

YEARS OF
90 **BUILDING
STRONGER
FUTURES**
1932-2022

IMPACT REPORT

2021-2022

Adventure, Knowledge
& Personal Development

 **BRITISH
EXPLORING
SOCIETY**





CONTENTS

4	The Power of Nature
5	St George's House Consultation
6-7	Courage and Challenge
8-9	Thank You
10-11	Recognising Inspiring Individuals From Our Community
12	The Difference We Make
13	Theory Of Change
14	Our Immediate Impact
15	Belle & Vince
16-17	Our Approach
18	Expedition Workshops
19	Wildestan Team Adventures
20	A Young Explorer's Journey
21	Field Notes
22	Pinnacle Siberia
23	UK Spring Explorers
24	Dangoor Next Generation Iceland
25	Canadian Yukon
26	Hartz Scottish Explorers
27	Kyrgyzstan
28	Leader Impact Story
29-30	29 Years of Impact
31	90th Anniversary Members Board
32	Membership
33-34	Bringing our History to Life
35-38	Our Financials

The quotes and photos throughout this report have been provided by our community.

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 define lives, empowering and equipping young people with the courage, skills, resilience and determination to make the most of their future. We prepare and give young people access to adventures and 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 newfound 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.

Our vision

Is for all young people to be able to contribute confidently in the world. We want equal access to challenging learning and adventure in the wilderness as an unbeatable preparation for adult life.

Our mission

Is to grow and celebrate a diverse, inclusive community of young people with the skills, resilience and determination to make lasting positive decisions in their own lives, and to deliver community benefit and positive environmental change.

For 90 years we have supported young people to Find Their Fire – Here's to the next 90, and more.

You can find the full and up to date list of our expeditions on our website by clicking [here](#)



1934

NEWFOUNDLAND



1951

ICELAND



1972

NORWAY



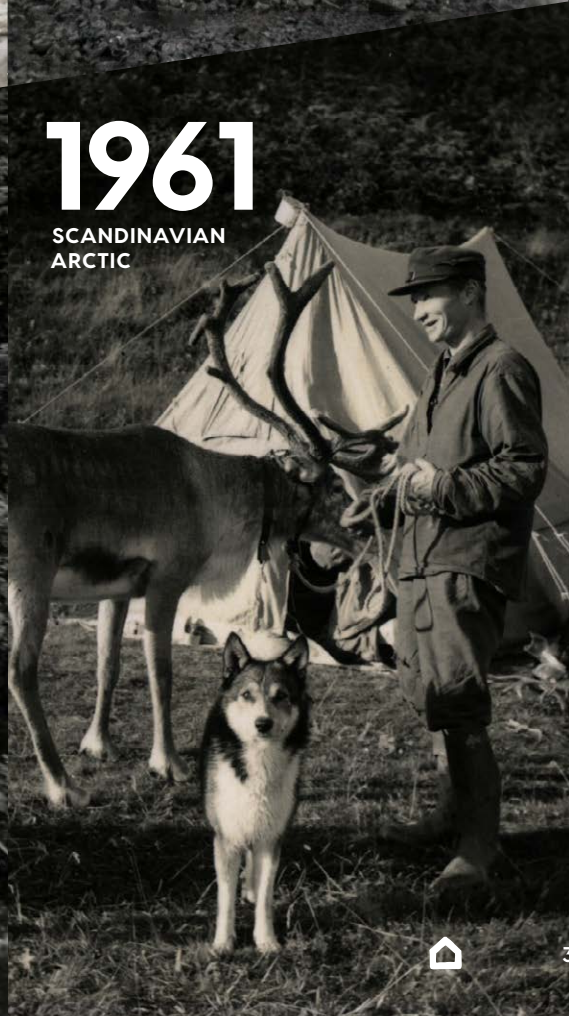
2000

LADAKH



1948

NORTH QUEBEC



1961

SCANDINAVIAN
ARCTIC



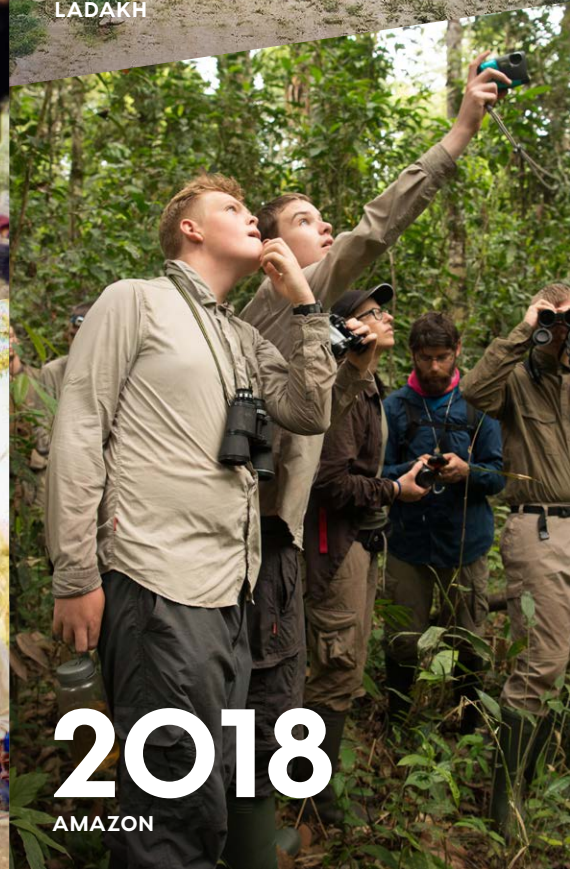
1986

CANADIAN YUKON



1998

MOROCCO



2018

AMAZON





Photo taken by Fergus Burnett

"It's an opportunity for a Britishness which is more inclusive, more dynamic, to flourish."

171

YOUNG EXPLORERS PARTICIPATED
ON AN EXPEDITION WITH US IN 2022

THE POWER OF NATURE

Marvin Rees, President of British Exploring Society

I was asked to reflect on the theme of Britishness at British Exploring Society in our 90th year, and as our aim is to reach out to and welcome as many young people as possible.

My experience of Britishness is not a sense of unqualified belonging. I would describe myself as an associate member. That has something to do with the colour of my skin; the Jamaican origins of my father. My Britishness is somewhat dependent on other people acknowledging and welcoming me into Britishness. My relationship with Britishness is a dynamic one. It doesn't make me feel any less me or that my identity is in question – it's just a recognition that I'm in a political and social context. I get sent subtle and not so subtle messages about my Britishness all the time. And it started early. I was born in a Bristol hospital, but people could still shout to me on the street 'go back to your own country.

I am not a member of the 'middle circle' of unquestionable Britishness. Not because I do or don't want to be. Just because the context in which I live has questions floating around about who I am.

And it is in this context, today, that I think British Exploring Society has an incredible offer to make.

Now more than ever we urgently need a form of unity, shared identity – not sameness. We need to provide a physical and cultural space where we can find important overlaps in our lives. Where we can understand our interdependencies.

On expedition we taste the power of the natural world together; something much bigger than us. In the face of natural awe, as we develop our courage, face challenges, and understand our individual insignificance, we can realise that we are alive, we can find comfort and confidence in our identities, and as part of a team. Interaction with nature makes us aware of 'another power in the room'. It was a key moment in my journey. Having experienced expedition in this way, I knew who I was and could connect with others confidently. It gave me a real sense of solidity.

The space we provide for young people could be a tool we use as a country to create the opportunity to enter into human relations more confidently. It's an opportunity for a Britishness which is more inclusive, more dynamic, to flourish.

We should not underestimate the scale of the offer we make. For those who can join us, it has the potential to be a profound experience.

Marvin Rees
President British Exploring Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rees'.

258

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY MEMBERS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH US IN 2022

24%

OF YOUNG EXPLORERS DECLARED THAT THEY HAD
A DISABILITY OR LONG TERM HEALTH CONDITION

* Versus 13% in 2018/2019

ST GEORGE'S HOUSE CONSULTATION

Sustainability and Inclusion in the Outdoors

What was the consultation?

Why did we host it?

At the heart of our strategy, A Wild Future, is our drive to secure sustainability; how we welcome everyone, deliver benefit, and protect our planet. We invited members of our community, and added to that people we respect and admire, to join us for two days of consultation and challenge to help us consider how we will achieve some of the most challenging goals set out in A Wild Future.

Sustainability and inclusivity are two sides of the same coin.

The more people feel included and welcomed, to experience the joys and issues of the outdoors first hand, in real life, the larger the positive body of support for the outdoors and nature there will be.

But the truth is that as yet, significant parts of society still can't enjoy adventure or feel equally welcome in outdoor spaces. Whilst we work hard to change that, we also need to become more effective in the sustainability of our work, and in the rising awareness of the precious nature of every green space we have.

At its heart, the event was focused on securing purposeful, sustainable, inclusive exploration for young people.

Over the course of 2 days, our wide ranging discussions coalesced around the following headlines:

- There isn't – or shouldn't be a single or right way to love the outdoors. No one owns the outdoors.
- The collective value of youth voices could be very powerful in helping us achieve change.

If you would like a hard copy of the St George's House Consultation report, please send a request to info@britishexploring.org

- Considering the positive mental and physical health benefits and community engagement opportunities of the outdoors is an increasing opportunity for broader inclusion.
- We can all make the outdoors a more welcoming place – and taking time to understand cultural barriers to participation is a good place to start.
- We must learn from those who make us welcome, safe, and who will encourage us to take a first outdoor adventure.
- We want to explore how small steps – and stepping stones between organisations – might make a difference to improving an individual's journey towards confident and possibly more stretching experiences outdoors.
- Is traditional education under-resourced and/or failing to connect young people with the outdoors, and therefore also failing nature?
- Demonstrating impact – making a case for the value of a connection with the outdoors is central to our ability to extend our impact and capacity.
- How do we become more sustainable without becoming less accessible in the process?

Each theme generated actions, which we recorded and shared back with participants and further debate. These headlines are driving areas of operational change within British Exploring Society, and we will continue to revisit the learning of the consultation over the next couple of years. We are indebted to everyone who contributed so generously to the event.

Photo to the right, from left to right: Rhiane Fatinikun (Black Girls Hike), Haroon Mota (Muslim Hikers), Sat Singh (Renaissance Foundation) and Kwesia X (City Girl in Nature)



COURAGE AND CHALLENGE

2022 has been a year where we have turned to our core values as a foundation, a year where they could not have been more important. In our 90th year, two of our values particularly stood out "Courage" and "Challenge". Two words which by themselves could easily capture the year we've had.

To introduce this report, we separately asked Ibrahim (a Young Explorer) and Honor (our CEO) to reflect on their experience through these two words.

In reading their reflections, it's particularly noteworthy how much our other values of "Community" and "Self-belief" also shine through in both their answers. Challenges come and go, but if there's one thing we've learnt in our 90 years of history, it's that the courage we find to face these challenges comes from the strength and support of our community, and the self-belief this brings.

729

**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BENEFITED
FROM ONE OR MORE ACTIVITIES
WITH US THIS YEAR**

* Versus 224 in 2018/2019

34

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE JOINED
US ON AN EXPEDITION**

"Having that strong community
around me ignited the flame of
courage within me too."



Young Explorer Ibrahim

Young Explorer Ibrahim, Dangoor Next Generation Iceland 2022

What was one of the biggest challenges that you had to face this year?

This year has been a transformative year for me. The biggest challenge was probably trying to find my place in this wild, unpredictable existence we call life. I had been applying to several apprenticeships this year- and just when I reached the final stage- when the summit was just in reach, the slap of rejection hit me, and I came tumbling down the hill. No one wants to be indirectly told you're not good enough and over time you start questioning yourself – Is this even for me? Why am I even trying? Maybe I am just not cut-out for it? Questions like these will have you spiralling until you're just void of all self-belief.

How did you find the courage to face that challenge?

