I was in and the thoughts in my head. It was the best decision. I found myself in a new community that saw life not through the little bubble that I was in, but in full blown widescreen with rich and multiple colours! I was taken away. Literally. From the flight across the world to the jungle experiences. To meeting so many different people and experiencing different cultures. And to the friendship and

camaraderie of our camp. Life had, for once, opened up to me and felt like it was starting to embrace and nourish me with new hope and opportunities.

Since I have returned, I have managed to find a new place to live in which I am very excited about. I volunteer at a project called Black Minds Matter, which is helping young people from similar backgrounds to mine achieve success, and they have taken me on as a paid intern.

One of the things that kept me well when I was younger was playing football, and I have been selected to sit on the FA Youth Council. I am reaching out and helping other young people who experience difficulties to find happiness and success.

Thank You, British Exploring Society for believing in me. You gave me a chance, and I am now dedicating myself to give chances to others."

Will Jackson, Expeditionary Year, Iceland

"With a week's training under my belt, and with all my gear on my back, I thought I was ready for Iceland. But I wasn't prepared for how mentally and physically challenging it would be. The highlights were far more incredible than I could ever have imagined, and they far outweighed the lowlights. The views were the most breathtaking I have ever experienced. Coming from the North-East of England, I thought I was hardened to the weather. Although at times the weather was very frustrating, its unpredictable nature made it interesting, and when the sun shone through the clouds after two days of incessant rain, I have never felt such euphoria! I didn't realise how close we would be to nature, in its wild and pure form or how remote we would

be, with no people or cars for miles around - but actually I embraced the peace and solitude, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

I didn't expect to be so close to the rest of my Fire (group) by the end of the 3 weeks, and how surreal it was to leave them at the end, having shared a unique and special experience together. Coming back to normal life was perplexing, after expedition life. It made me realise my inner strengths and weaknesses, and was a major achievement for me, as I found it very challenging at times. I feel very proud to have been part of it"

Hamshikaa Sivakkumar, Dangoor Next Generation, Iceland

"This is for every young person who might be thinking about whether to go on an expedition or not - this is what you need to know.

I, as a member of British Exploring Society, would like to share with you my experiences of when I embarked on the Dangoor Iceland expedition. It would have been a completely different experience if everyone weren't as willing to try it out as they were. The idea of spending three weeks out in the wilderness, venturing across unfamiliar turf and seeing such striking landscapes, thrilled me. Adjusting was at first difficult but got better as the days go by. My team began our journey by trekking over to see spectacular waterfalls, followed by climbing the mighty Sellandafjall mountain and finishing off scrambling to the top of Askja volcano.

Through the duration of that time, I had mental and physical challenges, but this has been counteracted by the encouragement of my

fellow team mates and remarkable expedition Leaders. Every day of setting up tents and sleeping bags becomes a routine. There had been a range of weather and it was even sunny - when we spent time washing clothes and taking a dip in the river. After a short while of returning home I felt the Icelandic blues as I was truly missing my time in Iceland. I still keep in contact with some of my teammates as we have built a friendship. This is all you need to know!"

Timba Robinson, Indian Himalaya

"Joining a British Exploring Society Programme means joining a new community of young people and Volunteer Leaders. I had the pleasure of going on programme to the Indian Himalaya over the Summer for five weeks which really put our skills and abilities to the test; I believe this applied to all of us that went.

In such difficult conditions, it was the expertise of the Leaders that really added value to the expedition, whether that be cutting edge medical knowledge of life at altitude, fascinating insight into our surroundings or negotiating the rigorous challenges facing all of us. Alongside their own expertise, the Leaders had a fantastic approach to working with us; as well as offering guidance and support, crucially we were provided the opportunity to prove ourselves in having a hand in the running and success of the expedition. Can I just say to you as Leaders that through volunteering you provide outstanding examples of role models to us as Young Explorers and young people, and you raise our belief in ourselves and in turn our ambitions? So thank you!"

Gus Allan, Yukon

"Without organisations like British Exploring Society, many young people would never get to experience the inspiring and thought-provoking charm of the natural world. After my expedition to the Canadian Yukon not only did I return as a person who had developed a great deal and who had in many ways matured, I did so with many new friends at my side. That is why, in my opinion, British Exploring Society's work is so influential in shaping people's lives and the more people that get to take part the better. I believe the reason my expedition was so influential on how I now think was because I was allowed to completely open myself up in an entirely new and thrilling environment with people I barely knew. I had the opportunity to renovate the way that I thought about myself and those around me."

"I had the pleasure of going on a programme to the Indian Himalaya over the Summer for five weeks which really put our skills and abilities to the test."



Hamshikaa, Timba, Amina, Gus and Will with our Royal Patron HRH The Duke Of York, KG



“Life is a journey. Since 1932 we have been helping young people prepare for the road ahead.”

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR

Doug Oppenheim, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

I am delighted that it is some of our Young Explorers who have introduced our Impact Report for 2017-2018. Who better to illustrate the outcomes that everyone in British Exploring Society and our community of supporters strives to deliver?

Life is a journey. Since 1932 we have been helping young people prepare for the road ahead; to unlock the potential within, to learn how to seize opportunity, to manage adversity and risk, to engage with the world around them and make greater contributions to their communities; and to increase their awareness and appreciation of the fragility of our natural world.

The last year has seen continued progress on delivering on our five year strategy to transform British Exploring Society into a highly effective and scalable model for delivering profound development outcomes for young people.

Programmes were delivered in the UK and overseas, across locations including the Canadian Yukon, Indian Himalaya,

Peruvian Amazon and Iceland, together with UK based training. These programmes enabled 260 Young Explorers and Trainee Leaders to experience our unique mix of adventure, personal development and knowledge. These programmes were delivered with the support of 85 Volunteer Leaders, who in aggregate donated 2,498 days of their time.

We continue to deliver on our commitment to expand access to our programmes to those coming from marginalised communities as well as those from BAME backgrounds. In 2018, across our individual programmes, 19-21% of our Young Explorers were from BAME backgrounds and 50-66% were from communities facing multiple deprivation in the UK.

For the first time we are reporting a number of Young Explorers with a disability - 7% in 2018 - and this number will rise in 2019. In future, we look forward to being able to share with you statistics around the contribution of disabled Leaders.

85
LEADERS

2,498
DAYS OF
VOLUNTEERING

21%
OF YOUNG EXPLORERS
FROM BAME BACKGROUNDS

Whilst we continue to deliver these programmes with a lean platform, we have started to invest in our delivery capacity in order to increase the scale and impact of our work. In particular, this year we launched our new brand identity which we believe will enable us to better reach and inspire new audiences. Further investment is planned for the coming year which will increase our reach and operational efficiency.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our partners, donors and Leaders, together with our dedicated team and the wider British Exploring Society community.

On behalf of British Exploring Society and all the young people who benefit from our programmes, thank you for everything that you do for us.

I very much hope you will enjoy reading this Impact Report.

“We want to ensure that the young people we work with secure life-long advantage from their experiences with us.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

Honor Wilson Fletcher, CEO

We used to publish an Annual Review. We're calling it an Impact Report now, because we want to emphasise why we do what we do and how we go about it in order to make a real and tangible difference in young people's lives. We try to convey the impact that we have through the words of individual Young Explorers and Leaders as well as through collecting data. It is a privilege for me to work with every person and organisation featured in this report, and I commend it to you.

Privilege and advantage are interesting words. Privilege may imply unfair advantage but can also mean something positive and profound. Reading what our Chief Leaders say in this Impact Report you begin to understand the privilege they feel, working with the young people we recruited this year, and with the Leaders who stepped forward to help our Young Explorers prepare for their futures through our expedition programmes.

“Working together to overcome challenges builds confidence and better decision-making.”

We know that it is a privilege to be able to experience the lava deserts of Northern Iceland, and to work with the communities who live in and around the wilderness of the Yukon and the Amazon. We (our Leaders, our Young Explorers, our team at head office) take the responsibility of accessing that privilege very seriously.

We want to ensure that the young people we work with secure life-long advantage from their experiences with us - so what might that advantage include?

We all want to protect our children and young people. But getting them out into the wilderness to practice positive risk taking for themselves is a key part of the benefit British Exploring Society provides. We help our Young Explorers build their own strength and avoidance of negative risky behaviours. 'Not doing anything' is not preparation for life and ultimately doesn't protect you. Working together to overcome challenges builds confidence and better decision-making.

Nigel, our Chief Leader from the Himalaya describes a great example of positive team working and social skills built through tackling an unexpected situation.

Our Dangoor Next Generation Leader Tom tells a simple and lovely story about how independent thinking and reflection grow through the practicalities of daily life on expedition.

We foster maturity, personal responsibility and celebrate talents and skills wherever we can – as I hope this Report conveys.

So what's next for us?

→ Expeditions to Scotland. Not all the young people we want to work with can secure consent to travel with us further afield. We're calling this UK Explorers.

→ A new science strategy to better reflect the opportunity we have to improve our understanding of our impact on the world,

and its impact on us, through our time in wild and remote locations; the greatest classrooms on earth.

→ Infrastructure work. We're sorting out key systems in 2019 to sustain future growth.

Nothing we do would be possible without the support of our Leaders, our increasingly generous Members, Donors and supporters and our partnership organisations. The impact of our small and very hard working staff team is magnified many times over by the contributions of many others who cannot all be named in this report. You know who you are – and it is a privilege to know and work with you all, too. Before you read on, please can I ask you to pause for a moment to join us as we reflect on the remarkable contributions the remarkable contribution of Leaders we've been sad to lose this year, too? They include Colonel Chris Blessington OBE, Dr Howell Buckland Jones, Jean Sinclair, Tony Streathers, Tom Shipp and Commander Chris Furse, RN. They were remarkable individuals, and contributed positively to the lives of many other people. We know we are fortunate to have benefitted from their collective energy, commitment and passion.

“We're sorting out key systems in 2019 to sustain future growth.”

260

YOUNG EXPLORERS
THIS YEAR

A diverse, inclusive group of young people.



75%

OF YOUNG EXPLORERS
MAKING BETTER DECISIONS

Percentage of Young Explorers who indicate increases in a key skill for life and work (Making Decisions that Matter) after completing their programme with us.

59,952

HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL
VOLUNTEERING

In the office and in the field, we were
gifted professional volunteering
valued at over £318,000.





