

SES Explorer Talks 2018

2018 saw the launch of a rich and regular programme of Explorer Talks to give members and friends the opportunity to listen to a talk and enjoy an evening with like-minded individuals who are interested in adventure, scientific research and conservation. These talks were kindly sponsored by International Removal and Storage experts, Cadogan Tate and gifts for the speakers were generously provided by Texenergy.

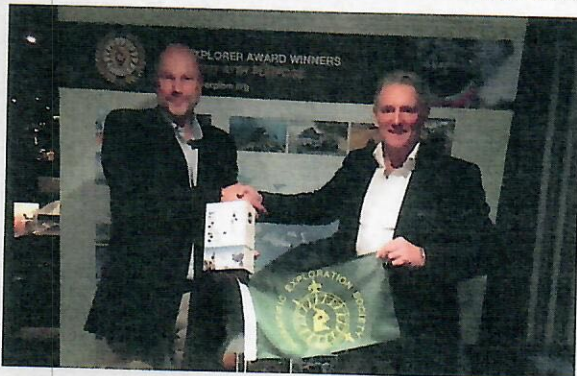
Fearghal O'Nuallain - The Water Diaries (January)

Teacher Fearghal took us through three of his journeys and shined a light on many different issues. He shared moments of fear, beauty and discoveries. On his expeditions he looks at how water shapes the landscape, influences civilisations and how it sculpts geopolitics. As a teacher, he believes that the classroom can be anywhere, it is not one place – the world is his classroom.



Angus Wingfield - Life and Death and KwaZulu Natal (February)

Africa Wild Trails Director Angus talked on KwaZulu Natal's history, its people and conservation challenges. He also shared his own ethos and involvement in the region during the last 15 years, covering an overview of the San Bushman and the Nguni migration, the rise of the Zulu people, the decimation of animal populations during the 1800s, the creation of the first conservation areas (which were in KwaZulu Natal in 1895), and which were set up specifically to provide a safe haven for the White Rhino.



Newall Hunter - The Science of Successful Expeditions (March)

Grand Slam Explorer Newall was the 13th person in the world (second Brit and first Scot) to complete the

full Explorers' Grand Slam. Focusing on the purpose of expeditions, Newall reiterated that the main point is to thoroughly enjoy the experience, including the challenges - and being a dyslexic engineer, the challenge to him lies principally in ensuring that the calculations, the equipment selection, the detailed logistics and efforts to pre-empt the most likely hazards before setting off, are covered in miniscule detail before departure.



Peter Kohler - Robots for Exploration (April)

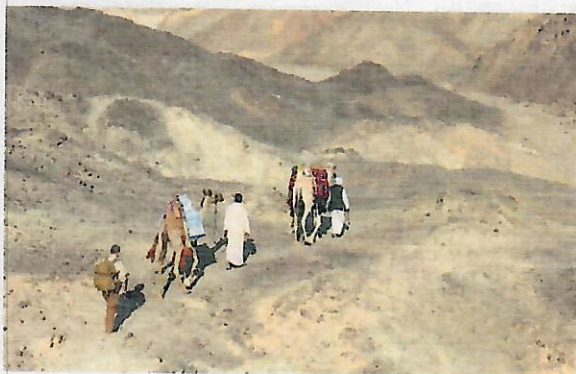
SES Trustee Peter talked about how his expedition - The Plastic Tide - featured technology, cutting-edge artificial intelligence, citizen science and ocean science and how these ever-evolving developments can be used to push back the frontiers of our understanding of the plastic pollution problem. Peter also looked at how similar holistic approaches to overfishing have provided global innovations and what future role exploration may play in these approaches to the major environmental challenges facing humankind.