Expedition life in Iceland consisted of ash deserts, volcanoes and waterfalls and most importantly- no worldly distractions, the perfect recipe to ponder. Out in the wilderness, you are constantly being challenged through the climate, the insects and even your Fire and so, each of us had to learn the power of perseverance. I began to look at new challenges with a different lens. Rather than fearing the outcome, I began to gain the courage to see each hurdle as a learning experience. I was also inspired by my Fire as I watched as they trekked that extra 5km with boots packed with blisters. Having that strong community around me ignited the flame of courage within me too.

Having faced that challenge and overcome it, what is the biggest lesson you have learnt from the experience?

My biggest takeaway is that failure is okay, it's inevitable and you are allowed to revel in it but don't let it define you. Also, as the saying goes, I brushed myself off and a new apprenticeship opportunity came my way post expedition (in my dream field might I add). I applied, did the interview, and got accepted in a matter of days. We love a happy ending!

Looking back on your journey with British Exploring Society, how has your experience this year helped you move forward?

Reflecting on my experience with British Exploring Society, I can now say in retrospect that this entire journey has left me with greater mental resilience and confidence in myself. But with everything in life, self-belief is also a journey that I have just embarked on. But the difference is now, rather than running away from the next opportunity, I run towards it.

Honor Wilson-Fletcher, CEO British Exploring Society

What was one of the biggest challenges that you had to face this year?

It has been a joy to be able to offer up a full programme of expeditions again for the first time since 2019 – but also a battle. There seem to be so many more processes to weave through, more people are much more anxious about taking risks, and it's our job to understand, be sympathetic, and to help carry some of the burden of that anxiety for them. And it's financially tougher for lots of people too. We're all living with that and focusing on making magic happen with limited means.

How did you find the courage to face that challenge?

Oh, that's easy. I work, every day, with – and for – some of the very best people you can possibly imagine. That's a source of enormous strength. I don't just mean ridiculously talented – they are that – but thoughtful, and generous – able to review their perspective and keep on learning and reflecting and trying so hard to understand the challenges they have to tackle. I am inspired and buoyed up by team members, trustees, Leaders, Young Explorers, Members and supporters. I am also reminded by all of them why we need to keep pushing forward, even when it feels hardest.

Having faced that challenge and overcome it, what is the biggest lesson you have learnt from the experience?

I think I fully learned what 'community' can mean. That in difficult, stretching times, working within a rich, layered community with enduring connections is intensely rewarding, and can produce remarkable outcomes for society. It's quietly mind blowing and I don't think I have ever previously experienced it. I didn't go to the kind of school or have the sort of extended family that fostered this layered, generational, shared experience and the astonishing warmth and commitment that can come with it. It is a special thing. And in hard times, even more special.

Looking back on your journey with British Exploring Society, how has your experience this year helped you move forward?

Not all the lessons from this year will have landed yet. That's one thing I know. But I am focusing on us doing less, or rather, on trying to make every ounce of effort count. Our team (in its broadest sense) works so hard, the logistics we must tackle and the environments we operate in are not going to get any less complex, so we have to conserve energy and our drive if we are to keep motoring on through the next turbulent couple of years. We have ambitious plans to fulfil – and want to be here to provide more crucial opportunities for more young people. To do that, we need to have some fuel left in the tank.





"If any parent has doubts, please be reassured that it is an incredible experience that your child will never forget. The support team both before the expedition and whilst on expedition are fantastic. And if any organisation is able to help support British Exploring Society, please know that you will be helping build experiences for young people that could change their lives."

– Heather, Young Explorer Guardian 2022

THANK YOU

Apparently, there are nearly 100 ways to say 'thank you' in English. Whether your preferred expression of gratitude tends to the simple or the flamboyant – we hope you know how much we appreciate the lengths you go to for us, for every young person we get to work with. There will be omissions here – the quietest amongst you achieve great things for us and either actively prefer anonymity, or do great work with zero ceremony. You know who you are – and we hope you know how much we value what you do.

On behalf of us all, and in return for the many, many, pieces of advice, every extra effort, every above-and-beyond hour, every gift, every inspiration and the legion acts of friendship and generosity we have received – **thank you.**

Charities, Trusts and Foundations

Andrew Croft Memorial Fund (The) – Artemis Charitable Foundation – Carpenter Charitable Trust (The) – Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust – E B M Charitable Trust – Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust – Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Trust – Exilarch's Foundation (The) – Fort Foundation (The) – Four Acre Trust – Hartz Family Foundation (The) – Hedley Foundation (The) – John Armitage Charitable Trust (The) – Portal Trust (The) – Progress Foundation (The) – Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust – Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement (The) – Vandervell Foundation (The)

Patrons

Alison Mansfield – Alistair Nelson – Arabella Connell – Daragh & Anne Horgan – David & Judy Dangoor – David Simonson – Jeremy Moss – John & Catherine Hartz – Jon Bennett – Preet Chandi MBE – Rahul Moodgal – Reepa & Krupesh Patel – Tim Kirk – Tim Passingham

Individuals

Alastair Floyd – Alexandra Rickham – Andy Charlton – Andy Serkis MBES – Blair Cameron – Chris Heaney – Daniel Mazhindu MBES – David Emmett – David Williams MBES – Dr Rachel Smillie – Dr Susannah Cass MBES – Frances & Judi Morgan – Frank Esson MBES & Joanna Esson – George Bullard MBES – Gudrun Tryggvadottir FBES – Guy Munnoch MBES – Haroon Mota – Harrison Wavell – Ian & Janet Sinclair – James Dyer FBES – Jelle Veyt –

Jennie Richardson MBES – Joanne Hay – Katie Beck MBES – Kwesia X MBES – Lee Bagnall – Liz Easton – Lucy Obolensky FBES – Michael Blakey – Neil Laughton MBES – Nigel Williams – Nigel Winsor – Olly Bolton – Paul Rose – Ralph Doe – Rhiane Fatinikun – Rupert Eastwood – Sat Singh – Shane Winsor – Sophie Fernandes – Toby Salt

Companies

Bain & Company – Bala 4x4 Driving School – BBC Radio 4 – Brown Advisor – CBT Naryn – Christian Mountain Centre – Financial Times – Flying Squirrel Cabins – Hengistbury Investment Partners LLP – iConnections – Investec – ITMC, Kyrgyzstan – Kluane National Park Authority – KSP London – Outcomes First Group – Plimsoll Productions – Schroders – Social Business Trust – Strategy B – Surrey 4x4 – Up North Adventures – Venture Trust – Wildfox Events

Programme Partners

16+ Learning Choices Fife – Academies Enterprise Trust – Active Schools – Aldridge Foundation – Break Charity – Catch22 – Change Foundation – Fight For Peace – Fort William – HEART Academies Trust – JP Alternative Education – Outcomes First Group – Scouts – Victa – Youth Adventure Trust

Schools

ADA School – Baylis Court – Bodmin College – Caedmon College – Caius House – Castlebrae High School – CORE Education Trust – Greenfaulds High School – Hammersmith Academy – Harton Academy – Inside Success – Kingston Academy –

"I don't normally respond to BBC Radio 4 Appeals... I hope that the recipients of the equipment and encouragement that British Exploring Society provides will change young people's outlook on wild places and give them the motivation and skills to take on the challenges of self-reliance and survival throughout their lives."

– Lizzy, who supported us via our BBC Radio 4 Appeal in November

Langley Grammar – Levenmouth Academy –
Mountain Ash Comprehensive School – Mulberry Academy
Shoreditch – Northfields Academy – Ormiston Academies
Trust – Phoenix Academy – Ponteland High School –
Prendergast Ladywell School – Prendergast School –
Queen Anne High School – Southfields Academy –
St Pauls Way Trust – St Robert of Newminster Catholic
School – Sydenham School – The Long Eaton School –
Viewforth High School – Waid Academy – Walsall
Academy – West Calder High School – Westminster
Academy – Whitburn CoFE Academy – Woodmill High School

Our Trustees

Carolyn Young – Claire Royston – David Tilston (Treasurer) –
David Wells – Jane Park Weir MBES (resigned September 2022) –
Jim Hopkinson MBES – Mark Fawcett – Rahul Moodgal –
Soo Redshaw MBES – Tim Passingham

Our President

Marvin Rees MBES

Our Chair

Ian Maginnis

Our Leaders

This year 76 volunteer Leaders gave their time and expertise to ensure our expedition programmes were successfully delivered. We're grateful for their dedication, enthusiasm, and continued commitment to youth development and our Young Explorers.

Our Fellows

Alex Gregory MBE FBES –
Ben Saunders FBES – Belinda Kirk FBES –
Bruce Manning FBES – Caroline Hodges
FBES – Chris Wright FBES – Daragh Horgan
FBES – David Dangoor FBES –
Doug Oppenheim FBES – Gudrun Tryggvadottir
FBES – Honor Wilson-Fletcher MBE FBES –
James Dyer FBES – Colonel John Blasford Snell
CBE FBES – Jules Penney FBES – Justin Warwick
FBES – Dr Lucy Obolensky FBES – Major General
Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO CBE FBES – Nigel Harling
FBES – Pen Hadow FBES – Dr Peter Allison FBES –
Lieutenant General Peter Pearson CB CBE FBES –
Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE FBES – Teddy Watson FBES –
Tori James FBES

Our Development Board

Arabella Connell – Ben Saunders FBES –
Carlotta Newbury – Duncan Souster – Jon Slade –
Rahul Moodgal (Chair) – Stuart Denard – Tim Passingham



RECOGNISING INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Our annual awards are a key part of our celebration of the skills and wide-ranging contributions of our community. We have three awards.

For Leaders, we have the Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award and the Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair. Recipients are nominated and shortlisted by Leaders and members of the British Exploring Society team. Final awards are then decided by an external judging panel. In 2021 our judges were James Blake, the CEO of the Youth Hostelling Association UK, and David Williams, the CEO of ForwardEver.

For Young Explorers we have the Les Morgan Memorial Award. The Award is made on the recommendation of the expedition Chief Leader and judged by the CEO.

The Les Morgan Memorial Award

This is presented to a Young Explorer who has shown exceptional initiative or leadership in adverse circumstances on expedition.



SUNNY ELVY

Young Explorer, Landmark Scotland 1
Winner, Les Morgan Memorial Award 2021.

"Sunny Elvy played a pivotal role within the group. Even when she was cold, wet and tired she was able to sense when others needed something and acted on that sense with remarkable maturity. She is a natural, enthusiastic, knowledgeable leader, an excellent communicator with a kind and empathetic nature. Being recognised for this type of award would be wonderful recognition for someone who gives so much to others. I know she plans to go onto work with young people in the outdoors so this would also help her on that path. She's quite an amazing young woman!"

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award

This award identifies and celebrates consistent excellence in any area of Leadership, or recognises 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.



CLARE FITCHETT

Deputy Chief Leader & Medic, Landmark Scotland 1

Winner, Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award 2021

"Clare led amazingly from the first training weekend. When our Chief Leader was absent she worked incredibly hard to make the training useful for all of us. In the field, I found her unbelievably supportive, and she was brilliant at communicating information from SLT to our Fire staff. When we had a COVID19 positive case,

£135K

RAISED BY YOUNG EXPLORERS IN FUNDRAISING CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022

Clare acted entirely selflessly, offering to be the closest contact and do the majority of the treatment as the other medic had a heavily pregnant wife who we wanted to avoid infecting. Ultimately, Clare became infected which is very unfortunate, but she did not express any resentment or anger and she behaved safely and returned home. She was brilliant at supporting the Young Explorers in Landmark 1 and when speaking to her on the phone I found her very helpful."