66%

OF YOUNG EXPLORERS SEE IMPROVEMENT IN ALL KEY SKILLS

On average, this is the percentage of Young Explorers who report increases in ability in all the key skills for life and work we track after completing their programme with us.



1,559

FULL DAYS OF UK TRAINING



£891,634

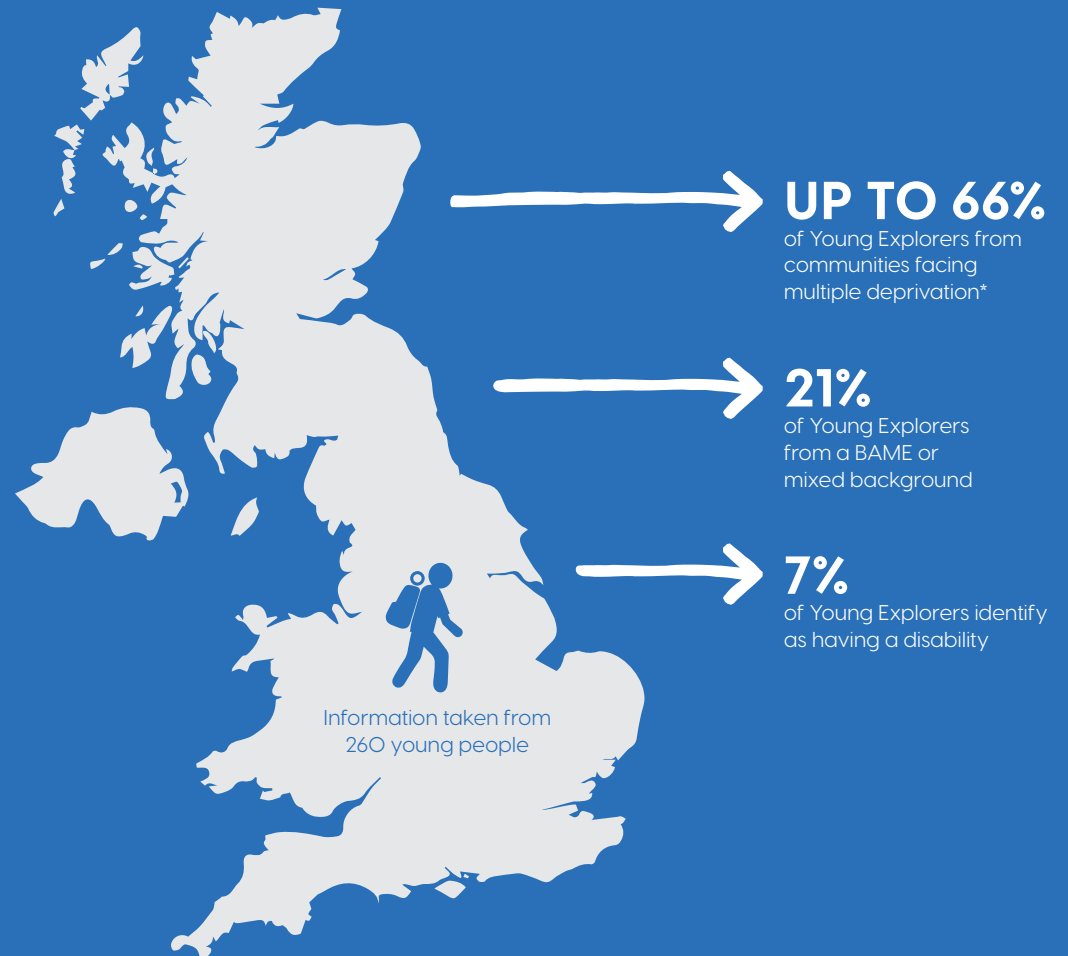
DONATIONS IN 2018

IMPACT

Who we work with...

British Exploring Society is committed to ensuring access to our programmes to those who will benefit most. Our flexible approach to funding is designed to ensure that those who should have the opportunity, and would benefit most, can do so. The profile of Young Explorers varies for each programme. See Field Notes on page 17 for details of the programmes we ran in 2018.

"I have learnt that I am stronger than I think I am and it has instilled in me a sense of adventure."



*From communities ranked in the bottom half of the indices of Multiple Deprivation

The difference we make

We want to empower and equip young people with skills, resilience and determination to make the most of their future.

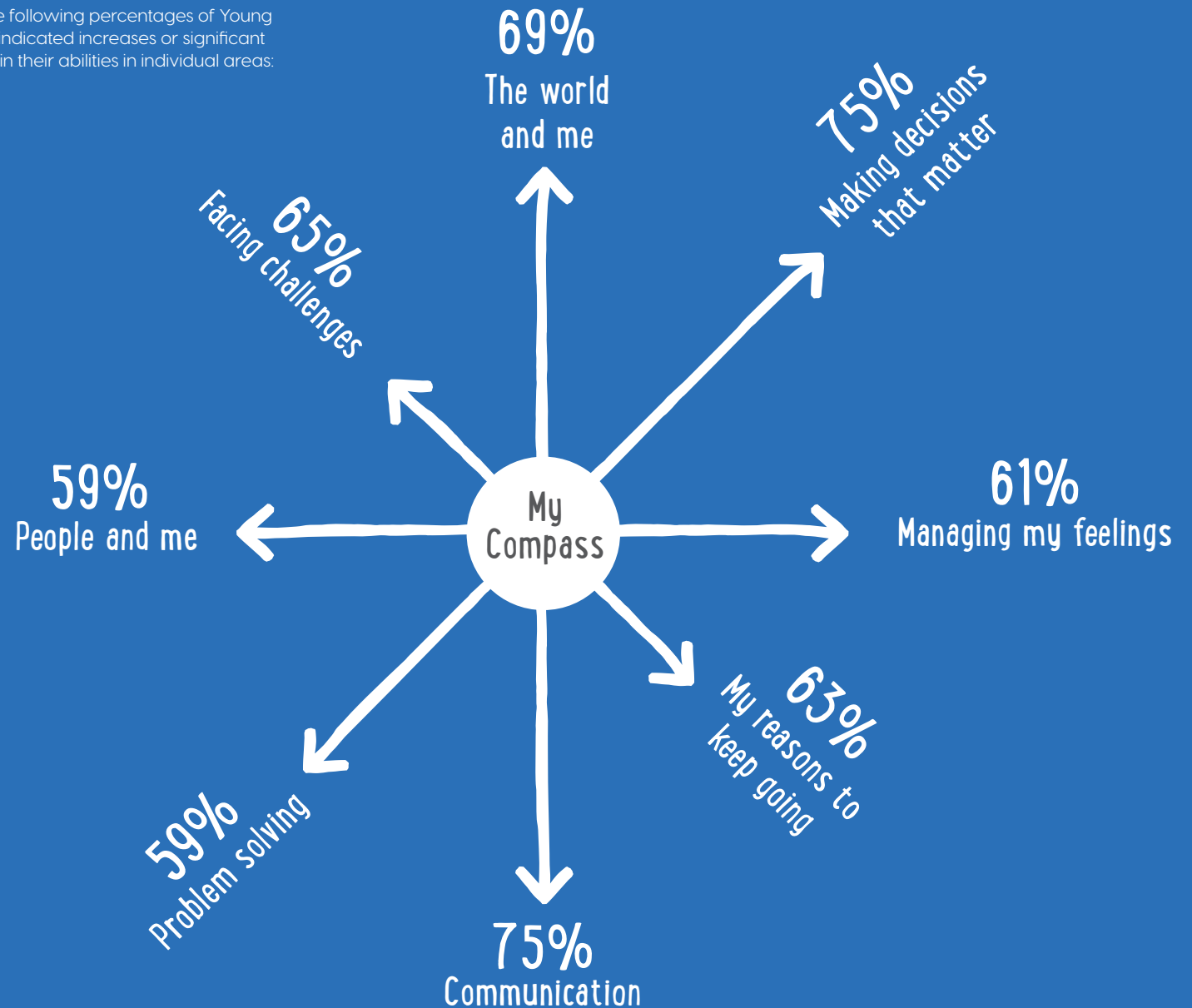
We collect evidence and feedback from our Young Explorers and Leaders throughout our programmes. There are 8 areas of skill and experience we want to help young people progress with most.

On average, we see progress in skills and ability in all areas measured across all our programmes. Rates of progress vary from Explorer to Explorer.

66% of Young Explorers experience increases in ability across all skills areas on average, with an average of just over 35% experiencing significant increases in ability across all areas.

"I have learnt the importance of a strong team and communication within it...I have also learnt so many invaluable skills... from different people and that I will take through life with me."

In 2018 the following percentages of Young Explorers indicated increases or significant increases in their abilities in individual areas:



WAYS TO JOIN US

Where do our Young Explorers come from?

Everywhere.

Our Explorers come from every community, and follow different paths to get to us. At some point, they have all taken a big decision - to take a step forward in their lives and learning to join us. In return, we offer them an opportunity to learn and develop in a way which, as much as possible, is bespoke to them.

Our programmes are open to all comers regardless of background. Some find us through family and friends - a sister or brother joined us last year, or an aunt or uncle 10 years ago - and now they want to come along themselves. But many Explorers will need support and active encouragement to make that first step. Through our Ambassadors scheme we actively seek out and recruit young people through schools and other referring partners who might not find us, or be able to access our programmes otherwise. The programme matches young people with a funder to enable them to take part and reduce at least one of the potential barriers - funding. Their 'referring partner' helps with one of the other barriers - confidence. They can be there to provide what the sister, brother, aunt or uncle might provide - reassurance about a learning experience which can be very hard to imagine until you've been through it for yourself.

Dangoor Infinity, Iceland Dangoor Next Generation and Badlands Spain are programmes designed for groups of young people who have particular shared experiences of childhood and adolescence. Young people on these expeditions reach us through 'referral'. This means they are introduced to us by someone who knows them well and works with them regularly - often in a partner organisation. They help us understand whether an expedition programme is likely to work well for a young person - whether they are living with a disability, struggling to move into training or work or dealing with leaving care.

They can also help support that young person if they are anxious about making that big decision to join us. These expedition places are largely or fully subsidised through our fundraising efforts.

We also work with great national institutions like the Scouting Association who will join us in the Amazon for the first time in 2020. Their Explorers are being recruited via the Scouts, who know them so well already - and then go on to join us for our training weekends.

"Our Explorers come from every community, and follow different paths to get to us."

All of our Explorers return from their different adventures with us to become Members of British Exploring Society, joining a single, supportive and remarkable community that has existed since the 1930s.

