

IMPACT REPORT

2020-2021





WHO WE ARE

British Exploring Society has 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 with us.

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

More than this, through their adventure together, our young people forge friendships for life and become part of a unique supportive and continuing community of 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.

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

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"...we came together and bonded incredibly as a Fire in a very short time, supporting each other when times were tough and celebrating our achievements."

Young Explorer 2021

TOGETHER FOR THE JOURNEY

Young Explorer Isaiah, Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

I'm Isaiah and I took part in the Hartz Scottish Highlands expedition. I'm born and raised in the city but I love nature. I'd never been camping before and wanted to try something new and gain a new experience and oh was it an experience, one that may I add I'll always miss and hold dearly in my heart and wouldn't change in any way - except for the midges, other unidentifiable bugs, the fact that the rucksacks don't carry themselves??? (I still can't believe it), no hot shower, NO WIFI, and the lack of all other amenities - but honestly such an experience that I wouldn't change for the world.

"I feel such a great sense of accomplishment that I managed to cope with such a vast change compared to what I knew life and survival as."

Previously I can say I've never actually been out in nature properly and haven't been disconnected from "the grid" and I feel such a great sense of accomplishment that I managed to cope with such a vast change compared to what I knew life and survival as. I also feel so proud that my Fire and I made it all the way through our expedition proving that you can do anything in life as long as you have food, shelter and good company. I feel accomplished that I can say I've climbed a Monroe and been to the peak of a mountain; I'm proud to have walked over 120kms (I think even 130 if I remember correctly) across the highlands - a lot of the time walking through rough terrain; I'm glad to have made friends with the sheep too (even though they poo literally everywhere), and overall I'm glad that I gained such an amazing experience and that I was able to get out of the city and connect with nature.

One of my favourite parts of this experience were the people I met. All of us were so different, unique, and quirky in our own way, yet despite our differences on a superficial level we all

495

YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN ONE OR MORE ACTIVITIES WITH US

connected instantaneously. We were like a family, and I feel like most of us were like each other's safety nets.

On my expedition I had to learn to adapt to new environments that I'd never experienced previously. I got to learn so many new skills and so much knowledge such as: navigation and a little bit of foraging, but also I got to build many dormant skills such as perseverance and confidence. I also learned to keep ambition and a focus, caring for others/trying to make sure everybody was ok. Also, this trip showed that not just me but my Fire, I'd say, have great resilience and patience.

In future, I'd like to go on more camping trips and to get out in nature more, mainly to detox and connect with the Earth. Also, I'd like to try more new experiences in general. I never thought I'd enjoy something like camping but this opportunity that I took is definitely one of my most enjoyable experiences and definitely in the top highlights of my life.

"If I try I might fail
– but if I don't try,
I will definitely fail."

Marvin Rees
British Exploring
Society President

58%

OF YOUNG EXPLORERS
RESIDED IN AREAS OF
DEPRIVATION



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Marvin Rees, President of British Exploring Society

We all need people to dream dreams into our lives. I can still name the people in my Fire, the group I went on expedition with, in 1990 with British Exploring Society, better than I remember the names of people I went to school with. It was incredible.

My greatest ambition as British Exploring Society's President is to ensure that more young people from a wider range of backgrounds go on to experience what I did. On expedition I was, as Michelle Obama described some of her experiences, "a poppy seed in a bowl of rice". I was told by my friends at home that black people don't climb mountains and they don't live in the snow. I grew up with a white mum as a brown baby. The statistics say I shouldn't be the Mayor of Bristol. The difference for me was six things: I had a secure home, a loving family, some teachers who believed in me, my faith, boxing for self-esteem, structure and discipline, and I got the chance to get out of where I lived and experience awe.

As a country, could we aspire to make a standard offer and promise to all young people that they will get outside the boundaries of their lives irrespective of their backgrounds, so that they can experience awe, as I did, within the grand scale of nature? I benefited from it so much.

But when a young person goes on an expedition, they could be forgoing work. How do we overcome all the barriers? For our team, our Leaders, and our partners – we need shared vision, and shared humility. The sober reality is we operate in a very challenging world. We can't do everything, but we can act. And we can do more together.

We can extend our work to under-served young people by being purposeful, and by continuing to measure what we do. Networks are critical – and authentic partnerships of equality work.

I already have so much pride in the opportunities, shared by a range of young people from a wider range of backgrounds, now available through British Exploring Society. But I want to talk about the urgency of the now. We need to understand the nature of the challenge we face. Young people are vulnerable to falling into hopelessness.

- Mental health is under phenomenal pressure amongst young people and children – COVID has made it worse.
- Violence on our streets, in some communities – particularly in most deprived communities – is a real risk.
- For young people watching Glasgow and the climate conference in 2021, they must wonder what is going to happen. The World is becoming much more precarious – and climate driven migration could hit 200 million by 2050.
- The dominance of Facebook and social media can lead to one dimensional perspectives, undermine the quality of debate, and make some vulnerable to extremist world views.
- We have a blossoming problem of identity, and this can relate to fragile mental health.
- The biggest determinant to success may not be talent, hard work, or ability, but your parental background. Still.

These are huge challenges. The price paid is not just by young people – it's all of us. **If we are not accessing talent – not fostering generations coming through without the best possible start in life – we hurt as a society.** We undermine the skills and leadership we need, and we undermine our collective resilience as a country.

We urgently need to invest in individual agency and in opportunities to access it. When agency meets opportunity, character builds. We can't do everything, but it is too easy to curse how bad the world is. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.

The determinants of life chance are so broad – we cannot make everything better – but we do know we can do something. We must reach into many sectors and experiences. We can help change the odds, and to help the young people we work with live lives of fullness, to reach their potential. To achieve an expanded vision, and sense of responsibility. To be inspired, to develop a sense of self, responsibility, agency, and a real voice. These key qualities help you begin your journey. I never lost the fear of failure, but I developed the ability to deal with that fear. It's one of the secrets of my resilience, and part of my own journey.

Can we make a collective commitment to invest in our young people, in this country, so that whatever is going on around them, we give them the best opportunities to flourish, their agency and skills and resilience, for our future?



HOW TO FIND YOUR FIRE

Honor Wilson-Fletcher, CEO of British Exploring Society

Our community of staff and volunteers bring an encyclopaedia of life experiences which now straddles five generations with them when they join us at British Exploring Society. The young people who take the intrepid decision to join us on a programme also bring with them incredibly varied expectations and experiences.

Our Leaders step out of one role – their paid work – to take on another: that of volunteer leadership with us. Our Young Explorers are prepared to step out of the familiarity of their daily lives and away from friends in order to take on an adventure with us. It's the first crucial step of the challenge by choice we provide.

Each year our common cause and our expedition programmes bring together an eclectic mix of people whose lives so far may have been hugely diverse. This is special - the active celebration and experience of difference. It brings with it challenges too, of course. It takes courage and an open heart to step into an environment where you don't know anyone, perhaps feel different from others, where you're unsure of everything and everyone else at least appears to know what is going on. You might also need to listen to ideas that make you uncomfortable, or not be able to behave in ways you're used to.

It helps if the people around you are trying their hardest to make you feel welcome.

If those around you who find stepping forward easier can recognise their advantage, that helps, too.

But everyone must make that special effort to accommodate, celebrate, be flexible, learn and adapt, for an expedition to really fly. Then magic can happen.

We hope to unite everyone around the single shared experience we provide and our purpose, while providing everyone the space to consider what defines them, makes them special and strong and to help them shape their self-belief as they progress in life.

This transformation, prosaically called personal development, actively depends on the array of skills and abilities, and on those diverse perspectives on the world which flourish together on expedition, and which contribute explicitly to the success of everything we do.

In this Impact Report you will find the uplifting stories of individual Young Explorers who explain in their own words their remarkable personal development journeys, and I hope will be moved by how much they understand about what they have gained from the time they have spent with young people whose lives may have started in a different place but converged brilliantly with theirs on expedition.

This report is a digest of a huge amount of positive work, by many people, in often difficult circumstances. But I commend it to you for this pleasure first of all – first-hand accounts of the joy of unexpected meetings and exchanges and the loyalties that have grown out of them.

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YOUNG EXPLORERS WENT ON EXPEDITION WITH US IN 2021

"It takes courage and an open heart to step into an environment where you don't know anyone."





"I was really surprised by how well we got on as a Fire as we were all completely different people from completely different backgrounds..."

Young Explorer 2021

THE EXTRA MILE

We struggle to convey the extent of our thanks and our sense of obligation to the many people and organisations who make generous, thoughtful concessions, think of things before we do, who do more, step up and go further, to help us achieve what we do.

We are surrounded by the talented, the gutsy and the graceful. They tend to want little or no recognition – which makes the process of expressing our gratitude awkward. So, with apologies to anyone who didn't anticipate or wish to see their names here – and to the many who we should have added and who would not dream of mentioning the omission - we just want to thank you all for the difference you make, and for the motivation you provide to us through your own willingness to go the extra mile.

Off the beaten path

Lucy Obolensky, Chris Heaney, Andy Charlton, and Nigel Williams are our Technical Advisors. They make sure that we have the skills to take the right paths, can deal with the unexpected, and still have the capacity for adventure, fun and learning along the way. Their belief in what we do and willingness to apply their considerable experience to our work means a great deal.

Katie Beck very generously provided access to a Mental Health First Aid Course for our Leaders and staff.

We would have struggled to deliver expeditions in Scotland without the generosity of **David** and **Joanna Fox-Pitt**, and the **Blair Atholl Estate** and their ranger, **Bellsie** – thanks also to you for being such an understated fixer-and-friend to us when we needed it most.

Susannah Cass and **Graham Johnston** – completing one expedition and agreeing to hop in the car and proceed immediately to another is more an extra marathon than an extra mile.

There are 'accompanying staff' and accompanying staff. Thank you to the likes of **Mark Roberts**, from **Walsall Academy**, and **Mark Blundell** and his colleagues from **Onside Youth Zones**, who demonstrated exceptional levels of commitment to the young people they escorted, championed, and supported throughout the year with us.

Mike Blakey and **Ashley Walker** at **Outcomes First Group** matched generosity with impeccable efficiency and conjured up a minor miracle for us (x500!) with grace and speed - and

enabled us to have the resources to repeat COVID-test all our participants on expedition in 2021 if we needed to.

Shona and **Georgie** from the **Aldridge Foundation** and their academy colleagues took 'being on duty' to a whole new level in their first year of supporting us as a partner. Thanks to you all for stepping forward so brilliantly, and with such compassion.

Thank you to **Alistair Gibson** from **Glenfinnan Estate**, and **Jon Hart** and **Jamie Hendry** from **Jahama Highland Estates** for their contribution to Hartz this summer. Jon provided generous backroom support alongside Jamie who responded on the ground to help our expedition off the hills.

2250

**SHEETS OF WATERPROOF PAPER
USED ON OUR 2021 EXPEDITIONS**

"I was blown away and inspired by the change in these young people after twelve days in the Scottish Highlands."

Holly Burns
Senior Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator

THE EXTRA MILE

Back at Basecamp

Jon Maguire, Michael Baggs, and Jackie Kerr – you embraced the challenge of helping us – and everyone who had been involved – to properly mark 10 years of Dangoor Next Generation with good humour and excitement. You project planned, made contacts, and brought together a group of amazing people to produce a beautiful thing. Jon – your film is a glorious celebration of the programme and the people who made it happen.

Sue Crossley, Judith Etherton, and Jonathan Rhys-Lewis arrived with tremendous goodwill, patience and energy to help us understand the challenges we face in caring for – and to design a sustainable future for – our archive. You managed to visit our offices during 'deep lockdown' and continue to support us as we put into practice their exciting proposals. We've learned a lot from you. And we appreciated the chocolates, too.

Tim Passingham – your swift, practical determination to be helpful, has supported everything from strategy design to Young Explorers' photographic skills. You also helped us make sure that some of the young people who'd had the most difficult year imaginable got to travel to our training and expeditions.

Jennifer Swanston. Our virtual Celebration evening was a triumph (we think) thanks to your dedication and innovation – and your team are a joy to work with. You make us look bigger and smarter than we are. We are endlessly grateful for your professionalism and talent.

James Blake – despite being CEO of the mighty **YHA**, found time to be generous and provided us with invaluable advice

and contacts in a year with more than enough to tackle already. You never made us feel like the much-smaller organisation that we are.

Natalie Harling at Outward Bound shared invaluable information with us when the outdoor world was wrestling with huge challenges. Thank you for giving us the time you really couldn't spare to help and reassure us about the decisions we were making.

Everyone at the **Scouts** who is giving up valuable time to help us – particularly **Nathan, Mark and John** – to create some exciting ways to work together.

Ralph Doe at AIM. Considered a legend at British Exploring Society.

Joe and Karl at the Royal Geographical Society – greeting us and providing support during the weirdest bits of the year and helping us adjust to each new bit of the pandemic.

Everyone at **Plimsoll Productions** who is helping us get better at providing exciting experiences on expedition. We've only just started – but it's going to be epic.

Marvin Rees – for giving up the time in an already hectic life to help us tell our story better, and for being such a consistently inspiring, easy-going, and engaging President.

Kate Wilson – thank you for sticking by us. It's permanent now, you do realise?

Cathy O'Dowd, Aaron Phipps, Ben Saunders, Robert Swann – a madly inspiring group of over-achievers still prepared to give up time to share their stories with us and our community at our Fireside Talks this year.



The extra mile personified

There is an individual who we suspect will not wish to be publicly thanked. But we still want to shout out about their contribution which is so great, so varied, and so thoughtful. This person impacts on our work on a near daily basis. They have gone repeatedly out of their way to ensure that we as a team feel supported, as well as championing our work to ensure that we can provide positive experiences to as many young people as possible. They are legendary for their generosity, and for their commitment. Nothing is too much trouble. They are the definition of going the extra mile.

THANKS TO YOU

Every single act of support helps to make our mission a reality. The stories of positive change and life-defining experiences shared with you in this Impact Report are only possible thanks to our committed and generous community. We therefore think it's only right that we recognise and celebrate them first.

£1,127m was raised by our supporters this year, helping to ensure young people could positively benefit from our programmes during another challenging year.

Our dedicated volunteers gave their time and lent their expertise, equating to **£62,784** in volunteer hours.

£1,127m

WAS RAISED BY OUR SUPPORTERS THIS YEAR



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

It's always a privilege to meet with our supporters and hear about why they choose to support British Exploring Society and understand what the difference they are helping to make means to them. Our CEO Honor was delighted to catch-up with Deborah Seddon and Tim Kirk recently; they shared their thoughts and motivations with her.

Deborah Seddon has held various posts at the Engineering Council, the UK regulatory body for the engineering profession, over the past 14 years, most recently as Regulatory Affairs Manager. She has supported British Exploring Society as a volunteer and donor since 2016.

"As someone who taught for over 12 years, enabling young people to make their own decisions and realise their potential, whatever that is, and giving them a helping hand is really important to me.

I'm passionate about what you do and really respect and admire British Exploring Society's increasing focus on inclusivity and being more diverse; I think that's increasingly important. Enabling diverse groups of young people to rub shoulders with each other reaps huge benefits. They're building their confidence and resilience from shared experience but they're coming from a different base.

