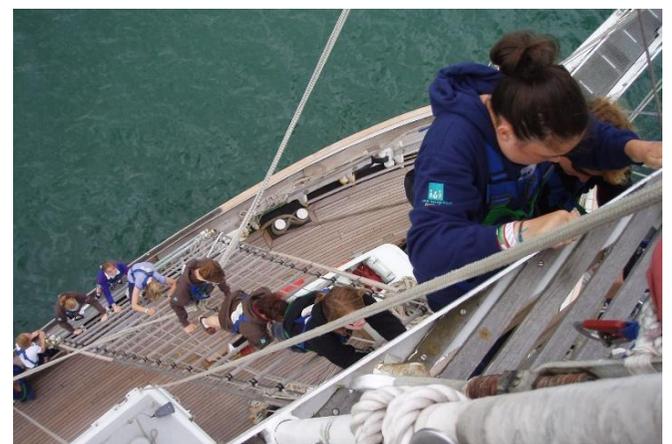




**BRITISH
EXPLORING
SOCIETY**

Infinity Pilot 2018 Leader Team



Our Leadership Team

Infinity 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
	Adventure Leaders
	Watch Leaders
	Media Leaders
	Medics
	Science Leaders



Tom Abbey
Chief Leader

Tom is a Paramedic and Expedition Leader based in the Lake District, Cumbria.

Prior to becoming a Paramedic, Tom was the Manager of a residential children's service based in Carlisle, working with young people with emotional and behavioural problems.

Tom has been involved with BES since 2010 and this will be his 6th expedition with us and 4th as Chief Leader.

His spare time is spent with his adventurous 7 year old son and as a member of Patterdale Mountain Rescue team.



Tom Blindell
Expeditions and Strategic Operations
Manager

Tom joined British Exploring Society in 2013 to further a career in outdoor education and support young people to access the hugely beneficial experiences that expeditions can offer.

A Sport Science & Outdoor Activities graduate, Tom brings with him a wealth of education experience from both school and expedition sectors, but also significant field leadership experience in Latin America and Africa particularly.

Tom is a qualified Mountain Leader and spends as much time as he can in the outdoors - mountaineering, white water kayaking, climbing and adventure racing, whilst also enjoying tennis, cycling, football and triathlons closer to home.



Sarah Wysling
Expedition Medic

Sarah's passion for the outdoors and travel began at a young age, always seeking adventures and grasping any opportunity to explore new places.

Since qualifying as a doctor Sarah has combined her love for exploration and medicine. Sarah holds diplomas in both tropical and mountain medicine. She has worked worldwide, providing medical cover to groups trekking, climbing, kayaking, cycling and even for those running the Everest Marathon.

When not away on an adventure, Sarah can be found working as an Emergency Medicine doctor.



Ruth Padday
Expedition Medic

Ruth has been a doctor for 39 years and in 2018 received a formal recognition for her contribution to health and young people in the form of a British Empire Medal (BEM), from the Queen's Honours List.

A keen traveller, Ruth has completed the World Extreme Medicine 'Ocean and Marine Medicine Training Course'. In 2017, she trekked the Upper Mustang, Nepal, running 6 medical clinics alongside the local healthcare assistant. In 2016, she was a voyage doctor from Tahiti to and this year took on the same responsibility during a voyage from Falkland Islands to Cape Town, via South Georgia renowned for being one of the most treacherous oceans to navigate. Ruth is excited to combine her passions: working with young people, adventure, sailing and exploring with the British Exploring Society.



Roland Arnison
Adventure Leader

Roland has a degree in Environmental Science and works as an environmental consultant alongside his wide-ranging experience in expeditions, explorations and adventures.

He took part in an expedition to climb Shambu Qa Killa, a previously unclimbed mountain in the remote Indian Himalayas and has also extensively climbed on mountains and rock faces in the UK and Europe.

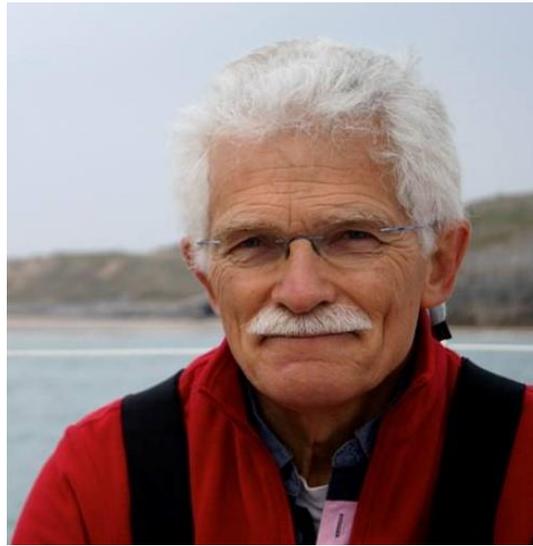
Roland has taken part in many sea-kayaking and river canoeing expeditions and enjoys exploring and wildlife watching in remote and wild places. He also has experience as a wildlife and adventure film-maker in the UK and in Africa. Roland is a volunteer member of his local Mountain Rescue team and is a qualified Mountain Leader.



Tony Harpur
Adventure Leader

Tony has been an Adventure Leader on five previous BES expeditions including in the Himalayas, Namibia and Iceland. Tony has the summer ML qualification and is on the leaders' panel for Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. He regularly leads RWH groups in Jordan, Italy, Morocco, Costa Rica and the UK.

