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**British  
Exploring  
Society**

# **Amazon 2018 Leader Team**



## Our Leadership Team

### Amazon 2018

Exceptional Expedition Leaders have always been critical to the British Exploring Society and are a fundamental part of what makes us a unique charity. We value them very highly. Throughout our history, our leaders have offered their time freely and have shared their professionalism and commitment for the benefit of Explorers in destinations all over the world.

Our leaders come from a variety of professional backgrounds and bring with them a wealth of experience and skills. As we are sure you will discover, they are outstanding individuals, and form a remarkable team.

KEY	
	Senior Leadership Team
	Trainee Leader Mentor
	Basecamp Manager
	Adventure
	Media
	Medical
	River
	Science



**Paul Batterbury**  
Chief Leader

Paul has been a teacher for over 30 years, a significant period in pastoral care before moving into senior leadership, including headships in Nepal, Saudi Arabia and Lincoln.

Three months in Belize with Operation Raleigh launched his expedition career following which he led over a dozen expeditions for World Challenge. When not leading, Paul embarks on his own adventures exploring mountains throughout the globe as well Europe and Britain.

Paul has been a keen competitive swimmer and triathlete as well as ultra-marathon runner. Now spending more time reading than training, Paul believes that expeditions provide the perfect learning environment, where application of knowledge and transferable skills can be refined and honed for lifelong learning.



**Lydia Mason**  
Deputy Chief Leader/ Trainee Leader Mentor

Lydia Mason is an experienced expedition leader and trainer specialising in jungle environments. She also coaches presentation and leadership skills with a particular focus on encouraging reflective practice. Lydia believes strongly in the potential for transformative outdoor adventures to motivate and inspire young people in all aspects of their lives.



**Anna Brunyate**  
Basecamp Manager

Anna has a background in expedition leading in Africa and South America, has spent time running bushcraft camps for children, has a number of years working as a chef and is currently mainly employed as a Paramedic in London and doing medical repatriations.

Her main aim is to combine her varied experience, skills and love of traveling to explore new possibilities and, through working for BES, hopefully help create similar opportunities for young people. She has recently sailed from the Falkland Islands to Cape Town with the Jubilee Sailing Trust and is hoping to work more for them...and the next plan in the pipeline is a trans-America cycle next year.



**Emma Brennand**  
Media Leader

Emma Brennand is a journalist, photographer & documentary filmmaker with a passion for wildlife conservation and outdoor education. She has a PhD in Environmental Chemistry and since graduating has worked in science communication across a range of media platforms.

She has had work featured on BBC News, New Scientist, Cosmos as well as a number of tabloid & broadsheet newspapers. Emma has worked for the BBC for the last 9 years across News, Radio and TV production including BAFTA & EMMY award winning Planet Earth II where she led teams into some of the most remote locations on the planet. Emma's long fascination with the natural world has taken her all over the globe from the wind-swept islands of the sub-Antarctic to the high-altitude Himalaya. She is a keen hiker, scuba diver and working towards her International Mountain Leader.



**Andrew Browning**  
Adventure Leader

Whilst studying Earth Science at university, Andy spent a year poking volcanoes in Mexico and the Caribbean, which sparked what was to become a fascination with the lesser visited corners of our planet. Since then Andy has dedicated himself to off-the-beaten-track exploration, and has ventured into deserts in search of more volcanoes, led expeditions in East Africa, and spent a year living on one of the world's most remote islands.

Andy is a Geography Teacher, Overseas Branches Commissioner for the Scout Association, and Ordnance Survey #GetOutside champion, who believes in the value of the outdoors as an educational environment. He has seen first-hand how young people are able to stretch themselves and develop when taken outside of the classroom and wants to ensure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to do so.



**Charles Montier**  
Adventure Leader

Inspired by adventure books as a kid, Charles has always been obsessed with exploration, especially in the jungle.

From cycling to mountaineering, he's completed expeditions all over the planet, with notably two first descents of remote rivers in the Amazon.