I donate because I am constantly impressed by the professionalism of the staff, the quality of the training for the Leaders and the Chief Leaders, and the follow up that they provide for the Young Explorers who go on expeditions and afterwards too. The quality of staff who are constantly willing to go that extra mile for the sake of these young people and the support that they give is really, really, important to me. I find it just so inspirational."



Since joining British Exploring Society on expedition in Iceland in 1960, Tim Kirk has remained knowledgeable about the wilderness surrounding him working in the UK forestry industry. Tim has been a regular donor and Patron of British Exploring Society since 2016.

"My expedition set me up for the rest of my life and I just hope that some of today's Young Explorers will feel the same. I see going to the wilderness as one of the major advantages of what British Exploring Society can offer to show there is life outside of our phones..."

I started donating to British Exploring Society after I went to see my specialist for a final check-up after an operation. He greeted me at the door and was wearing a British Schools Exploring Society tie, so instead of examining me we spent the next 20 minutes talking about our trips to Iceland. I then got back in touch with British Exploring Society and saw an appeal on your website. I have been donating since then and enjoy staying up to date with you through emails and updates – like your recent end of season update on all the midges in Scotland."



THANKS TO YOU

Our thanks to the relatives who have continued to support more young people taking part in our programmes with particular thanks to the families of: A. Croft, Alexander Eastwood, Jean Sinclair, Les Morgan, Michael Garvey and Tim Ward-Wilson.

Charities, Trusts and Foundations

Anton Jurgens Charity – Band Trust (The) – Carpenter Charitable Trust (The) – Dudley & Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust – EBM Charitable Trust – Ethel & Gwynne Morgan Trust – Exilarch's Foundation (The) – Foyle Foundation – Garfield Weston Foundation – Hartz Family Foundation (The) – J R Asprey Family Charitable Foundation (The) – John Armitage Charitable Trust – Lapworth Charity (The) – Peter Cundill Foundation – Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust – Rotary Club of Nottingham – Sandy & Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement (The) – Sir James Knott Trust

Patrons & Individuals

Arabella Connell – Daragh Horgan – Jon Bennett – Julien Lobry – Keith Breslauer – Krupesh Patel – Mark & Rosamund Williams – Mr & Mrs Eastwood – Nigel Vardy – Rahul Moodgal – Tim Kirk – Tim Passingham

Companies

3Pillars – Brown Advisory – Cambridge Management Consulting – Financial Times – Investec – Novus – Outcomes First Group – Pharos – ZolvTech

Programme Partners

16+ Learning Choices Fife – Academies Enterprise Trust – Active Schools – Fort William – Aldridge Foundation – Break Charity – Catch-22 – Change Foundation – Fight For Peace – HEART Academies Trust – JP Alternative Education – OnSide Youth Zones – Ormiston Academy Trust – Outcomes First Group – Scouts – Victa – Youth Adventure Trust

Schools

Ada School – Baylis Court – Bodmin College – Caedmon College – Castlebrae – Falmouth Academy – Hammersmith Academy – Harton Academy – Inverness Royal Academy – Kingston Academy – Langley Grammar – Levenmouth Academy – Mountain Ash

– Mulberry Academy Shoreditch – Northfields School & Sports College – Prendergast School – Phoenix Academy – Ponteland High School – Queen Anne High School – Southfields Academy – St Pauls Way Trust – Sydenham School – The Long Eaton School – Walsall Academy – Westminster Academy – Whitburn Academy

Our President

Marvin Rees

Our Chair

Ian Maginnis

Our Trustees

Carolyn Young – David Bartles-Smith – David Tilson (Treasurer) – Jane Park-Weir – Patrick Van Daele – Rahul Moodgal – Ruth Owen (Resigned 18th August 2021) – Soo Redshaw

Our Leaders

Thanks to each of our 46 volunteer Leaders and 22 Wildestan Experts, whose combined enthusiasm, talent, and commitment have helped make all our activities happen this year.

Our Fellows

Alex Gregory MBE FBES – Ben Saunders FBES – Bruce Manning FBES – Caroline Hodges FBES – Chris Wright FBES – David Dangoor FBES – Doug Oppenheim FBES – Gudrún Tryggvadóttir FBES – James Dyer FBES – Colonel John Blashford Snell CBE FBES – Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE FBES – Jules Penney 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 – Caspar Craven – Hugh Crossley – Rahul Moodgal (Chair) – Stuart Denard – Tim Passingham



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

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 British Exploring Society, breaking down financial barriers to participation
- The profile of Young Explorers varies for each programme. See 'Field Notes' on page 28 for details of the programmes we ran in 2021.

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

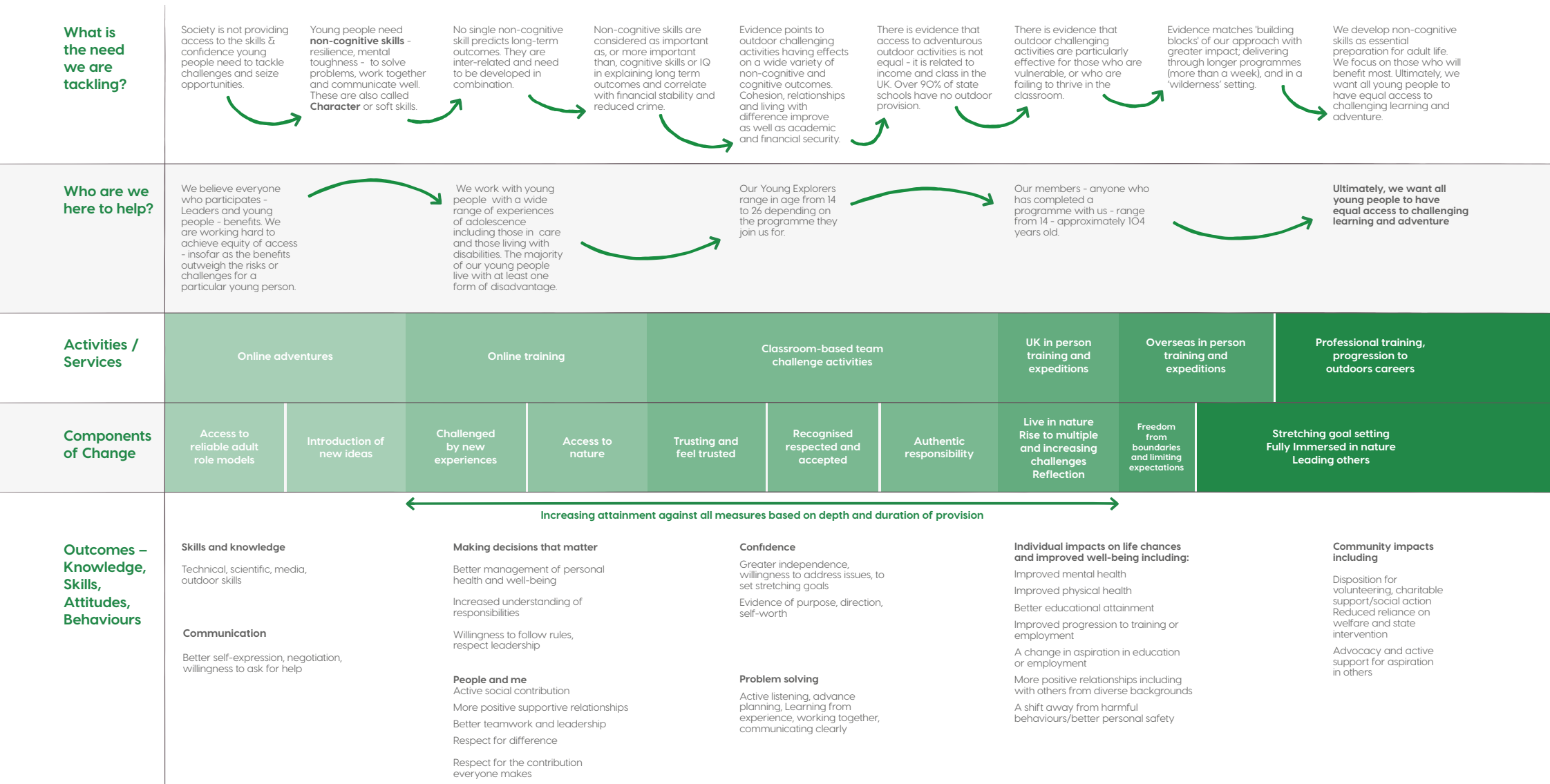
- **495 young people have benefited from one or more activities with us this year** - 240 young people participated in Expedition Workshops, 98 young people joining one or more Wildstan Adventures, 14 Young Explorers participating in training for the Pinnacle expedition and 143 young people taking part in an expedition programme (including those who only attended training).
- **54% of Young Explorers who joined us on an expedition programme came through our partnerships and schools** – 100% of young people on DNG came through Aldridge Foundation and 71% of young people on Hartz 1 came through OnSide Youth Zones and Walsall Academy.
- **23% of Young Explorers identify as coming from ethnic minority backgrounds.**
- **67% of Young Explorers who had Fundraising Targets had a total household income of below £40,000.** Young Explorers on the Dangoor Next Generation programme were fully funded to further reduce their barriers to participate.
- **58% of our Young Explorers resided in areas that had various levels of deprivation.** 47% of the 58% resided in areas with some of the highest levels of deprivation in England.
- **17% of Young Explorers declared that they had a disability or long term health condition.**



THEORY OF CHANGE

Our Theory of Change model helps ensure that, however much our approaches to providing adventure and challenge must adapt or be innovated, we remain consistent in our focus on the most desirable outcomes. Not everything we do delivers equal intensity of impact,

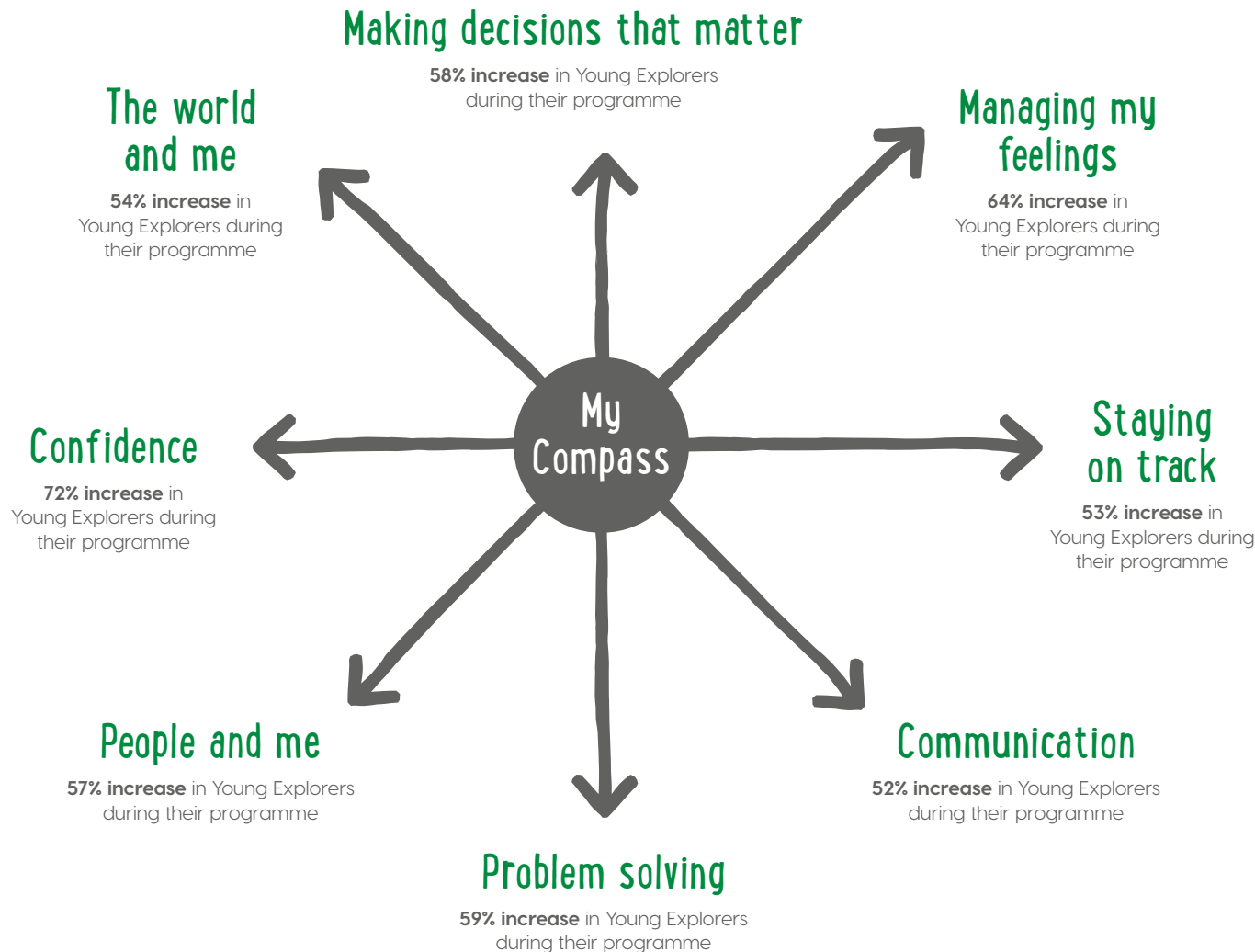
but all our programmes contribute to at least some of the outcomes identified throughout this report. By sense-checking our existing and potential new activities against this Theory of Change, we can stay on track with our strategy, our mission, and our vision.



OUR IMMEDIATE IMPACT

"I have learnt that I would like to pursue outdoor and adventure education as an academic path - and with feedback from my Leaders, feel more confident about that for me than ever."

Young Explorer 2021



This year, there was a focus on gathering evidence in different ways to give our young people and other stakeholders an opportunity to communicate their experience with us in a variety of forms, providing a more complete narrative of the difference our programmes make and to help us improve what we do.

My Compass measures the degree to which young people have developed skills during their time with us. It is used as a tool for reflective conversation with Leaders, encouraging Young Explorers to think about what they hope to learn with us and to set goals for themselves.

My Compass shows the eight areas of skill and experience we want to help young people develop. 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.

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 benefitting relationships. The aim of collecting data using the SWEMWBS is to measure the impact of our programmes on the well-being of young people who join us. It was rolled out across all our programmes this year. 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.

A selection of Real-life Stories was collected to showcase the impact and benefits of our programmes, written in our young people's own words. These can be found on our [website](#) and in some quotes throughout this report.

To find out more about My Compass reporting, click [here](#).



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Joanna Page, Skills Development Officer

Creating transformative experiences

Young Explorers have the opportunity to develop key skills for life before expedition through their fundraising activities and preparation. While preparing for their expedition, our Young Explorers are encouraged to take ownership and responsibility in ways that are brand new to them. Ensuring our Young Explorers feel empowered, not overwhelmed, we believe that they need to have all the resources to succeed, and a team available to support them.

As British Exploring Society becomes more accessible to young people with diverse backgrounds and needs, we've increased the bespoke support that is offered to each young person who joins us. This year, the Engagement team made over 625 calls to young people through touchpoint conversations - from initial chats to offering more detailed support, answering questions, and preparation check-ins before training and the expedition. Resources were created to help with the preparation, including a guide to homesickness, buying expedition kit, and fundraising. Our monthly newsletter is also full of information, motivation, and top tips, encouraging young people to stay on track and to feel comfortable asking questions.