We are always looking at ways of broadening access - widening the path - while maintaining the spirit of adventure, pursuit of knowledge and focus on personal development which make a British Exploring Society Expedition a life-defining experience.





"It was life changing for her, it's given her so much confidence overcoming her fears and anxieties."



LEADER AWARDS

Our Leader of the Year Awards are a key part of our celebration of the skills and wide-ranging contribution of our professional volunteers.

Recipients are nominated and shortlisted by fellow Leaders and members of the British Exploring Society team. Final Awards are decided by an external judging panel. Our 2017 judges included risk and adventure operations expert Jules Penney from Pharos response and Cathy O'Dowd, climber, mountaineer and speaker. Our judges for 2018 are Beth Chapman from Inspire Worldwide and Joe Smith, Director of the Royal Geographical Society. Our 2017 winners were announced in March 2018 at our Celebration Event at the Royal Geographical Society. We have 2 awards - the Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award and the Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair.

Previous Winners



NIGEL PAINTER

Deputy Chief Leader, Indian Himalaya

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award, 2016



GEORGIE SWEET

Science Leader, Peruvian Amazon

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair, 2016

LEADER AWARD WINNERS

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award

The Les Morgan Award is to identify and celebrate consistent excellence in any area of Leadership, or to recognise an individual who has supported and helped develop their fellow Leaders, providing guidance and direction for them as well as for Young Explorers in preparation for and throughout their expedition experiences.



JAMES DYER

Chief Leader, Peruvian Amazon

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award, Winner 2017

'Without resorting to an overtly dictatorial style, James created an environment in which everyone could do their best work. His style was nurturing, questioning and motivational, and always had the well-being of the Young Explorers at heart, ensuring they had as transformational an experience as possible.'

Shortlisted Leaders

Tony Harpur, Adventure Leader, Dangoor Next Generation | Sarah Wysling, Chief Medic, Canadian Yukon | Tom Abbey, Chief Leader, Dangoor Next Generation | Jennie Richardson, Chief Leader, Stellar | Alex Wardall, Basecamp Manager, Indian Himalaya

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair

The Watson Award is designed to recognise and reward emerging talent, or to identify new, additional or more senior leadership actions on the part of a Leader who may have worked with us for some time.



SUE BROWN

Basecamp manager, Peruvian Amazon

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair, Winner 2017

'Without Sue and her wonderful Basecamp our 2017 Amazon expedition experience would have been very different. From her humorous, patient and encouraging interactions with the YEs as they arrived and departed and tramped through to restock, to her omnipresence as a supportive mentor for all in base camp, Sue was truly at the beating heart of the expedition.'

Shortlisted Leaders

Fernando Mateos Gonzalez, Science Leader, Peruvian Amazon | Ruth Champion, Adventure Leader, Expeditionary Year | Andy Browning, Adventure Leader, Amazon



OUR APPROACH

Working with young people from across the UK, and with Leaders from the UK and abroad, our expedition programmes employ a unique and continuous mix of knowledge, adventure and personal development to inspire young people and help them make the most of their futures.



Knowledge

Our expeditions provide a rare opportunity for learning. We are supported by scientists and media specialists who, like our adventure Leaders and medics, are volunteers. Together they all support our groups to find different ways to engage in each spectacular environment and to understand and share their experiences on their return.

From basecamp management, communications technology and water sampling to star gazing, time-lapse photography and poetry our teams develop a richer understanding of how to engage with and look after the world around them which informs their actions and choices in the future.



Adventure

We work in some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness areas on the planet. From rainforests to high mountains, each environment has a distinctive balance of flora and fauna and unique features to explore. Our teams (young people and Leaders together) design their own adventures, agreeing between them what and where they want to explore.

They come to group decisions, make mistakes, share challenges and learn to compromise and support one another in an environment which is equally alien to all of them. This unique environment offers young people new opportunities to excel and to understand their own worth.

Personal Development

Working with young people on the cusp of adulthood, expedition Leaders provide Young Explorers with new and transformative role models for adulthood. Whilst not peers, our Leaders are not teachers or parents either, and they offer young people a greater degree of control and autonomy around their choices and the impact of those choices than they may have had in other environments.

The decisions young people make on expedition with us will impact on others. They will have many chances to lead. Every young person will help shape their expedition. Trained in supporting reflection, our Leaders will encourage young people to think about their own learning journeys. They will help them identify their strengths, build on them, and work with them to set ambitious personal targets for the future.

FIELD NOTES

This table indicates the range, diversity and scale of activities undertaken in the UK and overseas during 2018 in order to deliver our programmes and meet the needs of different groups of young people.

Expedition Name	Chief Leader X Past BES expeditions	Leaders Young Explorers (UK & Overseas)	Leader Induction	Technical Competence (Leaders)	Leader Training	Explorer Induction/Briefing (Leaders & Explorers)	First Aid (Leaders & Trainee Leaders)	Explorer Training (Leaders & Explorers)	Leader Induction Catch up	Mountain Leader Training (Trainee Leaders & TL Course Directors)	Departure → Return	Adv party departure (Leaders)	Focus on the future	TL Debriefing (Trainee Leaders & TL Course Directors)	Next Steps (Leaders, Explorers & Parents)
Yukon	6 Bruce Manning		••	•	••	••	••	NA	•	•••	23 Jul → 13 Aug (Main Party +3 week part 1) 7 Aug → 28 Aug (3 week part 2)	16 Jul	NA	Essex 5 - 7 Oct	London 27 Oct
Amazon	6 Paul Batterbury		••	•	••	••	••	NA	•	•••	23 Jul → 14 Aug (3 and 5 week) 28 Aug (5 week + Adv party)	16 Jul	NA	Essex 5 - 7 Oct	London 27 Oct
Himalaya	4 Nigel Painter		••	•	••	••	••	NA	•	•••	23 Jul → 11 Aug	16 Jul	NA	Essex 5 - 7 Oct	London 27 Oct
DNG - Iceland	5 Tom Abbey		••	•	••	••	••	•••	•	NA	23 Jul → 11 Aug	21 Jul	London 30 Aug	NA	NA
Expeditionary Year - Iceland	6 Toby Floyer		••	•	••	NA	••	•••	•	NA	2 Jul → 23 Jul	29 Jun	NA	NA	London 27 Oct
Epic - Spanish Badlands	2 James Dyer		••	NA	NA	NA	NA	•••	•	NA	No overseas phase. See page 25		NA	NA	NA
Infinity Pilot - Dartmoor National Park & sailing in the English Channel from Poole	5 Tom Abbey		•	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26 Oct → 2 Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA

UK Training

• Number of training days

After Expedition



UK TRAINING

Each of our Expeditions includes its own programme of pre-expedition UK training to support the preparation of our Young Explorers and our Leadership teams. In 2018 we supported 260 young people and 85 Leaders through UK training packages, delivering a total of 1,559 full days of training.

Our training is tailored to the needs of each individual expedition programme and we recognise that the UK training phase may represent a significant achievement for young people in itself.

Our Young Explorers are supported by their Leaders through a series of briefings and training sessions ranging from kit demonstrations, safety procedures and how to live in a tent to teamwork, medical one-to-ones and preparation for personal reflection. Pre-expedition training sets the scene, provides a foundation for the fundamentals of life on expedition and begins the process of encouraging young people to consider their personal learning journeys, goals and objectives.

Our Leaders are fundamental in providing the supported opportunities for our young people to excel and demonstrate the full extent of their potential. Our Leaders bring with them a wealth of experience and skills. They are also asked to attend a minimum of two training weekends, augmenting their existing skills and providing further knowledge to help keep our Young Explorers safe and facilitate their learning. Leader training includes but is not limited to;

- Safety and incident management
- Safeguarding
- Mental health awareness
- Personal development and reflection

Additionally, our technical Leaders – those with a specific responsibility for the safety of adventurous activities on expedition - are given the opportunity to demonstrate their personal skills and competence whilst gaining further knowledge from our Technical Advisors.

What's next in 2019?

We strive to ensure that we are doing all we can to support both Young Explorers and Leaders, helping them to arrive at the departure gate for the overseas phase of their programme with us well prepared and best able to have the most valuable and transformative experience possible. 'My Compass', our personal development and reflection tool, is the cornerstone of our work. In 2019 we are committed to reviewing and improving this tool and the associated training for Leaders and Young Explorers.

As part of our inaugural Dangoor Infinity Programme which will support a mixed ability group of Young Explorers we will also be providing disability awareness training for our Leaders.

“Our Leaders are fundamental in providing the supported opportunities for our young people to excel and demonstrate the full extent of their potential.”

168
PORTIONS OF
MAC & CHEESE
COOKED AT
ONE EVENT

85
LEADERS

YUKON 2018

Bruce Manning, Chief Leader

The Yukon represents a physically challenging environment for young people. In this vast territory of extremes, it can be very hot in summer and one of the coldest places on earth in winter. We experienced temperatures well into the thirties with clouds of aggressive mosquitos and at other times heavy rain, sleet and high winds with considerable wind chill.

The terrain is mostly impenetrable Black Spruce or very marshy ground so without using the few tracks cut by prospectors and trappers, moving around is very challenging. The high mountains are more open but the rocky ridges tested the resolve of many. Expedition life was hard for all our Young Explorers, but maybe the greatest challenges came from living together in close proximity.

Our team of talented Leaders developed bushcraft and knife skills, rope work and splicing, navigation and route planning, survey and observation skills - all taken up enthusiastically by our Young Explorers who rose to the challenge and went home more skilled, with greater confidence and wonderful stories.

As Chief Leader there is little opportunity to be with Fires (groups) so many of my memorable moments came from time spent with Young Explorers who remained in basecamp whilst their Fires were out of camp.

A Young Explorer I shall call 'Audrey' ended up with us in basecamp and came with us to Keno City to fetch water. Audrey told us that she used to be an unhappy and antagonistic person. She was very excited about coming with us on expedition and really appreciated being treated as an adult. While we waited for our water tank to fill we bought food and looked around the museum in this historic and

eccentric mining 'town' of about 20 people. Audrey was good company - a delightful and entertaining person to be with.

"Our team of talented Leaders developed bushcraft and knife skills, rope work and splicing, navigation and route planning, survey and observation skills."

'Murray' left his Fire on the hill in very wet and windy conditions with concerns about a pre-existing health condition. During the next few days in camp, Murray joined me in tasks including learning about and assisting in a survey of our basecamp area to help with next year's expedition planning. I came to understand that Murray finds large groups hard work, and I think the respite made it easier for him to re-join his Fire.