Having tested himself to the limit on these journeys, Charles' passion is now to help young explorers discover these wild environments. His passion for adventure leaves his groups hungry for more!



**Hannah Findlay**  
Adventure Leader

This will be Hannah's third expedition with British Exploring, after joining the trainee leader programme in 2016. Whilst completing her BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, she took part in an expedition to the Alps and this fuelled her drive to continue scientific exploration around the world. Whilst not in the office working on Parkinson's Disease research, she thoroughly enjoys getting out on the hill, climbing a wall or planning her next adventure.

She is particularly interested in looking at the physiological impact the immersive, tough and rather warm jungle environment has on the Young Explorers (and leaders!) and how our bodies compensate for this. She is very excited for all the Young Explorers to discover how diverse and fascinating the jungle is and also for them to discover those same things about themselves too.



**Derek Shapiro**  
Adventure Leader

Derek comes to us all the way from Los Angeles for his first British Exploring adventure. He has a long-standing passion for exploration, which was sparked with multiple group backpacking trips as a young explorer in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. His exploratory fire was re-kindled this past year with multiple trips, including a four-month ecological research trip to Malaysian Borneo and a two-month trek which crossed the entire High-Pyrenees mountain range.

Home to some of the most biodiverse stretches of forest on the planet, Peruvian Amazon will be an amazing stomping ground to learn about the wild, explore uncharted forest and discover things that you couldn't have dreamed possible. As a guide and teacher, he looks forward to sharing this experience with everyone!"



**Luke Kane**  
Senior Expedition Medic

Dr Luke Kane is a London GP with a love of travel, the natural world and pushing yourself to your limits. Before medicine at King's College London, he studied biology at Oxford and specialised in Indonesian sea-urchins.

After his foundation programme in Newham, East London, he did the diploma of tropical medicine and then worked on a project looking at treatment-resistant malaria in Cambodia. He was part of the UK government Ebola response effort in Sierra Leone, working alongside Sierra Leonean colleagues in one of the Ebola Treatment Centres.

Craving some more adventure, he then set sail on a 23-ft wooden boat to recreate Captain Bligh's gruelling 4000-mile open ocean voyage from Tonga to Timor which was televised on Channel 4's Mutiny.



**Clare Fitchet**  
Expedition Medic

Clare is a keen mountaineer and has undertaken various expeditions around the world including summer expeditions to Guatemala and Morocco, and winter Nordic skiing expeditions in Norway. Currently in the Army and a qualified paramedic, she is a keen sportswoman and enjoys triathlons and running. She completed the London Marathon in 2017 and is hoping to complete many more in as many different countries as possible.

Before joining the Army, she worked within the local council youth service and has a keen interest in personal development utilising the outdoor environment. In 2017 she led with British Exploring She is delighted to be involved the expedition to the Amazon and is looking forward to the challenged of living in the jungle!



**Emma Fisher**  
Expedition Medic

Emma qualified as a doctor in 2012 from Oxford University. After completing her Foundation training in Oxford and Reading, Emma is now working in hospitals on the South coast, where she grew up.

Growing up so close to the sea, Emma has always loved swimming and recently took this one step further by achieving her PADI Open Water scuba diving qualification. On her personal travels, she has been trekking through the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara desert in Morocco and hiked to The Pinnacle in Grampians National Park in Australia.

Emma has a special interest in expedition and wilderness medicine. She recently completed the Medicine in Remote Areas course accredited by the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care. She loves working with young people and is really looking forward to her first expedition with the British Exploring Society.



**Susannah Cass**  
Chief Scientist

Susannah completed her first degree in Natural Sciences before moving on to complete an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation.

Fascinated by all things biological Susannah has gained field experience from Scotland to South Africa and is particularly interested in research on the interconnectedness of ecological systems and understanding the value of ecosystem services to humanity. Susannah recently completed a PhD working with research institutions across Europe to understand the effects of nitrogen-fixing crops (legumes) on agricultural biodiversity.