The skills development journey

In addition to the existing resources and phone calls, we believe there is an opportunity to support Young Explorers in developing the skills needed for a successful future. Using the cognitive skills within the My Compass framework, it demonstrates how they are developing these skills through the preparation for expedition and fundraising for British Exploring Society.

Young Explorers are currently developing key skills by:

- Communicating with us the information that is required and through engagement with the office team.
- Developing their confidence through their fundraising activities and in training to be ready for their expedition.
- Making decisions that matter when researching and looking at the kit they need.
- Staying on track with their fundraising timelines and meeting deadlines to confirm additional information.
- Problem solving when things don't go quite the way they want with fundraising or organising logistics to get to training.

Our new model

The Fundraising Model implemented in 2020 is designed to break down financial barriers faced by some of the young people we work with, support the development of skills and asks young people to demonstrate their commit. It encourages Young Explorers to embrace their strengths, take on new challenges, build connections within their local community and empowers action in order to reach their goals. Based on a simple means test around household income, we ask Young Explorers to fundraise for British Exploring Society to show their commitment to going on an expedition. Young Explorers set up their own projects, plan and hold events, market their sponsored challenges and sell their crafts in ways that encourage entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and confidence-building.

How did some of our Young Explorers fundraise this year?

- 20 used online campaigns like GoFundMe
- 5 set up events such as Bake Sales, Coffee Mornings, and Race Nights
- 1 successfully applied for a grant from a local organisation
- 4 teamed up to take part in a school fundraising activity
- 2 used creative media to fundraise
- 17 completed odd jobs including babysitting, bag packing, car washing, and gardening
- 3 used their talents to create and sell by busking, creating and selling bracelets, and/or photography commissions
- 14 took part in sponsored challenges including walking, the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge, cycling, tree planting, and a climbing challenge
- 13 raised funds on their own through their jobs - including one lifeguard.



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.



EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS

Holly Burns, Senior Engagement and Recruitment Coordinator

We want all young people to have equal access to challenging learning and adventure in wild, remote locations as an essential preparation for a confident adult life. Providing this kind of learning opportunity is more important now than it has ever been.

We understand that joining us on an expedition programme is often a big step for many young people. We deliver Expedition Workshops in schools to kick start the conversation, trust, and initial relationship to foster confidence in young people so that they might consider further adventure and enrichment options including potentially an expedition programme with us.

These stand-alone, fun, and engaging workshops benefit from the 90 years of experience we have in delivering adventurous learning, helping young people develop necessary skills to build stronger futures, and gain a greater understanding of what an expedition would really be like.

Our aims for the Expedition Workshops are:

- To deliver engaging and challenging workshops with stand-alone learning benefits for the participants.
- To develop decision-making skills under pressure and support positive wellbeing for young people.
- To support improved understanding of the benefits of outdoor learning, adventure, knowledge skills, and of our approach to youth development within schools.
- For young people to have a clearer, positive idea of what our expeditions entail and the benefits of taking part.

In 2020/21, COVID-19 restrictions meant that we were not able to deliver our workshops in schools until the summer of 2021. We used the lockdown period to make tweaks to our resources and materials, taking on feedback from the young people we delivered to before lockdown in 2020. We incorporated tools like Google Earth to take young people on the virtual journey from London Heathrow to basecamp deep in the Amazon jungle.

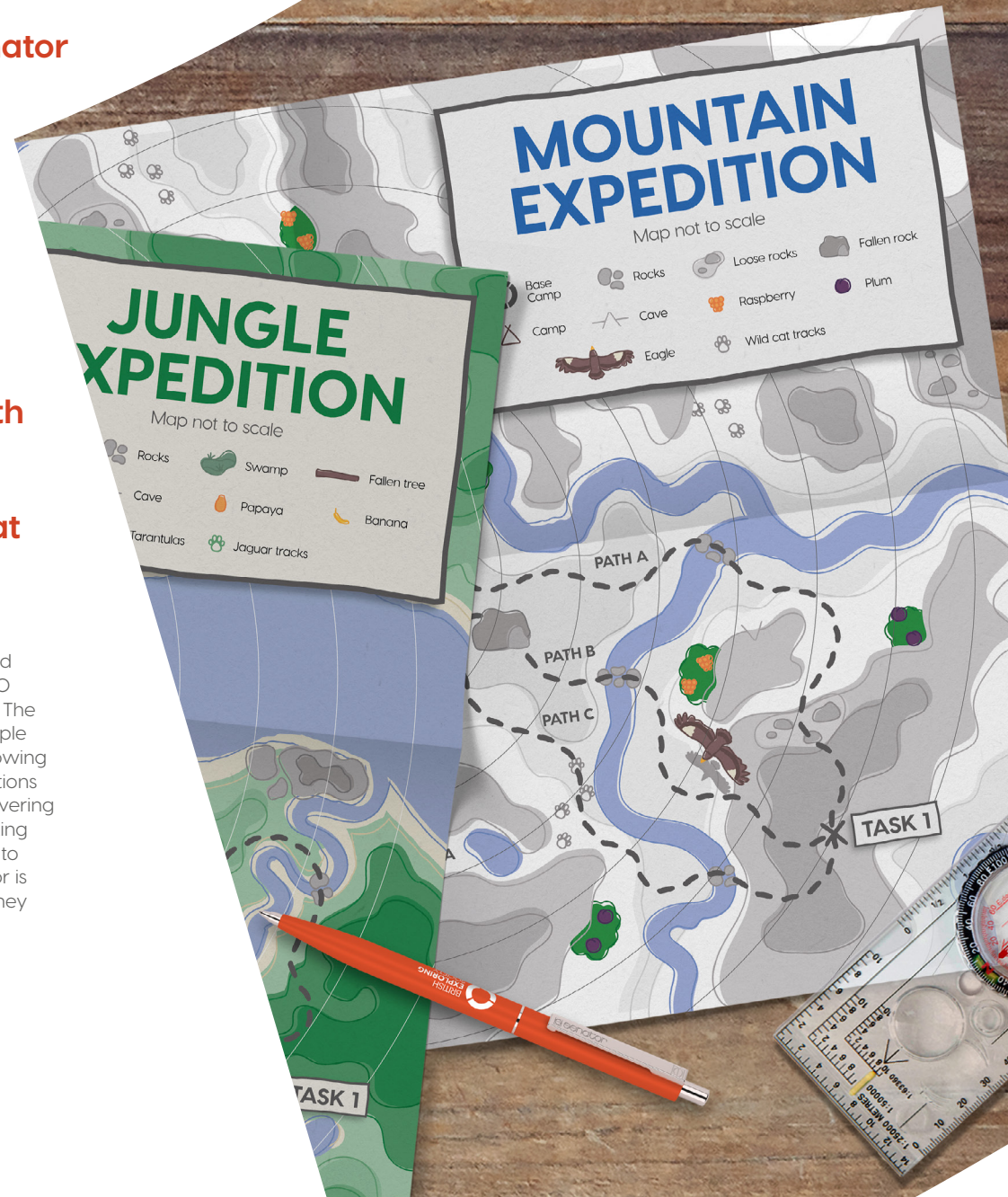
By adding more information and facts about the rainforest and about the animals / wildlife that live there, we found that the interest of our participants grew, and young people would ask more questions during our sessions.

“The nature seems phenomenal. It seems very nurturing and a great way to connect with people. It always seems like there is something to do. You learn life skills that could help you in life.”

Expedition Workshop attendee

Supported by the Hartz Family Foundation and Equitix Foundation, we were able to reach 240 students between June and September 2021. The feedback from teaching staff and young people has been positive, with young people also showing interest in getting involved in our 2022 expeditions as a next step. We are looking forward to delivering more Expedition Workshops as a way of making sure every young person has the opportunity to experience adventure and know that the door is open for them, if an expedition is something they would like to join in the future.

240
STUDENTS ATTENDED
EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS



OUR PARTNERS

The Aldridge Foundation & Head of Community and Impact, Kate Suart



“This expedition experience would have been totally unobtainable for the young people the Aldridge Foundation works with without the expert support of the British Exploring Society team and their generous funder, the Dangoor Family. We experienced true partnership working with British Exploring Society – great flexibility within robust processes, swift response and adaption, and a deep level of collaboration and knowledge sharing – all of which was vital as the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown environment constantly shifted throughout the planning and expedition periods.

Our young people are from some of the most deprived communities in the UK and those that took part in the Dangoor Next Generation training and expedition were experiencing a range of personal challenges, with many at risk of disengaging with education. The impact of the expeditions was significant with many of our young people reporting that they are now: more confident, courageous, and able to communicate with others and form friendships for the first time; more resilient than they had thought; more appreciative of the people and things they had in their lives; more embracing of action rather than indolence and inaction; and their eyes had been opened to the beauty, intrigue and calm of the outdoors.

We and they felt that the expedition programme had been transformative, and its impact would be long lasting.”

Shona Nichols
CEO, The Aldridge Foundation.

Increasing our reach

British Exploring Society made a strategic commitment in 2016 to actively target recruitment to reach groups of young people who could most benefit from our work, and those currently significantly underrepresented on its programmes. Young people who join us have different starting points and it is often a big step for many young people to join an expedition programme. We work closely with our partners who have the relationship with their young people to encourage and support them to step out of their comfort zone. We ask a lot of our partners, and it is through these relationships that we can engage with the hardest to reach young people.

Supporting positive outcomes for young people

We have an established commitment to work more closely in partnership with organisations who help us increase our capacity to deliver positive benefits to young people and to enable us to reach into communities previously not accessible to us.

Focusing our fundraising efforts

As our fundraising capacity has grown, so has our need to raise money to support our work, particularly since we have moved to a fully charitably funded model for all our programmes. There are many potential sources

of regional and national funding, and by combining our regional partnership working and fundraising efforts we hope to maximise on these opportunities.

So how to decide on which areas?

We cannot manage endless numbers of partnerships, or partnerships in every community in the UK, and need to focus our efforts by some means, and whilst we would love to target every group or community of underrepresented young people in the UK, we do not yet have the capacity to do so. By targeting specific areas, we can develop partnerships and sources of income in a joined up and intentional way and use our resources more effectively.

The British Red Cross undertook a UK-wide, freely available, and respected survey of vulnerability and deprivation during COVID in 2020 which covered all the areas of the UK. Using the data from this comprehensive survey we identified five critical areas of highest deprivation that we aim to focus on in 2022:

- South, East and Central Scotland
- Far North East England
- North West and Greater Manchester
- Midlands
- East London and South East Coast

In the future, we will look to see which of the remaining clusters it is possible to progress towards supporting, and this may be the focus of shared strategic planning and more ambitious capacity-building fundraising.

100%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON DANGOOR NEXT GENERATION JOINED US THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALDRIDGE FOUNDATION



BEFORE THE PROGRAMME

"...I definitely thought it was necessary for me to have a change of scenery: 1) to try something new; and 2) to try and escape reality and get in touch with the elements and nature to help heal from the traumas I and we may have all faced in the past two years. I was really excited about the expedition because it was something I've never done before and it would get me out the house and away from feeling trapped in the city. For a long time, I thought I was better off indoors (that's also what they've been telling us for the last 18 months+) because I'm good at indoorsey type activities... I've now learned through personal experience that staying home/ indoors 24/7 is the worst thing I could do, especially for my mental health."

Young Explorer Isaiha
Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

"The Wildestan expeditions have definitely boosted my confidence - my confidence in learning new skills but also my self-confidence. By unmuting myself, asking questions and chatting with the experts and other young people when that Tuesday evening came around once a week, I feel as if I have gained more confidence. It has definitely helped me to make connections with other expedition Leaders which will hopefully help me towards my dream of being an explorer..."

Young Adventurer and
Young Explorer Evan
Wildestan Adventures
2021 and Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

"That night [during Explorer Training], I had a panic attack at 1 am when I found a spider in my tent... Clover [British Exploring Society staff], came and caught the spider, which was pitifully small, and left me with a plastic cup and a bit of paper should such an emergency happen again. When we got home, we found a spider in the bathroom. I caught it on my own (!) and let it go outside. I think the kindness and understanding I received from those Leaders was the encouragement I needed to recognise firstly that I have a phobia, and secondly that that's not anything to be ashamed of - that acceptance has let me move on to challenging my fear, instead of pretending I don't have it until I have a complete breakdown."

Young Explorer Leo
Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021

"My first thoughts when Emin expressed an interest in going on an expedition with British Exploring Society was nervousness mixed with excitement and hesitancy. It was very reassuring attending the meeting and hearing from the team members and asking questions I needed clarity on. I feel the level of support given to me by British Exploring Society prior to the expedition was good... I called in a few times and was met with one of the team who was understanding and willing to listen to me as a parent and answer any questions I had."

Lauren
Guardian of Young Explorer Emin
Dangoor Next Generation Scotland 2021



2021 ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

1. Hope Valley, Derbyshire

Programme: Dangoor Next Generation Scotland 2021
Activity: Explorer Training

2. Pitlochry, Perthshire

Programme: Dangoor Next Generation Scotland 2021
Activity: Expedition

3. Blackwell, Worcestershire

Programme: Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021
Activity: Explorer Training

4. Blackwell, Worcestershire

Programme: Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021
Activity: Explorer Training

5. Ardtalnaig, Perth and Kinross

Programme: Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021
Activity: Expedition

6. Spean Bridge, Lochaber

Programme: Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021
Activity: Explorer Training

7. The British Library, London

Programme: All 2021 expeditions
Activity: Next Steps

8. London

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Interpreting Signs in the Wild
Expert: Tony Harpur

9. London

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Survival in the Wild: Open Fire Cooking
Expert: Nick Nichol

10. London

Activity: Expedition Workshop

11. Harrow

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: A personal Reminder - Tools to develop your life purpose
Expert: Andrew McCabe

12. Manchester

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Survival in the Wild: Jungle
Expert: Andy Browning

13. Cambridge

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: A (Night) Walk on the Wild Side
Expert: Susannah Cass

14. Cambridge

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Citizen Science
Expert: Susannah Cass

15. Cambridge

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: BioBlitz!
Leaders: Susannah Cass

16. Bristol

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Preventing and Managing Hypothermia
Expert: Alex Taylor

17. Hunsdon Mead, Essex

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: Survival in the Wild: When Darkness Descends
Expert: Sam Drawbridge

18. Hunsdon Mead, Essex

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: Survival in the Wild: When Darkness Descends
Expert: Sam Drawbridge

19. Wiltshire

Programme: Wildestan Expedition 2021
Activity: Mapping My Wildestan
Leaders: Nige Painter

20. Oxfordshire

Activity: Expedition Workshop

21. Dartmoor

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: What's Your PLAN?
Expert: James Dyer

22. Surrey

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: Sustainable Solutions for the Climate Crisis
Expert: Jay Ham

23. Surrey

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: The Great British Waste Off
Expert: Jay Ham

24. Surrey

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Wellbeing
Expert: Jay Ham

25. Surrey

Programme: Wildestan Expedition 2021
Activity: There is No Planet B
Leader: Jay Ham

26. Somerset

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: A Woodland Walk in Wildestan
Expert: Bruce Manning