The opportunity to get to know Audrey and Murray better will stay with me as much as our challenges with the Yukon weather, terrain and logistics.



MOSQUITO BITES

50

TUBES OF UNSCENTED TOOTHPASTE



AMAZON 2018

Paul Batterbury, Chief Leader

"Welcome to Base Camp" a disembodied voice calls through the dark, cutting through the incessant sound of insects already so familiar their calls are more noticeable by their absence. Fresh faced, cheerful Young Explorers clamber off narrow boats, their UK buoyancy aids flashing in the bright white LEDs of head torches.

"It was much more than just travelling. We were taught a lot of skills, such as being self-sufficient and I became more informed about science and the environment."

Our elaborate welcome is in disarray, as the main party joins us on the banks of an Amazon tributary after a journey delayed by four hours. Our Young Explorers are motivated by the energy of optimism, youth and innocence.

They embrace challenge with gusto. Within days, basecamp is their new home, returned to after tours deep into the jungle with the same relief, security and warmth they experience at home.

These young people, from diverse communities, motivated by a wide range of motivations, are incredibly fortunate. Some have never left home before, a few have never camped. We have come to support them during the challenges we all will face whilst establishing a new location for British Exploring Society in Peru. The team assembled is extraordinary. Dedicated, experienced, flexible and intuitive, these Leaders provide the safety net above which our Young Explorers can safely discover. And they do. They discover reserves, inner-strength, resilience, animals and plants, smells and stings, temptation and fears. All I have to do is light the touch-paper and watch the magic unfold.



1
SLOTH DROPPED
INTO BASECAMP

1
RECORDING
OF PINK
DOLPHINS

17
BIRTHDAYS
CELEBRATED IN
THE JUNGLE





“Each bag supports the Young Explorer and their team to successfully complete the expedition.”

DNG ICELAND 2018

Tom Abbey, Chief Leader

“The importance of a bag”

A bag has many uses. Some are fashion items. Some are environmental disasters. Used correctly a bag can carry your entire world for the duration of an expedition and supports one of the most important parts of youth development... a conversation.

At the first stage our conversation is about food, warmth and shelter. Why are these things so important and how does this translate to your every day life? What follows, supported by our wonderful Leaders, are great discussions about people’s home lives, what they value, what home is like and what is important to them. Some of these conversations are hard. But they provide insight into each individual’s world and perhaps help to begin to identify personal goals each Young Explorer might like to develop.

As we progress to Dartmoor for a week-long training phase the back-packing chat becomes more real. Out on the hill for 4 nights, walking up Tors and crossing streams, prepared for Dartmoor’s

wild and unpredictable weather, our conversations take on a new importance. Deliberation, sacrifice, luxury and treats become the things that matter. These choices are what will support us all through the next week. The conversation becomes rich with individual detail. What is important for you? Why? Do you really need this, or could you live without it for the next week? Now we see Leaders really beginning to understand their Young Explorers and our Young Explorers taking ownership and responsibility for their own choices and any consequences they might have. Some are good, some not so good, but all are opportunities for growth – all whilst having the support and advice of our Leaders and the growing confidence that come with the expedition experience.

By the time our Young Explorers arrive in Iceland, bag packing is life. Food, water, warmth and shelter for 3 weeks, personal items, group kit - all need to fit into the 70-litre pack on their back. Each bag supports the Young Explorer and their team to successfully complete the expedition and every conversation that happens along the way. That bag supports growth, freedom of choice.



Each Young Explorer has identified their necessities, their luxuries and is living with the consequences of those choices. And as we explore the remarkable landscape skimming the edge of the Arctic Circle, we can have a conversation about who they are, what they’ve achieved, where they want to go and how we can help them get there.

But without a bag and someone to carry it, none of this would be possible.

50
PAIRS OF
SOCKS, BOOTS
& RUCKSACKS

1
ACTIVE
VOLCANO

“Soon we are confident that we will be drinking tea together in basecamp. And I realise we have experienced something amazing together.”



HIMALAYA 2018

Nigel Painter, Chief Leader

I wake up to another glorious sunrise over the Ladakh Himalaya range. As the light climbs higher chasing away the darkness, the sunline creeps across craggy rocks and bathes the whole valley in warmth and I reflect on our expedition as I watch basecamp come to life. Tired faces emerge squinting in the light, smiles across the faces as warm rays touch dry skin, sounds of ‘good mornings’ and the “come on, the kettle’s on”. Landing in Leh some 5 weeks ago just moving and picking up a rucksack is an effort. Following acclimatisation in Leh, we were ready to ascend. Bright and breezy we set off in our convoy, with every camp getting higher and higher. Our Fires (groups) bonded and shrugged off ‘first world’ life.

Travel through the mountains and deep gorges was a looking-glass into history; grain being harvested by hand, carried in massive sheafs to dry, the whole community working together. I hoped we would gel like that. Every day we ascended until we arrived at basecamp. BC was established and each Fire set off on a mini expedition of their own returning to recoup and eat from a bowl, not a ration pack! The tours culminated tackling summits

near 6000 metres utilising ice axes and crampons. Every expedition should be prepared for the unexpected. And every member of the team makes a positive difference to the expedition every day if they are working well together.

“Bright and breezy we set off in our convoy, with every camp getting higher and higher.”

On a day when one of our Fires was attempting a 6000+Mtr summit, we receive a communication that a member of the high team was suffering with altitude sickness and must be evacuated.

The Fire Leader and his team are amazing. We must rely on lines of text to track their progress. I’m happy I have exceptional Leaders and Medics - strong and capable.

We need to be ready to go up the Valley to meet them. I make

decisions based on who is most rested. It’s amazing to see and feel the cohesive energy. Young Explorers come to me, to say ‘I want to go, I am good for this’. Others who are tired, volunteer to make tea, change batteries in head torches, get food ready for when the teams return. No matter your background, experience, goal or dreams when you arrive, there is a powerful feeling of belonging. The privilege to lead such a party is humbling.

Soon we are confident that we will be drinking tea together in basecamp.

And I realise we have experienced something amazing together.

1,617
DEHYDRATED MEALS

3
UNNAMED 6000M PEAKS SCALED

EXPEDITIONARY YEAR 2018

Toby Floyer, Chief Leader

504
HOURS OF
DAYLIGHT



The wilderness is a paradox of constraints that yield a certain kind of freedom. We're stripped of the resources and habits that back home save time, effort and energy. Yet we're also freed by their absence. We're confronted with the things that matter: people, places and purpose.

In Iceland with the Young Explorers and Leaders of this Expeditionary Year, I felt all sorts of responses emerge from expeditionary life. I experienced and was a witness to the profound connections that people weave amongst themselves: a Fire (group) squeezed into a tipi in a hollow in a gale of wind, playing games and shouting gleefully above the cracking of canvas. Twos or threes leaning towards each other, deep in conversation as their feet find their own way along a desert track. A circle of faces, listening to one another speak.

There was fear as well. In our training week in Wales, we'd camped on a slab of rock at the foot of a lake overhanging the side of a valley. It was a marvellous spot. The wind roared overhead, indifferent to the sensitivities of young people at the beginning of a journey.

The walk had been steep; things took a lot of effort; the newness was disorientating.

Up near Myvatn, in Iceland, towards the end of our expedition, I remember vividly the way Fires swung into camp and set about the business of survival with competence and style - and the spare spirit to have fun, to be creative, to be thoughtful. They had organised life on their own terms.

SPANISH BADLANDS 2018

James Dyer, Chief Leader

The usual apprehension hung over our group of new Young Explorers as they convened at a remote bunkhouse in the middle of Dartmoor on a drizzly September day and began the process of getting to know each other. Badlands 2018 is a programme for young people, referred to us by youth agencies like Barnardos and Community Links, and is aimed at supporting young people's development, extending their goals and focusing on understanding of themselves and the world around them, helping them make good choices and decisions about their futures.

"These young people had already developed several key skills, greater understanding of themselves and their behaviour, as well as extending their aspiration and goals."

We were meeting up for 7 days to undertake workshops in expedition skills, 1-1 coaching sessions, team building and navigation skills. This type of expedition was completely new to the group, no one had ever slept in a tent in the middle of a moor before, so apprehension and excitement bubbled through the group as they trekked up onto the moor. After some great cross country navigation, the team found the perfect campsite on a large open flat area,

where they set up camp, cooked their rations and sat chatting as the sun set over the hills; an enlightening moment for many of them, a real tangible connection with their own success and the world around them...

With our training week complete we returned to our basecamp on a farm for a last night BBQ, showers and wrap up 1-1s, where the young people showed real insight into what they had achieved and been through, a real commitment to working on developing themselves and had built strong bonds as a team and with their Leaders. These young people had already developed several key skills, greater understanding of themselves and their behaviour, as well as extending their aspiration and goals. They will be given the chance to join other expedition programmes for their overseas phase, having already achieved so much in the UK.



SIR JOHN CASS'S
FOUNDATION

12
CHECKPOINTS HIT
WHILE TREKKING







INFINITY PILOT 2018

Tom Abbey, Chief Leader

“Would you rather...?”

“Would you rather a still tent in sub-zero temperatures on the moors or a warm ship in heavy seas?”

This a question I posed to my expedition team, 48 hrs into our voyage during heavy seas as we rocked back and forth with green faces staring back at me.

3 days earlier, on the coldest night of the year so far, we endured sub-zero temperatures as we completed the land phase of our pilot expedition. Of the 22 strong group made up of disabled and non-disabled Young Explorers, most were new to the world of expeditions. None had endured conditions like this before.

After meeting for the first time as a group on the Friday, by Saturday and with the tenacity of the west country's very own Scott of the Antarctic expedition, the teams were battling on through rain, hail and snow. Learning to live in the wild, put up tents and experiencing the dream that is rehydrated chilli con crunchy, the teams were able to get a sample of life in the wilderness. Many from inner cities, they were able for the first time to roam freely in the wild, climb trees, paddle in streams and get face to face with a highland cow. All achieved our first goal, the successful completion of the land phase.

Fast forward 3 days and the team embarked on the tall ship Tenacious on phase 2 of the expedition, sailing through rough seas south of Portland Bill. A world away from rehydrated food and cold (but stationary!) tents. Here they got 3 warm meals a

day cooked for them, warm comfy beds and afternoon cake. But this comes at a price. A tall ship needs to be sailed and it requires crew in calm sea or foul. As crew, they must all work together to set sail, maintain the ship and keep watch day and night. They learned to scale masts and maintained a watch system under the permanent crew's quiet guidance. It's hard, physical and tiring work. Our Young Explorers, supported by British Exploring Society and Jubilee Sailing Trust Leaders thrived in both environments. Both offered huge challenge and huge reward.

