



SCIENTIFIC  
EXPLORATION  
SOCIETY

# SCIENTIFIC EXPLORER

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



eXXpedition

Expeditions, news and events

## DISCOVER

Pioneers with Purpose

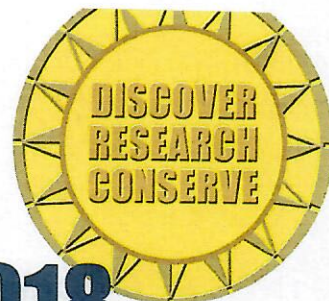
## RESEARCH

Explorer Talks

## CONSERVE

Hotung Award for Women's Exploration  
2018 Emily Penn. eXXpedition (North)





# Honorary Award Winners 2018

## Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018

### EMILY PENN

*Kindly donated by the family of the late H. E. Ambassador Eric Hotung CBE*

Emily Penn is an architect turned ocean advocate and skipper. After rounding the globe on a record-breaking bio-fuelled boat, she spent eight years at sea, exploring and discovering oceanic gyres – huge areas of plastic accumulation. Emily co-founded Pangaea Explorations, an organisation dedicated to marine education, conservation and exploration via a 72ft sailing vessel. Emily's commitment to understand and inspire local and large-scale community involvement in tackling the issue of ocean plastic pollution is tireless, and it is for that reason that she was selected to receive the prestigious Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018 for her outstanding contribution to scientific exploration.



## SES Explorer Award 2018

### VANESSA O'BRIEN

Dual national Vanessa O'Brien became the first British-American woman to successfully conquer K2, the world's second highest mountain, after a gruelling 16-hour summit push where she encountered deep snow, howling winds and temperatures down to -40 degrees centigrade. This was Vanessa's third consecutive year attempting K2, and her team's dedication and persistence paid-off as they became the only team to summit in 2017, following two years of no summits on K2. At the summit, Vanessa proudly displayed British, American and Pakistani flags – representing her homes and her host country – as well as that of UN Women. In recognition of her outstanding grit, determination and ultimately successful expedition, Vanessa was selected to receive SES Explorer Award 2018.



## SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018

### MARK BEAUMONT

Mark Beaumont cycled into Paris having circumnavigated the globe. He completed the epic Artemis World Cycle in 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes, breaking the world record by a staggering 44 days. It was through his vision, ambition, physical and psychological endurance abilities and the clockwork precision of his logistical planning, that he was able to complete this outstanding achievement. It is for the sheer enormity of the challenge, for making the impossible 'possible' and for the style and determination shown by him and his support team that the SES was delighted to present Mark with SES Lifetime Achievement Award 2018.



Photos: TOP to BOTTOM Emily Penn at the helm (Eleanor Church Larkrise Pictures), Vanessa O'Brien at the summit of K2 and Mark Beaumont on day 79 at the Arc de Triomphe (Johnny Swane Poel)



# Explorer Awards 2018

## Pioneers with Purpose & Scientific Trailblazers

**SES Explorer Awards 2018 was held on Tuesday 22nd May at Imperial College, (London) after a tea at the Royal Geographical Society for the Award Winners and their Supporters.**

Emily Penn (recipient of the Hotung Award for Women's Exploration 2018) asked the audience "*What is your super-power?*" All nine of the Award recipients demonstrated their 'super power' in different ways, but the common denominator was their quite inspirational passion and commitment to their chosen area of interest.

SES Chairman Neil Laughton began the evening by introducing the brilliant new SES film, kindly supported by Sean Hotung and his wife Dr Mary Jean Reimer, with a call to arms featuring Neil, SES Founder and Honorary President John Blashford-Snell, and many supporters and friends all conveying the essential role the Society has today in encouraging scientific exploration. Andrew Mitchell (former SES Chairman and creator of the Explorer Awards) remarked that this year the female Award recipients out-weighed the male recipients, a reversal to last years' winners.

It was a pleasure to welcome Anirban Dutta Gupta, winner of the Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking 2017 from India to show his beautiful film capturing the traditional honey collecting by the Jarawa people on the Andaman Islands.

John Blashford-Snell presented the Hotung Award 2018 to Emily Penn in recognition of her outstanding contribution to scientific exploration. Emily and colleagues have campaigned tirelessly against plastic pollution in

our oceans for over 10 years, and in the last six months her efforts have at last been rewarded as the issue has garnered the wide-reaching interest it deserves.

Vanessa O'Brien, received the inaugural SES Explorer Award following her ascent of K2 last July. SES Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mark Beaumont, in recognition of his making the impossible 'possible' and cycling the world in an incredible 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes. Mark explained how he set out to form a mental, physical and logistical plan to circumnavigate the globe in 80 days. "*What is your 80 days?*" Mark's philosophy is to have the confidence to know your capability, think big, set your plan and deliver. No margin for error, just an inspirational dogged determination to succeed.

It was an outstanding evening with extraordinary people demonstrating their '*super power*'. Andrew Mitchell invited all fortunate enough to be there to stay with the SES Awards journey, and with the passion and brilliance of the evening's winners, share his belief that with '*Pioneers with Purpose*' such as those we heard on the night, we can see the world back into equilibrium.

A warm thank you to all the Award Supporters, Assessors, Applicants, Winners, the Team at SES Expedition Base and to Leatherman and Texenergy for their generous gifts to the winners and for the raffle prizes.

### SES Explorer Award Winners 2018

Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure	Glaucia Del Rio
Rivers Foundation Explorer Award for Health & Humanities	Olivia Grant
Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking	Eilidh Munro
Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography	Eleanor Flatt
Gough Explorer Award for Medical Aid & Research	Merlin Hetherington
SES Explorer Award for Inspiration & Scientific Trailblazing	Eleanor Drinkwater

Explorer Award Winners 2018  
with their Leatherman Multi-tools  
Photos: Matthew Ferguson (FG Studios)