27. Worcestershire

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Aesthetic / Sensory Approaches to expedition
Expert: Stu Meese

28. Edinburgh

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Capture your Adventure: Journaling for Self-Discovery
Expert: Katie Lumsdaine

29. Elgin

Programme: Wildestan Expedition 2021
Activity: Soul Deep
Leaders: Katie Lumsdaine

30. Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire

Activity: Expedition Workshop

31. Wales

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Coal Mining in Wales
Expert: Daniel Mazhindu

32. Wales

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Survival in the Wild: Water
Expert: Daniel Mazhindu

33. UK-wide

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: Survival in the Wild: Preventing and Managing Hypothermia
Experts: Daniel Grace and Alex Taylor

34. UK-wide

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: These Boots Are Made For Walking
Expert: Taff Raymond

35. UK-wide

Programme: Wildestan Expedition 2021
Activity: Be the Change
Leaders: Nige Painter, Susannah Cass, and Nick Nichol

36. Crom Estate, Northern Ireland

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Fantastic Birds and Where to Find Them
Expert: Matthew Scott

37. The Yukon, Canada

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2020
Activity: Sustainable Solutions for the Climate Crisis
Expert: Abi Horobin

38. Australia

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Leaf Litter Sampling
Expert: Christina Miller

39. Austria

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Explore Within
Expert: Sara Bosworth

40. Austria

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Fish 'n' Chips Gone Wild
Expert: Sara Bosworth

41. Jersey

Programme: Wildestan Adventures 2021
Activity: Diversity of Coastal Heathland in Jersey
Expert: John Pinel

42. Kyrgyzstan

Programme: Kyrgyzstan 2022
Activity: Expedition recce



2021 ACTIVITY LOCATIONS



UK-wide

33 34 35



Canadian Yukon



Jersey



Australia

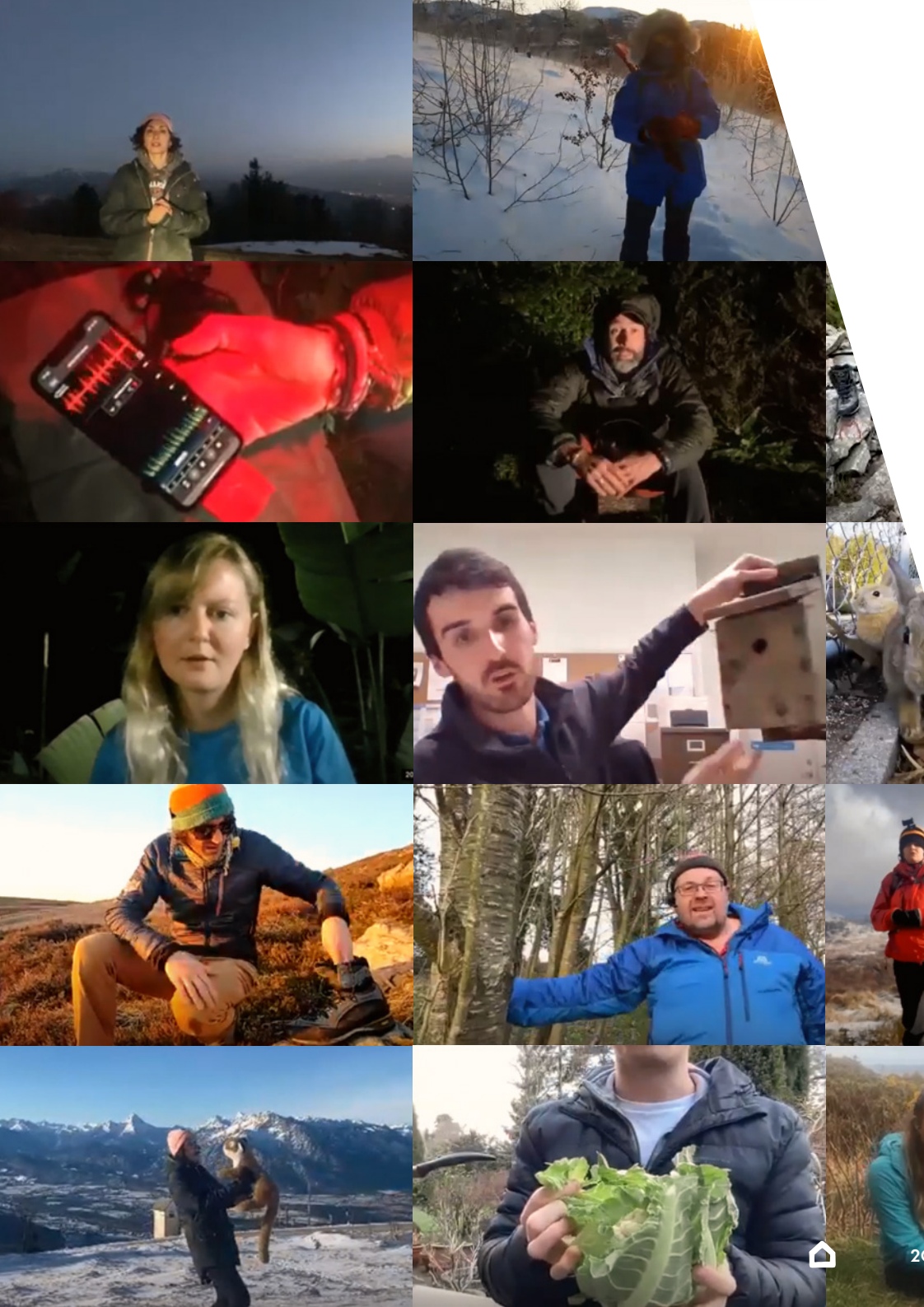


Austria



Kyrgyzstan





WILDESTAN ADVENTURES

Nick Nichol, Expedition Manager

Wildestan is our virtual space. In it, we provide live, free, interactive, online Adventures to give access to adventure, to our inspirational Wildestan Experts, an experience or flavour of expedition life, and a window on the outdoors to young people aged 14-25 anywhere in the UK through a digital platform.

Each Wildestan Adventure starts life as an idea in the minds of one of our remarkable Experts, but this spark of inspiration goes on a long journey before it makes it to a Wildestan 'broadcast'. Each Expert submits their idea to the office team, and they are then paired up with a host – a member of the British Exploring Society office team who can act as their guide through the weird and wonderful world of Wildestan. Working together the Expert and the host develop the idea, working on everything from activities and icebreakers to bandwidth and microphones to make sure the session provides the perfect balance of adventure, learning, and fun to our Young Adventurers.

Experts spend countless hours writing scripts, developing slides and session resources, standing on windy hillsides testing bandwidth and running multiple rehearsals to make adventures in Wildestan the best they can be. When the curtain comes up, the host acts as the intermediary between Young Adventurers and Experts, relaying questions, supervising activities, and launching polls so our young people can benefit from the wealth of expertise our Experts have to offer.

How Wildestan continued to develop

From November 2020 to October 2021, we delivered 26 Adventures. The end of Season 2, 2020, Season 1, 2021, and the first part of Season 2, 2021 continued to deliver new content, while the second half of Season 2 looked at how we could prepare young people for a summer of expeditions by redelivering several of our "Survival in the Wild" Adventures from 2020.

13

YOUNG ADVENTURERS FROM WILDESTAN JOINED US ON AN EXPEDITION PROGRAMME IN 2021



WILDESTAN ADVENTURES

What did we cover?

Our Wildestan Experts delivered Adventures from a host of locations including Dartmoor, The Brecon Beacons, The Mendips, and even over the water in Jersey and Austria, covering themes around wellbeing, journalism, survival, and environmental protection. This was a properly informative, interactive, and immersive set of sessions that brought the outdoors to young people at home during times when it was not so easy to get outside all the time – with challenges posed by both the ongoing pandemic and a lack of outdoor access which affects so many people in the UK.

Season 2, 2020 Adventures (November-December):

- Sustainable Solutions for the Climate Crisis
- Survival in the Wild: Snow
- Survival in the Wild: When Darkness Descends
- Survival in the Wild: Preventing and Managing Hypothermia
- A (Night) Walk on the Wild Side
- What's your PLAN?
- What Would You Put On Your 'Emotional Kit List'?

Season 1, 2021 Adventures:

- Interpreting Signs in the Wild
- Survival in the wild: Jungle
- Leaf Litter sampling
- How to find a lost glove
- Fantastic Birds and Where to find them
- Explore Within
- These Boots are made for walking
- The Great British Waste Off

- Aesthetic / Sensory Approaches to expedition
- Capture your Adventure: Journaling for Self-discovery.

Season 2, 2021 Adventures:

- Coal Mining in Wales
- Woodland Trees
- Wellbeing
- Fish n Chips done wild (and other food adventures)
- A personal reminder – Tools to develop your life purpose
- Diversity of coastal heathland in Jersey

Season 2, 2021 Adventures: Survival in the Wild Series:

- Water
- Open Fire Cooking
- Preventing And Managing Hypothermia

Our Young Adventurers

Similar to 2020, we saw the pattern of young people returning to take part in Wildestan Adventures week after week in 2021. The cohort of young people had changed but new "regulars" took their place – and, with 14 young people attending at least five of the 11 Adventures in Season 1 and 11 young people attending at least 5 of the 9 Adventures across Season 2, we sustained engagement with a significant number of Young Adventurers.

And, while it is not the primary objective of Wildestan, we were lucky enough to have a group of our Young Adventurers go on to become Young Explorers in the summer by attending one of our expeditions to Scotland.

419

ATTENDANCES ON WILDESTAN ADVENTURES

Safety and freedom in Wildestan

We continue to strive to ensure that we are providing a safe and welcoming space for everyone to participate. We continue to focus on the improvement of our in-house technological skills and we had no behavioural or safeguarding incidents in any of our Wildestan Sessions in 2021.

Always looking forward

As another crazy year draws to a close, we're reflecting on 2021 and looking forward to 2022 to innovate where we can and need to. As the world opens up again, opportunities for young people to be outside will continue to increase and our Wildestan programmes will adapt.

As we enter our 90th year, we will replace weekly online Wildestan Adventures with monthly ones, while starting to work alongside our partner schools to bring Wildestan into the classroom and to continue to encourage young people to learn new skills, have new conversations, and be inspired to get outside.





Wildestan Expert
Susannah Cass

BRITISH
EXPLORING
SOCIETY

WILDESTAN EXPEDITION

Daisy Bareham, Expedition Coordinator

Our second digital expedition in our virtual land of Wildestan took place during the 2021 Easter school holiday. Faced with the uncertainty of shifting lockdown restrictions, we remained determined to provide adventurous and explorative opportunities for young people including those who had been hoping to join us in the Scottish Highlands at that time. Building on the experiences and learnings of our first Wildestan Expedition, we worked to create an immersive digital experience which sought to bring outdoor adventure to a group of young people at home. The first step was a planning workshop with a select team of dedicated Wildestan Experts, sharing ideas on how to build a virtual programme themed around 'conservation and the environment' – subjects which young people told us they want to learn more about.

Through this, we addressed the changing landscape and the challenges that this brought both to the delivery of Wildestan and to young people at the time. In contrast to our previous weekly Wildestan Adventures which provided access to wild and exciting locations, we recognised that this Wildestan Expedition could benefit from a more localised approach. Wildestan Experts worked together to create engaging, impactful, and cohesive content bookended by the concepts Think Global: Act Local. The expedition was designed to empower and equip young people with the knowledge and tools to find adventure at home and use their newfound skills to effect positive change locally. Young Adventurers joined live sessions with Wildestan Experts for an hour each day, completing daily challenges in between each session which

encouraged them to explore their local area in a safe and appropriate way. The challenges linked each session to the next, creating a strong narrative to ensure continuity of learning.

“One of my favourite things about Wildestan is that every week is different... the other participants and the session leaders are very friendly and everyone respects each other, so you're in a very safe space.”

Young Adventurer Daria
Wildestan Adventures 2021

“I really enjoy planning routes and mapping and it was very interactive.”

Young Adventurer
Wildestan Expedition

“My favourite Adventure was exploring a quarry, learning about the geology and history.”

Young Adventurer Alina
Wildestan Adventures 2021

PINNACLE TRAINING

Chief Leader Bruce Manning

The first of our more challenging expeditions to celebrate our 90th birthday and in the run up to our centenary, our Pinnacle expedition to Lake Baikal in southern Siberia had a bumpy start - having been postponed in 2021. However, our commitment was steadfast and our will strong, so we continued to ensure we delivered on our promise to those young people that had eagerly signed up, who had experienced yet another disappointment in a year full of changes.

“To reduce our carbon impact as part of our drive towards sustainability, the Pinnacle Young Explorers will start their expedition in Russia on the Trans-Siberian railway.”

2022 was a long time to wait – over two years since the Young Explorers initially signed up for the programme – so we created a series of bi-monthly, digital events to maintain momentum and engagement, helping the young people involved begin to plan and feel prepared. Notable guests joined to impart their knowledge and expertise, including Members, Leaders and other adventurers who were also planning expeditions to Lake Baikal. To those that joined, we would like to give thanks once again for your knowledge, time and energy – the feedback from our Young Explorers was always positive.

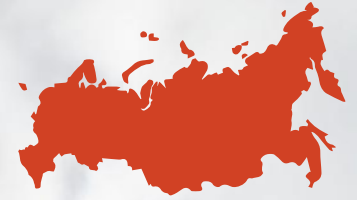
We also held an in-person residential in North Wales towards the end of 2021, where Pinnacle Young Explorers and Leaders came together for the first time in real life in over a year since the Selection Weekend, to practice skills and share excitement for their upcoming expedition to Russia.

Time ebbs ever closer to our Pinnacle expedition and at the time of writing the team are making the final arrangements for visas and kit so that we can be ready to depart for Lake Baikal in Siberia, our first overseas destination since 2019 and our first expedition of 2022. To reduce our carbon impact as part of our drive towards sustainability, the Pinnacle Young Explorers will start their expedition in Russia on the Trans-Siberian railway – the longest railway line in the world – to travel between Moscow and Lake Baikal. What a way to kick off the trip.

Our heartfelt thanks to the trustees of the Sandy and Zorica Glen charitable Settlement for standing by us on this extended journey.

-20°C

THE AVERAGE LOWEST TEMPERATURE OUR YOUNG EXPLORERS ARE PREPARING TO LIVE IN



DANGOOR NEXT GENERATION SCOTLAND



The Dangoor family have funded and made the Dangoor Next Generation programme possible since its inception in 2011, enabling young people least likely to have access to outdoor experiences to take part in and benefit from a truly transformative expedition. Having taken place in Iceland for the past nine years, Dangoor Next Generation was due for its 10th anniversary there - but the world had other ideas. In the summer of 2021, Dangoor Next Generation instead headed off to the Cairngorms, Scotland. Starting from Blair Atholl Estate, Young Explorers from schools across the Aldridge Foundation network spent two weeks exploring the Scottish Highlands.

Deputy Chief Leader Tony, Adventure Leader Graham, and Young Explorer Leo reflect on the expedition:

Tony: Describe your expedition - how did it make you think and feel. What were the highs and lows?

Leo: It was good, one of the best things was exploring different terrain. I think it changed me because it has made me feel more confident in speaking to new people. The midges were hard to deal with, but it was OK.