“3 days earlier, on the coldest night of the year so far, we endured sub-zero temperatures as we completed the land phase of our pilot expedition.”

...and how many young people get to compare how the Milky Way looks on Dartmoor and in the middle of the British channel within a few days?

We set sail with 60 Young Explorers for our first full-scale Infinity programme in Summer 2019, from Scotland to the edge of the Arctic Circle.

18

SEASICK
EXPLORERS

-4°

TEMPERATURE
ON DARTMOOR



OUR MEMBERS

Since 1932 Young Explorers and Leaders have participated in British Exploring Society expeditions all around the world. That's over 11,000 individual and unique stories, which collectively form the fabric of British Exploring Society. These stories are woven throughout our history and recorded in our archives in words, images and some objects, too. Each time a Leader or Young Explorer completes an expedition programme with us, they are invited to become a member, for life.

Last year we decided to stop requesting an annual fee for some forms of membership, and launched instead our regular giving, fundraising programme. We sent out our first fundraising campaign to our members and were rewarded with some typically generous responses. In addition to the thoughtful gifts we received, all of which will help us to start more Young Explorers on their journey, many members took the time to compose inspirational messages of encouragement to future members. **Turn to page 36 and 37 of this report for a small sample of these uplifting messages.**

Membership is continuing to evolve. We want to make sure that the one experience all our members share, is that their expedition brings them together irrespective of their current circumstances, their age or their background. Our members are a diverse and independent minded group of people, but they all took that first step into the great unknown and have grown as a result of it. So, we want to support a community they wish to be involved in, have ownership of and see value from. 2019 will be an exciting year for membership, and we look forward to being able to update you on more exciting developments to come.

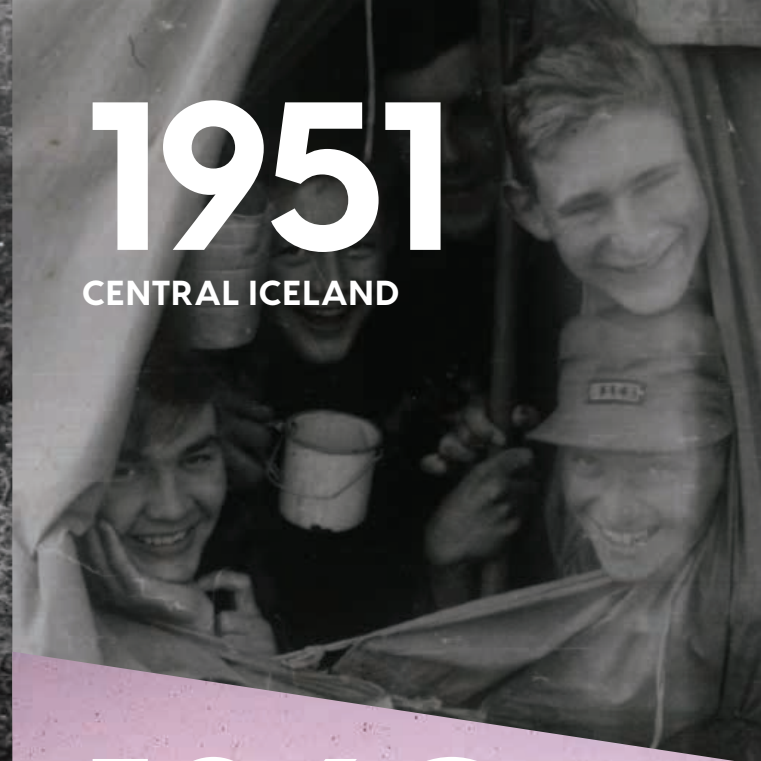
1937

NEWFOUNDLAND



1951

CENTRAL ICELAND



1960

CENTRAL ICELAND



1979

ARCTIC NORWAY



1983

EAST GREENLAND



1991


BOTSWANA



2006

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME





"I know that from stepping on the plane to getting off it, that I had changed as a person."

**FIND
YOUR
FIRE**



PAST EXPEDITIONS 1932 - 2001

**Finland
1932**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Lapland
1933**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Newfoundland
1934**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Newfoundland
1935**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Lapland Senior
1936**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Lapland Junior
1936**

Capt C A Carkeet-James RA

**Newfoundland
1937**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Newfoundland
1938**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Newfoundland
1939**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Newfoundland
1947**

Surg Cdr G Murray Levick RN

**Northern Quebec
1948**

Maj G F Spooner PARA

**Northern Norway
1949**

Maj G F Spooner PARA

**Northern Norway
1950**

Dr. J C Hawksley CBE PhD FRCP

**Central Iceland
1951**

Maj F G Hannell RE BSc

**Central Iceland
1952**

Capt J A Taplin RM

**British Columbia
1953**

Maj G F Hannell PhD BSc

**Northern Quebec
1954**

Maj E D Stroud DSC RM (Retd)