Shortlisted Leaders

Dan Mazhindu

Chief Leader, Dangoor
Next Generation Scotland

Graham Johnston

Adventure Leader, Dangoor Next Generation Scotland & Hartz Scottish Explorers

Jennie Richardson

Deputy Chief Leader & Adventure Leader,
Hartz Scottish Explorers

Paul Batterbury

Chief Leader, Hartz Scottish Explorers

Sue Brown

Basecamp Manager, Landmark
Scottish Highlands

Susannah Cass

Knowledge Leader, Dangoor
Next Generation Scotland &
Hartz Scottish Explorers

Continued on the next page

600

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
COACHING SESSIONS COMPLETED
USING MY COMPASS IN 2022

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

This award recognises and rewards emerging talent, or identifies new, additional or more senior leadership actions on the part of a Leader who may have worked with us for some time. This year, we had two winners.



ALI WEAVER

Basecamp Manager, Hartz Scottish Explorers
Winner, Watson Emerging Leader of the Year
Award in memory of Jean Sinclair 2021

"Logistical genius, perpetually optimistic and a calm presence. Helped Young Explorers with their challenges through supportive conversations and actions."



RIANA MALLON

Knowledge Leader, Hartz Scottish Explorers
Winner, Watson Emerging Leader of the Year
Award in memory of Jean Sinclair 2021

"Enthusiastic and full of energy.
Fantastic leadership – supported
personal development and helped
Young Explorers find their creativity
through their Fire Journals."

Shortlisted Leaders

David Lee

Medic, Hartz Scottish Explorers

Mathew Scott

Knowledge Leader,
Landmark Scottish Highlands



The Stephenson Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service to youth expeditioning.

This year we were also delighted to present a one-of-a-kind award to Sir Martin Holdgate on behalf of the Young Explorers Trust. To celebrate a long and illustrious career, this award recognises Sir Martin's lifetime of service towards enabling and increasing young people's access to the outdoors. Here are but a few of the important roles he has held in which he enacted this change.

SIR MARTIN HOLDGATE

- Chairman of the British Schools Exploring Society for 10 years
- First Chairman of the Young Explorers' Trust
- Joint-Leader of the Gough Island Scientific Survey of 1955-56
- Led the Royal Society Expedition to Southern Chile in 1958-59
- Chief Biologist of the British Antarctic Survey 1961-66
- First Director of the central unit on Environmental Pollution
- Director General of the World Conservation Union, Geneva
- Member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Our Impact

Our Mission is to deliver exceptional learning through exploration with life-defining impact to an increasing number and diversity of young people.

- We create opportunities for Young Explorers from different backgrounds and with different experiences of adolescence on our programmes.
- We engage with under-served communities of young people through partnerships.
- Young Explorers do not pay for their place with us but fundraise towards the work of British Exploring Society, breaking down financial barriers to participation.
- The profile of Young Explorers varies for each programme. See 'Field Notes' on page 22 for details of the programmes we ran in 2022.

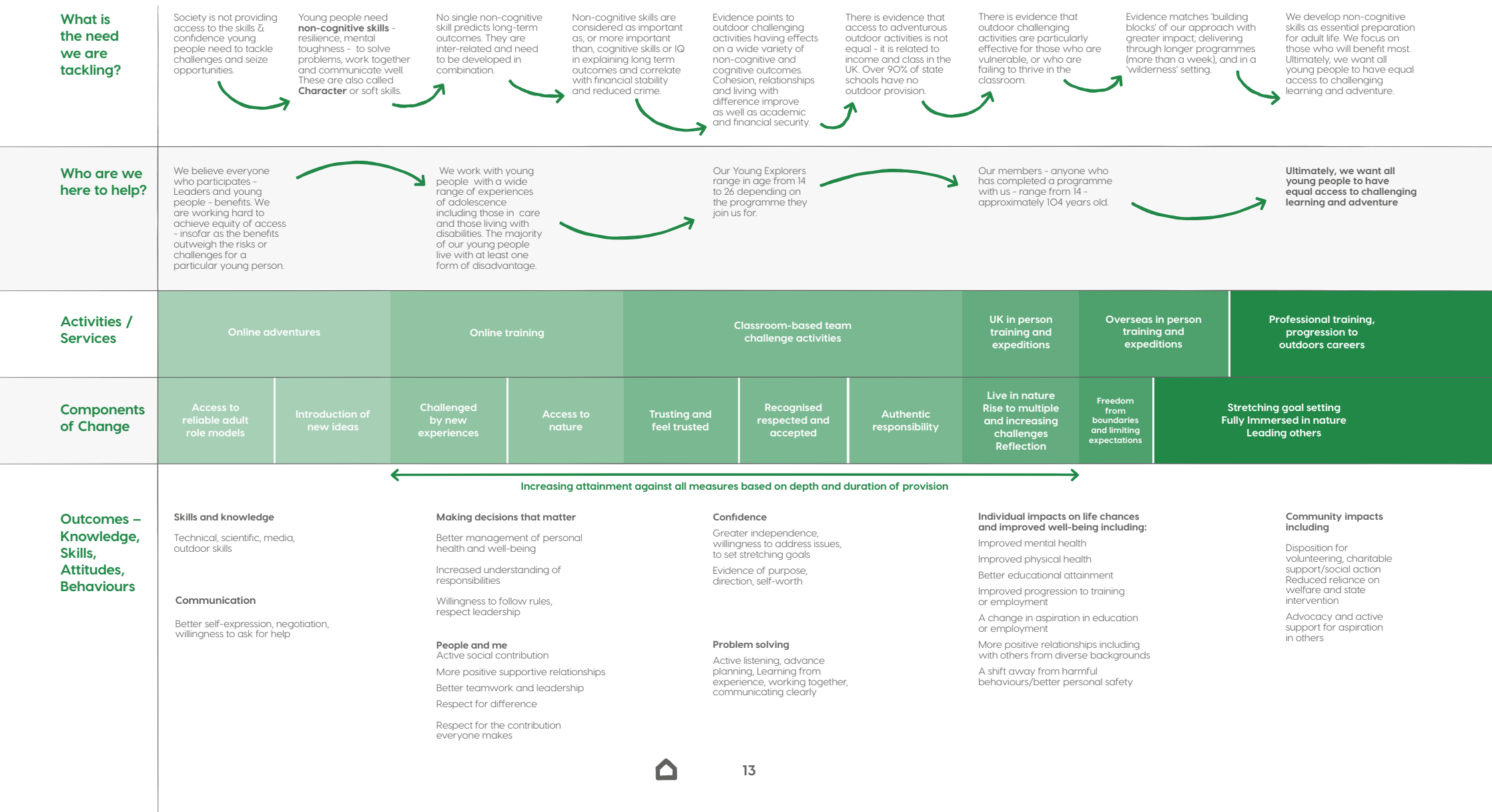
These pages show some of the ways in which we measure our success in meeting our aims.

- 729 young people have benefited from one or more activities with us this year – 478 participated in an Expedition Workshop, 199 joined an induction weekend, training event or/and an expedition; and 52 attended a Wildestan Adventure.
- 57% of Young Explorers who joined us on an expedition programme came through our partnerships and schools – 100% of young people on Dangoor Next Generation came through Catch22 and 85% of young people on UK Explorers Spring and Hartz Scottish Explorers 2 came through our partnerships.
- 56% of Young Explorers who joined an expedition have a total household income of less than £23,000 a year or they are a looked after child.
- 34 young people in care joined us on an expedition through our partnership with Outcomes First Group and Levenmouth Academy.
- Young Explorers raised £135,501.01 for British Exploring Society as part of their contribution and commitment.
- 24% Young Explorers declared that they had a disability or long term health condition – the four main areas are sensory impairment, physical impairment, mental health condition and learning disability / difficulty.

THEORY OF CHANGE

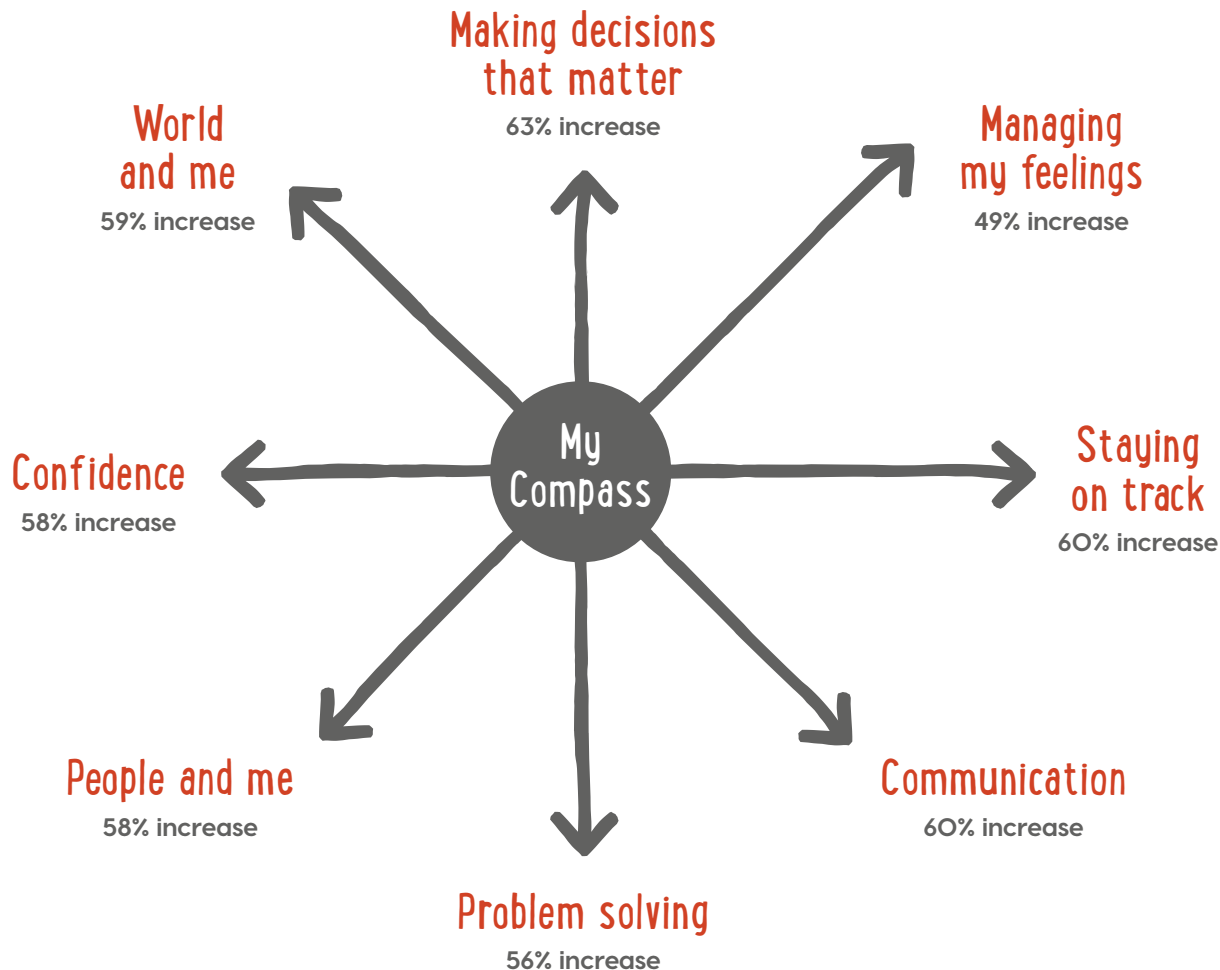
In a time of such pronounced flux and when we need to be most adaptable, it is critical for us to have a clear, consistent sense of who we are trying to help, how we help, what we are trying to achieve and the outcomes and impact we are seeking. Our Theory of Change model helps ensure that, however much our approaches to providing adventure and challenge must adapt – or where we choose to innovate, we remain consistent in our focus on the most desirable outcomes. Not everything

we do delivers equal intensity of impact, as the model below indicates, but all our programmes contribute to at least some of the outcomes identified throughout this report. By sense-checking our existing and potential new activities against this Theory of Change, we can stay on track with our strategy, our mission, and, ultimately, our vision. Of course, if the needs of young people change, this model may change.



