

News *from our community*

Honorary Advisory Board (HAB) Reception

SES Trustee and Chair of the HAB Peter Felix and his wife June kindly hosted a reception in January for the HAB. Guests enjoyed a very positive evening of enthusiasm for the Society including some awe-inspiring news from two of the Society's young explorers, Jenny Wordsworth and Lucy Shepherd. Jenny described her solo journey to the South Pole, making her one of only seven females to achieve this in spite of severe 'polar thigh' injuries, while Lucy told us about her forthcoming solo trip to the Amazonian Jungle to visit remote tribes in Guyana (see features later in this section). Both are truly the new generation of explorers! The evening also gave SES Chairman Neil Laughton the opportunity to update everyone on progress and developments being made, as well as the programme of events and activities for all to enjoy in the coming year.



SES welcomes new members to the HAB

We were thrilled to welcome FIVE inspirational individuals to the Society's HAB this year:

- **Steve Backshall** – naturalist, explorer, writer and television presenter with a great passion for discovery who in September this year successfully led a team of kayakers into the interior of Kamchatka to complete the first descent of this Russian white water river.
- **Dr Jane Goodall** – primatologist and anthropologist and founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and Roots & Shoots. Jane is also a UN Messenger of Peace.
- **Vanessa O'Brien** – British-American mountaineer, explorer, aquanaut and author who has reached the summit of Everest (2012) and the depths of the Mariana Trench (2020 – see feature on page 19) thereby becoming the first woman to reach the Earth's highest and lowest points. In between these expeditions she also reached the summit of K2 (2017).
- **Ollie Phillips** – former captain of the England Rugby 7s team, Guinness World Record holder, motivational speaker and expedition leader who is now a highly successful businessman in one of the world's largest professional service networks, PWC.
- **Per Wimmer** – Danish philanthropist, adventurer, astronaut, entrepreneur, space advocate, financier and author who successfully completed the world's first tandem sky dive over Mount Everest (2008).

They are fantastic additions to an incredible group of people and we are very grateful for their support.

Jenny Wordsworth – Solo & Unassisted ski to the South Pole

Congratulations to our Honorary Solicitor Jenny Wordsworth (nee Davis – www.jennydavis.co.uk) who completed her goal of skiing 715 miles, solo and unassisted, to the South Pole. In her own words...



"I did it, I made it 715 miles solo and unassisted to the South Pole! For anyone who's followed my adventures over the last few years, you'll know this was the second time I'd attempted to ski solo from the coastline of Antarctica to the South Pole. Last year I was medically evacuated with peritonitis after only 21 days on the ice, and so for my return attempt this year, I was more determined than ever to complete the expedition and arrive at the South Pole. I was aiming to break the women's speed record of 39 days and was on pace to achieve that for over two thirds of the way. I was unfortunately affected by a serious case of 'polar thigh', a form of abrasion injury caused to worsen in cold environments, for the end of the expedition and was unable to keep up the required pace. On returning home, the injury required two operations and a skin graft. I still haven't processed just how my body and mind allowed me to ski on such a serious injury, I just know I haven't ever felt such determination (or stubbornness!) in my desire to complete a goal. I'm so proud of what I've achieved and would encourage any woman, anywhere, who's ever had a desire to take on their own adventure to put in the work to make that dream become a reality. It won't ever be something you regret."

Lucy Shepherd and team – first to cross Kanuku Mountains

Congratulations to Co-opted Council member Lucy Shepherd (www.lucyshepherd.net) and her team for being the first to cross the extremely isolated Kanuku Mountains (Amazon Rainforest). In Lucy's own words...

"We did it, we became the first to cross the Kanuku Mountains! For someone who is (or was) terrified of the jungle, I'm very proud of this achievement. We completed the expedition as a team of six. We worked like clockwork in making this a successful and safe expedition. Exploring this