**Newfoundland
1955**

Maj G F Spooner R Fusiliers

**Central Iceland
1956**

Maj G F Hannell PhD BSc

**Finnish Lapland
1957**

Capt A G Bomford RE

**Labrador
1958**

Maj G S Murray MC

**Arctic Sweden
1959**

Maj G F Hannell PhD BSc

**Central Iceland
1960**

Maj A P H B Fowle MC RA

**Arctic Scandinavia
1961**

Dr. J A Payne MB BS

**Swedish Lapland
1962**

Dr. I Y Ashwell MA

**Arctic Finland
1963**

Capt T D Dean 1st Bn East Anglian Regt

**Central Iceland
1964**

Maj W Stanford RHA

**Arctic Norway
1965**

Maj D R Goddard SCLI

**Arctic Sweden
1966**

R J Wood MA

**Arctic Norway
1967**

Capt D T Jackson PARA

**Spitsbergen
1968**

Dr. J A Payne MB BS

**Newfoundland
1969**

Maj T D Dean Anglian Regt

**Iceland
1970**

Dr. I Y Ashwell PhD MA

**Iceland
1971**

D J Mordaunt

**Greenland
1972**

Dr. J A Payne MB BS

**Arctic Norway
1972**

Flt Lt D G Allan RAF Regt

**Arctic Sweden
1973**

D J Mordaunt

**Arctic Sweden
1974**

G Downie BSc

**Central Iceland
1975**

Dr. I Y Ashwell PhD MA

**Arctic Finland
1976**

M L Winspear

**North Iceland
1977**

Maj D T Jackson PARA

**East Iceland
1977**

R G Derrick

**South East Iceland
1978**

R H Ward

**Northern Norway
1979**

J G Vessey

**Arctic Norway
1980**

Harvey Jones

**Central Iceland
1981**

Brian Needham

**East Greenland
1982**

Roger Chapman MBE BA

**East Greenland
1983**

Ray Ward
Capt Mark Grieves R Signals

**East Greenland
1983**

G Downie BSc

**Lyngen, Arctic Norway
1984**

Tony Duncan

**East Greenland Winter
1985**

David Mordaunt
Tom Metcalf

**Alaska
1985**

Dr. John Cohen

**South East Iceland BSES/
Colson**

1985
Ray Ward

Expedition Name
Year
Expedition Leader

Yukon
1986
Dr. Barry Meatyard PhD BSc
CBiol
MBiol FRGS

Kenya
1986
Peter Drake FRGS

Papua New Guinea
1987
David Wright

Svalbard
1987
Cdr Chris Furse OBE RN

East Greenland
1988
Ray Ward

West Himalaya
1988
Derek Jackson

Arctic Norway
1989
Lyngen
Dr. Brian Whalley

Oksfjordjokelen
Dr. Anne Gellatly

Sea Kayaking
John Ramwell

Del-Monte-Fruitini Alaska
Overwinter
1989-90
Brian Hull

Svalbard Spring
1990
Dr. Andrew Collinson

Svalbard Summer
1990
Pat Cannings

Yukon Summer
1990
Geoff Billington

Botswana
1991
Dr. Alan Wilson

North Greenland
1991
Sgt David Walker RAF

Central Iceland
1991
Richard Crabtree

Svalbard Spring
1992
Mark Evans

Iceland
1992
Dr. I Y Ashwell

South Greenland
1992
Les Turnbull- Brown

Del-Monte-Fruitini White Sea
of Russia
1992
John Ramwell

Svalbard Spring
1993
Dr. Christine Partridge

British Columbia
1993
Dr. John Cohen

Svalbard Summer
1993
Duncan Mackay

Montana
1994
Brian Needham
Del-Monte-Fruitini Northern

Norway
1994
Tony Duncan

Zimbabwe
1994
Maj Fiona Rose

North Queensland
1995
Marianne Overton

South East Iceland
1995
Rod Hartley

Del-Monte-Fruitini Alaska
1995
Tony Whiting

Svalbard Spring
1996
Mark Evans

Namibia
1996
Jeff South

Svalbard Summer
1996
Chris Furse OBE

Vancouver Island
1996
Keith Maslen

ANZSES/BSES Tasmania
1996-97
Richard Pitchfork
Hannah James-Roll

Lahaul (Indian Himalaya)
1997
Dominic Jones

Sinai
1997
Dr. Emma Loveridge

South Greenland
1997
Les Morgan

East Greenland
1998
Pat Cannings

Lesotho
1998
Ken Josey

Morocco
1998
Alasdair Kennedy

Alaska
1999
Tony Whiting

Kenya
1999
Richard Crabtree

Tien Shan
1999
Dr. Michael Ridd

Greenland
2000
Les Morgan
The John Cohen Memorial

Iceland
2000
Chris Gwinnett

Lahaul
2000
Caroline Christie

Malawi
2000
Chris Wright

Alaska
2001
Tony Whiting

Ladakh
2001
Pete Allison

Svalbard
2001
Dr. Lorraine Craig



PAST EXPEDITIONS 2001 - 2017

**Svalbard Arctic-Year
2001-2002**
Mark Evans

**Svalbard Summer
2002**
Tony Duncan

**Amazonas
2002**
Belinda Kirk

**Arctic Norway
2002**
David Martin

**Footsteps of Shackleton
2002-03**
Brig DV Nicholls RM (ret'd)

**East Greenland
2003**
Lt Col John Muston

**Lesotho
2003**
Nick Thompson

**Iceland
2004**
Brian Needham

**Svalbard
2004**
John Ramwell

**Tanzania
2004**
Colin Nicol

**Svalbard
2005**
Dr. Trevor Clarke

**Arctic Norway
2005**
Stephen Saddler

**Peruvian Andes
2005**
Dr. Malcolm Bell

**KwaZulu Natal
2005**
Col Chris Blessington

**Peruvian Andes
2006**
David Martin

**East Greenland
2006**
John Muston

**Svalbard Spring
2006**
Ade Harris

**Amazonas
2006**
Chris Horobin

**Svalbard Leadership
Development Programme
2006**
Andrew Johnson

**Amazonas
2007**
Chris Horobin

**Greenland
2007**
Sarah Mayer

**Madagascar
2007**
Dr. Ewan Laurie

**Yukon
2007**
Nigel Harling

**Svalbard Leadership
Development Programme
2007**
Ade Harris

**South Georgia and The
Falklands
2007**
Pat Parsons

**Svalbard Spring
2008**
Ade Harris

**Amazon
2008**
David Williams

**Ladakh
2008**
Chris Horobin

**South Georgia
2008**
Bruce Manning

**Svalbard Summer
2008**
Philip West

**Norway Leadership
Development Programme
2008**
Helen Turton
Rob Cousins

**Extreme Arctic
2009**
Ade Harris

**Amazon
2009**
Ewan Laurie

**Uncharted Himalaya
2009**
Chris Horobin

**Greenland
2009**
Pete Allison

**Arctic Kayaking
2009**
Mike Devlin

**Leadership Development
Programme
2009**
Helen Turton

**Peruvian Amazon
2010**
David Martin

**Arctic Adventure
2010**
Trevor Clarke

**Coastal Svalbard
2010**
Mike Devlin

**Extreme Arctic
2010**
Ade Harris

**Indian Himalaya
2010**
Mike Pawley

**Peruvian Amazon
2011**
Stephanie Law

**Arctic Adventure
2011**
Richard Payne

**Extreme Arctic
2011**
Ade Harris

**Arctic Skills
2011**
Ade Harris

**Arctic Environmental Studies
2011**
Ade Harris

**Indian Himalaya
2011**
Chris Horobin

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme
2011**
Neil Laughton

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme
2011**
Scotty Johnson

**Empty Quarter
2012**
Terry Fones

Expedition Name
Year
Expedition Leader

**Arctic Odyssey
2012**
Les Turnbull Brown

**Amazon Cocama
2012**
Andie Brazewell

**Canyons to Coast
2012**
Dr. Steve Lloyd

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme
2012**
Neil Laughton

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme
2012**
Scotty Johnson

**Arctic Finnmark
2013**
Mick Pawley

**Himalaya
2013**
Andy Rockall

**Canyons and Craters
2013**
Sam McConnell

**Empty Quarter
2013**
Soo Redshaw

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme
2013**
Neil Laughton

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme
2013**
Scotty Johnson

**Empty Quarter
2014**
Andrew Stokes-Rees

**Canyons and Craters
2014**
Sam McConnell

**Arctic Finnmark
2014**
Mick Pawley

**Himalaya
2014**
Soo Redshaw

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme
2014**
Tom Abbey

**Namibia Bound
2014**
Steve Lloyd

**Stellar Leaders Development
Programme
2014**
Scotty Johnson

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme, Iceland
2015**
David Bartles-Smith

**Indian Himalaya
2015**
Andrew Stokes-Rees

**Peruvian Amazon
2015**
Dr. Steve Lloyd
Andie Brazewell

**Operation Aspire Romania
2015**
Kev Sidford

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme,
Norway
2015**
Scotty Johnson

**Arctic Leadership
Skills Course
2015**
Mick Pawley

**Indian Himalaya
2016**
Bruce Manning

**Peruvian Amazon
2016**
James Dyer

**Namibian Desert
2016**
Steve Lloyd

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme, Iceland
2016**
David Bartles Smith

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme,
Transylvania
2016**
Richard Strudwick

**Canadian Yukon
2017**
Soo Redshaw

**Indian Himalaya
2017**
Chris Pearson

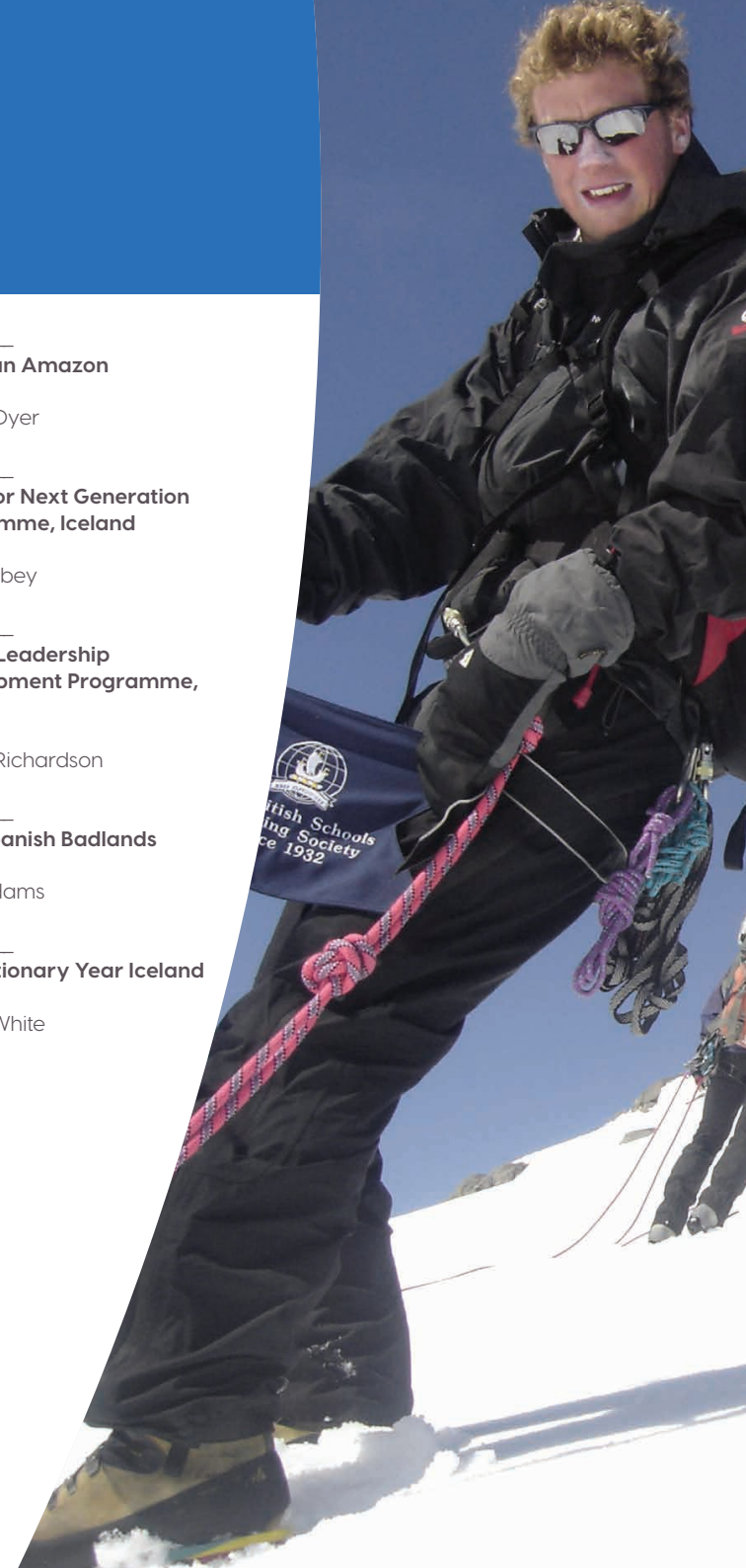
**Peruvian Amazon
2017**
James Dyer

**Dangoor Next Generation
Programme, Iceland
2017**
Tom Abbey

**Stellar Leadership
Development Programme,
Yukon
2017**
Jennie Richardson

**EPIC Spanish Badlands
2017**
Matt Adams

**Expeditionary Year Iceland
2017**
Simon White



REMEMBER THAT 'BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH' FEELING?

You probably experienced this just before setting off on your expedition. Wish you could give your young self some words of encouragement and advice knowing what you now know? We're offering you the chance to do just that, well, sort of.


If you'd like to leave a message for a young person about to embark on their own journey, we encourage you to do so using the space on the right. We will deliver your message to someone about to depart on their own expedition, so they can benefit from your past experience.


Your message will help build the confidence of young people about to embark on their own journeys.

Please return this in the freepost envelope provided or send to
RTZK-CGUK-AXGR
London, SW7 2AR

Please return this in the freepost envelope provided or send to
RTZK-CGUK-AXGR British Exploring Society, 1 Kensington Gore,
London, SW7 2AR

britishexploring.org

 BritishExploringSociety

 Brit_exploring

The chance to take part in a British Exploring Society trip is one that you don't want to miss

There will be physical & emotional challenges to face and you will find that you have the strength to overcome them

REMEMBER THAT 'BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH' FEELING?


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
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London, SW7 2AR

britishexploring.org

 BritishExploringSociety

 Brit_exploring

From my diary
'It was an experience I will never forget. In just a few weeks, I learnt more about life than I had in 18 years. It gave an added meaning to life itself. I really understood the value of existence, from coping with the hostile environment, and to learning about my own limitations and capabilities.'
'Wrapped up in my cocoon-like sleeping bag, staring up at the star studded African sky, I wondered what adventure lay before us in that vast open tract of arid desert.'

REMEMBER THAT 'BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH' FEELING?

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Your message will help build the confidence of young people about to embark on their own journeys.

Please return this in the freepost envelope provided or send to RTZK-CGUK-AXGR British Exploring Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR

Things won't always go to plan. However, what you can assure is that you will have the amazing adventure that you have been dreaming of. Take every opportunity that is offered to you and make the most of what will be one of the best experiences of your life.
(also write a diary + take lots of photos!!)

Please could we also ask you to consider giving a donation - You have the power to help change a young person's life.

REMEMBER THAT 'BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR STOMACH' FEELING?

You probably experienced this just before setting off on your expedition.