OUR IMMEDIATE IMPACT

"My experience widened my horizons to the possibilities of the wilderness, changed my view of myself, and was in many ways a life-changing experience. I met a brilliant group of people that I hope will become lifelong friends, and we wouldn't have met without this expedition. I pushed myself physically and mentally (it was the longest I'd been away from home, my second time camping, and my first time flying) and I learned a lot, so in many ways I owe a great deal to the people that made my expedition special." – Young Explorer 2022



My Compass measures the degree to which young people have developed skills during their time with us and is used as a tool for reflective conversation with Leaders, encouraging Young Explorers to think about what they hope to learn with us to and to set goals for themselves. We use it to help us improve what we do. 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 Young Explorers and Leaders throughout our programmes. There are eight 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 Young Explorer to Young Explorer.

89.5% of Young Explorers experience increases in ability across one or multiple skill areas on average, including:

- 63% increase in Making decisions that matter
- 49% increase in Managing my feelings
- 60% increase in Staying on track
- 60% increase in Communication
- 56% increase in Problem solving
- 58% increase in People and me
- 58% increase in Confidence
- 59% increase in World and me

The Short Scale Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Health Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS) relates to a person's psychological functioning, life satisfaction and ability to develop and maintain mutually benefiting relationships. The aim of collecting data using the SWEMWBS is for us to measure the impact of our programmes on the well-being of young people who join us.

The results show that the biggest increases in confidence felt by Young Explorers were in how they felt about being useful and feeling close to people. This is a similar result to 2021 and is largely due to the nature of our expeditions.

A selection of Real-life Stories was collected to showcase the impact and benefits of our expeditions and brings to life each phase that a young person would experience in their own words – these can be found on our website britishexploring.org/join-us/testimonials/, and in some of the quotes throughout this report.

BELLE & VINCE

How we developed key skills for life

Young Explorers have the opportunity to develop key skills for life during their preparation, fundraising and while they are on expedition. Our Young Explorers are encouraged to take ownership and responsibility throughout their journey with us. We asked Belle and Vince to describe how they have developed two points on My compass on their journey with us.



BELLE

Confidence and communication

Hi, my name is Belle. I'm from Northumberland and I went on British Exploring Society's Hartz Scottish Explorers in 2021 and this year applied for the 5 week expedition to Yukon Canada. After going on both expeditions, what really amazes me is the amount my confidence and communication skills have improved.

From fundraising last year, I had already had the experience of getting donations. The only difference this year was that I needed to raise a lot more money. What I learned quickly was that I needed to communicate to people what I was participating in and be confident about it, something I'm not particularly good at. The main way I fundraised was by getting people to sponsor my walk along the Northumbrian Coastal Path, and I'll be honest,

I felt very out of my comfort zone. But I pushed past that anxiety and once you start telling people about what you're doing, they're usually happy to help.

It was when I was on my expedition that I really started to grow in confidence. Originally when I met my Fire at the training weekends, I was very shy and would shrink away from conversations. It sounds cliché, but it was the doubt that people wouldn't like me, when I'm myself. However, throughout my expedition my confidence just grew and grew, the one thing that really helped me grow was my team and knowing that they wanted to hear my opinion. It was the fact that my Fire was interested to hear what I had to say, no matter what it was about, and even if sometimes I felt like I needed to get away (or as far as you could go, when there are possible bears about) and recharge my social battery, I was always welcome to have that time and then be able to join right back in.

After, my expedition I have felt like I have become an overall more sociable person and sometimes I do need some time to myself, but I have become better at communicating to others how I feel and what I am thinking. I am now in my final year of school and next June I will be free... from school anyway. I am not sure what I am going to be doing (hopefully travelling), but the skills I have learnt from my expeditions, have helped me to learn and grow to be a more expressive person.

"It sounds cliché, but it was the doubt that people wouldn't like me, when I'm myself. However, throughout my expedition my confidence just grew and grew, the one thing that really helped me grow was my team and knowing that they wanted to hear my opinion..."

– Belle



VINCE

Confidence and the World and me

My name is Vince, and I went on the 5 week expedition to the Yukon, Canada.

The two main skills that I feel I have developed most throughout my journey with British Exploring Society would be confidence and understanding the impact that I have on the world and environment.

Signing up for an expedition with complete strangers sounds like a daunting experience for anyone, but there were preparation stages in which we were able to get to know each other; understand why we signed up and what our goals were for the expedition. The training stage was especially helpful, as we were able to build on our confidence as a group: learning our strengths and weaknesses, getting to know one another even more. As well as this, the leaders helped us understand the environment we were going to be in during our expedition and what is expected of us - leaving no trace. This was important for the location that we were going to as the Yukon is an untouched piece of territory. Leaving no trace was not just respectful but helped keep us safe from predatory wildlife - the bears.

I think that these skills are highly applicable to life outside of expedition. Exploring my comfort zone and having that space to grow with confidence has really helped me with moving to a new school. As well as this, it has made me be more conscious of the environment around me and how I can impact it.

OUR APPROACH

Working with young people from across the UK, and with Leaders from the UK and abroad, our expedition and adventure programmes online and in the wilderness 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 programmes provide a rare opportunity for learning. We are supported by scientists and media specialists who, like our Leaders who work in the outdoors or are medics, are unpaid professionals. Together they all support our young people to find ways to engage in each spectacular or unfamiliar environment and to understand and share their experiences. From cooking in the wild, basecamp management, communications technology, and water sampling, to star gazing, time-lapse photography and poetry - young people 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. We also help young people explore this wilderness close to home through Wildestan – our online ‘8th continent’ – when we cannot provide direct access to the wild. Wherever and however they gather together, our teams (young people and Leaders together) design their own adventures, agreeing between them what and where they want to explore. On our longer adventures, 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 way of learning 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 and Wildestan Experts provide Young Explorers and Adventurers 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 learning 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 on our programmes. They will help them identify their strengths, build on them, and work with them to set ambitious personal targets for the future.



Often, our approach is best explained by the Young Explorers themselves.

In the Canadian Yukon this year each Fire made a poster of their time on expedition. Their aim was to create a timeline of their journey with some knowledge and top tips for us to share with the young people taking part in next year's expedition. This particular poster is nearly 3 meters long.



EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS

Holly Burns, Senior Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator

Expedition Workshops are an interactive opportunity for young people to experience what it would be like to spend a day in the Amazon jungle. They get to learn about the environment, the risks and opportunities involved and the biodiversity of the plant and wildlife there. Like on expedition, our workshops enable young people to mix and work together with different peer groups that they might not normally interact with. Young people must work together as a team to plan effectively and overcome the challenges that the jungle might throw their way.

Often, young people feel that the outdoors is not for them. Expedition Workshops were developed to break down some of the barriers of accessibility in the outdoors, give young people the opportunity to make a more informed choice as to whether they would like to join an expedition and learn about the transferable skills that they can apply to different aspects of their life on their return.

With the lack of face-to-face engagement for young people during the COVID-19 lockdowns, it's even more important to offer these opportunities to our schools and partners. The feedback from our teachers and partners over the last year has been around the importance of students experiencing face to face workshops again, hearing first-hand about opportunities that they can get involved with as the world opens up and developing skills that

will help them towards a positive future. Over the past year, we have strengthened our skills development section of the workshop, with further emphasis on gaining and developing skills for life, sharing inspiring stories of what other Young Explorers have gone on to achieve and how going on an expedition with British Exploring Society could support a young person towards their future goals.

This year 478 young people participated and benefitted from an Expedition Workshop from schools and youth organisations in our focus areas of Scotland, North-East England, North-West England, the Midlands, and London. With recruitment for our 2023 expeditions now open, we have already been receiving applications from young people who attended Expedition Workshops earlier this year.

"During the Expedition Workshop I loved the views, it looked like a dream and seems even better at night – which is what I want to witness during my life...I found out how boring England is. I would change my life in a way and go out more on these types of adventures before I die."

– Student from The Long Eaton School, East-Midlands

478

**STUDENTS ATTENDED
EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS**



Photo provided by Prendergast School, showing an Expedition Workshop led by Holly in September 2022

WILDESTAN TEAM ADVENTURES

Daisy Bareham, Expeditions Manager

Following the success of our weekly Wildestan Adventures through May 2020 – May 2021, this year British Exploring Society recognised there was an appetite to continue providing a digital experience to young people. However, with restrictions lifting and young people returning to in-person provision, we also recognised the need to evolve this to reflect the shifting landscape. Wildestan: Team Adventures was developed, allowing us to further connect with our existing partnerships of youth organisations, schools and academies.

Wildestan: Team Adventures continued to meet young people where they are, providing them with digital access to British Exploring Society's inspirational Leaders and embedding our combination of Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development. With Young Adventurers being present with each other in the same space, this allowed more scope for the facilitation of team building and collaborative working, with discussions and interactive practical activities to be completed in small groups, using everyday items that are easy to access.

Exemplifying the depth and diversity of skill sets within our Leader community, Wildestan Experts delivered a diverse selection of content drawing on their own unique specialisms. Survival expert **James Dyer** talked through how to plan for the unexpected, teaching Young Adventurers how to makeshift a compass when in a pinch. Biologist **Susannah Cass** took Young Adventurers to explore a winter riverside woodland, looking at strategies to cope in cold seasons. A&E doctor **Samantha Dolan** walked Young Adventurers through a medical crisis in

the wild, demonstrating some common First Aid practices, and personal development coach **Sarah Bosworth** introduced concepts and theories about leadership.

Through Wildestan: Team Adventures, we have broadcast live across the country to classrooms in five different schools and one Scout group, in total reaching **52 Young Adventurers** in winter and spring.

Developing and delivering this alongside our six expedition programmes this year was no mean feat. In the next year we'll be taking a step back from Wildestan as we explore different recruitment pathways, to ensure that we're creating the best impact we can for young people.

57%
OF YOUNG EXPLORERS
WHO JOINED US
ON AN EXPEDITION
PROGRAMME CAME
THROUGH OUR
PARTNERSHIPS
AND SCHOOLS



A YOUNG EXPLORER'S JOURNEY

There are several important steps to a Young Explorer's journey with us. Throughout, we are always available to support them. From when they first express interest, to when they depart on expedition, right up to when they return and become a Member of British Exploring Society.

Each step can involve three to four different actions which need to be completed before the Young Explorer can progress. From beginning to end this helps them to develop responsibility, confidence, problem-solving initiative, and communication skills.

1. Application

The Young Explorer finds out about the opportunity and fills in the online application form.

2. The Young Explorer Chat

The Young Explorer has an initial conversation with the Engagement team; an opportunity for us to get to know each other and answer questions. For some, it's the first time they've ever spoken to a stranger on the phone.

4. Confirming Their Place

The Young Explorer officially accepts their place on the programme and their means-tested fundraising target. They make their first fundraising contribution, and their guardian provides consent for them to participate.

3. Supporting Documents

The Young Explorer provides us with important additional information which helps give a better sense of how we can support them on their journey. This includes the "Supporting You" (medical) Form, Character Reference, and Household Income declaration which helps us to give the young person a means tested fundraising target.

5. Fundraising Chat

The Young Explorer has a follow up phone call with the Engagement team to brainstorm ideas for fundraising and where they may need support in their preparation.

6. Fundraising

The Young Explorer puts their brainstorm into action and starts fundraising. Fundraising activities could include raffles, bake sales, part-time jobs and/or sponsored challenges.



7. Kit List and Support Chats

The Young Explorer begins sourcing personal kit for their expedition and has regular check-in support chats with the Engagement team.



11. Travel Essentials

The Young Explorer takes the necessary steps to ensure they can travel. Depending on the expedition, this can include a passport, a visa, and vaccinations.



8. Induction Weekend (UK and overseas programmes)

The Young Explorer attends their induction weekend, where they meet their Fire and Leaders in person for the first time.