Graham: The expedition made me think that I was doing something of value and that in turn led to a rewarding feeling to see the Young Explorers achieve above their own expectations. For example, learning how to look after themselves in an unfamiliar environment that at times was challenging, whether that was weather, midges or just physical challenge.

The only low point for me was one Young Explorer having to retire from the expedition due to injury. There were many highs, but perhaps best of all was seeing the two youngest members of the group get successfully to the end, say that they enjoyed themselves and that they had, at the outset, not thought they could cope with such a challenge.

Tony: I very much agree with Graham that the high point of the trip for all the Leaders was seeing Young Explorers facing up to the challenges that the expedition threw at them and realising that they were able to cope with those challenges. We saw and heard this again at our Next Steps event in November: it is hard to quantify what this experience must mean for their personal development. What's the one aspect of the expedition that you will never forget?

Leo: Camping and being somewhere different I had never been before. I thought Scotland was beautiful and I'd like to go again.

Tony: It is splendid to hear that Leo got so much out of his trip to Scotland. He not only learned new things about the outdoors (some good, some bad) but he also was moved by the beauty of the place and he recognises that the experience has boosted his self-confidence.

Graham: A favourite moment for myself and I would like to think for the group was sitting in the sunshine on an inland beach, playing games, including a chess set made from coloured stones from the beach. Very creative stuff!

Tony: Were there any practical lessons you learnt on expedition?

Leo: Learning about things from nature you could eat, we picked berries, that was good.

Graham: The topic of land preservation against global warming came up on expedition when we saw evidence of peat bog restoration to assist with carbon capture. Significant effort appears to be put into this in these remote locations and should help with carbon capture which we all know is important to the future of our planet.

With the midges aside, the young people who attended Dangoor Next Generation in 2021 have participated in an experiential learning experience that we hope will be transformational in their futures. Working with partner organisations, Dangoor Next Generation has supported some of the most marginalised and vulnerable young people in the UK over the past decade, with 95% of those who complete the expedition phase of the programme in previous years engaged in employment, education, or training, within three months of returning home.



HARTZ SCOTTISH EXPLORERS

Chief Leader Paul Batterbury

"I walked into basecamp with butterflies in my stomach because I didn't know anyone, but everyone was so accommodating. They made you feel comfortable. The experience of just being in nature is amazing, you don't realise how much there is around you to take in."

Young Explorer Lucie

It's a thrill and a privilege to be invited to be a Chief Leader for British Exploring Society. It's daunting too, given the calibre of the Leaders assigned to the expedition. Consequently, I train hard, pack wisely and address all manner of scenarios that may never come to pass, working out strategies to 'plan for the worst but hope for the best'. I box up my fears, put them aside to ensure that I am not the weakest link amongst such formidable co-leads. This year, however, there were two fears I was unable to leave behind as I travelled to Scotland for Hartz 1 and 2. The first was and still is a midge phobia - those nano-bots of pain and irritation that undermine morale and darken the sky at dusk and dawn and, apparently, any random hour in between. The second was the Young Explorers themselves. These are always a fearsome challenge, not least because they are all unique, special people challenging themselves in ways I never did as a youth.

"My favourite moment was getting to sit out under the stars, and it happened by chance. We were meant to be getting a train to our starting point for 6 days out of base camp – but the train got cancelled. So, at the last minute we decided to do our planned route in reverse! This meant an early evening start up a very steep hill and then the fun of finding somewhere to camp whilst we were losing the light."

We sent out a couple of groups to recce a spot and ended up on the shores of Loch Eilde Mor. We split into two groups – one to cook a late dinner, the other to put up the tents. Then, as we were all beginning to feel tired and cold and thinking about going to bed, we were treated to the most amazing display of stars... Everyone hunkered down on the shore edge to look for different constellations. The Plough was so clear, and we even got to see the Milky Way.

It was only day 3 of our expedition, but it brought the whole group together and gave everyone a chance to reflect on their training and look forward to some more amazing days on expedition."

Knowledge Leader Louise Kelly

"I really loved the expedition because it wasn't just about adventuring, my Fire did a lot of John Muir activities and taking in the environment, learning about different things. There was also a lot of self-reflection, especially for me because I'm from the city and it's quite busy so you don't have a lot of time to think."

Young Explorer Vince

I need not have worried about the midges or Young Explorers. There were no midges at Base Camp, Young Explorers and Leaders the only participants to endure these Scottish horrors when out on tour. And as for the Young Explorers: what an amazing group of people. Every day I would hear further tales of challenges overcome, of personal Everests conquered. It did not matter where each one began their journey because every individual was on that journey, on track to leave the past behind, to live in the present and build a stronger future. The thrill of being a Chief Leader is doing nothing yet seeing potential realised; realised as in sudden self-awareness of potential; realised as in potential unearthed and fulfilled.

Hartz Scottish Explorers provided the perfect opportunity for all of us to become better versions of ourselves, amongst majestic mountains, historic landscapes and newly appreciated nature.

"At one point we filled an empty tub with blueberries that we had foraged, and then we found raspberries along the way. Eventually I could pick out the wood sorrel among the clovers. It was my first time foraging and I'd always wanted to learn it so that was really exciting to do"

Young Explorer Sofia

NUMBER OF MIDGES =



"My expedition to Scotland was life changing and inspiring. It showed me how much of an impact the outdoors and adventure can have on young people. Taking young people out of their comfort zones, learning new skills, building their confidence and pushing them to achieve things they never would have thought they could do. Two weeks of my life that I'll never forget, the skills and lessons that I learnt as well as all the memories I have with my Fire."

Young Explorer Evan

We are indebted to the family after whom this programme is named, and without whom it would never have been possible.



LANDMARK SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



Young Explorers on Landmark Scottish Highlands (split into two expeditions) spent two weeks exploring Scotland's sixth largest loch by canoe, and wild camping on its shores. Some Fires chose to tackle nearby Munros; some opted for flatter terrain and longer tours away from basecamp; some preferred time in their canoes exploring the fifteen miles of water Loch Tay had to offer. Unfortunately, due to cases of COVID on Landmark 2, the expedition was terminated early to ensure the safety of young people and Leaders. We were proud of the positive way our Young Explorers responded to this disappointment. Their feedback, and that of the Leaders, indicates that the experience was beneficial, even if it did not turn out the way they had expected.

Chief Leader Bruce Manning caught up with Social Leader Tina Goldsmith and Young Explorer Rebecca to look back and reflect on the expedition.

Bruce: Tell me about the highs and lows of being on expedition and the effect they had on you. Did it leave you with any lasting impressions?

Tina: My excitement began with being selected as a Leader and then meeting the incredible group of Young Explorers for the first time on a very wet training weekend. Having come through such a tough Covid year it felt magical to finally be heading out into the Scottish mountains with a very mixed group of young people. I still can't quite believe how intense the two weeks were. It may have been the rapidly changing weather or being so fully

engaged in the wellbeing of the Fire, but it was a completely immersive experience, and one I won't forget. From bathing in a crystal clear rockpool at 6.30am to fighting off midges after a full day hiking while trying to eat. Everything, whether good or bad, was challenging and memorable. The whole Fire (Young Explorers and Leaders alike) grew more confident, noticed more, engaged more, and developed as individuals and as a collective group. British Exploring Society has a format which is different and from the outside may appear to be relatively simple. However, the impact should never be underestimated. I'm sure it will be lifelong for every one of us.

Bruce: This was the first time I've run an expedition in Scotland, even though I know Scotland well. I initially thought it should be much easier than many of the overseas locations we use but soon realised just how challenging the mountain environment is for a Fire and the degree of respect required to use the lochs with safety. This was a brilliant place to take young people, full of opportunities to stretch them out of their comfort zone and encourage them to develop self-confidence and robustness. We finished Landmark 1 with a celebration in base camp which was the icing on the cake, an evening to remember. Was there an aspect of the expedition which you will never forget?

Rebecca: There were so many amazing moments, but I think two that stand out are the incredibly hard canoe journey on our second day as the winds were hitting ferociously against us and the intrepid nature and collective perseverance is what got us to the end point. The second must be the numerous beach campfires as they allowed us to come together and show true camaraderie. From singing campfire songs to

discussing what we had entailed that day, I can say it did nothing but bring us closer together.

Tina: Bathing in a clear rockpool early one morning with a small group of Young Explorers. We had a stunning glen ahead of us, rare morning sunshine and mountains in the distance. Such an incredible way to embrace a new day and to motivate each other to get up and get going.

Bruce: I'm really glad to hear how our Fires bonded, as I am sure our founder would have been. Did you know that's why British Exploring Society call our groups Fires? It was his idea that a group of about twelve people was the ideal size to sit around a fire, to debate issues and recollect the day. Did you learn any practical lessons from your experience on expedition?

Rebecca: The physical and social elements were amazing, but we did some very interesting knowledge projects led by our amazing Knowledge Leader Matt. My personal favourite was the wildlife camera traps and wildlife watching as we got to lay the bait, observe our findings, such as the discovery of a pine marten! Also laying low at 9-10pm watching a badger sett and seeing the badger pop up its head was an insane opportunity, and it has definitely increased my interest in wildlife watching.

Bruce: It sounds like you had an incredible time, to have seen a badger is quite something but to see a pine marten in the wild is a privilege I've never had. I hope you will stay in touch with the friends you made and share your future experiences with them.



ON THE PROGRAMME

"During the expedition, we learnt a great deal of geography, science and how to protect our environment. We developed map-reading skills, identified different species of lichen, plants and animals as well as detected different landforms.

The most valuable pieces of knowledge we obtained were the many ways we protected or conserved the environment. We never had food waste, we recycled, carried our waste, washed up where there was lots of vegetation so that we could protect water sources, and often cooked vegetarian friendly meals. It was a very enriching experience that showed us mother nature's beauty and the urgent need to protect the Earth."

Young Explorer Rinesa
Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021

"One word to say about this expedition: Transformative. Being on an expedition gives you a whole new perspective that you have never seen before and changes you as a person for the better. Being in the serene environment of Loch Tay allowed us to focus more on each other as a Fire but also ourselves and our thoughts, which I enjoyed tremendously compared to the rush of my usual London life...

Expedition was such a big learning experience that nothing was really a 'low'. The toilet situation to the steep ascents did pose difficulties that encouraged us to problem solve or be even more open to change."

Young Explorer Rebecca
Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021

"It was amazing. Honestly it was the best two weeks of my life. Like genuinely. My highlight was camping in the middle of nowhere with a clear sky. We stayed up until 4am just watching, you could see everything. The walking was painful, but the views were incredible."

Young Explorer Shaun
Dangoor Next Generation Scotland 2021



FIELD NOTES

This table indicates the range, diversity and scale of activities undertaken in the UK and online between November 2020 and October 2021 in order to deliver our programmes and meet the needs of different groups of young people.

UK Training

● Number of training days

	Chief Leader X Past BES expeditions	● Leaders ● Young People (Training weekend) ● Young People (Expedition)	Wildestan Adventures	Total Online Attendances	Leader Induction	Leader Training	Explorer Training	Dates	Next steps
Namibia	8 Bruce Manning	4	-	-	●●●	-	-	Cancelled	-
Yukon	9 Jennie Richardson	10	-	-	●●●	-	-	Cancelled	-
UK Spring	4 James Dyer	2	-	-	●●●	-	-	Cancelled	-
DNG Iceland	0 Daniel Mazhindu	7	-	-	●●●	-	-	Cancelled	-
Landmark Finland	4 James Dyer	5	-	-	●●●	-	-	Cancelled	-
Landmark UK	8 Bruce Manning	45/18/54	-	-	●●●	●●●	●●●	2 Aug → 28 Aug	13 Nov 2021
DNG UK	0 Daniel Mazhindu	18/13/27	-	-	●●●	●●●	●●●	28 Jul → 10 Aug	13 Nov 2021
Hartz UK	2 Paul Batterbury	17/62	-	-	●●●	●●	● (At start of expedition)	26 Jul → 21 Aug	13 Nov 2021
Expedition Workshops	N/A	240	-	-	-	-	-	Various	-
Wildestan 2 2020 (From Nov 1st)	N/A	8/41	7	89	-	Wildestan Training	-	Every Tuesday 13 Oct → 20 Oct	-
Wildestan 1 2021	N/A	11/58	11	171	-	Wildestan Training	-	Every Tuesday 12 Jan → 30 Mar	-
Wildestan 2 2021	N/A	9/27	9	106	-	Wildestan Training	-	Every Tuesday 20 Apr → 6 Jul	-
Wildestan Expedition	N/A	5/16	5	53	-	Wildestan Training	-	5 Apr → 9 Apr	-
Pinnacle	8 Bruce Manning	5/14	-	37	-	-	4 X 1 hour online	Postponed to 2022	-



LEADER IMPACT STORY

Knowledge Leader Matt Scott, Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021

Growing up on a farm in County Armagh, where I'd disappear off across the fields for hours on end, undoubtedly inspired my interest in the natural world. It's an interest that I was determined to develop and share with others, while at the same time I wished to make a positive practical impact on something I so cherished. This led me down the nature conservation career path that I am currently on – one where I have volunteered for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, studied for a degree in Environmental Biology, and currently find myself employed as a National Trust Ranger at the Crom Estate in County Fermanagh.

At school, I struggled to find a form of physical activity that I wanted to throw myself into. That's until I embarked on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. It brought about my initiation into the world of outdoor pursuits and learning and personal development in challenging outdoor environments.

In October 2019, I was on the lookout for a voluntary opportunity where I could marry up my interest in the natural world and the outdoors, while being involved in the leadership of young people. The opportunity to become a volunteer expedition Leader with British Exploring Society came to light, and it seemed like a perfect fit.

I was on my way to becoming a Leader – but COVID-19 had other ideas! As British Exploring Society responded to restrictions on daily life, Wildestan was born and I delivered two sessions, before finally heading off on a physical expedition with British Exploring Society in Summer 2021. I was a Knowledge Leader on the Landmark Scottish Highlands Expedition, which was based on and around Loch Tay. Those weeks spent on expedition made me realise just how much I'd missed such engagement and sharing my passion for the natural world with others. It proved to be a catalyst for me pursuing a career sidestep - into outdoor instruction. Next year, I will begin the Glenmore Lodge's

one year Instructor Development Scheme which in time will allow me to combine my nature conservation and outdoor instruction career interests - with the focus all the while being to educate, enthuse and inspire.

I truly believe that expeditions are about much more than the physical act of exploration. Interactions with the people that you are with and meet, and the opportunity for meaningful learning and personal development, are just as significant. This was very apparent on expedition this year; where I could see before my eyes the notable personal growth in many of the Young Explorers I had the privilege of leading. Fast forward to Next Steps, and it was especially impactful to hear a couple of the young people I worked most closely with on expedition talk about how they now view, approach and input to their friendships in a different but albeit more positive manner.

Given the pandemic, the early days of my involvement with British Exploring Society have been somewhat unusual. But regardless, it is clear to me that I am now part of an incredible community of inspirational Leaders, and equally inspirational Young Explorers - both past and present. I cannot quite believe that I have got to mix with and learn from some of the people I've crossed paths with thus far - that has been a real honour. As British Exploring Society works through a period of continuing change and transition in the years that lie ahead, I hope to continue contributing to the organisation's work and legacy as it heads towards and beyond its centenary year.