This expedition will be one of the best experiences of your life. There will be nerves beforehand (especially on the morning of departure) that may make you consider not going. BUT don't that stop you, once you arrive at the airport, meet up with everyone and begin your journey. Those memories are soon forgotten and it soon turns into fun, laughter, life long friendships, fantastic scenery and stories you will treasure forever. Lots of photos, be yourself and diary (it makes good reading after). FUN!
We also ask you to consider giving a donation - power to help change a young person's life.

Brit_exploring

BritishExploring

FIRE DIARIES

Fire Diaries are taken on all British Exploring Society expeditions and are designed as a tool for reflection for all members of the team. Within each Fire (group) every member of the expedition, from Young Explorer through to Chief Leader, contributes to telling the story of the expedition.

6th August

This expedition just keeps getting better & better! We packed up our tent & camp surprisingly quickly, none of us wanted to leave especially after seeing the most amazing Sun rise over the bay complete with dolphins & tonnes of birds feeding, well worth the 5:30 start. We were joined by Susannah on our journey home which was cool. Great to be back in base camp & to catch up with the other fires & hear about how their tents were. We checked our camera trap that we had set up to find a few funky rat things around the sleep pit.

Feel like everyone in the fire is now getting really into jungle life and starting to really thrive! So nice to be free of screens,

with/more stress, concrete even just the lack of walls & windows is so freeing with just the backdrop canopy as our ceiling. It's so cool too that we are drinking filtered river water it is damn cool! We are literally becoming 70% Amazon! I'm maddy, stinky, covered in bites & I'm so so happy for it. This trip just keeps getting better & Spruce Fire team thank you for just making this such an insane amazing & special experience, You all ACE!

One of my favourite things about this trip is how many



Frogs were seeing. Rowan & I identified our photo this morning. This is one we saw (a Rough Skinned Tree Frog)

Flora B

Spruce Fire, Amazon 2018

26th July 2018 — Flora.B

Not entirely sure how many days we've now been in the jungle for, seems like forever now, we've all settled in already and getting used to routines like the early awaking from the donkey birds morning song. I've had several 'pinch me' moments. Can't believe we're finally in Peru and already we've watched pink river dolphins from our boat as the suns been setting, we've seen fireflies & everywhere you look theres a new, mind blowingly beautiful bug, an aphaean or crazy killer plant. Spruce all seem to be getting on really well & we have so many different skills between us that help, a fantastic guide, artists, scientists, cooks, linguists etc. So far my favorite thing about the expedition has been the sunrise bird survey this morning, can't wait for all the adventures to come in the next few weeks, hoping to see lots awesome wildlife, do some great science & get to



Spruce Stretcher Carry

26/07/18

FIRE DIARIES

August 8th 2018

The morning was dry and sunny again, but the ground was still damp and the clouds hanging around the peaks hinted at that more rain is in store for us. After breakfast, we therefore had a difficult decision to make: whether to pack up and move to advance base camp or to stay at BC and go on day hikes when the weather allowed. We decided to stay and wait out most of the bad weather with a mess tent close by. At noon, Eve, Kay, Felix, Alex, and me went off on a small hike, while Rory and Brad went with Taff to set up some single-pitch climbing and the rest stayed in camp and relaxed. The rain (and hail) caught up with us in the late afternoon, and we quickly retired to our mess tent with the very tasty dinner Shimbuk (FireS) prepared for us.



Ben J.
(SCL)

Rory:

THE SNOW PEAK

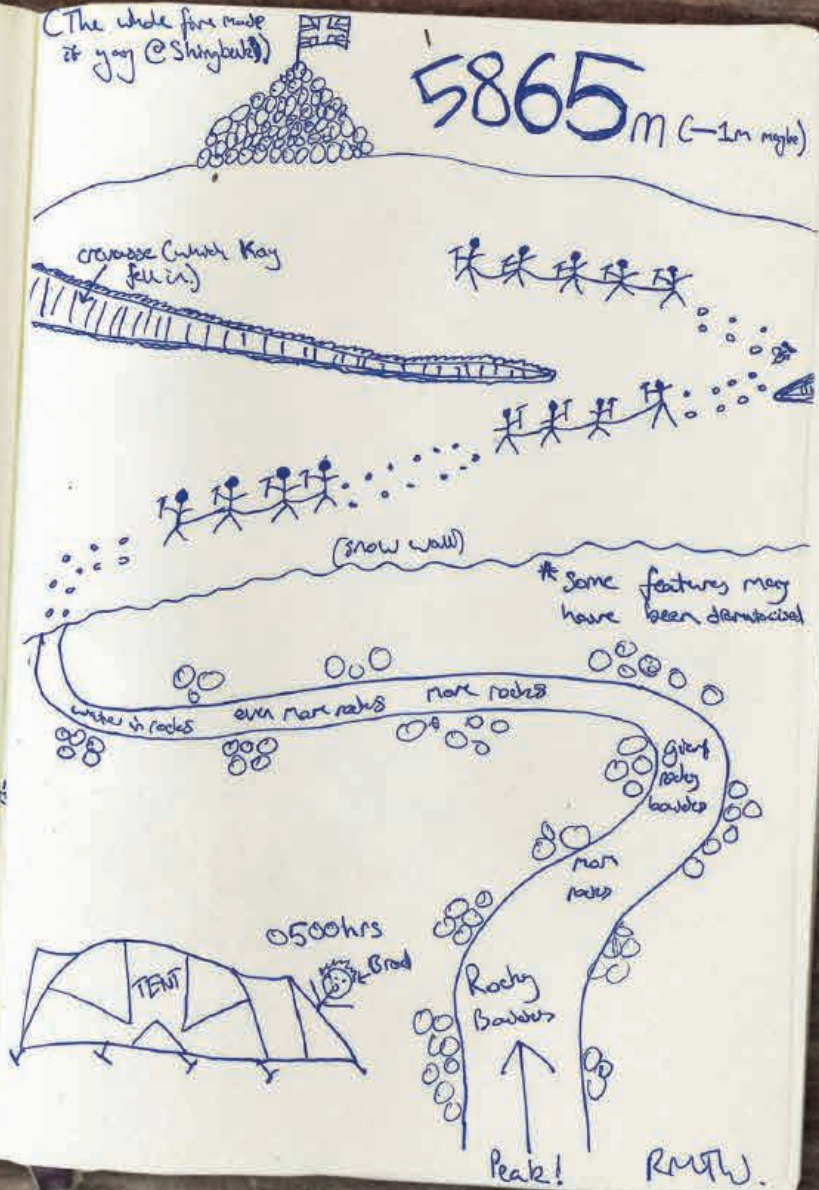
In the beginning there was Kiyamri, and the fire was with Kiyamri and the fire was Kiyamri. We rose at 0500 hrs and ate yet more delicious porridge (a lie). This prepared us for a couple of hours walk up to the snow peak, we then popped on our spiky boots (Crampon!) and learnt how to walk on ice + snow. Taff's main rule being "you need to let the piglets through but not the mummies" → in reference to feet spacing. Once trained we repped up and zigzagged our way up the snow peak, the "look on people's faces was strongly linked to a lack of flapjacks, however some snacks at halfway spurred us on to the peak at 5865m!

The only fire to get everyone to that height without casualty. Job done! Cue: lots of pictures + snacks. We claimed the peak for the British Empire + bestowed upon it the name: K14,

7 times more
7 times
more fun than
K2!

(The whole fire made it yay @ Shingbala)

5865m (-1m maybe)



Kyamri Fire, Himalaya 2018

OUR FINANCIALS

Excerpts from the Annual Report of Council

President	Professor David Rhind CBE (Resigned January 2018)	Carolyn Young
Members of our Council	Doug Oppenheim (Chairman)	John Hartz
	Rupert Eastwood (Treasurer)	Patrick Van Daele
	Joanna Wolstenholme	Daragh Horgan (Resigned 5 March 2018)
	Susan Redshaw	David Bailey (Resigned 14 June 2018)
	Deidre Sorensen	Jon Gisby (Joined 29 May 2018)
	Jane Park-Weir	
	Michael Blakey	

Notable activities and achievements in 2017-18

In 2017-18 the charity successfully delivered 8 programmes to build on specific commitments made in its five-year strategy, 'Advance and Ascend'.

The Ambassador Programme grew from 8 participants to 35, providing access to opportunities in the Yukon and Amazon to young people who might be excluded for a variety of reasons, and from communities across the UK.

The charity increased the diversity and inclusion of participation on its programmes and implemented new approaches to continue to improve the accessibility of its work in future years. This included the UK pilot of the Dangoor Infinity Programme, bringing together disabled and non-disabled explorers on a sea and land programme through a partnership with Jubilee Sailing Trust.

Expeditions

Peruvian Amazon

Available to any young person meeting our general application criteria. A group of Explorers and Trainee Leaders joined this programme which included 3 or 5 weeks in the Amazon. British Exploring Society moved to a new part of the Amazon in 2018, based in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in north eastern Peru.

Yukon

Available to any young person meeting our general application criteria. A group of Explorers from all over the UK joined this programme which included 3 and 5-week itineraries in Yukon in Canada.

Indian Himalaya

Available to any young person meeting our general application criteria. A group of Explorers and Trainee Leaders from all over the UK and Bahrain joined this programme which included a 5-week only programme in the Himalaya with a Base Camp in the Zara Valley, Ladakh.

Pre and Post-Expedition preparation, reflection and review

All programmes include UK training and evaluation weekends and the Yukon, Indian Himalaya and Amazon Expeditions are followed by a UK Next Steps event in London with professional facilitation, certification, and celebration presentations to families and carers.



Expeditions in partnership

Land and Sea - Dangoor Infinity (pilot)

Available to disabled and non-disabled young people experiencing significant disadvantage referred by partner organisations who meet the application criteria for this programme. The partnership is now planning a full-scale expedition for 2019.

Iceland - Dangoor Next Generation

Available to a diverse group of 16 to 21-year olds who are referred from different services within Catch22 with keyworkers or support workers who assist their applications to join the program. Catch22 are a forward looking social business who provide services across the UK to help young people in tough situations to turn their lives around.

Spanish Badlands

Available to young people referred by our Spanish Badlands programme partners, with a focus on reaching young people leaving care. Supported by funders, most notably the Sir John Cass Foundation.

Expeditionary Year - Iceland

Available to 14 to 16-year olds in year 10 referred to the programme through our partnership with participating schools. This programme is supported by The Peter Cundill Foundation.

Trainee Leader (TL) Programme

Fifteen Trainee Leaders enrolled and took part in Expedition programmes to the Amazon and Indian Himalaya, as well as in pre-and post-overseas phase training as part of the British Exploring Society TL programme.