15. 'Back to reality' and Reflection

Upon returning home, the Young Explorer returns to their 'normal' life and reflects on their experience. They are invited to write Real Life Stories for British Exploring Society and submit photos for the Young Explorer Photo Competition.

14. Expedition

The Young Explorer departs for their expedition either by train to Scotland or from a London airport. For some, this will be the first time they travel significantly far from home.



16. Next Steps

Three months after returning, the Young Explorer attends the Next Steps event and is reunited for the day with their Fire and Leaders. They celebrate and reflect together on how the expedition experience has changed their day-to-day life, and what they plan to do next. They also become a Member of British Exploring Society.

17. Find Your Path

With their Young Explorer journey complete, they go out into the world better equipped to make lasting positive decisions for themselves, their community, and the environment. As life-long Members, they will always be a part of British Exploring Society.



13. Final Preparations and Support Calls

The Young Explorer finalises their kit, fundraising and travel essentials, supported by regular follow up calls with the Engagement team.



10. Fitness and Mental Health

The Young Explorer receives their fitness and wellbeing pack and begins taking steps to mentally and physically prepare for life on expedition.

9. Medical 1-1

The Young Explorer has a 1-1 meeting with the expedition Medical Leader to discuss their medical history and what support they may or may not need on expedition.



FIELD NOTES

This table indicates the range, diversity and scale of activities undertaken in the UK and online between November 2021 and October 2022 in order to deliver our programmes and meet the needs of different groups of young people.

56%

OF YOUNG EXPLORERS WHO JOINED AN EXPEDITION HAVE A TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF LESS THAN £23,000 A YEAR OR THEY ARE A LOOKED AFTER CHILD.

UK Training

● Number of training days

	Chief Leader  Past BES expeditions	Leaders & Experts	 Young People (training)  Young People (expedition)	Trainee Leaders	Leader Induction	Leader Training	Explorer Induction	Explorer Training	Dates
Pinnacle Siberia	 Bruce Manning	4	9 9	N/A	● ● ●	●	● ● ●	-	22 Feb → 5 Mar
UK Spring Explorers	 Clare Fitchett	12	N/A 27	N/A	● ● ●	● ● ●	-	-	31 Mar → 16 Apr
DNG - Iceland	 Daniel Mazhindu	13	35 29	N/A	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	17 Jul → 17 Aug
Hartz Scottish Explorers (Part O1)	 Mark Downey	11	30 24	N/A	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	-	26 Jul → 7 Aug
Hartz Scottish Explorers (Part O2)	 Gaby Wood	10	33 26	N/A	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	-	9 Aug → 21 Aug
Kyrgyzstan	 Jennie Richardson	9	19 18	3	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	26 Jul → 31 Aug
Canadian Yukon	 James Dyer	19	45 38	3	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ● ●	22 Jul → 16 Aug
Wildestan	N/A	4	N/A 52	N/A	-	-	-	-	Various
Expedition Workshops	N/A	N/A	N/A 478	N/A	-	-	-	-	Various





New
Basecamp

PINNACLE SIBERIA

Chief Leader Bruce Manning

Pinnacle was originally planned for early 2021, though it was deferred a year due to the impact of Covid. The journey for Young Explorers began as far back as early 2020 - the next +1 year consisting of online sessions to maintain excitement and momentum, until the opportunity to meet up in person in North Wales. This was closely followed by training in Scotland.

Much of this centred on detailed preparation of clothing and equipment, however cold-water immersion training in Lock Morlich was a highlight - essential training should someone fall through a crack in the Baikal ice. Everyone was very positive and we all learned a huge amount about ourselves and others.

After much confusion at Heathrow, we finally boarded the plane to Moscow and departed with a sense that the adventure had finally begun. The plan was to fly to Moscow and then take the Trans Siberian Railway across Russia to Lake Baikal, the train journey being a greater distance than the aeroplane flight.

We arrived in Moscow to be greeted with two major pieces of information:

1. Our oversized baggage, with most of our essential safety equipment, had not been loaded onto the aeroplane.
2. Russian troops had just invaded Ukraine.

Regardless, and with contingency plans for (2) in place at least, we decided to press on, the whole team working together, supporting each other through a very uncertain experience. Despite the long, 5-day train journey, morale was high and it provided time to decompress, continue training and begin to absorb a little of the culture.

Arriving in Irkutsk, it was clear we would not get our missing equipment as Europe had imposed a ban on flights to Russia. Our Russian agent confirmed that little of the essential equipment we required could be sourced in Siberia. Given this and the political uncertainty, the decision was taken to curtail the expedition. Whilst we all regretted this decision, we were all in agreement.

Whilst planning our departure, we managed to see some of Irkutsk, pursue one-to-one personal development sessions, have a celebratory dinner in a traditional Siberian restaurant, and most importantly to visit Lake Baikal.

The whole group walked out onto the ice for an hour or so, looked down through the famous glass clear ice of the lake and experienced a little of the vastness of the surroundings. It was sad to come away realising that our dreams had been dashed, but yet again the team reacted well, accepting the inevitable. Maybe one day we can return.

The outcome of this expedition was clearly a huge disappointment to all, nevertheless it was also an amazing experience.

- We travelled on the Trans-Siberian Express.
- We were involved in World history in the making.
- We visited the largest body of fresh water in the world.
- We saw a remote country and another culture up close.
- We learned new skills, many of which can be used in every-day life.
- We bonded as a team and made new friends.

Was the Expedition a failure? Absolutely not. It was an experience which will remain with everyone for the rest of our lives.

BY TRAVELLING 5000KM ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY FROM MOSCOW TO IRKUTSK, THE YOUNG EXPLORERS PASSED THROUGH 6 TIME ZONES. THIS REDUCED THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OUR OUTBOUND JOURNEY FROM LONDON BY

60%*

* We produced 7.6 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) less than we would have done by flying the entire way.





UK SPRING EXPLORERS



Chief Leader Clare Fitchett

I'm stood in a small field in Fort William – it's the last day of the 2-week UK Spring Explorers Expedition and the atmosphere within Base Camp is electrifying as I listen to the young people recall their experiences over the expedition. In the middle of the campsite is the start of a campfire which will have everyone around it soon enough as we all come together to celebrate the huge success of the expedition.

"British Exploring Society has provided me with the opportunity to pursue my passions and become a more well-rounded individual before entering adulthood. From my expedition, I learnt to take more opportunities that are given to me and, from travelling up to Scotland alone, I feel more confident in what I am capable of."

– Percy, Young Explorer

I'm reflecting on the courage and determination of the young people who have spent the last two weeks on expedition. It's been very cold at times, down to -2°C and also very wet due to the unpredictable Scottish weather. The young people were not able to attend the training weekend prior to the expedition due to the storms and extreme weather warnings. This meant that for some it was a huge learning curve when they arrived in base camp on a dark, cold and wet night, but one they took in their stride. Keen to learn, the first few days were spent in base camp learning skills such as cooking in the wild, how to put tents up and first aid.

Enthused by their new skills, the Fires then left base camp to explore the Scottish Highlands and all it had to offer. Supporting them along their journey during resupplies, it was a joy to see friendships forged, confidence improve and the realisation that they are far more capable than they think they are – especially when they all work together as a team. There were times when some of the Fires had to deal with difficult situations – I was extremely proud of how the young people dealt with this.

Throughout the expedition, the leadership team went above and beyond to support the young people – inspiring, determined and always smiling they made it all happen and it was a huge privilege to support the team as the Chief Leader. Back in London, the wider British Exploring Society team supported us throughout the expedition. Without them all, the expedition would not have been the success it was.

A huge well done to everyone on the UK Spring Explorer programme – you should be very proud of yourselves.

DANGOOR NEXT GENERATION ICELAND

Chief Leader Dan Mazhindu

Iceland is a beautiful country; there is no denying that and it is probably something universally known. However, it is also a tough and challenging environment which can test anyone when you are in its wilderness. This year was very tough for our Young Explorers at times, and they dealt with these challenges with great courage.

Going on expedition is hard enough at the best of times, however when it is your first time out of the country and the first time you have properly wild camped, it is even tougher. On top of this, I think that everyone on the expedition was aware that this felt different post-pandemic. We all had additional anxieties, we all had concerns and we all had insecurities which we were worried about. All the Dangoor Next Generation Young Explorers (and Leaders!) on this year's trip dealt with these amazingly. I couldn't be prouder of them all.

2022 saw the coldest summer in Iceland this century. We had extensive snow on the mountain and volcano tops in July, which when combined with increased local seismic activity meant that we had to be extra careful on our route choices and objectives. It was a disappointment, but I had to inform all the Fires that they were not to explore the Askja volcano, due to the conditions being too dangerous. We had streams intended for water supply disappear, due to them freezing at high altitude. We had winds so strong that at times you felt like you might end up like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz and be blown away to Kansas! Many days and nights, we would go to bed and wake up with ice on our tents. This is an environment that takes no prisoners.

It is important to remember that no matter what your role is on an expedition, at some point we all will hit a wall. This is the biggest challenge we encounter when on expedition. This might be due to tiredness, hunger, coldness, homesickness, reduced resilience, or any other number of reasons. The only guarantee is that it will happen, and how you cope and smash through this wall demonstrates the courage that everyone showed. Through building up personal resilience, having the bravery to discuss the issues with others, being a friend to someone struggling or sharing a Mars Bar and warm drink, we all got through it and are stronger for it.

Challenging experiences make leaders, they make survivors, and they make individuals who are resilient and understand teamwork. I will say it again, I truly couldn't be prouder of everyone on the 2022 Dangoor Next Generation expedition, they are all heroes and proved they had the courage to tackle any challenge.

"I have become far less wasteful after expedition; on expedition we used the bare minimum of everything and took great care to 'leave no trace', which I have adapted to life back home and encouraged others to do the same."

– Eleanor, Young Explorer



**catch
22**

**DANGOOR
EDUCATION**





CANADIAN YUKON

Chief Leader James Dyer

Challenge and Courage are at the heart of the experiential nature of educational expeditions, the chance to set bold objectives related to the Core themes of Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development is crucial to the success of any British Exploring Society expedition.

This year's Canadian Yukon expedition was no different.

A group of young people and Leaders from incredibly diverse backgrounds joined the expedition for the first time in April 2022. After a few years of personal and societal challenges this group came together to set themselves new challenges, to delve deeply into their personal character, to travel a long way from home and the usual support structures and immerse themselves in the epic landscape of the historic Yukon.

There were personal challenges, team challenges, environmental challenges, emotional challenges, weather and physical challenges. These affected every member of the team as they explored deep into the forests and mountains, across rivers or canoeing up a lake carrying all their food and equipment,

learning about the wildlife, occasionally spotting the more elusive beasts of the Yukon, while being plagued by the smallest beast: the mosquito!

Through it all the teams kept their focus, their humour, developed their understanding and camaraderie, built friendships and support within their teams and pushed forward to plan their missions, identifying their goals and aims and taking responsibility to make it happen.

As the expedition rolled on into its final phases, those young people who remained in the 5 week group after the departure of their 3 week friends, faced yet another challenge: In the last phase the teams had planned an epic 6-7-day circumnavigation of the cottonwood trail. Having left base camp full of ambition and enthusiasm, the teams were informed by rangers that they couldn't complete the route due to some issues in the national park. At this point the team might have just returned to base camp, tails between legs, with a whimper! After 4 weeks on expedition who could have blamed them, they wanted a rest. But instead, they chose to dig deep and make a new plan to maximise their

186

KLUANE NATIONAL PARK PERMITS ISSUED

6,840km

WALKED BY YOUNG EXPLORERS
IN THE CANADIAN YUKON

time in the wilderness. This took courage, not only on the behalf of the individuals but also as a group. The Fires created new plans and extended their time in the field, spending the last few days viewing bears, beavers, amazing sunsets and endeavouring to achieve right up to the end of their time in-country.