Knowledge Leader
Matt Scott

MEMBERSHIP

Abigail Huntington, Membership Officer

This year, Membership has focused on connection, celebration, and contribution.

Members of all ages continue to engage with us enthusiastically. They are always willing to reminisce, share their stories, and explain the impact that their time on expedition has had on their lives. Members are keen to connect with one another and with British Exploring Society. They are also incredibly supportive: responding to requests for contributions to our Archive and The Campfire magazine; offering their expertise and mentorship; volunteering to sort, clean and repair kit; and reaching out to re-connect 'lost' Members.

We are grateful to everyone who has generously given their time to support and get involved with our community this year.

The Campfire

Thanks to the on-going commitment and contributions of our Members, we continue to produce our electronic Member's Magazine, The Campfire. Each edition provides a window into our history, the combined interests and knowledge-base of our community, and the often very personal experiences of our Members. The Campfire is written by our Members, for our Members, and allows them to share and celebrate their experiences, start conversations and reconnect with one another.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the following contributors to The Campfire:

Ed Biondini (Arctic Adventure 2011, Arctic Odyssey 2012, Indian Himalaya 2013)

Sam McConnell (Sinai 2012, Namibia 2012, 2013, 2014)

David Johnson (Papua New Guinea 1987)

Daniel Grace (Canadian Yukon 2019, Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021)

Emma Pearl (Daughter of Dennis Pearl, a Young Explorer on our first three expeditions 1932, 1933 and 1934)

Kyle Jackson (Dangoor Infinity Iceland 2019, Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021)

Josh Hopkins (Dangoor Infinity Iceland 2019, Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021)

James Dyer (Arctic Leadership Skills 2015, Amazon 2016, 2017, Epic Spain 2018, Dangoor Next Generation Iceland 2019)

Flora Nicholls (Landmark Scottish Highlands 2021)

Neil Langan (Overwinter Alaska 1989)

Chris Thorp (Newfoundland 1969)

Chris Grace (Newfoundland 1969)

Graham Johnston (Expeditionary Iceland 2018, Indian Himalaya 2019, Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021, Dangoor Next Generation Scotland 2021)

Riana Mallon (Amazon 2009, Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021)

Sofia Antunes Trabuco (Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021)

Lucie Heseltine (Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021)

Vince Bigas (Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021)

Abi Horobin (Canadian Yukon 2019)

David Emmett (Technical Advisor to Council)

Cathy O'Dowd (Delivered a Fireside Talk with Aaron Phipps)

Our newest Members

The first year after expedition is a critical time. This is when Young Explorers reflect on and learn to harness the benefits from their expedition experience.

Completing an expedition with us can be transformative for young people. However, they often find it difficult to communicate their experiences and identify how the skills they



have acquired can be applied to other situations in their life.

To support our newest Members to make the most of their experience and ensure that it has a positive, long-term impact on their life, we provide them with three further elements which complement our expedition programme.

Next Steps

Next Steps is a one-day event held after the expedition season is over, where Young Explorers, Leaders and the British Exploring Society team come together to celebrate and reflect on the year's expeditions. Young Explorers reunite with their Fires, use the My Compass tool for self-reflection with their Leaders, and work in teams to develop creative presentations about their expeditions. Additionally, they are given the opportunity to attend an inspirational careers-focused panel session with guests from our community. At the end of the day, friends and family assemble to watch the expedition presentations and congratulate our Young Explorers as they are awarded with their British Exploring Society certificates.

Explorer Passport

Once they have completed their programme, Young Explorers receive an Explorer Passport which serves as a handy reminder of the skills that they used and developed during their

programme. By reflecting on their experience and how they grew and developed as a person as a result of their expedition, they can learn how to explain their experience to help them stand out from the crowd for employment and higher education opportunities.

Find Your Path

As 2021 ends, we are launching Find Your Path. Over the next year, Members from our 2021 expeditions will receive six e-newsletters which provide information on what being a Member of British Exploring Society involves and how it can benefit both them and society. The newsletters will also include information about how our new Members can best use the experiences they have gained, ways to communicate their skills and achievements, and will provide them with hints, tips, resources and inspiration for the activities or adventures that they could pursue next. At all times, the newsletters will offer the encouragement and support of our community.

We anticipate that these elements will embed and strengthen the relationship that our younger Members develop with British Exploring Society, and that this will translate into long-term engagement with us and our community.



EXPEDITION IMPACT: THREE DECADES LATER

In 2016, we worked with The Pennsylvania State University on a research project to look at the effect of our expeditions on our Members over decades. The study, by María José Ramírez Cañas, demonstrated that the impact of our expeditions is significant and long-lasting. In 2021, we were reminded of this when we reached out to Members who had been part of our expedition to Svalbard in 1990.

An initial enquiry for photos triggered a flurry of emails, each one expressing eagerness to be involved, to share memories, and to help re-connect us with 'missing' Members. Our expeditions create feelings of deep connection between individuals and British Exploring Society, and that impact is felt more than 30 years later.

Here are some of the comments from the Members of Svalbard 1990.

"When asked about my expedition, I often tell the story of sitting on top of a mountain with John, Swythen and Jeremy, watching the midnight sun travel around us. I looked out across Trollheim, looked down into a huge crevasse, I experienced my smallness in the face of all that and it struck me that I was alive, and my existence was significant. That realization is now part of who I am. It's contributed to the resilience I built. That's helped me overcome the fear of failure that once immobilized me, which in turn has enabled me to 'give it a go' and 'take on' the series of challenges and opportunities that led to my becoming Mayor of Bristol. I am so proud to be the President today and honoured to be part of the effort to give more young people the same opportunities British Exploring Society gave me."

British Exploring Society President, Marvin Rees

"I was lucky enough to be in Survey Fire on Svalbard '90. I look back on it as a wonderful time in a close-knit team exploring in the true wilderness. I have some lifelong friends (including my son's godfather), and meeting others a while ago it was like we were never apart. I am sure the expedition gave me the independence and confidence to explore the world, and it really did enrich my life. By the time I was 30 I had lived in France and the Netherlands, had adventures in the Alps, Pyrenees, Canada, Kenya, and the Himalayas, and

for several years I worked in Congo and Angola. It taught me to take responsibility and to do things safely, and I learned the general outdoor and mountain skills I try to pass down to my kids. I had strong flashbacks last winter as a friend and I navigated by compass for two hours on skis in a whiteout (unplanned!)."

Member Mike Sibson. Thank you to Mike for also providing us with photos from the expedition.

"It is not my intent to summon the metaphor of seeing life through the bottom of a glass, but there is an ØI glass on my shelf from the Longyearbyen tavern. At face value it is a souvenir of our football match against the miners (and a Royal Norwegian Navy submarine crew) on the final day of our Svalbard '90 Expedition. In another light, it is a prism through which I can envision a parallel life, much less rich in experience, diversity, and community that might have been, had I not been in Svalbard that year. And that is why I will always look back to that long, glorious, arduous summer with deep fondness and gratitude for having had the life-enabling opportunity to be on that expedition. What treasures did I discover then that I have since carried with me? The most valuable is an understanding of myself, and admiration for others. Interestingly, this took years to grow after the expedition, and is still in evolution, but I have no doubt that Svalbard was the catalyst. What exactly do I mean by that? One of the greatest and most difficult goals in life is knowing yourself, and progress towards that goal is accelerated under extreme conditions. Svalbard brought out the best in me at many times, and also held up an ice mirror for me to see the less attractive parts. I'm not a dyed-in-the-wool dualist philosopher, but I strongly believe that both light and dark parts of self are equally important for self-awareness. As for the other expedition Members and Leaders who I spent that summer with, under a canvas fly with the snow valance, in a snow hole, in an igloo, or simply on a karrimat on the moraine, my admiration and respect grows every day. As a teenager whose self-confidence often left little room for the talents of others, I rapidly realised, and continue to grow in appreciation of what each and every member of our society contributes, and

their potential. Finding your place in the world is difficult. It is a never-ending journey, and sharing hardtack and offloaded tins of compo with the individuals whom I have subsequently seen do the most incredible and positive things with their own lives, and for the world, is a lesson and a privilege, that alongside a respect and love for nature, I will treasure forever."

Member Damian Mole

"As Chief Leader of Svalbard '90 summer expedition (my third of six British Exploring Society expeditions) I had the privilege of being with 86 expeditioners in a remote place. At our final 'get together' at Longyearbyen airport my "oration" included Churchill's words "this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." I have found this true of British Exploring Society expeditions - many of the young people have found the experience quite life-changing and they have built on this to expand their ideas and aims. Still in touch with Leaders and young people, I've seen how they lead their lives. I am proud of the part that we, as Leaders, have been able to play. I'm still active in wild places and meet fellow British Exploring Society Members in interesting places - wear the T-shirt and introduce yourselves!"

Chief Leader Pat Cannings



AFTER THE PROGRAMME

"When we arrived at the base camp to collect them, they were both beaming and full of stories about the trip on our long drive home... Both felt it had been a very positive and fun experience – learning new skills – but their lasting memories are about the social bonds that they made... I remember seeing the National Trust's guide to 50 things to do before you're 11 ½ to encourage children to discover the great outdoors and get closer to nature. This expedition seems to have included 100 things to do before you're 17 ½ - from washing in the river to climbing a Munro; from playing poker in a bothy to talking to an estate manager about conservation; to sleeping solo in a tent to planning a hiking route with their Fire. The list goes on..."

**Ros, guardian of Young Explorers
Serge and Darcie
Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021**

"I look after the environment more and I feel that I am more resourceful than I was. I don't waste things. I feel more confident, my self-esteem has increased, and my communication skills have improved. I would like to be involved in future expeditions. My Leaders were very fair, supportive, and positive, they encouraged me and helped me develop as a person. The whole experience, the location, and the expedition itself was special."

**Young Explorer Ben
Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021**

"It changes your life and sets you up for the future and has been the most valuable experience of my life, meeting so many like-minded people has provided me with friends all over the UK and the chance to push yourself in a good safe environment can be hard to come across in everyday life. It has been so beneficial to my mental health and I really feel I have grown as a person since starting my journey with British Exploring Society."

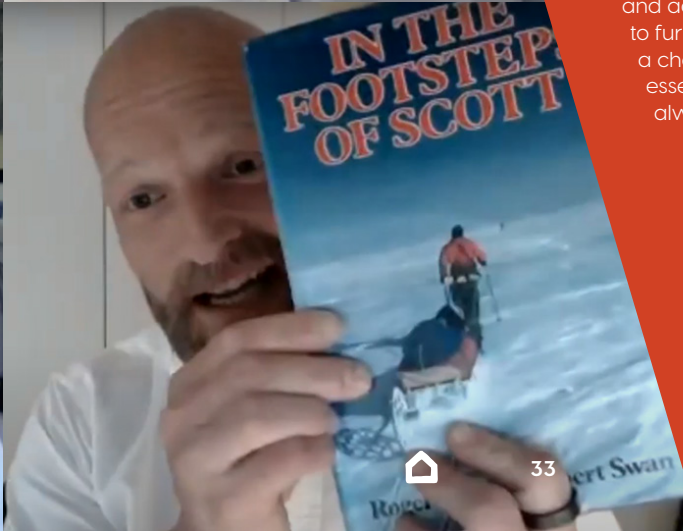
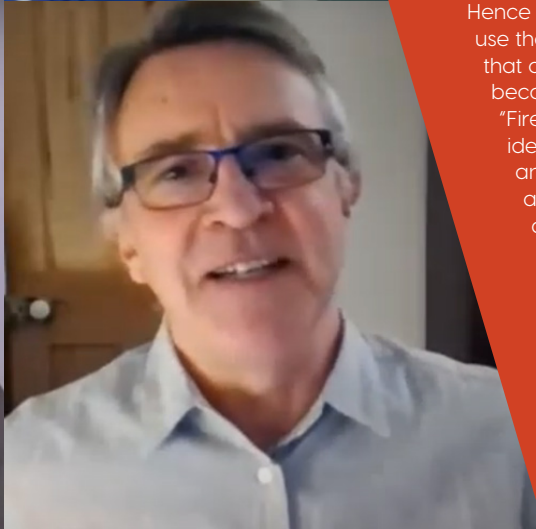
**Young Explorer Hannah
Hartz Scottish Explorers 2021**

"Having completed a season of Wildestan, I now feel a lot more secure in my abilities and I feel like I have learned a lot. As a result of that, I feel a lot more comfortable about joining expeditions and I would like to go on one soon. I think Wildestan has also helped me decide on what I want to do in the future. I really want to work in conservation and Wildestan has confirmed that a job surrounding that would be ideal for me because I love the outdoors and the natural world."

**Young Adventurer Alina
Wildestan Adventures 2021**

Winning photo from our Young Explorer Photo Competition taken by Young Explorer Will Dyer





OUR VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE

Fireside Talks

When we updated our identity a few years ago, we wanted to find a way to embrace, celebrate and represent our community and to suggest one of our favourite places to meet: around the campfire. Hence the circle logo next to our name. We still use the name for an individual expedition group that our founder George Murray Levick coined because it also refers back to that place – a “Fire” – and conjures up the simple, powerful idea of a group of people coming together and learning from each other in a welcoming and unconfrontational place. We want all our activities to be like this.

Our Fireside Talks provide an opportunity for our community to come together around a virtual campfire – with remarkable guest speakers for company. This year we hosted three Fireside Talks and are grateful for the thought-provoking anecdotes and inspiring insight each of our guests shared. Through their openness and reflections on themes relating to access, challenge, learning, and adventure, we have been able to further ingrain our values as a charity and demonstrate the essence of who we are. And we always left feeling inspired.

- Learning from the unexpected: a life between extremes with John McCarthy (click [here](#)).
- Where do we go from here: can exploration help us tackle climate change? with Ben Saunders and Robert Swan (click [here](#)).
- Access all areas with Cathy O’Dowd and Aaron Phipps (click [here](#)).

Like most worthwhile conversations, we didn’t land on easy solutions to the questions we raised in our talks. But we explored important themes that resonated with our audiences – overcoming adversity, tackling future challenges, the transformative impact of exploration and how we can shape the lives of future generations.

“There is no more ice to walk on during the summertime and that’s quite something... we went to the South Pole in ‘89, you [Ben Saunders] went in the early 2000s, and you can’t make that journey anymore. And I think that’s a very, very important lesson from these great ice caps at both Poles: that we need to listen to what they’re saying.”

Robert Swan during his Fireside Talk with Ben Saunders

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FIRESIDE TALK ATTENDEES



OUR VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE

Our Celebration Evening

This year we hosted our Celebration Evening virtually for the first time. With the help of an incredible events company – Planned 2 Perfection – we brought our virtual campfire to life for the evening. Streaming live from a green-screen basecamp (with 150 miles separating them), CEO Honor Wilson-Fletcher was joined by our host for the evening, Ben Saunders: a record-breaking polar explorer who led the first return journey to the south pole on foot via Shackleton and Scott's route, endurance athlete, exceptional storyteller and Fellow of British Exploring Society.

Our annual Celebration Evening offers a chance to look back on the year and give our appreciation to all those who have helped deliver adventure and challenge and reaffirmed the capacity of our community to adapt and be hugely generous.