Sam McConnell - Discovering the Red Land (May)

SES member Sam told of his journey through the Eastern Desert, a hotspot for illicit mining activity, outlining the considerable logistical and administrative challenges

involved and also the permissions needed from senior government officials and numerous Bedouin Sheikhs. The crossing was all about providing an opportunity not only to discover new places, but also to encounter new people and cultures as well. Ancient clues left behind by some of the oldest civilisations in history were discovered and the sight of Roman military forts, now long abandoned, left the expedition speechless.



James Borrell - Conservation Successes in Africa (September)

SES Trustee and Cadogan Tate Explorer 2015 James, swiftly off the back of a successful expedition to Madagascar, spent the first half of 2017 travelling 32,000km across nine African countries in search of conservation success stories. His unfaltering optimism for conservation is inspiring. His stories were not only fascinating and amusing but also extremely thought-provoking. James's closing words were *"This generation is the one that can decide what happens to the natural world - we can make a difference."*



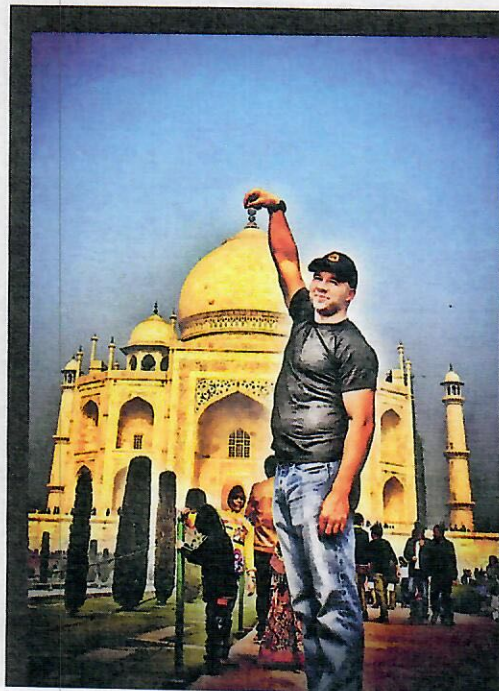
Vanessa O'Brien - K2 - The Final Conquest (October)

SES Explorer Award 2018, SES member and dual national Vanessa took us through what she discovered about climbing K2 and the people of Pakistan, the research that showed glacier contamination, and the conservation she led at the Gilkey-Puchoz Memorial.



Emily Penn - Ocean Advocate (SES AGM - March 2018)

What Emily Penn, the Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018, doesn't know about plastic can fit on a postage stamp. Her knowledge of making plastic, types of plastic, recycling plastic, chemicals in plastic, effects on land, effects in the water, effects on marine and wildlife, effects on the food chain; which countries offend, which countries advance in tackling the issues...is encyclopaedic. Her tireless work to enlighten people and organisations to the problems and issues is remarkable. SES members and friends were enthralled by her talk and delivery and her message will stay with us for a very long time.



OLLIE PHILLIPS - 2019 AGM Guest Speaker on 20th March 2019

Exploration Suite, Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RN

Ollie, former captain of the England Rugby 7s team, lives an extraordinary life. Following an illustrious career in professional rugby, he is now a highly successful businessman in one of the world's largest professional service networks, PWC. A Guinness World Record holder, motivational speaker and expedition leader to name a few, he is proof that anything is possible. However it was in 2013, whilst preparing for the Rugby World Cup 7s in Moscow, that Ollie suffered a severe calf injury that brought his victorious rugby career to an end.

With no intention of sitting back, Ollie threw himself in to a mammoth challenge, the 'Clipper Round the World Yacht Race' after being persuaded by legendary sailor Sir Robin Knox-Johnston. A newcomer to sailing, Ollie's determination and team spirit saw him and his Great Britain team mates come 2nd overall in this gruelling race. Ollie then headed to the North Pole for the 'Arctic Rugby Challenge' where his previous leadership and teamwork skills came into play. He completed a 100 mile trek across the Arctic in -40 degrees centigrade temperatures to the Magnetic North Pole, where he hosted the 'Most Northerly Rugby Match', breaking the Guinness World Record and raising £350,000 in aid