This was just one example of the courageous nature of the Yukon Young Explorers. Throughout the expedition, by developing their positive mindset, by pulling on their heavy rucksack for another day on the trail, by motivating each other though they were all tired, they displayed their courage, and realised that they COULD do things, big things, and once back in the comfort of base camp they could reflect and realise how BIG those things were.

"Growing up in a city has meant that I haven't spent much time connected to nature before, let alone Snowdonia and the wilderness of the Yukon, so I'm making the most of every opportunity. Being on top of a mountain with my Fire for the first time, however small the mountain actually was, felt like a huge achievement." – Izzy, Young Explorer



HARTZ SCOTTISH EXPLORERS

Chief Leaders Mark Downey and Gaby Wood

The challenges that arose preparing for the Hartz 2022 expedition were significant. COVID continued to prevent both our Leaders and Young Explorers from attending training events. Our Leaders and Young Explorers showed an incredible level of adaptability, and its thanks to this that those pre-expedition challenges were overcome. Challenge was also to be true of the expedition itself and we are extremely grateful for the good-natured flexibility of our Leadership team.

On arrival at base camp, on the banks of Loch Tay, Young Explorers and Leaders alike continued the process of building their expedition community that had started some weeks before in Staffordshire. The Young Explorers were from a wide range of backgrounds and quickly set about the challenge of making new relationships and coming together in their Fires. Some confident, others not, but all displayed courage in pulling together and achieving the tasks set before them. Whether trekking on the mountain, paddling on the Loch or exploring the local area in detail, much was learned of each other and of themselves.

Over the expedition a knowledge phase took place for each Fire in and around basecamp. It was during this time that we were able to marvel at the vast array of interests that our Young Explorers have. From photography to bee keeping and everything in between. These individual interests and passions bring a richness to expedition life. This then ensures the expedition experience lives long in our memories and enriches the lives of all who take part, both Young Explorers and Leaders alike.

Expeditions create the time and space for Young Explorers to share their interests and be a little more of who they want to be. This takes immense courage, and it is a pleasure to watch it take place.

Thank you to all those who took part in the expedition and to all those who helped make it possible, not least the Hartz family, without whose generous donation this challenging opportunity would not be available to these Young Explorers.

"After the expedition I really do feel that I have a greater sense of self-confidence. The expedition has made me happy with who I am and confirmed the journey I want to embark on. I felt as though I could see my goals more clearly making me want to go on more expeditions in the future. On top of this I am even engaged in geographical dilemmas facing the world, which has made me more motivated to succeed in my studies and pursue a Geography degree. I would also like to highlight the role of the excellent leaders and my fellow campmates for all the great conversations that helped me build these insights."

– Nye, Young Explorer

3

**BEAVERS SHARED A BASECAMP WITH
US ON THE SHORES OF LOCH TAY**



KYRGYZSTAN

Chief Leader Jennie Richardson

When considering the themes of challenge and courage on expedition, the physical and environmental challenges are often the first things that come to mind. Heading up a mountain, to altitudes higher than you have ever been, pushing through tiredness and worries that you might not be strong or fit enough but finding the strength within and from your team to make it. Sleeping through storms in small tents, dealing with a whole range of weather, braving the cold river water to wash. A special mention has to go to the strength of spirit the teams showed, helping to hold down or dismantle base camp tents when unusually high winds for the area flattened them for the second and third times.

One of the challenges everyone talks about from any expedition is the food which, however good, on a longer trip is always going to start getting a bit repetitive but the Kyrgyzstan 22 teams dealt with this with humour and creativity. With food labels being in 'Kyrgyz' or Russian I would like to personally commend anyone who has the courage to try the tins of 'mystery meat'. I have never before this summer had a functional pizza oven built at base camp, designed and created entirely by Young Explorers using materials found locally. Teams got inventive making various meals as different as possible with our limited supplies, baking and creating.

The team faced and embraced all these practical and environmental challenges, building on their experience and heading out further and higher as time went on, but one of the benefits of longer (five weeks in our case) expeditions is that within the supportive environment of a Fire team there is opportunity to be yourself and to really challenge your own role within the team.

Perhaps this was letting people find out a bit more about 'the real you' than you normally feel comfortable with at school or college, trying things you fear you might not be good at or being

creative. We watched people who thought they were not artistic giving watercolours a go with great results, others building the confidence to share creative writing or braving being in front of the camera for a media project. Young Explorers embraced the challenge of making connections with the local Kyrgyz nomadic herders camped nearby, with no common language but giving it a go with smiles and gestures or using the few words learned. Questions were asked, independent science projects set up, curiosity embraced and encouraged.

One of the biggest challenges of these expeditions will always be turning strangers into trusted friends. The Young Explorers and Leaders created a team, a vibe and a place where people could grow by having the courage to share themselves.

"Through finding out and joining in with Wildestan I found out that I was old enough to join in an expedition. I applied and was so happy, extremely grateful and honoured when I got that email saying basically 'welcome to the team'. I'm sure this opportunity is going to be life changing" – Evan, Young Explorer

(Evan first found us through our Wildestan programme in 2020. With growing courage he has taken on bigger and bigger challenges, by joining our Hartz Scottish Explorers expedition and then our 2022 Kyrgyzstan expedition as well. His journey has only just begun.)

115

**EXPEDITION FLATBREADS
MADE IN KYRGYZSTAN**



New
Basecamp





LEADER IMPACT STORY

**Social Leader Keira Lockie,
Canadian Yukon 2022**

British Exploring Society offers a unique opportunity for folk to help young people experience and get inspired by the natural world, as well as connect and want to protect it. Personally, the outdoors has given me so much for my own mental and physical wellbeing. Building that connection with nature is really what got me into environmentalism, and I wanted to encourage more people to connect with nature in the same way. My career path has taken me down all sorts of different avenues; as a Social Leader on expedition, I was able to combine and hone that portfolio of experience and channel it into one thing with clear impact, and have fun along the way.

But being on expedition isn't without its challenges. There was one moment towards the end of the expedition after a couple of very rainy days when my boots got singed while drying next to a campfire. Normally this wouldn't have bothered me but as a Fire we had all gone through a lot leading up to that moment, and I was feeling tired, so I took myself aside for a few minutes to sew up my shoes and have a breather. What happened next is actually one of my favourite memories and made me proud to be a Leader.

At the very start of the expedition, I had led an exercise with my Fire about coping strategies when dealing with stress or feeling upset. At the time I mentioned to the Young Explorers that when I'm down what I really need is a cup of tea. So, when my shoes were burnt and I took myself off to the side, I had three different Young Explorers come up to me independently and offer me a cup of tea. It was so nice to know that they had remembered that activity and took it upon themselves to support me when I needed it. We really were all part of a team.

Seeing the Young Explorers form their friendships, open up to each other and build their independence was incredibly rewarding. Being in each other's company all day, every day, in the middle of nowhere without easy distractions... It can be an intense experience, but that also means you can get a lot out of it. It's a privilege to facilitate that process and ensure positive and authentic connections are a key part of the culture for Young Explorers while on expedition. This kind of impact is hard to replicate in day-to-day environments like in a classroom, and that's what is so unique about what British Exploring Society does.

11,538

**CUPS OF TEA BREWED
ON EXPEDITION**

**"I had three different
Young Explorers come up
to me independently and
offer me a cup of tea."**



39

OF OUR LEADERS IN 2022 HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY LED
ON ONE OR MORE EXPEDITIONS WITH US IN THE PAST

29 YEARS OF IMPACT

Svalbard 1993

Aran Jess (who also Lead for us in Greenland 2006) re-connected recently and mentioned that he'd been speaking with several members of his Fire during lockdown. We asked if they'd like to share their memories of Svalbard and its impact on them – and here's what they kindly shared with us.

Aran Jess

Probably the most valuable thing I brought home was a realisation that life near the bone really is where it is sweetest.

With no other entertainment for 1000s of miles, long days of reindeer spotting passed pleasantly thanks to generous helpings of comedy. We were a merry band who found a bright side in almost everything. I now know that being able to find humour in the face of hardship is a hallmark of a strongly bonded team, and I feel fortunate to have been part of one at such a formative age. This bond has kept most of the Fire, loosely, in touch over the last 29 years. The oddness of recent times (plus WhatsApp) has burnished our links. They are friends I hold dear, rooted in a shared discovery of a hard but magnificent wilderness. These friends have been a calming touchstone that transports me back to a simpler, more mindful time when life was stripped back to toil, food and laughter; to the joy of community and a shared meal; to little wins like triumphantly finding your lost spoon.

Louise Savic

I realised recently that what Svalbard did was to make me braver, in ways other than necessarily the purely physical. It made me less afraid to be myself, and a bit better at not feeling restricted by self-imposed limits on what I think I can do.

Svalbard is something by which all other big life events have been measured. I remember the general feeling of hugely intense emotions and being truly part of something in a way I hadn't before. There are specific moments I remember, like having a peaceful moment on the side of a mountain and just feeling completely at one with nature or sitting in a tent with a swarm of mosquitoes hitting the sides sounding like hail. I have never really got over that wrench of leaving everyone. Getting back in touch during the pandemic was amazing. It feels like those bonds are always there, no matter what.

I hold onto a few possessions from that trip and when I look at them it always makes me smile.

Tom Shaw

It has taken time to realise all that happened, and to feel the effects, but it is there – I'm more adventurous, more willing than ever to try physical challenges. I've become more aware of the good bits of my character, and I've worked on the less good –

and all of that began over the summer of 1993. Svalbard is part of me I suppose.

The most important thing that remains are the incredible bonds and friendships that were hammered out – When messages appear or emails, or talk of reunions or the odd picture, I pretty much drop everything. It terrifies me that we may never meet up again, it's a beautiful painful feeling, vivid. The last time we all met already feels like a long long time ago – seeing Mark last spring was a joyful moment. So here's to the Reindeer Fire!



"These friends have been a calming touchstone that transports me back to a simpler, more mindful time when life was stripped back to toil, food and laughter; to the joy of community and a shared meal; to little wins like triumphantly finding your lost spoon."

Edward Curtis

I needed to stop and think. The expedition helped me have some breathing space to decide that going back to education was probably a good idea.

I had dropped out of school aged 17 as I could not see the point in continuing with an education that didn't seem to fulfil my needs. I had no idea what those needs were! I needed to do something and the expedition offered an opportunity to fill seven weeks with something active and different. I had no real desire to go camping, skiing, climbing or counting Reindeer! To this day, I work hard to avoid those activities. Two years later I gained my BTEC National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science. I tried Uni a few times, but it just didn't suit me. By this stage I really had Watersports under my skin and had pretty much decided to make a career of it.

Interestingly my 'A star' 16 year old son has decided that A levels are not for him. I firmly believe that my experience aged 17/18 has helped me better understand and feel comfortable with his decision to make 'different' choices.

Crispin Angood

I came away a more confident, assured person, happier to face uncertainty without knowing everything will necessarily be alright on the other side.

The re-kindling of our friendship group during the pandemic provided a reassuring haven of understanding that takes me back to a time when character was formed.

My 7 weeks in Svalbard changed me for the better. Immediately when we got back from the expedition I found out I didn't get the grades in my A-levels to go to medical school as planned. Still flying on the high of my recent experience I somehow confidently changed track – one I am happily still on now running my own engineering consultancy in mid-Wales. Svalbard left me with a deep appreciation for the environment we live in and it is a privilege to pass that on to my children.

Kate Towse

The depth of connection and friendship has impacted me throughout my life. I think all these learned skills affected my choices in my first career as a social worker.

Whenever I talk to people about Svalbard they always want to know about the wilderness. But it was the people that left the most lasting impression. Seven short weeks of such intensity of emotion, highs and inevitable but resolvable lows, challenges, laughs, UN level negotiation and teamwork. If you can work through long drop digging rotas, smelly tent mates and attempts to make camp food palatable you can negotiate anything. The bonds we forged have a special part of my heart and one of the joys of social media has meant we could keep in touch. Perhaps it was the intensity of the shared experience, or the fact we were kindred spirits in search of adventure. Whatever the reason, I am forever grateful for my Fire.