The evening was a technical extravaganza, packed full of reflection, celebration, and awards. Guests were treated to an interactive introduction to Wildestan (link to Wildestan page), with audience participation greatly encouraged as Wildestan Expert James demonstrated how to (try to...) light a fire.

Our hosts were joined around the campfire by a range of guests – panels of Young Adventurers, trustees and partners. We caught up with two of our Young Explorers from 2019, who shared their thoughts on how their expedition experiences have since helped them build stronger futures and cope with lockdown. And we posed questions to some of our fantastic Leaders, asking them to reflect on their participation in Wildestan Adventures and their time with British Exploring Society more broadly over the years. They sent us their responses on video from destinations across the world.

We celebrated the ten-year anniversary of Dangoor Next Generation (click [here](#)), launching a short film reflecting on an incredible ten years together, and celebrating some of the courageous young people who joined our first ever Dangoor Next Generation expedition in 2011.

We ended the evening with more celebration, including welcoming our new Fellows: Honor Wilson-Fletcher, Justin Warwick, Daragh Horgan, and Doug Oppenheim. Fellowship

at British Exploring Society is awarded by our Council and is attainable by any individual involved in our work, granted in relation to exceptional contribution. The contribution that is recognised by Fellowship is in a field that aligns with British Exploring Society's mission and vision.

Due to programme changes in 2020, we were unable to offer our usual Leader Awards this year and, instead, a new Award was created: the Wildestan Award. This Award recognises the special contribution of an individual to the richness of British Exploring Society's virtual wilderness and celebrates those who demonstrate and help others develop our four values – courage, challenge, community and self-belief – through their contribution to Wildestan. Our congratulations to this year's winner, Daniel Mazhindu, who was nominated by Young Adventurers from Wildestan 2020 Season 1.

Our President's Address

In this year's President's Address, our President, Marvin Rees, further explored the concept of resilience – and our path to it. He asked us to consider and embrace the challenges ahead of us, and what our place in our path to resilience might look like. We came away with three key requests from our community:

- We need to sustain the accessibility of our work by building more partnerships with organisations and schools.
- We need to balance the benefits of 21st century exploration with environmental impact. We welcome advice and insight of those who can contribute.
- We always, and increasingly, need the support of philanthropists to help drive forwards our work and sustain our ambition.

We look forward to working together to achieve these key goals and tackle our future challenges.

If you would like to know more about how you can support our ambitions or get involved, please contact development@britishexploring.org



EXPLORING KYRGYZSTAN

Caroline Hodges, Head of Expeditions and Strategic Operations

As our 4-wheel drive vehicle continues up the dramatic escarpment road I am struck, not for the first time, by the sheer amount of space unfolding at every turn. This must, I think to myself, be the highest mountain road in Kyrgyzstan but Vladimir, our charismatic Kyrgyz guide, explains that it doesn't even grace the top five.

A career mountaineer and expedition leader, Vladimir is our guide throughout our 2-week reconnaissance in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and we couldn't be in safer hands. He is the President of the Kyrgyz Mountain Guides Association, the Founder and President of the Kyrgyz Mountain Rescue Service, and Director of our tour company ITMC – he literally wrote the book on mountaineering in Kyrgyzstan. Eight days into our reconnaissance he casually mentions that he also has a PHD in Geology.

"...the repetitive rations, the sleepless nights under canvas, the unwavering support of a team who have rapidly become an expedition family and the songs, card games and in-jokes that buoy our teams up, enabling them to face challenges together..."

And by day eight, plans for our 2022 expedition to Kyrgyzstan are well and truly taking shape. We've identified our new base camp location: a valley at the foot of the dramatic At Bashi mountain range, which we will be sharing with the Kyrgyz herders who spend their summers there living in a traditional yurt and herding sheep and horses. We're also putting the finishing touches to our logistics plan: identifying where we might rent vehicles, source fuel and where we might sleep on our journey to and from base camp.

The expedition promises to be truly exploratory, touching mountainous regions with virtually no tourist presence at all in an area with many unnamed peaks and much for our teams to discover. From wooded valleys to dramatic ridges, the area provides intrigue for our first intrepid group of Young Explorers, Leaders and Trainee Leaders. I know too that it will provide the perfect backdrop for those ubiquitous expeditionary experiences which bind our community together, from those who joined our expeditions in the '50s to the Young Explorers who participated in our first post-pandemic forays into the Scottish hills. I'm thinking, of course, of the repetitive rations, the sleepless nights under canvas, the unwavering support of a team who have rapidly become an expedition family and the songs, card games and in-jokes that buoy our teams up, enabling them to face challenges together and to learn about themselves in the process.

And even as our off-road vehicle achieves the mountain pass and begins a long dusty descent into the valley below, I'm envious of those who will get to be in that first team in the summer of 2022, and excited to hear all their tales of adventure on their return.



A NEW HOME FOR OUR KIT

Sam Drawbridge, Senior Expedition Coordinator

Having outgrown our previous stores some time ago, we began the project of seeking a new home for our kit. After receiving a generous grant from The Band Trust in 2019, we have been looking in earnest for more space for our equipment (small and large tents, stoves, ropes, helmets, medical equipment, communications devices...) and to give us more capacity to provide young people with kit that will enable them to participate on our programmes.

The evolving plan & progress so far

At first, we considered a traditional bricks and-mortar home, but we had soon adapted our approach and began playing with Lego with shipping containers, as well as having discussions with organisations like the Scouts as partners for a potential solution. This could, for example, involve us becoming a tenant at Gilwell Park, an Activity Centre for Scouting and Guiding Groups. This would provide great opportunities for extended partnership with the Scouts, too.

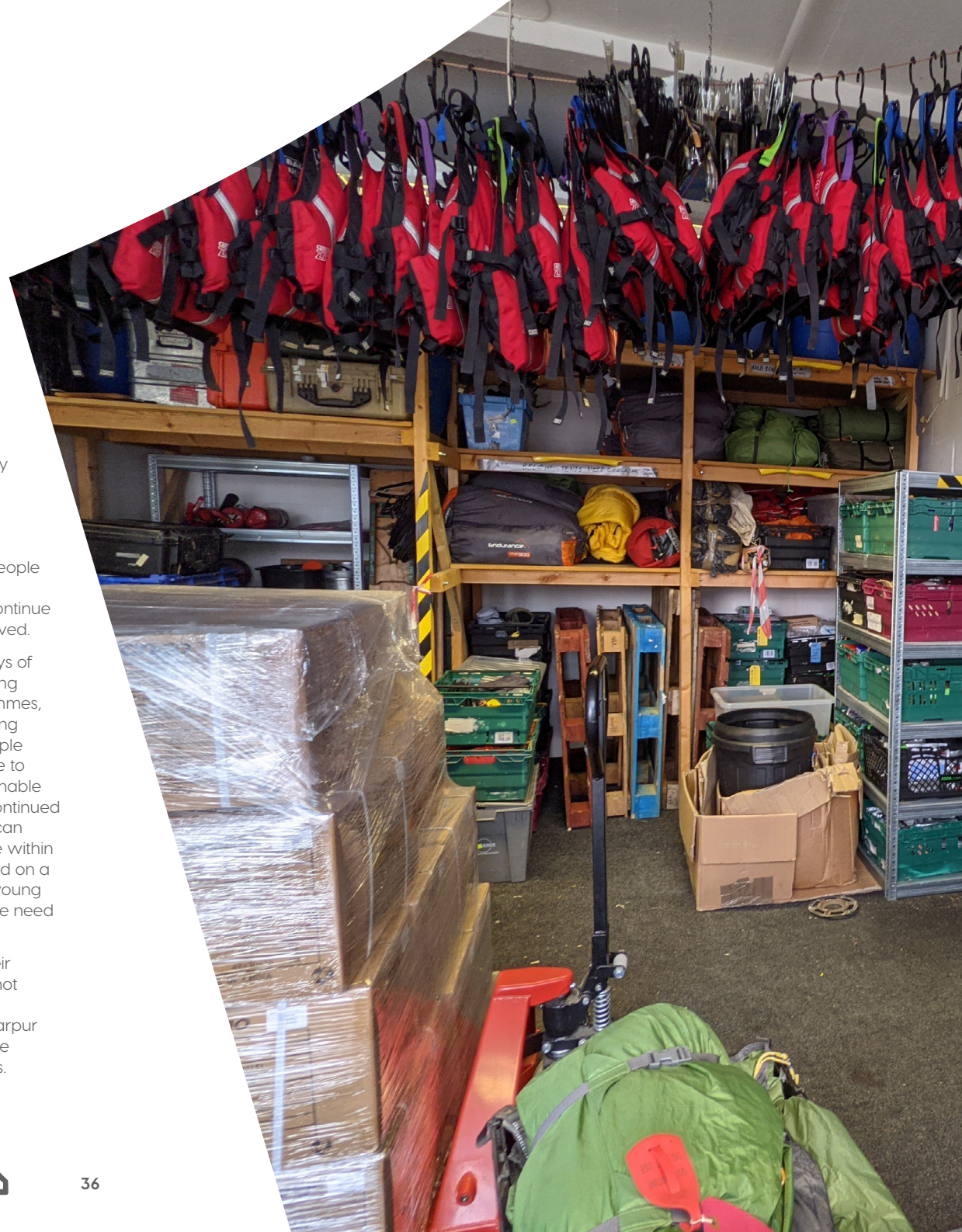
We haven't been tackling this project alone. Following the end of our 2021 expeditions, Members and volunteers from across our community came together to generously donate their time, helping us check and sort our kit and prepare for the move to our new Kit Workshop. This was a new way for our community to engage with us – offering a meaningful, accessible opportunity to support the work we do without the long-term commitment to going on expedition as a Leader.

A blueprint for the future?

As a charity with ambitious plans to support an increasing number of young people, help from our community is invaluable. Whether it's Members volunteering time to help in our new Kit Workshop, generous donors enabling young people from all walks of life to access an expedition programme, or people within our community signing up to our regular giving programme to help us continue the work we do – anyone can get involved.

As we move further away from the days of competitive application, and when young people paid to take part in our programmes, to a model with means-tested fundraising targets, the need to support young people on our programmes is going to continue to increase. This includes providing kit to enable participation, additional training, and continued development opportunities, which we can only provide with the support of people within our community like you. We also depend on a wide range of partnerships – to reach young people, and to provide the resources we need to operate.

Special thanks to The Band Trust for their generosity – without whom we would not have been able to develop a new kit workshop, to the Scouts, and to Tony Harpur and Susannah Cass, both of whom have contributed significant time in our Stores.



MAKING HISTORY OUTDOORS

Throughout our history, in science reports, through mapping, in Chief Leader diaries, Young Explorer diaries, films, photos and other ephemera, we have been witnesses to the wilderness. We have recorded what we've seen, set data baselines, captured evidence of rare flora and fauna. We have charted the retreat of glaciers in Iceland, Norway, Greenland, and the Himalayas. We've uncovered previously undiscovered rock art in Namibia, researched rare insects in Oman, and been scandalised by the waste that others have left behind. Above all, we've recorded remarkable personal journeys – of individual development as well as geographical.

Looking ahead to our 100th anniversary, we see an exciting opportunity to further develop our archive as a safe space in which young people can explore the past as a step on their journey towards taking part in an expedition, where they can learn new skills, meet people from wide-ranging backgrounds and be inspired by potential career paths for themselves. We want to encourage all young people who connect with us to get involved in our archives as a learning resource, and to invite them to contribute to it. This might be adding content to an archives blog, sending images, taking part in a volunteer programme, visiting a local museum or library, or attending events in person or on-screen.

We would love to celebrate this lively and rich contribution of our community and our archive with an exhibition in 2032 showing 100 years of witnessing and experiencing change in the wild.

FIELD FACT

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED IN 1932, THE SAME YEAR THAT WEETABIX AND MARS BARS WERE FIRST PRODUCED.

Progressing towards this goal

With the support of a donation from a member of our Development Board to kick-start the project and the subsequent confirmation of a grant from the Foyle Foundation, we've been able to commence work.

During lockdown we were able to scope the archive to ensure we could care for it, and to explore its potential to play a more meaningful role in the work of the charity in future. Two site surveys were carried out at our offices in West London in April and July 2021. They provided a clear assessment of the content and condition of our collections and generated independent technical reports highlighting Archive Management and Collections Care needs, based on current best practice and international standards of care and management. Each report also produced recommendations which we will now use to inform our plans and priorities.

We need to create user friendly access to the archive, and target a new, young audience of potential expedition members. As our current loyal volunteer archivists retire, we will also need to recruit an Archivist/Records Manager as a member of our core team to take on this task and, of course, we'll need to fundraise further too.

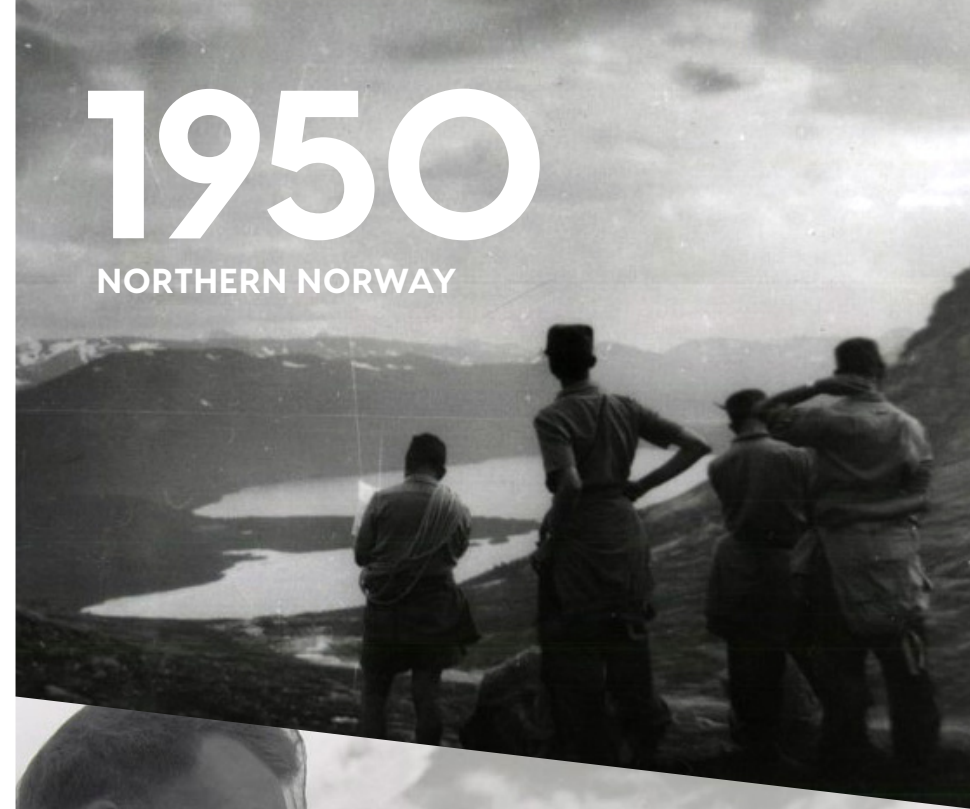
Our new post holder and the archive itself should sit at the heart of our organisation, helping us deliver our mission to provide opportunities for learning through exploration. Our Archivist will be championing support from the Galleries, Library, Archive and Museums (GLAM) sector in areas of social and economic vulnerability in support of that aim, too.