Although a new face at British Exploring, Susannah is no stranger to adventure having completed ocean rows on both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and cycled 2,300km along the east coast of Brazil.

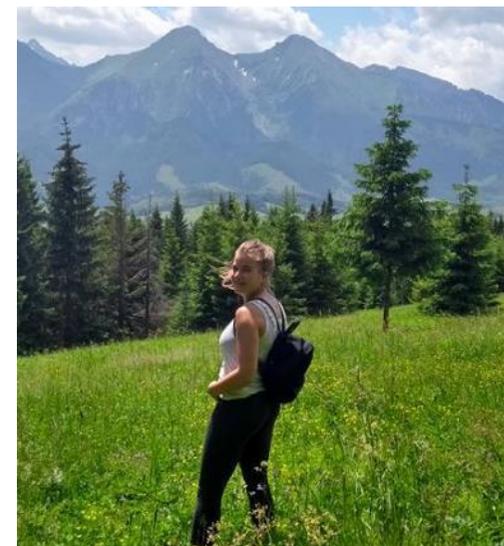


**Lucy Greenfield**  
Science Leader

Lucy graduated with a BSc and MEnv in Environmental Science. She is now studying for a PhD specialising in Soil and Environmental Science.

Being based at Bangor University, North Wales has enabled her to pursue her passion for the outdoors, with Snowdonia National Park and the North Wales coast right on her doorstep.

Lucy partook in a previous expedition to the Indian Himalayas with BES as a Trainee Leader, where she ran a science project on the effect of soil properties on plant communities. She has travelled for research and volunteer work to Costa Rica, Brazil, Tenerife, Germany, and Australia.



**Eleanor Glass**  
Science Leader

Eleanor completed her BSc in Ecology (Hons) last year and is moving to Sweden in September 2018 to undertake a MSc in Global Environmental History. She was previously an explorer on the 2012 Amazon expedition where her passion for wildlife research began.

Eleanor has carried out white rhino conservation research in South Africa, and spent last year conducting research on Chiroptera with African Bat Conservation in Malawi. Eleanor also spent part of the last year working with the conservation charity, the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), carrying out fieldwork and management in nature reserves in Northern Ireland and England.



**Cameron Mackay**  
Science Leader

Since travelling to Ladakh as a young explorer with British Exploring in 2013, Cameron has developed a strong interest in expedition organising and has since led expeditions to Greenland, Tanzania and the Himalaya, alongside which he has produced several short documentary films and established environmental education projects.

He gained a BSc (hons) degree in Geography from the University of Glasgow and is currently studying an MPhil Polar Studies course at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.

Cameron is keen to bring experience of expedition personal development and environmental change fieldwork to his fire and the expedition as a whole in the Amazon.



**Zulima Tablado Almela**  
Science Leader

Zulima is a biologist with a MSc and PhD in Conservation Biology. Although she is originally from Spain, she has been doing research and fieldwork in several countries, including Canada, France, Norway, Switzerland, and Congo-Brazzaville, among others. Zulima's research interests are broad; however in recent years she has focused on the effects of human disturbance on wildlife, especially on birds.

In her time off she also enjoys being outdoors hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, skiing, or simply enjoying and learning more about nature.

She is excited to share her passion for science and nature with the young participants of the 2018 Amazon expedition.



**Peter Whitehead**  
Science Leader

Peter works in the emergency department of a Major Trauma Centre in the UK. He qualified as a doctor in 2015 from the University of Nottingham and currently divides his professional time between emergency medicine and instructing on both human factors and life support skills courses. He hopes to pursue a career in pre-hospital and expedition medicine and is currently completing an MSc in Extreme Medicine at the University of Exeter.

Peter spends the majority of his free time wandering the Peak District. He has previously explored the Julian Alps on snowshoes, the Norwegian Fjords by canoe and recently returned from the Peruvian Andes.