Photo taken by Aran Jess when he returned to Lead for us on expedition in Greenland, 2006



A selection of photos and memories posted to our 90th Anniversary Members board.

1 Arctic Norway 1989

"Toria was incredibly clever at capturing the character of everyone in our fire"
– Marianne

2 Landmark, Scotland 2021

"The joy, friendship and strong bond shared by us all was what made our expedition so successful after 18 months of isolation and confinement." – Flora

3 Arctic Sweden 1966

"Relaxing after having had to move Base Camp due to a rearranged Reindeer Roundup" – Stephen

4 Svalbard 1987

5 Arctic Norway 1989

"The beginning of the journey to becoming Membership Officer" – Abigail

6 Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

"Smiles all around. Making it to the top of Creag Pitridh 924m. A first Munro for most of us." – Riana

7 Svalbard 1990

"It gave me a sense of the scale of the world." – Marvin, our President

8 South East Iceland 1978

"Base camp, Heinabergsjokull 1978" – Simon

9 Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

"One of my favourite photos from expedition that perfectly captures how on expedition you make friendships that will last a lifetime and create unforgettable memories" – Amy



MEMBERSHIP

Abigail Huntington, Membership Officer

This year, our Members have been celebrating 90 years of membership by continuing to Connect, Celebrate and Contribute.

An increasing number of Members are making the effort to re-connect and engage with us, with other Members and with our wider community. As always, our Members have been enthusiastic about celebrating their expedition experiences, by sharing their memories and stories and by reflecting on the lasting impact that their expedition has had on their lives. Our Members continue to be supportive and thoughtful advocates, and have contributed to our work in a wide variety of ways, throughout the year.

Engagement with our archive

From an immaculate album of photos (taken on our first expedition in 1932) and personal diaries, to expedition knives, rucksack frames and unopened tins of pemmican (see page 34 for an explanation of what this is), our Members continue to surprise us with the mementoes they have kept over the years and are subsequently donating to our archive. We have regular requests from Members wishing to access the archive, so that they can revisit, celebrate, and share their expedition memories, and for the first time, we were able to offer an inspirational, hands-on introduction to our archive to a new generation of Explorers, at our Next Steps event.

Annual Celebration Evening

Members from all over the world were eager to contribute their thoughts on important topics (including expedition food, personal hygiene,

memorable moments, and advice to their younger selves) for a celebratory compilation video that was shown at our annual Celebration Evening. In addition, Members of expeditions from 1965 to 2021 participated in our Member panel which showcased the immediate change the expedition experience had on them, the subsequent impact on the rest of their life, and how they feel about being a Member of British Exploring Society today.

90th Anniversary Celebration

As part of our 90th birthday, we invited our Members to get involved with a range of anniversary challenges. These included spending 90 minutes re-connecting with other Members, raising or donating £90, and contributing their expedition memories to an online bulletin board. The bulletin board proved very popular, with Members of all ages sharing photos, drawings, poems, maps and comments in a central forum.

The Campfire

The ongoing contributions of our Members have enabled us to produce four further editions of our electronic Members' magazine The Campfire this year. Written by our Members for our Members, each edition of The Campfire encapsulates and reflects our unique community – its interests, its experiences, its history and its values.

We would like to thank everyone who has generously given their time, got involved and contributed to our work and community this year.





Photo taken of Young Explorers at our Next Steps event held at Senate House in November. Like us, Senate House was also celebrating it's 90th year in 2022.

BRINGING OUR HISTORY TO LIFE

Laura Luca, Archivist

The story of British Exploring Society is made up of the thousands of inspiring personal journeys from within our community, told through film, photographs, expedition reports, and diaries. These, amongst other things, have been collected and preserved in our archive through much of the charity's 90-year history.

The result is an incredibly rich resource which documents changes in our environment, society, exploration, and most importantly the remarkable achievements of young people.

Joining British Exploring Society as its Archivist, I follow in the footsteps of the tireless work of past archive team members. I feel very lucky and excited to carve my own path to preserving and sharing this resource with our community.

First steps

To kick-start the journey towards an energising and inclusive archive service, we hosted the archive's first hands-on experience at this year's Next Steps event.

One of our wonderful Members, Frank Esson, recently donated to the archive an unopened tin of pemmican (a high calorie mix of dried meat mixed to a paste with melted fat and sometimes other ingredients, used to make a stew with biscuits on expeditions) a biscuit tin, and the star of the show, an aluminium backpack rack. These were all from his British Exploring Society expedition to Labrador in 1958.

We took these, along with a stove from 1981, to this year's Next Steps event and allowed Leaders and Young Explorers to handle the items. It was heart-warming to see Leaders reminiscing on early

expedition experiences, and to see young people engage with the heritage they are now very much a part of.

One Young Explorer, Grace, writes of her experience of connecting with the archive items of past expeditions:

"I think it shows the resilience and the ability of us as people to change the way we do things and keep rooting for those easier solutions to challenges we are presented with..."

Post-pandemic, as we step into another challenging chapter as a society, it's important to remember this message of resilience. Archives have the power to connect us with important messages and provide perspective to our own experiences, and I look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities.



An eager Young Explorer adjusting his backpack rack on the 1958 expedition to Labrador.



Frank Esson, posing in his expedition gear two weeks before setting off for Labrador in 1958.

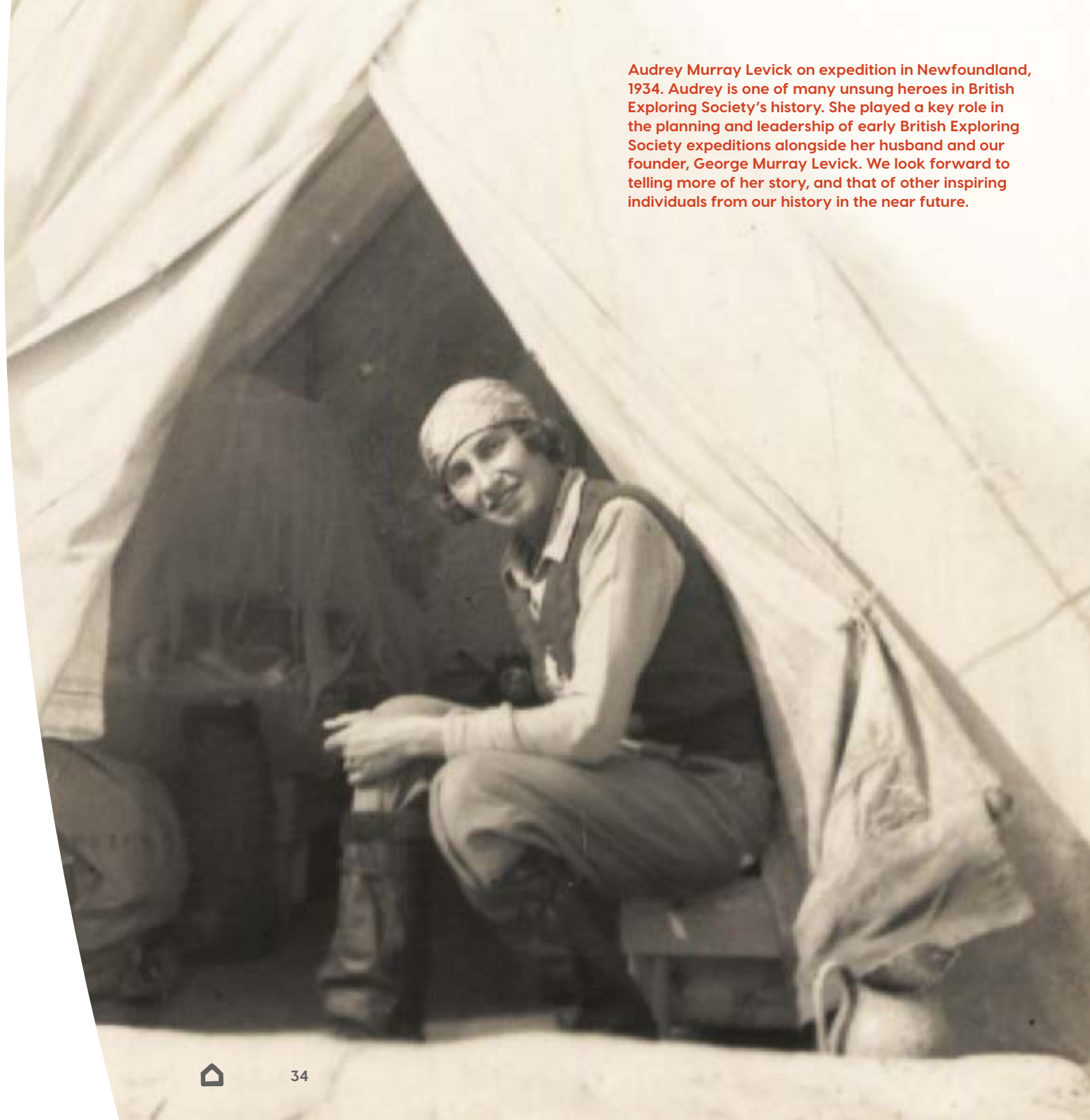
The future

I hope the archive event at this year's Next Steps event has set the scene for what our community can expect from the archive. The main aim is to create innovative and community orientated paths to meaningful exploration of our shared heritage, and to inspire purposeful thinking and research.

To support this, the 100+ boxes of physical archive material will be re-packaged, stored, and described according to industry standards. This will ensure that it survives for a further century. Our digital material will also be safeguarded to ensure the same.

In addition, the archive will continue to collect material which illustrates our activities into the next century, and engage with our growing and changing community as we have done for so many years through our day to day work, events, and enquiry service.

This will be a large and challenging job, but as with all adventure, I have no doubt it will be incredibly rewarding.



Audrey Murray Levick on expedition in Newfoundland, 1934. Audrey is one of many unsung heroes in British Exploring Society's history. She played a key role in the planning and leadership of early British Exploring Society expeditions alongside her husband and our founder, George Murray Levick. We look forward to telling more of her story, and that of other inspiring individuals from our history in the near future.

OUR FINANCIALS

Excerpts from the Annual Report of Council

President

Marvin Rees

Members of our Council

Ian Maginnis (Chair)

David Tilston (Treasurer)

Susan Redshaw

Jane Park-Weir (resigned September 2022)

Rahul Moodgal

Carolyn Young

Patrick Van Daele (retired April 22)

David Bartles-Smith (resigned November 21)

Mark Fawcett (appointed April 22)

Tim Passingham (appointed April 22)

Jim Hopkinson (appointed April 22)

David Wells (appointed April 22)

Dr Claire Royston (appointed April 22)

An introduction from our Chair, Ian Maginnis

2022 was our 90th anniversary year, and we had many reasons to celebrate. Most pleasing was the fact that, for the first time since 2019, and the Covid pandemic, we were able to run overseas expeditions. Our expeditions and programmes delivered great outcomes with young people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Our strategic partners, who help us recruit and support young people, and the fact we offer fully funded places, mean we have made it easier for young people from all backgrounds to join us. Young Explorers reported improvements in their life-skills and mental well-being, and gave us highly positive feedback. Particularly encouraging was the fact that Young Explorers raised over £130,000 for British Exploring Society, while developing skills in fundraising and managing money at the same time.

Over 223 Young Explorers, parents and carers, and volunteer leaders recently joined us for 'Next Steps': the culmination of a successful season.

Next Steps is a unique part of what we do, where Young Explorers reflect on their expedition experiences and plan for the future, and where we welcome them into our British Exploring Society community as Members.

During the year, we made good progress on 'A Wild Future', our new strategy. A key part of A Wild Future is inclusivity: how we welcome and involve our people.