We also want, if we can, to develop a designated physical space for the archive, to help us facilitate our audience development plan to attract and retain new, young audiences.

If you'd like to find out more about our plans for the archive, please contact Kate at kate@britishexploring.org

1950

NORTHERN NORWAY



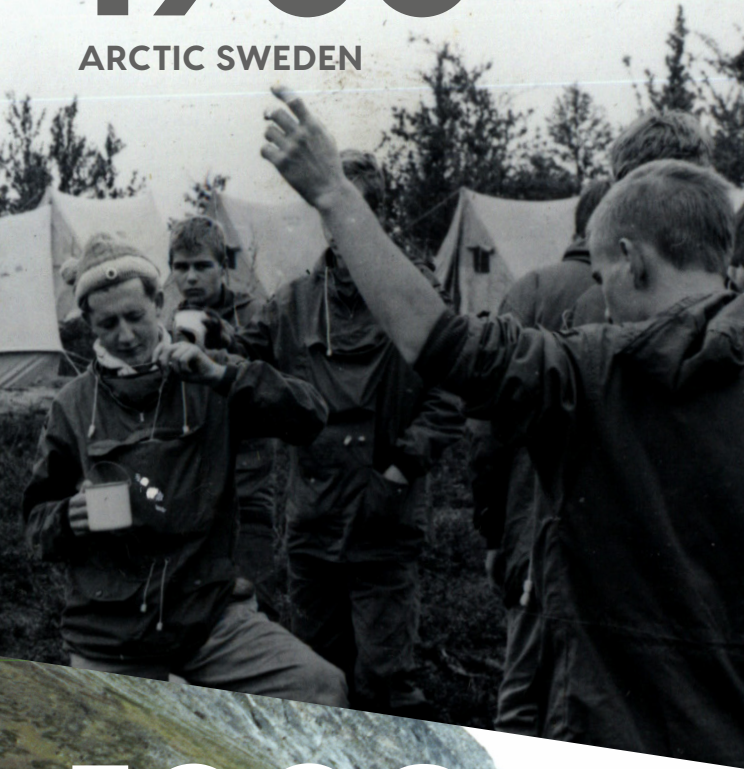
1957

FINNISH LAPLAND



1966

ARCTIC SWEDEN



1982

EAST GREENLAND



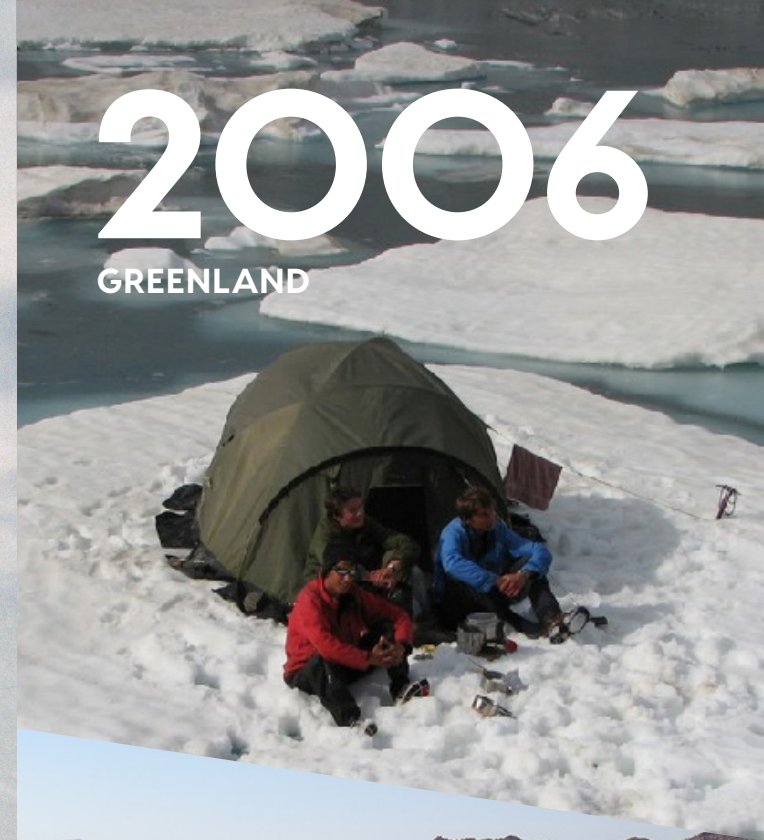
1990

CANADIAN YUKON



2006

GREENLAND



2014

NAMIBIA



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

Rahul Moodgal

Carolyn Young

Patrick Van Daele

David Bartles-Smith
(Resigned November 2021)

Ruth Owen
(Resigned August 2021)

An introduction from our Chair, Ian Maginnis

2021 was another challenging year, but the continuing coronavirus pandemic did not stop us delivering positive outcomes and impact with nearly 500 young people, at a time when what we do has never been more important, and would not have been possible without the commitment, resilience and flexibility of our staff team and volunteer Leaders.

In 2016, British Exploring Society launched the 'Advance & Ascend' strategy, which mapped out how we would change to a more inclusive charity, with our expeditions and programmes 'open to all'. Advance & Ascend is now substantially complete. Our legacy approach of learning through adventurous activities and travel has not changed. We now work with a much more diverse group of young people, enabled by totally new ways of working.

This year we have developed 'A Wild Future': our strategy for the next ten years. A Wild Future will not change our mission and vision. What it will do is build on the good work done under Advance & Ascend.

Central to the strategy is sustainability: sustainability of our purpose, sustainability of our people, and sustainability of the planet. The strategy will be launched next year – our 90th birthday year.

We plan to work with greater numbers of young people, and – pandemic permitting – a return to overseas expeditions.

About This Year

"Taking that leap of faith is the hardest thing to do. But once you do it, you won't regret it. It will be challenging. You will feel all the emotions in all the weather types, but it will be worth it. You have to experience the lows of expedition to treasure the highs- those moments are what really count and what you'll remember in years to come."

Young Explorer

In 2021 our work supported young people from an increasingly diverse community. We have retained robust positive outcomes, developed new forms of assessment to understand the quality of our impact, new ways of thinking and working, and sustained our modest reserves.

It was a year of firsts

- It was the first year in which we delivered our new fundraising model for Explorers across all programmes
- We delivered a full set of expeditions all in the UK- and developed 2 new operational models at 2 new base camps in order to do so
- It was our first year of Digital in the Wilderness, embracing smart technology as part of our approach to personal development
- It was our first year of a fully online weekend training event for our Leaders, and analysis suggests that digital Leader assessment days were marginally more effective than those previously delivered in person

Our community of Explorers and Adventurers

"The support is available all the time and it really feels easy to become part of the British Exploring Society community. People are welcoming and it opens several life perspectives that you've never even thought of."

Young Explorer

The main beneficiaries of the charity's work are young people between the ages of 14 and 25. Our Explorers and Adventurers now represent an inclusive and diverse cross section of young people from a wide range of communities and experiences of adolescence. We welcome young people from right across society. We are proud to offer expedition opportunities for those living in foster care, leaving care, the neurodiverse and those living with physical impairment as well as those growing up in communities identified as facing multiple disadvantages.

"I have gained experience talking to and working with people from different places and economic backgrounds to me. I have challenged myself physically and learnt I can do more than I thought. I have learnt that I would like to pursue outdoor and adventure education as an academic path - and with feedback from my Leaders feel more confident about that for me than ever."

Young Explorer

Digital in the Wilderness

2021 was our first year for our Digital in the Wilderness strategy. Feedback from Young Explorers is remarkably positive. When asked if they believed they had an improved understanding of the role digital plays in their lives following expedition, 65% said yes and a further 26% said somewhat.



OUR FINANCIALS

Fully funded programmes to provide fair access to all

All our programmes (except for our professional training qualification for Trainee Leaders) are fully funded for our participants. As part of their commitment to us and to the programme they join, we ask young people to fundraise towards the work of the charity when joining us for full expedition programmes. Each young person's contribution is subject to a simple means-test, to ensure equality of access for all - and to some extent reflects the scale of the challenge they are taking on through their programme. The donations they make to the charity help enable future participation for other young people.

"Whilst my time on expedition was challenging, emotionally and physically, it was also the most rewarding, memorable and eye-opening experience of my life. From playing the ukulele around a campfire on a beach, to hiking up the tallest mountain to stargazing, what got me through the lows was my Fire. The people really make or break an expedition and I couldn't have asked for a better Fire. We all bonded emotionally on another level that we didn't need to be the loudest people in the camp. We made lasting friendships for life."

"I've learnt opening up to people is not a weakness. It instead builds up your confidence and makes you trust others and form stronger bonds with them. Practically, navigation is something I've developed and enjoyed as well as bushcraft. I have gained a lot of confidence in myself. Knowing I have completed this expedition will encourage me to push myself to do new things in the future as I now know that I am capable of much more than I previously thought I was."

Young Explorer

Programmes details for 2020/21

In addition to Wildstan Adventures and Expedition Workshops we delivered 5 full scale UK programmes which culminated in expeditions in the summer of 2021 at 3 different base camps in Scotland:

Dangoor Next Generation Scotland July - August 2021

27 young people. Basecamp was on the Atholl Estate outside of Blair Atholl. It was land-based. 100% of the Young Explorers on this expedition reside in areas of deprivation. 93% live in areas that have considerable levels of deprivation. The Aldridge Foundation chose young people who were at risk of being isolated and were disengaged, with the aim of assisting their development and engagement through this programme.

Hartz Scottish Explorers 1 & 2 July - August 2021

28 young people, 34 young people. Based near Spean Bridge in Scotland, delivered with the assistance of Venture Trust, with access to the hills of the Grampian Mountains. The expedition was land-based. There was a specific focus on partnership with the first expedition having 71% of young people coming through Walsall Academy and Onside Youth Zones.

Landmark Scottish Highlands 1 & 2 August 2021

29 young people, 25 young people. A double expedition from a base in Ardtalnaig, on the banks of Loch Tay. A multidisciplinary programme, offering the chance for canoeing, and for trekking in the hills around the loch.

"The expedition was a life changing experience. After being in lockdown it felt amazing to leave technology behind and spend time in the outdoors and make real in person connections. It was challenging at times, but those challenges are what helped me grow as a person."

Young Explorer

Financial Review: excerpts

2020/21 has been challenging. Uncertainty caused by the pandemic has had an impact on our unrestricted reserves. Our strong starting position and generous in-year donations enabled continuity of operations as well as additional investment in our fundraising team to support the new operating model despite significant disruption to our plans. However, expedition and recruitment staff time invested in preparing and planning some of our overseas operations which ultimately did not go ahead has resulted in a higher than usual proportion of expenditure out of unrestricted funds. On the other hand, restricted funding has grown this year.

British Exploring Society generated £1,255,362 of income (2020: £1,276,453). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £1,094,377 (2020: £833,011). We awarded £2,605 in grants to individuals (2020: £2,994). This was funded through restricted funds.

There was net surplus on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £79,018 (2020: £371,572 net surplus). The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

Reserves Policy

The reserves fund is a sum set aside by Council. 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 maximum level of the reserves is equal to 6 months operating costs.

The reserves target minimum will be calculated and agreed each year alongside approval of the annual budget and will be included in regular financial reporting. The level of the reserves fund must be dynamic, will be reviewed by Finance Committee, and will be adjusted in response to internal and external changes.

British Exploring Society sets as a requirement the addition of reserves equivalent to one month's operating costs over a year if our reserves stand at less than six months' worth of operating costs at its commencement, or to bring reserves up to three months' worth of operating costs if at less than three months at the beginning of the year. 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. Depreciation, in-kind, and other non-cash expenses are not included in the calculation.

The balance held as unrestricted funds at 31st October 2021 was £331,993 of which £255,457 are regarded as free reserves, after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets. The balance held as restricted and endowment funds at 31st October 2021 was £496,174.

OUR FINANCIALS

British Exploring Society Policies

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

Statement of Public Benefit

The trustees of British Exploring Society have taken due note of their responsibilities, under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, to deliver public benefit and are confident of the impact of British Exploring Society in the following areas:

- The advancement of education – through the development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding;
- The relief of those in need because of disadvantage – through specific programmes to provide progression opportunities for young people most at risk in society;
- The advancement of community development – through the active promotion of volunteering and civic responsibility;

- The advancement of Science – through research, and independent research projects;
and
- The advancement of environmental protection – through the promotion and better understanding of sustainable development and biodiversity.

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; and
- 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 2020/21 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 25, 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 2nd February 2022 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 2021.

Stephen Tanner BSc(Econ) FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP, Statutory Auditor

2nd Floor
168 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6RA

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



Income	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
Donations	2	549,313	125,210	125	674,648	1,018,742
Income from charitable activities:						
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	3	–	580,115	–	580,115	149,291
Income from investments	4	80	–	–	80	914
Other income	5	519	–	–	519	107,506
Total incoming resources		549,912	705,325	125	1,255,362	1,276,453

Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds		7,631	–	–	7,631	5,680
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	659,691	509,022	–	1,168,713	899,201
Total expenditure		667,322	509,022	–	1,176,344	904,881

Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		(117,410)	196,303	125	79,018	371,572
Transfer between funds		–	2,000	(2,000)	–	–
Net income / (expenditure)		(117,410)	198,303	(1,875)	79,018	371,572
Reconciliation of funds		–	–	–	–	–
Total funds brought forward		449,403	254,155	45,591	749,149	377,577
Total funds carried forward	15	331,993	452,458	43,716	828,167	749,149

Fixed Assets	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2021 (£)	Total 2020 (£)
Tangible assets	7	76,536	–	–	76,536	74,548
Investments		–	–	–	–	–
Total fixed assets		76,536	–	–	76,536	74,548

Current Assets						
Cash at bank and in hand		238,266	452,458	43,716	734,440	690,980
Debtors	8	86,867	–	–	86,867	83,244
Total current assets		325,133	452,458	43,716	821,307	774,224
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(69,676)	–	–	(69,676)	(99,623)
Net current assets		255,457	452,458	43,716	751,631	674,601
Net assets		331,993	452,458	43,716	828,167	749,149

The Funds of the Charity:						
Endowment funds		–	–	43,716	43,716	45,591
Restricted income funds		–	452,458	–	452,458	254,155
Unrestricted income funds		331,993	–	–	331,993	449,403
Total charity funds	15	331,993	452,458	43,716	828,167	749,149



FIND YOUR FIRE

YEARS OF
90 BUILDING
STRONGER
FUTURES
1932-2022

We exist as a charity to empower young people with skills that will last them a lifetime and benefit the wider communities they live in and serve.

Your support will help us to offer positive, challenging experiences to young people. Find out how at britishexploring.org/help-us/donate/

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

Tel: +44 20 4534 0777

Email: info@britishexploring.org

Web: www.britishexploring.org

Facebook: [/British Exploring Society](https://www.facebook.com/BritishExploringSociety)

Twitter: [@Brit_exploring](https://twitter.com/Brit_exploring)

Instagram: [@Brit_exploring](https://www.instagram.com/Brit_exploring)

LinkedIn: [British Exploring Society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BritishExploringSociety)

British Exploring Society

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SW7 2AR