Tony also organises his own trips and expeditions and in the last 3 years he has led groups of family and friends to Annapurna Base Camp, the French Alps, Lake District, The Coast to Coast Walk, St. Cuthbert's Way, Wainwright's Way, the Irish Coast to Coast walk and the South West Coast Path to name but a few. On a part time basis Tony is a volunteer archivist for the British Exploring Society and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



Graham Strudwick
Watch Leader

Graham started sailing at the age of 11 and has sailed with JST since 2001. He became a Watch Leader in 2005 and a Watch Leader Trainer in 2010. His sailing experience is wide, ranging from dinghies and yachts to several barques and has clocked up around 30,000 miles.

Graham qualified as a Yacht Master Off Shore in 2011. As part of this training he holds a RYA First Aid certificate. His sailing has included crossing the Atlantic, sailing in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific, as well as the English Channel, Wales, Scotland and the Mediterranean. Graham has worked with people of many abilities, disabilities and ages since volunteering whilst at University. This experience has continued with sailing and volunteering with JST and providing inspirational talks for schools and other organisations.



Peter Holtby
Watch Leader

Peter has been associated with the JST for 9 years. Volunteering as Watch Leader has taken him sailing around the UK coast, Canary Islands, Azores and the east coast of Canada.

Peter spent all his working life in the Merchant Navy and after retiring he joined his local Mountain Rescue team, which covers the North York Moors. He teaches Nautical Subjects part time and his hobbies include challenge walks and drystone walling. Peter also volunteers when time permits to help conserve the countryside.

Peter loves the outdoors and exploring. He is looking forward to new challenges and meeting inspirational people of all abilities.



Mona Shah
Watch Leader

Mona is currently a cook who has runaway to sea working on British Antarctic survey marine vessels.

Throughout her life alongside different professional careers, her focus has always been community and people development. Lucky and counting her blessings she is now able to contribute to environmental science and sustainability by cooking for teams of people whom facilitate environmental and marine research programs in polar regions.

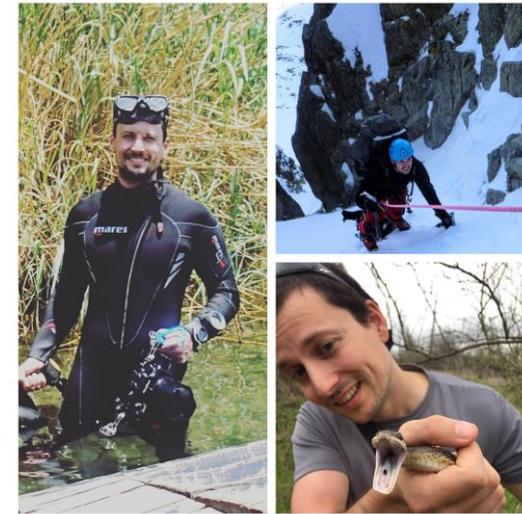
She has held a strong interest in community and young people development, both in the UK and in developing countries and has pursued this with organisations including JST, Raleigh international and the Prince's Trust.



Chris Smith
Watch Leader

Chris was introduced to hillwalking and sailing at an early age, by his family. Later he developed a passion for rock climbing and as an undergraduate became interested in mountaineering. Once qualified as a doctor his spare time was devoted to getting out into the hills and mountains at every opportunity. He has visited the Southern Alps (New Zealand), the Solo Khumbu region of Nepal and recently the Torres del Paine area of Patagonia.

Moving to Hampshire in 1989 led to a shift in emphasis and sailing became his major pastime, leading to the acquisition of the MCA/RYA Yachtmaster certificate. He has sailed in European waters and the Caribbean. He crossed The Atlantic on SV Tenacious in 2015 and 2017 circumnavigated the UK with his wife on their 37ft yacht.



Fernando Gonzalez
Science Leader

Fernando is a Spanish biologist with a PhD in Behavioural Ecology and a MSc in Animal Biodiversity. He studies animal behaviour, communication, and conservation, with a focus on the challenges that climate change is already creating for biodiversity. His research has led him to work throughout the world, in amazing places such as the rainforests of Trinidad & Tobago and the Great Barrier Reef.

Through his webpage, bioblogia.net, he helps biology students to find jobs, interviews friends and colleagues with interesting professions, and shares his own experiences as a biologist. When not working, he is also an outdoor enthusiast and keen adventurer, who loves rock climbing, mountaineering, hiking in search of fauna, and mountain biking through icy Nordic forests or scorching deserts.



Belinda Dixon

Media Leader

Belinda was the Media Leader for British Exploring Society's expeditions Himalaya 2016 and Yukon 2017.

Belinda is one of the Ordnance Survey's GetOutside Champions – a role that sees her encouraging people to reap the benefits of exploring Britain's great outdoors. She considers herself extremely lucky to be a travel writer with Lonely Planet and Rough Guides – commissions that have taken her to Iceland, Italy, Austria and Essex.

For 10 years now, Belinda has delivered degree-level sessions at Marjon University on broadcast journalism, social media, writing for magazines and voice work. She believes words and images have enormous power and is looking forward to helping Inspire participants explore their own media interests, capture their experiences, unlock their potential and develop their skills.