Financial Review; Highlights

British Exploring Society generated £1,576,049 of income (2017: £1,517,966). The increase was primarily as a result of increased fundraising income.

The overall increase in cost of charitable activities was due to the increase in grants awarded to individuals, through the newly launched Ambassador programme. (2018: £176,270, 2017: 96,562). This was funded through restricted bursaries.

There was net expenditure, together with realised and unrealised gains on investments, on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £53,939. (2017: £69,612 net expenditure). The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

Reserves Policy

The minimum amount to be designated as Reserves is designed to be enough to maintain ongoing operations and programmes for a set period. The target minimum is equal to 3 months of average operating costs. The maximum level of the Reserves is equal to 6 months operating costs.

The balance held as unrestricted funds at 31st October 2018 was £303,925 of which £296,541 are regarded as free reserves, after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets.

The balance held as restricted funds at 31st October 2018 was £135,745.

Statement of Public Benefit

The trustees of British Exploring Society have taken due note of their responsibilities to deliver public benefit and are confident of the impact of British Exploring Society in the following areas:

The advancement of education – through the development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding;

The relief of those in need because of disadvantage – through specific programmes to provide progression opportunities for young people most at risk in society;

The advancement of community development – through the active promotion of volunteering and civic responsibility;

The advancement of Science – through research, and independent research projects; and

The advancement of environmental protection – through the promotion and better understanding of sustainable development and biodiversity.

The contribution of our volunteers and Leaders

British Exploring Society has always depended on the support and contribution of professional volunteers, both on its programmes, and in making back-office delivery possible. One of the ways in which the charity expresses the benefit and significant contribution of volunteers is as a charitable donation of professional hours (2018: £318,009, 2017: £317,668). The volunteers who give up weeks of time each year to take part in programmes are vital to our charitable purpose.

Statement of responsibility in relation to fundraising

British Exploring Society takes its duties in relation to fundraising under Data Privacy and Protection regulation and per The Code of Fundraising Practice seriously. Fundraising at British Exploring Society is led by a full member of the Institute of Fundraising. Standards in fundraising at British Exploring Society are monitored on behalf of Council by the Finance Committee.

Members' liability

The British Exploring Society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the British Exploring Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the members of Council believe that no material uncertainties exist. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern



Independent Auditor's report

On 1st February 2019 Stephen Tanner, the Senior Statutory Auditor, signed for and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP an unqualified audit report on the statutory accounts of British Exploring Society for the year ended 31st October 2018.

Stephen Tanner BSc (Econ) FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP, Statutory Auditor

Third Floor
24 Chiswell Street London
EC1Y 4YX

Our full Financial Statements are available on our website, on the Charity Commission website, and from Companies House.

Income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2018 (£)	Total 2017 (£)
Donations	806,729	84,504	401	891,634	760,593
Income from charitable activities:					
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	488,965	187,254	–	676,219	742,196
Income from investments	689	–	–	689	683
Other income	7,507	–	–	7,507	14,494
Total incoming resources	1,303,890	271,758	401	1,576,049	1,517,966

Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds	49,440	–	–	49,440	52,513
Expenditure on charitable activities	1,107,174	472,374	1,000	1,580,548	1,535,065
Total expenditure	1,156,614	472,374	1,000	1,629,988	1,589,578

Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers	147,276	(200,616)	(599)	(53,939)	(69,612)
Transfer between funds	(4,800)	4,800	–	–	–
Net income / (expenditure)	142,476	(195,816)	(599)	(53,939)	(69,612)
Reconciliation of funds	–	–	–	–	–
Total funds brought forward	161,449	283,804	48,356	493,609	563,221
Total funds carried forward	303,925	87,988	47,757	439,670	493,609

British Exploring Society Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st October 2018

Fixed Assets	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2018 (£)	Total 2017 (£)
Tangible assets	7,384	–	–	7,384	14,272
Investments	–	–	–	–	–
Total fixed assets	7,384	–	–	7,384	14,272

Current Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand	387,617	84,988	47,757	520,362	351,812
Debtors	96,886	3,000	–	99,886	243,571
Total current assets	484,503	87,988	47,757	620,248	595,383
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(187,962)	–	–	(187,962)	(116,046)
Net current assets	296,541	87,988	47,757	432,286	479,337
Net assets	303,925	87,988	47,757	439,670	493,609

The Funds of the Charity:					
Endowment funds	–	–	47,757	47,575	48,356
Restricted income funds	–	87,988	–	89,988	283,804
Unrestricted income funds	303,925	–	–	303,925	161,449
Total charity funds	303,925	87,977	47,757	439,670	493,609

British Exploring Society balance sheet as at 31st October 2018



"My expedition was the most challenging, exhilarating, fascinating and mind-broadening experience I have ever had. It was all that I hoped for and more."

£1,079m

RAISED BY OUR SUPPORTERS

£318,009

DONATED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

THANK YOU ALL

Our Supporters

Thank you, everyone. Last year we were helped by you to raise £1,079 million towards our work supporting 260 young people to take part in our life-defining programmes. Thank you for every hour of support and every pound you donated.

Volunteers

This year our volunteers donated 59,952 of professional hours, worth £318,009 to support and mentor the young people we worked with.

Events

Our supporters ran, cycled and climbed in aid of British Exploring Society. Thank you in particular to Simon from Health Care at Home, Steve and Martin Jones, Tony Harpur and Jamie Taylor.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to all the Trusts and Foundations that continue to generously support young people through our work including, Dulverton Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Peter Cundill Foundation, The Swire Charitable Trust and Sir John Cass's Foundation. You can find a full list of Trusts and Foundations on page 47.

Individuals and Members

Our Members remain at the heart of what we do. We are particularly grateful to those who have donated or got in touch through our new campaigns. A special thanks goes to those who have joined as Patrons or Explorer Club members. They are making it possible for future generations of young people to take part in our programmes through their regular donations.

We would like to remember loved and respected former supporters, Leaders and Young Explorers, many of whom have remembered British Exploring Society in their wills this year.

Our warmest wishes again to the families of Sir Adrian Swire, Jean Sinclair, Colonel Christopher Blessington OBE, Dr Howell Buckland Jones, Tony Streathers, Tom Shipp and Commander Chris Furse, RN. Our thanks to the relatives who have chosen to continue to support more young people taking part in our programmes each year: in particular the families of Tim Ward-Wilson, Michael Garvey, Les Morgan, Alexander Eastwood, A Croft, A Walker and Jean Sinclair.

"For the first time in my life I felt bigger and stronger than anything that could stand in my way."

“I have learned that I am a doer and with the right support I might be able to make miracles happen in my own life and hopefully for others too.”



PATRONS

Hugh Crossley – Alexander Eastwood (in legacy) – Rupert and Jennifer Eastwood – John Hartz – Daragh and Anne Horgan – Tim Kirk – Rahul Moodgal – Jeremy Moss – Doug and Maryn Oppenheim – James Pearson

CHARITIES, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust – Albert Van Den Bergh Charitable Trust – Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust – The Band Trust – Barnardo’s Bristol – Barnet Council – British and Foreign Schools Society – Caius House – The Carpenter Charitable Trust – Catch22 – The Challenge – Community Links – Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust – Dulverton Trust – Edith Murphy Foundation – Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation – The Florence Shaw Trust – French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust – Garfield Weston Foundation – Golden Bottle Trust – Jubilee Sailing Trust – Leap Confronting Conflict – Meyer Oppenheim Trust – Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs (Bahrain) – The Peter Cundill Foundation – REACH – Royal Charity Organization (Bahrain) – Sandy and Zorica Glen Foundation – The Scouts – Sir John Cass Foundation – Starr Trust – The Swire Charitable Trust – The Tory Family Foundation – The Winch – Vandervell Foundation – VICTA – XLP – Exilarch’s Foundation

COMPANIES

Equitix – Leonard Smith publishing – Theleme Services – ST Fly

OTHER KIND SUPPORTERS

Peter and Cara Bradley – Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE

“I learned not to underestimate myself and the abilities I have the potential to develop.”

and Lady Chapple – John Christie – Marshall and Sarah Christie – Mr and Mrs A Eastwood – Oliver and Chandler Evans – Ben and Anna Iverson – Mr and Mrs C Jones – Philip and Rebecca Meulder – Frances Morgan – Judi Morgan – David Rhind – and those who wish to remain anonymous.

OUR CHAIR

Doug Oppenheim

OUR TRUSTEES

Michael Blakey – Rupert Eastwood – Jon Gisby – John Hartz – Jane Park-Weir – Susan Redshaw – Deidre Sorensen – Patrick Van Daele – Joanna Wolstenholme – Carolyn Young

OUR LEADERS

Thanks to our 85 Volunteer Leaders, whose combined talent and generosity make our expeditions possible.

OUR FELLOWS

Dr. Peter Allison – Colonel John Blashford Snell OBE – Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE – David Dangoor – Sir Ranulph Fiennes – Alex Gregory MBE – Pen Hadow – Major General Sir Michael

Hobbs KCVO CBE – Tori James – Bruce Manning – Dr. Lucy Obolensky – Lieutenant General Peter Pearson CB CBE – Ben Saunders – Chris Wright

OUR DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Jon Gisby (Chair) – David Bailey – Arabella Connell – Caspar Craven – Hugh Crossley – Guy Escolme – Carlotta Newbury – Toby O’Connor – Lucy Rivers-Bulkeley – Jamie Taylor – Rahul Moodgal

SCHOOLS

ACE (Plymouth) – ADA College – ADA School – Castlebrae Community High – Darwen Aldridge Community Academy – E-ACT- Oldham Academy – Hammersmith Academy – Harris St. Johns Wood – Harton Academy – Inspire Academy Norfolk – King Alfred – Mountain Ash – Northfields – Ormiston Forge – Ormiston Academy – Ormiston Six Villages – Phoenix Academy – Ponteland High School – St Paul’s Way – Walsall Academy – Westminster Academy – Whitburn Church of England – Wodensborough Academy

IMAGE CREDITS

James Garry – Huw James – Sian Lewis – Emma Brennan – Amanda Thirsk – Ben Watt – Ben Sullivan – Craig Borthwick – Johnny Fenn – Toby Floyer – Fernando Gonzalez – Roly Arnison – Finlay McDonald

FIND YOUR FIRE



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This Impact Report is also available
as a PDF on our website

Registered Charity 802196