Environmental sustainability is another important part of A Wild Future. This year we developed a carbon plan. It lays out how we can continue to deliver high quality expeditions to wild locations but reduce our carbon emissions at the same time.

Everyone in the British Exploring Society community knows about the great things we do, but it is frustrating that there is not greater awareness of us outside our community. This year we were able to increase our public profile. Most notable were full page colour adverts in the Financial Times and being given a BBC Radio 4 charity appeal slot with one of our Members, Andy Serkis, making the appeal for us.

Despite these successes, 2022 was not an easy year. The worlds of outdoor education and international travel are not back to normal after the pandemic, making planning and delivering expeditions extremely challenging; inflation has put significant pressure on our costs; and a slowing economy has made fundraising more difficult. I'm proud that everyone in the British Exploring Society community – our staff, our donors and supporters, our partners, and our volunteer Leaders – stepped up to make great things happen in 2022. On behalf of Council, I want to thank everyone in our community for what you do: Without your hard work and support, none of this would be possible.

Delivering on our strategy A Wild Future 2022/2032

A commitment to sustainability with our people, in our programmes and to our planet

In A Wild Future we made a commitment to report on our greenhouse gas emissions, and to share our progress in becoming a more sustainable organization in our annual report.

Our overall carbon footprint which includes office costs and programmatic activities for 2021 is estimated at 60.5t CO₂e. In this year, all our expedition activities were in the UK. We will report in full on our 2022 emissions in next year's annual report. This is our first full year of UK and overseas programmes since 2019, pre-COVID.

- We have provided IEEM accredited carbon management training to 12 staff and Leaders and designated a member of staff to help us calculate and report on our carbon management effectively;
- We aim to achieve a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from flights by 2032.
- We have purchased Pending Insurance Units* to offset our greenhouse gas emissions for 2020 and 2021.

*PIUs are carbon credits in mitigation of our carbon emissions as the units we have purchased on the site will accumulate over time to offset the emissions already incurred. Our PIUs will be available on the UK Land Carbon Registry and available for public scrutiny. We have sought high conservation/restoration value schemes where the projects are of genuine value to landowners, and with public access. We are working with ForestCarbon at their site at Hawkshaw on the Scottish Borders. They are planting native broadleaves and the scheme is supporting flood mitigation, improved water quality and wildlife. We hope to visit the site with young people as it matures.



OUR FINANCIALS

Programmes details for 2021/22

Pinnacle Siberia March 2022 February – March 2022

4 weeks overseas. 9 Young Explorers and 4 Leaders were recruited in 2020 and then took part in extensive engagement and on-line training sessions in preparation for our first expedition to Lake Baikal.

This programme – generously supported by Sandy and Zorica Glen, was repeatedly postponed by world events until February 2022. During the course of postponement we adapted plans to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and travelled by Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow to Irkutsk.

The programme was for snow and ice travel and camping and field science and a winter traverse across the frozen surface of Lake Baikal dealing with extreme low temperatures. The expedition was to be conducted on the frozen surface of the lake with minimal activity on the surrounding land.

UK Explorers Spring March – April 2022

2 weeks in Scotland. 27 Young Explorers and 13 Leaders. The training weekend for this programme had to be cancelled at very late notice due to severe weather warnings, and the expedition itself also faced very challenging weather. The programme was based at Insh Scout Camp in the Highlands, which is adjacent to the river Spean and is an open meadow surrounded by wooded areas.

Dangoor Next Generation Iceland July – August 2022

3 weeks overseas. 29 Young Explorers and 13 Leaders travelled to Iceland. We are very pleased to work in partnership with Catch22 to deliver this programme and remain indebted to the Dangoor family for their sustained support.

In 2021, we delivered this programme in Scotland to meet the restrictions imposed during COVID. Whilst very successful, we were pleased to return to Iceland in 2022.

The expedition provides trekking, including river crossings. We work in North East Iceland near Askja Volcano and surrounding lava fields, Sellandafjall Mountain, Alderjarfoss waterfall and the southern edge of Lake Myvatn. Base Camp is located adjacent to the Sudura River 3km from the nearest settlement – Svartarkot Farm – on whose land the team are based, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the landowners.

Kyrgyzstan 2022 July – August 2022

5 weeks overseas. 18 Young Explorers and 9 Leaders. High altitude trekking based in the Naryn region towards the south of Kyrgyzstan. Although generally temperate, weather can be changeable and the team had to expect snow patches especially nearer summits. Base Camp was in a valley situated at the Northern-Eastern end of the At-Bashi mountain range at an altitude of 2756 metres and the terrain included mountain ridges are steep terrain including grass plains, rock, scree, and potential for ice.

Canadian Yukon July – August 2022

3 week and 5 week programme overseas. 38 Young Explorers and 19 Leaders. Trekking and canoe-based river journeys of up to 3 days. The team used a base camp on privately owned land around Dezadeash Lake, situated approximately 50km south of Haines Junction. The team trekked in Kluane National Park and the surrounding area. The park is home to Canada's highest peak (5,959m Mount Logan) and its largest ice field. The entire area of the Yukon is home to abundant wildlife including black and grizzly bears.

Hartz Scottish Explorers 1 & 2 July – August 2022

Each 2 weeks in Scotland. 51 Young Explorers and 18 Leaders. Made possible by the invaluable support of the Hartz family. Hartz Scottish Explorers 2022 expeditions were delivered from a base camp in Ardtalnaig, on the banks of Loch Tay. Fires had the chance to participate in multi-day canoeing expeditions on the Loch where there are several small islands for exploration and trekking expeditions in the hills in the areas both on the North and South sides of Loch Tay.

Wildestan Adventures Various

3 adventures. 53 participants. We were trialling new approaches to embrace 'post-COVID' ways of working in 2022.

Expedition Workshops November 2021 – October 2022

478 young people attended. We worked in partnership with schools across England and Scotland and visited 7 locations. Lasting a full morning or afternoon, using 'real' resources from our expedition planning processes, we worked with Leaders to design active participation workshops for secondary schools.

Financial Review

Following a successful prior year, when the charity bolstered its reserves following the pandemic, the fund-raising environment became much more challenging. We have nevertheless received continuing support from our core donors and others because of the sterling work by our fundraising team. The Development Board has continued to raise significant sums and organised a major event to celebrate our 90th anniversary, with some funds received prior to the year and further contributions shortly afterwards.

British Exploring Society generated £1,351,103 of income (2021: £1,255,362). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £1,622,134 (2021: £1,176,344).

There was net deficit on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £271,031 (2021: £79,018). 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, measured in months. The target minimum is equal to 3 months of average operating costs. The Reserves target minimum will be calculated and agreed each year and will be included in regular financial reporting.

The current calculation of average monthly operating costs includes all recurring, predictable expenses such as salaries and benefits, occupancy, travel, programme delivery, and ongoing professional services.

At the 31 October 2022 reserves stood at approximately 2.7 months' worth of average operating costs. The 90th anniversary fund raising event shortly after the end of the financial year led to an increase in reserves such that had these additional funds raised been included in our accounts as of 31 October 2022 the Reserves would have stood above the minimum target Reserves level. Nevertheless, the Finance Committee and Council will remain focussed on the level of Reserves whilst the challenging fundraising environment persists.

OUR FINANCIALS

British Exploring Society Policies

Archive Management
Conflicts of Interest
Complaints Policy
Data & Privacy Protection
Environmental Policy
Ethical Fundraising and Partnerships
Ethical Expeditions Policy
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
Fellowship Policy
Finance Policy and Procedures
Health & Safety at Work
Membership Policy
Photography and Filming Policy
References Policy
Reserves Policy
Risk Management Policy
Safe Operations Policy
Safeguarding Policy
VIP Visits
Visitors Policy
Whistleblowing Policy
Take Down Policy

Statement of Public Benefit

The trustees have taken due note of their responsibilities, under the Charity Commission's guidance on 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.

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 and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. The Code of Fundraising Practice outlines the standards expected of all charitable fundraising organisations across the UK. Those standards were developed by the fundraising community through the work of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF) and the Fundraising Regulator. Council has overall accountability for fundraising standards at British Exploring Society. Any material issues that arise are reviewed by the Finance Committee in the first instance, before escalation to Council as appropriate.

We rely on fundraising received as:

- Restricted and unrestricted donations from Individuals or members;
- Corporate donations;
- Sponsorship;
- Legacy or donating in memory;
- Trusts and Foundation giving.

Our fundraising activities are delivered by our in-house fundraising team, who are obliged to observe our policies and the highest standards in fundraising.

We received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities in the 2021/22 financial year. Finance Committee had no cause to review any non-compliance with any area of fund-raising activity.

Our work brings us into regular contact with young people between the ages of 14 and 26, some of whom may be particularly vulnerable. We work and fundraise alongside our community of members, families and carers, schools and public institutions, other charities, and local communities. British Exploring Society is committed, and recognises that it has an obligation, to always protect those in vulnerable circumstances. Should we ever suspect that someone we engage with through our fundraising activity is lacking capacity or is in vulnerable circumstances, we will take steps to terminate any contract or commitment in a way which seeks to protect that person and their dignity, having due regard for any desire they have expressed to support British Exploring Society.

Independent Auditor's report

On 9 February 2023 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 2022.

Stephen Tanner BSc(Econ) FCA,
Senior Statutory Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP, Statutory Auditor

Our full current and previous financial statements and Annual Report are available on our website, on the Charity Commission website, from Companies House or by request to info@britishexploring.org.



Income	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2022 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
Donations	2	650,831	301,377	310	952,518	674,648
Income from charitable activities:						
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	3	85,127	531,029	—	616,156	580,115
Income from investments	4	1,189	—	—	1,189	80
Other income	5	1,241	—	—	1,241	519
Total incoming resources		738,388	832,406	310	1,571,104	1,255,362

Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds		—	—	—	7,631
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	577,826	1,045,046	—	1,622,872
Total expenditure		577,826	1,045,146	—	1,622,872

Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		160,562	(212,640)	310	(51,768)	79,018
Transfer between funds		(206,967)	206,967	—	—	—
Net income / (expenditure)		(46,405)	(5,673)	310	(51,768)	79,018
Reconciliation of funds		—	—	—	—	—
Total funds brought forward		331,993	452,458	43,716	828,167	749,149
Total funds carried forward	15	285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399	828,167

British Exploring Society Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st October 2022.
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Fixed Assets	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
Tangible assets	7	56,132	—	—	56,132	76,536
Total fixed assets		56,132	—	—	56,132	76,536

Current Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		138,832	446,785	44,026	629,643
Debtors	8	172,195	—	—	172,195
Total current assets		311,027	446,785	44,026	801,838
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(81,571)	—	—	(81,571)
Net current assets		229,456	446,785	44,026	720,267
Net assets		285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399

The Funds of the Charity:					
Endowment funds		—	—	44,026	44,026
Restricted income funds		—	446,785	—	446,785
Unrestricted income funds		285,588	—	—	285,588
Total charity funds	15	285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399

Balance Sheet as at 31st October 2022.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.
The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on and signed on behalf of Council by: **David Tilston, Treasurer** & **Ian Maginnis, Chair**.



Photo taken in Kyrgyzstan by Young Explorer Charlotte, the winner of the 2022 Young Explorer Photo of the Year competition.

FIND YOUR FIRE



The inspiring experiences shared in this report are only made possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. We rely on donations to fund our expeditions and other important aspects of our work. This includes the development of science and other areas of knowledge, training to ensure positive and safe outcomes, our sustainability and our understanding of our environmental impact.

Can you help?

If we are to reach significantly more young people, we need the support and funding from people like you, who share our belief in the transformative power of challenge and adventure. To find out how you can help, click [here](#). Thank you.

British Exploring Society is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 802196)

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Email: info@britishexploring.org

Web: www.britishexploring.org

Facebook: /British Exploring Society

Twitter: @Brit_exploring

Instagram: @Brit_exploring

LinkedIn: British Exploring Society

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